

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen



SOCIAL SWIM—Brevity is the soul of wit and also of this beach costume outfit, worn by social Alice M. Fleitmann, seen at the Meadow club at Southampton, Long Island.

WASHINGTON — The House will pass the lend-lease bill by a decisive majority and without any major curtailment of the wide powers it grants the President, but the measure will be amended in three respects:

(1) There will be a fixed limit on its duration; (2) the President will be required to report to Congress, every three months, what has been done under the act; and (3) conveying of supply ships will be expressly prohibited.

Privately, the Administration would be glad to accept any time limit so long as it is expressed in general terms, such as for the "duration of the national emergency." But it's doubtful whether that can be put over. Sentiment is strong in the House for retaining the law to a specific period of time.

The Republicans, most of whom are opposed to the bill, want to hold down its operation to one year. The Democrats are for a minimum of two years, and they will have the votes to decide the matter.

Sentiment for the convoy ban is overwhelming. Many Congressmen are insisting on it as the price of their support. They are telling leaders the ban is necessary to allay war fears in their district. They admit Roosevelt has stated repeatedly that he has no intention of conveying ships, but the boys insist that it be put down in writing.

This is particularly true of the small group of Republicans who otherwise favor the bill. They are demanding the amendment for their protection.

The GOP, incidentally, is in a

tough spot. The overwhelming majority is against the bill, but afraid such a line-up will hang an appeasement label on the Republican Party. That is why there will be no whips cracked to make the boys vote

HOUSE FIRST

Some of the Democratic House leaders would have preferred to let the Senate take the bill first, believing that would have time on amendments in the end. But the White House feared a protracted Senate battle and a delay that would have an unfavorable psychological effect. Quick action by the speaker House would give the bill a stronger position in the Senate and with the public.

The Administration can thank three Senators for getting the bill through the public hearings and Foreign Affairs Committee with a minimum of mauling. They are Representative Luther Johnson, level-headed veteran Texan; James P. Richards of South Carolina; and Wirt Courtney of Tennessee. They carried the ball when the going got tough and without any grandstanding, did a very smooth job of it.

NOTE: Isolationist intimates of Senator Bart Wheeler are hinting that he will spring a big sensation during the Senate debate on the bill. The intimation is that it has to do with the peace efforts of W. B. R. Davis, who bartered Mexican oil to the Nazis and recently denied he was a financial backer of Vern. Marshall's so-called War Committee.

ANTI-WILKIE

While Wendell Willkie was making front page news in London favoring the lend-lease armament bill, a group of potent Midwestern Republican leaders met in Omaha to discuss what to do about him.

That most of the GOP chiefs are hot under the collar because their erstwhile standard-bearer is behind the Roosevelt measure is putting it mildly. They are so sure they could bite nails. He put the Republican Party on the spot on this highly charged issue—the last thing the boys wanted to happen.

The unannounced Omaha powwow is a sequel to a similar gathering of Midwestern state chairmen in Chicago last month which considered means of preventing Willkie from getting a grip on the party organization when National Chairman Joe Martin steps out. Martin was set to quit at a National Committee meeting late this month. But following the urgent pleas of Tom Dewey, Senator Bob Taft and others, Joe agreed, for the sake of harmony to remain until September.

Participants in the Chicago meeting agreed to return home, sound out party sentiment regarding Willkie then meet in Omaha to exchange findings. But since the Chicago meeting, Willkie has declared for the lend-lease bill and turned the party almost upside down.

Some of the big shots, wary about being tagged openly with a move to axe Willkie, did not attend in person, but sent less conspicuous friends to act as "unofficial observers."

LORD HALIFAX POSES

From the point of view of the press, Lord Halifax has got off to a good start. To be sure, he didn't pose for the cameras with a black cat on his shoulder as did the late Lorth Lothian. (The superstitious are now wondering about that black cat.) But Halifax did give newsmen a chance to get at him, and he proved to be less frigid than expected.

When Halifax came to the State Department, one day after his arrival, the news writers, the newsreelers and the "stills" all had a go at him before he got on the safe side of Hull's door. Later the photographers were allowed to walk right into Hull's office and take pictures of the two statesmen together behind Willkie's desk.

