

THE LISTENING POST

By THE VETERAN

Matters have been far from well with the bi-partisan control established at the county courthouse when the Fine-Bird organization of the Republican party submitted to betrayal of the faithful in order that the Aponick-Farrell threat of a court majority with Judge Harold Flannery could be kept from the fulfillment. Numerous Democratic appointments were approved by the Republican leadership.

In the office of Prothonotary Henry Dietrich the result has been one of complete confusion. There the Democratic appointments made by the Fine-Bird organization included Writ Clerk Chester Krushinski, brother-in-law of Judge Aponick; Secretary Theresa Aponick, sister of the jurist; Democratic Committeewoman Sophie Lemanski and Mrs. Emily Varhely, long prominent as Polish New Dealers; and Miss Helen Tomascik, of the New Deal's Slovak units.

Twice, at the expense of the taxpayers, it has been necessary of recent days to call in special help to clear the way for the business of the office. Despite the fact that for more than thirty years there has been retained at the office the most efficient of all executives there, Assistant Chief Clerk Ben Welsh, the force appointed by Prothonotary Dietrich was unable to handle either the Naturalization Bureau or the perfected index system installed for time-saving and considered the most notable improvement at the county temple in almost two generations. A long-time Republican expert in Naturalization was fired in the person of Philip Forte. His successors became so bungled in their approach to the new citizenship records that it was necessary to look around for experienced workers. Forte was ignored. Called in and given the assignment, and with a pay rise of thirty dollars above the figure paid by the Democrats, was John Quinn, a New Dealer from Plymouth Township.

Then another Democrat, John Noonan of Plymouth Township, was offered the job of supervising the modern index system which had bogged down under Dietrich. Noonan rejected the offer because of indications that he might be called to Washington in his role as educator. It was necessary for Prothonotary Dietrich to import from Pittsburgh, again at the expense of the taxpayers, two experts in indexing, both from the Russell Index Company which had installed the time-saving system. It was apparent that the adventure in deals with the Democrats, at the expense of both the people and the Republican party, had proved a boomerang which may deliver the first blow in knocking over the Fine-Bird attempt to bring back bi-partisanship.

In Democratic circles it is recognized that either Senator Joseph F. Guffey or State Auditor-General Clair Ross is being double-crossed, or both those gentlemen are only pretending a rivalry for control of the gubernatorial nomination. Guffey is backing Judge Ralph Smith for the Democratic campaign to name a man to succeed Governor Arthur James. Ross, himself, is a candidate against Smith. On the face of the political picture the Luzerne County Democratic organization, including State Treasurer Harold Wagner, is allied with Smith.

In fact, both State Senator Leo C. Mundy, nominal head of the county Democrats, and Sinclair Oilman James Law, perennial chairman, have made public announcement of new alliances with Guffey, after several years of bitter criticism of the whole Guffey character. Yet, Mundy-Law appointments fill every job that Candidate Ross has in his Auditor-General's offices in Luzerne County.

John Riley, Mundy aide in Sugar Notch, is Mercantile Appraiser under Ross. One of his chief aides is Joseph Jobey Bialogowicz, Mundy chairman of the Fifth Legislative District, recently featured in a deal with Frank Chmczyk of Plymouth in the hope of keeping the Fifth in line with the Judge Smith ambitions. In other offices bossed by Candidate Ross are found Mundy appointees by the dozen: County Chairlady Mary Ryan Bell, Sixth District Chairman Stephen Ferris, Democratic Bagmen Barney McCole and James Sheridan, Dorothy Kennedy, Luke Sheridan, Anna Fosko, Joseph Gillespie, and so on "ad infinitum."

In all their associations with the present campaign it is noted that these groups are sticking together to promote the Mundy aspirations to deliver the vote for Judge Ralph Smith as candidate for Governor, while drawing salaries approved by Auditor-General Ross, the only candidate given a chance to defeat Smith. Recently Auditor-General Ross looked over the situation. He called all his Luzerne County employees to Scranton. Nervous, uneasy, the group rose and pledged allegiance to the man who is their boss but who they are doing their utmost to defeat. Most nervous of all was Felix Pawloski of the Sixth Legislative District. But, Ross failed to see through the thin tissue of pledges and went back to Harrisburg apparently convinced that the Mundy workers for Judge Smith are really Ross workers for the boss they are pledged to help nominate.

