

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON

## MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

Certain senators who have been working backstage for a streamlined "war cabinet" got some interesting ammunition when they cross-examined one of the President's close associates at a closed-door committee meeting.

They learned that cabinet meetings, except for an increase in the number of participants, still are being conducted on an informal, crack-barrel basis, with no plan or system.

The weekly meetings are conducted without an agenda. Cabinet officers and agency heads never know what will be discussed from week to week, frequently come unprepared for policy questions that affect them.

Senators who have been digging into the matter feel that the White House secretariat should contact department and agency heads several days before a cabinet meeting to learn what problems they want to discuss with the President. On the basis of this, as well as matters the President himself intends to bring up, an advance memorandum could be prepared and distributed before the meeting.

Besides regular cabinet officers, there are usually a dozen other top government officials at White House sessions, including Harry Hopkins, Manpower Chief Paul McNutt, WPB Chief Donald Nelson, Farm Czar Chester Davis, Economic Stabilizer James Byrnes, Admiral William D. Leahy.

Time was when disputes between departments and agencies were ironed out at a cabinet meeting, but not now. Even disputes affecting major military and domestic policies are passed over. Favorite trick of department heads, who have a ticklish matter on their minds, is to wait until the meeting is finished, then pass a note to the President stating their particular problem, with a request for a private audience.

## FOUR GERMANS WATCH U. S. A.

There are four Germans who know the United States better than any others. Where they are now reveals what importance Hitler attaches to the United States and its influence on the neutral countries. For all four Germans are located in key neutral capitals where they can watch Americans and keep their ears open for news of U. S. diplomatic and military maneuvers, and counteract American influence.

Here are the four German experts on the U. S. A.

Franz von Papen, German military attaché in Washington during the last war when he engineered plans to blow up the Welland canal and brain-trusted various other sabotage.

Hans Heinrich Dieckhoff, ex-ambassador to Washington and one of the most skillful to be stationed here in years.

Hans Thomsen, counselor and charge d'affaires of the German embassy after Dieckhoff left Washington.

Kurt Sell, correspondent of the official German News Agency DNB, long stationed in Washington where he was generally popular. Unofficially he acted frequently for the German Embassy.

In Europe these four are now stationed as follows: Von Papen in Turkey; Dieckhoff in Spain; Thomsen in Sweden; and Sell in Portugal.

These are countries which, if they moved their neutral position one way or the other, might decide the fate of the war.

## DEFEAT IN BURMA

Recent events in Burma unfortunately have pretty much punctured the one-time world-beating reputation of Gen. Sir Archibald P. Wavell, supreme commander in the India-Burma theater.

The Japs are reported to have only about 50,000 men in Burma. How many the British have in the entire India area is a military secret but it can't be less than a million. However, there is one factor mitigating the otherwise dismal fiasco of General Wavell—most of his army is Indian.

Indian troops have fought well in other wars, but not in this one. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, vitally interested in reopening the Burma road, recently has hinted at the reason.

Would it not be better, he tactfully suggested, to settle India's political problems rather than lose China? In other words, Indian troops with no independence to look forward to, are not going to fight their best.

## CAPITAL CHAFF

Generals Giraud and DeGaulle are going to unite on at least one thing—an ultimatum—to Admiral Robert of Martinique that he resign. WPB's Ex Vice Chairman Ferd Eberstadt says: "Before I came to Washington my crowd in Long Island hated Ickes, and I was provincial enough to agree with them. But I have found that he is one of the best executives in Washington and one of the few who always keeps his word. When he promises to do a thing, he does it."

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## NEW JAP THREAT IN CHINA



FROM THEIR MAIN BASE on the upper Yangtze, Japanese columns are reported pushing west and south in what may be the initial stages of a new drive on Chungking, Chinese provisional capital. Chinese report the invaders within 275 airline miles of the city, with one column said to be approaching Wufeng, 50 miles southwest of the main Japanese base located at Ichang. (International)

## RAIL RAISE BENEFITS MANY LOCAL MEN

Approximately 1,200 Cambria Co. employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad will be included in an eight-cent an hour raise for non-operating workers recommended to President Roosevelt by an emergency board of the national railway panel.

