

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen

WASHINGTON.—It wasn't announced, but all employees of Axis firms whose funds were frozen last week received their wages on schedule.

This was in direct contrast to the treatment accorded United States citizens in Germany and Italy. They were not allowed to withdraw money from bank accounts for food and other living necessities and had to borrow from the American embassy and other friendly sources.

Employees of Axis firms in this country owe their kindly treatment to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau.

In order that the families of employees should suffer no hardship, Morgenthau quietly issued a general license permitting Axis-controlled firms to withdraw enough money to meet their weekly payrolls. This license operates until July 15, by which time the companies will either have received individual licenses or been put under permanent ban.

STALIN'S APPREHENSION

If anyone still wants a lesson in appeasement these days, let him take a leaf from the book of Josef Stalin. Here are some details of the backstage diplomatic negotiations leading up to the war with Germany.

It was around April 1st that Stalin first got definite word that Hitler was planning to invade Russia. At least it was early in April that U. S. diplomats picked up that word and they got it from the Russians.

The decision had come to light during the spring visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuzaki to Moscow.

And from that time on, Stalin did everything possible short of giving up Russian territory, in order to appease Hitler. He withdrew Russian recognition from Yugoslavia, saying that it now belonged to Germany (though a few weeks before he had egged the Yugoslavs on).

He also withdrew recognition from Greece, saying that it ceased to exist. He let several thousand Nazi troops, disguised as tourists, filter through to Iran and Iraq.

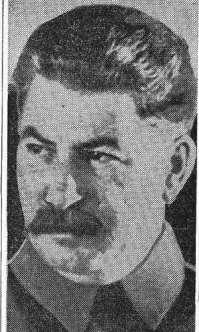
Finally, he even signed a non-aggression pact with Japan, Russia's traditional enemy, although he must have known the pact would never be honored in Tokyo.

But each appeasement move Stalin made was no more effective than the appeasement moves made by the Chamberlain government in Czechoslovakia and the Polish Corridor. They only strengthened Hitler's hand.

Ex-Colonel Lindbergh notwithstanding, you can't appease Herr Hitler.

TAKE HOME A SOLDIER

"Dine and Dance" is the new catchword of the army. Mark McCloskey, director of recreation for the new draftees, is bent on giving the men enough to do in spare



JOSEF STALIN
Appeared and Appeased and Appeased.

time. A Saturday dance at the Y. M. C. A. or a Sunday dinner in a private home are part of McCloskey's scheme; there must be no modern version of Kipling's Tommy Atkins on a spree.

More than 100,000 soldiers take Sunday dinner in private homes near army posts, and civic organizations such as Rotary clubs, churches and lodges are sponsoring dances to keep the boys from the professional dance halls.

In New Brunswick, Ga., the American Legion gave the soldiers an old-fashioned fish fry. When Shelbyville, Tenn., heard that men were coming their way, the town erected a hundred shower baths to accommodate tired troopers.

Schools all over the South and West have opened their gyms and recreational grounds for the draftees.

TRACKLESS TANKS

Testifying before the house military affairs committee on behalf of the "draft property" bill, Undersecretary of War Patterson told a "new improved weapon" which the army wanted for experimentation

but which was being blocked by excessive price demands of the owners.

"They want a price," Patterson stated, "which is more than 100 per cent over the cost of production."

The conscientious war department chief, who gave up a lifetime job as a United States circuit judge to go to Washington, gave no further details except to say that cases of this kind made a "draft property" law necessary.

And the committee did not question him further. But if it had, it might have learned of a sharp army clash now churning the inner high command. Here is the inside story:

The "new improved weapon" is a trackless tank, an armored vehicle that looks like a tank but runs on eight wheels instead of on treads.

Recently a United States firm proposed that the army buy seventeen experimental trackless tanks on the understanding that if they passed army tests more would be bought later. The order, calling for an expenditure well over a million dollars, recently came to Patterson's desk for his signature.

He was struck by the high cost of the vehicles, and laid the order aside for careful scrutiny after he had gone through his morning mail. In this pile of correspondence he found two letters on the subject that caused him to hit the ceiling.