After his talk with Hull, Halifax invited the press into the diplomatic reception room, where with his one good arm (his left hand is missing) he lit a cigarette and answered questions with a deep voice and a wan smile.

Oddity at this conference was the presence of the German newsman, Kurt Sell, correspondent for the official Nazi news agency, DNB. Sell busily took notes while Halifax was saying, "When the history of this war comes to be written, it will say that Hitler set the war in June of 1940."

NOTE: Accompanying Halifax from London was Charles Peake, former chief of press relations of the British Foreign Office who told women that up to the last minute before sailing, members of the crew of the battleship

King George thought it was Emperor Haile Selassie who was coming aboard.

HOOVER'S AMENDMENTS

Herbert Hoover made another secret sortie into the Capital—his second in a month.

On his previous visit he conferred with a few political and press intimates about his campaign to force the British to open their blockade to permit shipment of food to Nazi-occupied France. But this time he had the lend-lease bill on his mind.

As on his first trip, Hoover held forth at the home of William Castle, soft-spoken Under Secretary of State in his Cabinet, close adviser of Colonel Lindbergh, and one of the masterminds of isolation. "For the occasion, Castle gave a private dinner and invited a small group of Republican isolationist leaders among them Senators Vandenberg and Taft.

The ex-President vigorously denounced the lend-lease bill as "dictatorial" and urged that every effort be made to "blackout" as he expressed it, the broad powers it would give Roosevelt to aid Britain.

According to Hoover's explanation of his position, he favors a bill under which the British would be lent a stated sum of money for the purchase of armaments and materials here, but only after putting up as collateral British capital invested in the U. S.

Hoover expressed a desire to have his ideas offered as amendments when the bill is debated in the Senate, and it was agreed that he should draft the amendments.

NOTE: All present at the dinner voiced hot disapproval of Willkie's endorsement of the Roosevelt bill and junket to London. The term "irresponsible" was used several times to describe his action.

THE NEW BRAIN TRUSTER

Tom Corcoran is famous for many things, one of them being his lack of punctuality. Always rushed with innumerable jobs, he got hours behind with his engagements, and his favorite time for catching up with correspondence was Sunday afternoon and night.

Corcoran's first-born daughter arrived several days after the doctors had predicted and the dynamic brain-truster took the delay very hard. But not his beautiful wife, Peggy.

She was calm and certain everything would be all right. Afterwards a friend asked her why she had been so confident.

"Oh" smiled Peggy "who ever heard of a Corcoran being on time for an appointment?"



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MEDICAL SOCIETY ORGANIZED BY JUNEAU DOCTORS

A Juneau Medical Society was formed by all doctors of Juneau and aims and bylaws were drawn up by a committee consisting of Drs. W. P. Blanton, Langdon White and L. P. Dawes.

Dr. Courtney Smith was elected President of the new organization, Dr. W. M. Whitehead, Vice-President, and Dr. Joseph C. Rude, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Society will meet the second Tuesday in each month at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Charter members are Dr. W. P. Blanton, Dr. Langdon White, Dr. L. P. Dawes, Dr. W. M. Whitehead, Dr. Courtney Smith, Dr. Joseph O. Rude, Dr. W. S. Ramsey, Dr. C. C. Carter, Dr. W. W. Council, Dr. Palmer Congdon, and Dr. E. F. Vollert.

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WHAT NECESSITY MOTHERED—Lack of gasoline and scarcity of taxis have produced a bicycle boom in Paris, and French women are tempering their clothes needs accordingly. Here's a Lucile Manguin trouser skirt (or jupe culotte) that enables the Parisienne in a city now directed by Germans to do her shopping readily. Blouse is of scarlet flannel.



SPRING—Flowers that bloom in the spring turn up for this printed wool jersey suit that a winsome New Yorker models to advantage. The shorts have sarong draping.



FORECAST—Tonic for hot weather is this reminder of skating season—an igloo costume designed by Louise Unger of Flushing, N. Y., who thereby won a scholarship sponsored by Dr. Willis H. Carrier. Embroidery's red and blue.

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