The pay increase which is expected to become effective within thirty days will increase monthly pay checks of the 1,200 workers by an average of approximately \$16.32. The figure is based on the monthly working schedule of 204 hours, he said.

The raise will increase the monthly pay roll of Cambria county workers approximately \$19,584.

The board stipulated that the wage raise would be retroactive to last February 1st, meaning that back pay estimated at \$97,920 will be due the 1,200 district employees by July 1, the date when the board expects pay roll changes to be completed. Each worker will receive an approximately \$81.60 additional for the five months of back pay.

Included in the wage hike will be more than 100 women now employed in the Conemaugh yards and shops of the railroad. Also included will be hundreds of track workers and other railroad maintenance personnel.

Approximately 1,000 persons in the Conemaugh and South Fork divisions of the railroad will be affected by the recommended pay increase. Another 200 working out of the Cresson district, most of them members of the wreck crews and track workers also will receive the increase.

Scheduled for the pay raise also are engine house workers, car inspectors, oilers, greasers and other yard maintenance workers.

## MT. ALOYSIUS ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The winners of the annual competitive scholarship examinations held at Mt. Aloysius Junior College, at Cresson, are: Mary Jo Watters, student of Mt. Aloysius Academy, resident of Gallitzin, Virginia Weakland, Johnstown Catholic High School; Hilda McGuire, Cresson High School; Constance A. Malligan, Hollidaysburg High School; Ruth Anne Hughes, Wilmore High School; Evelyn R. Lacey, Ebensburg-Cambria High School; Marguerite Zembeck, Portage High School.

The scholarships awarded are valued at \$100 and are offered on a two year basis toward the tuition, representing a large reduction in the usual college fees. The terminal training offered in the occupational courses combines general education training together with the specific vocational preparation.

The summer session of Mount Aloysius Junior College will be of 8 weeks' duration, from June 21 to August 13. The following courses are being offered: Secretarial science, Sociology, History of Civilization, English Literature, Physiology, and Apologetics.

The annual retreats for the young ladies are scheduled this year from August 27th to August 30th; the second, from September 3 to 6.

—Flag Day, June 14th, falls on a Monday.

## WPB MAY RESTRICT GLASS CONTAINERS

Restrictions on the number of glass containers which may be used this summer for bottling beer, liquor, soft drinks, toiletries and cosmetic containers are now under consideration by the War Labor Board.

Under a plan recommended by the Glass Containers Manufacturers Industry Advisory Committee recently, a quota would be placed on the amount of new containers certain users could accept or use through the summer months. A similar quota would be imposed on the number of new containers a manufacturer could deliver to designated users.

No restrictions would be placed on the delivery or use of containers for foods, medicines, or home canning, WLB said.

## CHURCH GROUP ASKS STRICT LAWS ON VICE

The Washington, D. C., Federation of Churches, pointing out that 80 per cent of venereal disease infections among servicemen in the Capital have been traced to young "innocent type" girls, are supporting a proposed law for the arrest and examination of persons suspected of having venereal diseases.

The Federation's action came in the midst of a drive by the local officials to bring the operators of expensive brothels to justice. Some are suspected with having links with foreign agents.

Washington has been listed as the city with the greatest venereal disease rate in the country.

## ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF NEW POTATOES WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY

Potato hungry Americans will get plenty of new potatoes to eat by the middle of June, the nation's largest buyer of fresh fruits and vegetables predicted this week.

"Abnormal weather which retarded the crop in some states, combined with increased acreages in other states will cause a bigger volume of early potatoes than last year to be harvested between now and the middle of June," said Harvey A. Baum, vice president and general manager of the A & P Tea Company's produce buying affiliate, the Atlantic Commission Company. "All of these early potatoes will be available for use in this country because they are not suitable for export."

