

Nibbling At The News—

Mr. Jackson And The 'Mosquito Boats'

By ROBERT H. LANE

Buried in the text of Attorney General Robert H. Jackson's opinion on the transfer of 50 over-age destroyers to Great Britain is the following clause . . . "It is proposed to transfer . . . certain other small patrol boats, which though nearly completed, are already obsolescent."

This proposal immediately raises the question as to what President Roosevelt is referring to by, "certain small boats." Under the questions on constitutional and statutory authority the Attorney General defined the President's "certain small boats" when he asked, "Do the statutes limit the right to deliver the so-called "mosquito fleet" now under construction?"

There can be no doubt that President Roosevelt intended to transfer our "mosquito boats" along with the destroyers to Great Britain. But even that statement is not significant in view of the admission that the new craft are obsolete before they are ever completed.

Does the President, who incidentally, is running for a third term, want the citizens of the United States to believe that the Navy Department is so inefficient that by the time construction is completed on a boat it is only fit to compete in a war that has ended? Certainly the Secretary of the Navy is not approving construction of ships designed for the World War of 1914.

The former leaders of France incurred over one-quarter of that nation's national debt in the construction of the impregnable Maginot Line, which was to make the French people "safe from all invaders." Would the President have the American people believe that the immense naval appropriations are being used to build ships which under fire, would result in an American version of France's folly?

Fortunately for our navy, Attorney General Jackson found no "loopholes" in the statute law which would have permitted the President to trade our mosquito fleet along with the 50 over-age destroyers.

The statement may cause Secretary of Navy Frank Knox considerable embarrassment should Congress decide to investigate the President's statement that "small boats, nearing completion, are already obsolescent."

If Secretary Knox claims that the boats are not obsolete, he will be subjecting the Chief Executive to the criticism that he is horse-trading boats, necessary for the defense of the United States.

Should Knox admit that the boats are obsolete, which is highly improbable, he will be guilty of gross inefficiency in discharge of a public duty.

This obvious discrepancy in statements will only be cleared up if an investigation occurs, and then, the Secretary of the Navy will be "caught between the devil and the deep blue sea."

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

For Willkie



Vance McCormick, member of the Board of Trustees and former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has announced that his papers, the Harrisburg Patriot and the Evening News, will support Wendell Willkie for president.

Campus Calendar—

Changes Made In Freshman Week

The fractions, one-fifth, two-fifth, etc., in the time table refer to the alphabetical arrangement of students scheduled to be each section of a class. This arrangement will be determined by scheduling officers.

FRESHMAN WEEK CHANGES:

Library Practice (LP) groups will meet in the New Library instead of the Carnegie Library.

Section ENG-5-IE, Page 17 in the Freshman Week Booklet, 8 a. m. Tuesday, changed from X3, 201 Eng C to X3, 209 Eng C.

Section ENG-5-IE, Page 17, 1:10 p. m. Monday, changed from X2, 201 Eng C, to Ph C, 209 Eng C. * Section ENG-5-IE, Page 17, 3:10 p. m. Friday, changed from Ph C, 12 IH to X2, 12 IH.

Section LD-2-Women(L-Z), Page 19, 9 a. m. Thursday, changed to X1, Aud.

Section LD-3-Men (A-E), Page 19, 3:10 p. m. Thursday, omit asterisk.

TODAY: Fraternity pledging begins, 8 a. m. Freshman Week begins.

President Ralph D. Hetzel will speak at the freshman convocation, Auditorium, 8 a. m.

Activities mass meeting, Auditorium, 8 p. m.

Collegian subscription campaign begins, 9 a. m.

TOMORROW: Religious mass meeting, Auditorium, 8 p. m.

Student Union Dance, Armory, 4:10 p. m.

SATURDAY: Women's Recreation Association Play Day.

WRA Freshman mixer. Athletic Advisory Board meets, 10 a. m.

Freshman Dance, Rec Hall, 8 p. m.

SUNDAY Required freshman chapel, Auditorium, 11 a. m.

Reader's Alley—

A Reviewer Discovers 'Caribbean Treasure'

NOTE: This column is open to contributions from any student or faculty member who feels articulate about any book he has read. Freshmen or professors have equal chance of airing their reactions to what they read. There are only these restrictions: no volume which the reader feels called upon to denounce need be reviewed; an atmosphere of informality should pervade the paragraphs; this alley is not a springboard for personal or political exhibitions, nor for precious prose or pyrotechnic displays of literary fancy-work.

The general aim of this column is to provide a place wherein readers may comment on general reading with the intention of stimulating other readers. Like stock market reports, the editorial comment is not guaranteed, but is obtained from sources we believe to be reliable.

Communications may be addressed to Readers Alley, The Collegian Office, Room 313, Old Main. All reviews must be signed but will be printed without names or initials, at the reviewer's request. Maximum length: About 250 words.

By way of illustration, may we offer a few reactions on Ivan T. Sanderson's "Caribbean Treasure." Despite the title, this is not a tale of Captain Kid nor Robinson Crusoe. It is truthful account of year's hunting by a zoologist for the rarer fauna and flora of Trinidad, Haiti, Surinam, Guiana, and other lands off the South American coast.

As in his first volume, "Animal Treasure," Sanderson achieves that infrequent combination of information revealed in striking and dramatic prose, concerning what he found in caves, pools, tidal basins, under stones, in the branches of trees, and in the fetid jungle air. He can bring you to the edge

Koepp-Baker Honored

Dr. Herbert Koepp-Baker, director of the College speech clinic, has been elected first vice president of the American Speech Correction Association, which held its annual convention at the College last week.

of your seat, while you wait for a scorpion to sting him, a jaguar to slash him, or a pirana to gash him. He fills in the more exciting episodes with many truths of the biologist's lore, a running travel talk that is free from the usual sentimentality that swamps them, and a rapid-fire account of daily tasks and triumphs that reveal him as human, adventurous, curious, and intelligent. We won't say that his wife, Alma, wasn't equal to every startling crisis that confronted them, not that Sanderson's luck at finding natives and guides to help him wasn't more chance than skill. You won't have to be a botanist or zoologist to enjoy every page.

—R. G.

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