Of course, there is still a chance that Ross and Guffey are only fooling, that there is no real rivalry between the Guffey choice of Smith and the Ross injection of self into the race.

Another repudiation of America's part in the fight to recover freedom

from the dictators and aggressors was voiced by Republican Candidate Puddler Jim Davis at Pittsburgh. With Judge Fine speaking on the same program as a candidate for the Supreme Court, U. S. Senator Davis demanded that the voters of Pennsylvania destroy the interests that are arming the nation for war against the Germans and Japs. He demanded that the great industrial, mining and agricultural combinations, thrown together in an all-out effort to win the world conflict, shall be eliminated from influence.

Senator Davis made all his wealth as a Moose organizer. In addition to his senatorial salary he receives a life income of twenty-five thousands dollars a year from the Loyal Order of Moose. He has no part in the building up of the industry in Pennsylvania that provides for the millions at all times and support of the United Nations most particularly at this crisis in world history. His chief attack in Pittsburgh was amazing. He named General Edward C. Martin, hero of the first World War and with a son in the second conflict, as the tool of the business and industry of this commonwealth. Imagine! Where is there dishonor in a World War general being supported for Governor by the investors, businessmen and industrialists who are doing all of Pennsylvania's work in backing up the Army, Navy, U. S. Marines and Air Corps?

How utterly muddled is the wartime organization of civilian work in government bureaus at Washington was demonstrated to Harry Magee this week. Harry, who acknowledged only the taxpayers as his boss, was fired by the Fine-Bird organization from Chief Clerk of the County Commissioners to permit appointment of Harry Williams, Hanover Township New Dealer, who long served as head of the WPA.

Friends, knowing the remarkable capabilities of Harry Magee, urged him to submit his qualifications to the offices of supply at Washington. Before going down to the capital city Harry prepared a beautiful graph of his various experiences. A professional printer and draughtsman, a known expert in the departments of allocation, Magee had what appeared to be the neatest coverage of an application ever taken out of this bailiwick.

A director of personnel looked over the graph and pronounced it perfect. He said the government needed a man like Magee and he promptly assigned him to the department of supplies. When Harry reported for detailed instructions he was interviewed by a gentleman who didn't even understand what a graph was. And the upshot of the whole matter was that the personnel director was fired next day for daring to recommend an expert without first advising department heads of his intended action.

Harry is back home, a wiser man, but far from a believer in the New Deal methods. It may mean that Harry Magee will reject a proffer made him by State Senator Mundy. The proffer is one of support if Harry Magee will run for County Commissioner next year. It is likely that the discharged expert, set adrift by County Commissioners Bob Lloyd and Herman Kersteen, will aspire to become County Commissioner, but it is almost certain he will seek better backing than either the New Deal here or its counterpart, found in the Fine-Bird organization of Republicans.

Present indications are that Harry Magee will be a candidate for County Commissioner with the support of a vastly influential combination of business, industrial and community leaders, reasonably hoping that with war costs at their peak next year the people will appreciate a man who can do something about the waste in county government.

Wyoming Valley Chapter D. A. R. To Dedicate Historic Elm Tree

The public is invited to attend the dedication of a George Washington Elm tree, a great grandchild of the elm at Cambridge, Mass., under which Washington took command of the Colonial troops back in 1775; sponsored by the Wyoming Valley Chapter D. A. R., Wednesday, April 29 at 11:30 on the upper river common below the green house near the Mrs. Ellen W. Palmer statue. Mrs. William Luckenbach is regent of the Wyoming Valley Chapter D. A. R. Mrs. Jane Hooper Dorsey, national vice chairman of conservation, will speak briefly on the history of these famous elms at the exercises. Historic soil from 8 places intimately associated with George Washington during his lifetime will be placed around the tree. The tree will be accepted by Robert Rogers representing the Commissioner of Parks.

In connection with the dedicatory exercises, Mrs. William Stark Tompkins, Penna. state regent of D. A. R., will speak over station WBRE Wednesday at 10:15 A. M.