"Government crop reports and advances from our company's field offices throughout the nation indicate that from present acreages there will be 5,000,000 more bushels of early potatoes available this year than in 1942. During June heavy supplies will be shipped simultaneously from California, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama and other states.

Baum said severe freezes delayed maturity of early potatoes in some states so much that many producing areas, the harvest of which usually is spread out, will be sending potatoes to market at the same time. The adverse weather also helped create the acute shortage of potatoes experienced in the past few weeks, he added.

"Housewives should remember that

## YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT  
Central Press Writer

MAJ. GEN. JIMMY DOOLITTLE, in a 21-passenger plane carrying 71 other persons, stood throughout its flight from China to India. This item, posted in street cars, might stop some of that griping by strap hangers

Incidentally, the major general should be quite an authority now on the share-the-ride movement.

"Race Track Crowds Break Records"—headline. The folks, it seems, want a run for their money.

The Office of Defense Transportation wants vacations staggered

Vacations—not vacationers, we've noticed, often do their own staggering.

Baseball fans can't understand Rommel. He pulls off lots of runs without making a hit—even with Hitler.

Golf, says a physician, is a good safety valve. Now the player who blows up has less excuse than ever.

The post-war home, we are told, will have fewer doors. Goody, this should cut down the number of wolves parked at same.

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**WOMEN'S RAYON PANTIES**  
Anniversary Special **27c**

Plain tailored of ribbed or tricort rayon. You'll want several pairs at this special Sale Price. Both regular and extra sizes. Tearose.



**Delicious! Tantalizing! Sandwich Cakes**  
Regularly **21c lb.**  
**15c LB.**

Fresh chocolate or vanilla cookies with rich cream filling.



**WOMEN'S HANDKERCHIEFS**  
Anniversary Sale Price **8c**

No woman ever has too many "hankies" . . . and here is your chance to stock up at a savings. Lawn 12 1/2 inches square, in a variety of light and dark prints.

**TRAINING PANTIES**  
Get Baby saved! Buy several pairs at this price. Fine white cotton knit, double elastic back. Sizes 2 to 8.

**12c**

**"Regal" FACIAL TISSUES**  
Special **19c**

Large 500-sheet box of fine quality white cleansing tissues.

**OIL CLOTH SCARFS**  
Colorful  
Size 15x36—SPECIAL **5c**

**Women's Ankle Socks**  
Anniversary Special **15c**

Get your who's supply at this price! Fine cotton in puff stitch design with turned down cuffs. Sizes 8 to 10 1/2 in white and pastels.

**BOYS' POLO SHIRTS**  
Regularly 39c Values **27c**

Cool cotton Polo shirts boys like for summer. Small, medium, large in white and colors.

**STYLE-PAK SANITARY NAPKINS**  
8 Napkins to the box, SPECIAL **11c**

**Men's White HANDKERCHIEFS**  
Real 15c Values **10c**

Extra large, fine quality with hemstitched hems.

**Men's FULL-LENGTH HOSE**  
25c Values **19c**

An unusual quality of dress hose at a remarkably low price. Fancy patterns and colors.

**Navy Rejects MEN'S POLO SHIRTS**  
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Limited quantity of this most popular white cotton shirt. Small, medium, large.

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Regular 29c Values **23c each**

Such fine quality you'll want a year's supply! Shorts are full cut of fancy fabrics. Sizes 30 to 42. Shirts, cotton knits, sizes 36 to 44.

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You Save 11c!  
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new early potatoes have to be consumed within a reasonable period after harvest inasmuch as these varieties are much more perishable than late potatoes and cannot be stored," Baum said. "Thus the big supply expected in June will have to be eaten by civilians and armed forces

within this country because early potatoes are not suitable for shipment overseas." Baum reported that supplies of other vegetables and fruits are increasing weekly, being augmented in many sections by local production. Some vegetables are reaching peak pro-

duction and housewives are beginning to buy for home canning, he said. Canning at such times, when particular fruits and vegetables are available in the largest quantities will aid in the war effort by conserving perishable food that might otherwise be wasted.