Any one knowing of a tree particularly outstanding because of age, size or historic significance, is asked to get in touch with Mrs. Mae Townsend, conservation chairman of the local chapter, Pioneer avenue, phone 357.



SHIPS OF THE UNITED NATIONS are now bound together in one huge convoy system to get the implements of war to the fighting fronts in Britain, Russia and the Far East. To get tanks, guns and food across thousands of miles of sub-infested waters is no easy task, and the men who sail the tankers and freighters have countless tales to tell of heroism, endurance and courage. Here the second officer of the Belgian vessel GANDIA, Francis Lardinois of Brussels, is being carried ashore at a Scottish port, after having manned the tiller of a lifeboat for fifteen days somewhere in the North Atlantic. His ship was torpedoed by a U-boat while en route to England, and he and his comrades were rescued by an American destroyer.

A WEEK OF THE WAR

("A Week of the War" summarizes information on the important developments of the week made available by official sources through 5 P. M. EWT Monday, April 20.)

War Production Chairman Nelson, speaking in New York City, said the United Nations have now outstripped the Axis in war production. Because of the accumulated reserves of the enemy, however, "we have not yet won the battle of production," he said. Vice President Wallace said by July of this year the U. S. will be producing more war material than any other nation in the history of the world. Chairman Nelson asked that workers' vacations be staggered and overtime and employment of substitutes be increased so vacations will not disrupt war production. The Board listed the first 500 plants to set up voluntarily labor-management committees and launch production drives.

Manpower Mobilization
Federal Security Administrator McNutt was made Chairman of a nine-man War Manpower Commission set up by the President to "bring about the most effective mobilization and the maximum use of the nation's manpower." Mr. McNutt said the Commission will establish a labor priorities system to allocate manpower on a voluntary basis. If this system fails, he said he would ask for authority to assign men and women to specific jobs. He reported an additional 10 million workers will be needed in war production this year, many of whom will have to be obtained through recruiting of women, young people and retired workers.

The President's Committee on Fair Employment practice ordered 10 companies holding large war contracts to cease discriminating against workers because of race or religion.

The War Front
War Secretary Stimson told a press conference the U. S. Army is almost ready for the offensive. Army Communiques reported 13 Australian-based American bombers, in a 4,000 mile round-trip raid on Japanese installations in the Philippines, sank four enemy ships, damaged four others and caused widespread damage. The Army and Navy withheld comment on reports that American bombers had raided Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and other Japanese cities and inflicted property damage.

Gen. MacArthur named the members of his staff assisting him as head of the United Nations Southwest Pacific Command. Gen. Wainwright said Corregidor Island could and would hold out. He said an estimated 60,000 American and Filipino combatant and non-combatant troops on Bataan are now in the hands of the enemy. Eight United Nations ships were reported sunk by enemy submarines in the Atlantic.

Foreign Relations
The White House reported Lend-Lease aid amounted to more than three billion dollars by the end of March. War supplies sent to Russia in March were two and a half times as great as those sent in February. President Roosevelt notified Ambassador to Vichy Leahy to return to this country for instructions, because of the domination of the new government of France by the pro-German Laval. The State Department said three American ships scheduled to carry food and clothing to France and North Africa are being held there pending clarification of the Vichy situation.

Army and Selective Service
The War Department said organization of 32 new divisions this year

is being carried out on schedule. The Department said the Army Medical Corps strength will be doubled to meet demands of the expanded Army. Physicians under 45 years and dentists under 35 will be eligible for commissions as first lieutenants. The Department also announced formation of a new combat force, the Tank Destroyer Command, which will begin training in Texas early this summer.

The Department said it will grant furloughs of 10 days to recipients after their processing at reception centers, if local boards recommend such action for men who need the time to clear up personal affairs. Selective Service Director Hershey said the supply of men classified as 1-A probably will be exhausted by the end of summer and the calling of men of 1-B classification probably will start in the fall.

Navy and Air
Two new destroyers were launched and a third was commissioned. The President directed Navy Secretary Knox to take over three plants of the Brewster Aeronautical Corp. in order to increase their production.

President Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced jointly that all United Nations with air training programs under way in the U. S. or Canada will confer in Ottawa early in May on "further united military efforts."

Shipping
The War Shipping Administration requisitioned all the remaining American-owned ocean-going vessels which had not been taken over by the Government previously. Every detail of operation—cargoes, routes of travel and time of departure—for ocean-going vessels can now be specified by the WSA. The President authorized the Maritime Commission "to acquire, use and dispose of" any real or personal property needed for the building of merchant ships. He also authorized the Commission to award medals to members of the nation's merchant marine for distinguished conduct.

War Bonds and Stamps
The Treasury said a campaign will be opened May 1 to secure voluntary pledges from all persons in the U. S. to purchase War Savings Bonds and Stamps with at least 10 percent of their incomes. The campaign will include the establishment of war savings committees in every county of the nation. It will attempt to double the monthly volume of bond and stamp purchases. The WPB said War Bond sales totaled almost five billion dollars as of April 1.

Rationing
The Office of Price Administration reported the first sugar ration will be one pound per person for a two-week period. The Office said rationing books will not be issued to persons who already have more than six pounds of sugar. Persons with two pounds on hand but not more than six will have stamps removed at registration time, at the rate of one stamp for each pound over the first two. Each sugar ration book holder will be permitted to receive a special allotment of not more than five pounds of sugar a year for home canning or preserving of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Civilian Supply
The WPB ordered production of medium and heavy trucks for civilian use discontinued after existing quotas have been completed. The Board froze all stocks of new plumbing and heating equipment, with the exception of retail of \$5 or less and orders bearing a preference rating of A-10 or higher. The Board also prohibited manufacture of oil burners and coal stokers for residential use. Amounts of shellac

used in the manufacture of phonograph records were restricted to 30 percent of 1941 consumption.

Housing and Construction
National Housing Administrator Blandford said he will establish regional offices, tentatively set at 10, to shift more responsibility for planning the billion-dollar war housing program to the communities it will benefit. Responsibility for building the projects will remain in Washington. The WPB reported military and other essential construction in 1942 will give the industry its greatest program in history, 20 per cent above the 1941 record.

MEEKER
Lawrence Drabick of Baltimore spent the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Drabick. Esther Decker, student at Stroudsburg State Teachers' College, was called home this week to attend the funeral of her grandmother, Mrs. Charlotte Swire of Loyaltyville. Rev. and Mrs. George Snyder and family of Skinner's Eddy spent Friday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Steele. Mrs. James Davenport spent Thursday visiting Mrs. Elmer Davenport of New Jersey who was a guest in Parsons. Rev. and Mrs. Lyons of New York spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. John Hildebrand. Mrs. Edna Karschner, Mrs. Lloyd Rogers, Mrs. George Weintz and Mrs. John Hildebrand attended conference in Wilkes-Barre yesterday. Mrs. Hiram Varner, who has been a patient at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, has returned to her home much improved. W. S. C. S. Meeting W. S. C. S. met at the home of Mrs. Russell Steele Wednesday afternoon. Present were: Mesdames Mae King, Elma Robinson, Marie B. Wolfe, Edith King, Dorothy Steele, Edna Karschner, Helen VanBuskirk, Ruth Rogers, Janice Evans, Elva Drabick, Elizabeth Ide, Francis Ide, Ruth Johnson, Edith Weintz, Florence Davenport, Alberta Foss, Mattie Sites, Glendora Bryant, Minnie Rebenack, Edna Rebenack, Lillian Hildebrand, Viola Hoover, Mary Scovell; Misses Maude Wolfe, Letha Wolfe, and Grace Ide; Edward King, Judith Steele, Russell Jr., Patsy Ide, Junior Ide, Margo Davenport, Gladys Foss, Bryant Mesick, Dale Hoover, Ann Scovell, Mrs. Barney Laskowski and Rev. and Mrs. Lyons.

At the Naval Academy the curbstones are red, green and yellow denoting no parking, officers cars and commercial vehicles respectively. Foreign uniforms can not be worn in Switzerland without permission, so U. S. Naval officers usually wear civilian clothes when on duty there.

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Minute Men Noodle Soup 3 pkgs **25^c**
Brer Rabbit Molasses (Green Label) 12-oz glass **14^c**
Vermont Maid Syrup 12-oz jug **17^c**
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