COSTLY TANKS

One letter was from Office of Production Management experts, disapproving the price asked for the trackless tanks and asserting it was about double what it should be. The other letter was from the army ordnance bureau and voiced the same view.

Patterson began digging. None of his assistants knew who had originated the order, but all agreed the army was being taken for a ride. Patterson hurriedly convened a conference of Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy, who is head of ordnance, plus war department and OPM ordnance experts. All emphatically turned thumbs down on the high price demanded for the tank—except McCloy. The former New York patent attorney insisted that the price was fair, considering that the firm had expended \$200,000 in perfecting the tank.

This was challenged by the ordnance experts, who contended that not more than \$50,000 could have been spent for research; that the company is not a manufacturer, but only assembles parts which are made elsewhere; that the firm is attempting to charge the army for

Employees of Axis Firms Get Salaries

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use of the Christie tank patents, which the war department purchased several years ago and of which it no longer pays royalties.

Several hours later, with Assistant Secretary McCloy still sticking by his guns against all the experts, Patterson directed that the officials of the company be summoned to another go-round, two days later.

Two days later, the tank makers failed to show up. The order is still on Patterson's desk—unsigned.

NAZI JUSTICE

Justice department officials are reading with a shocked astonishment a copy of the Nazi penal code which they have just obtained. They characterize it as the most lawless system of so-called laws ever devised.

Here is one provision that brought gasps:

"One shall be punished who commits an act declared punishable by the statute or which deserves punishment according to the fundamental principles of penal law and of sound national feeling. If no definite law can be directly applied to the act, the act shall be punished under the law whose fundamental principles concern most closely with the act." (Sec. 2 of the Penal Code as amended by Article 1 of the law of June 28, 1935.)

TRIPLE-A WAR

Titantic battles and mighty diplomatic duels shake the world daily, but personal grudges continue to get their share of attention from Washington officialdom.

The bureau of agricultural economics row dates back to last winter, when Howard R. Tolley, director of the agency, severely criticized the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in his annual report. For the head of one branch of a department to blast another is most unusual, and Tolley's action set off a terrific explosion. He formerly had been boss of the AAA; later was relegated to agricultural economics.

Secretary Claude Wickard also is an AAA man. But Tolley's report was approved during Wickard's absence by Undersecretary Paul Appleby, who is covertly hostile to AAA because it is the one agricultural agency not under his power-hungry thumb.

So when the appropriation bill reached the house, the AAA boys swung into action to get revenge. When they finished, not only had \$500,000 been lopped off agricultural economics' budget, but the bureau had been stripped of its power as the top planning agency of the agriculture department.

Wickard and his pals are now gunning for Appleby.

KNOX INVITED TO POTLATCH

Secretary of the Navy Knox hopes to be in Seattle in time to be honor guest of the Potlatch during some of the events of the celebration to be held July 29 to August 2.

This was disclosed yesterday by Daniel B. Trefethen Sr., chairman of the Potlatch reception committee.

"Some time ago I conferred with Representative Warren G. Magnusson and U. S. Senator Mons Walgren on this matter," Trefethen said.

"They promised their cooperation, especially since Seattle's Potlatch this year is dedicated to aviation and to national defense."

"I have received word from Congressman Magnusson that he personally delivered the Potlatch invitation to Secretary of the Navy Knox, who said there is a 'very reasonable probability' that the invitation will be accepted if his present plans are not upset by national emergency."

Bremerton to Dedicate Defense Homes Project

Impressive ceremonies will mark the dedication of Bremerton's new 600-unit Westpark defense housing project on July 15, Monte Snow ascertained yesterday in behalf of the Bremerton Housing Authority.

Rear Admiral C. S. Freeman, commander of the Thirtieth Naval District; Maj. Gen. Kenyon A. Joyce, commanding general of the IX Army Corps, and the governor of states and the territory of Alaska within the Thirtieth Naval District, have been invited to attend.

The program will begin at 2 p. m. but prior to that open house will be held in ten units of the project to enable public inspection of type of homes being constructed for civilian employees of the Puget Sound Navy Yard.

In addition to the 600 units for civilians, 440 of which already have been occupied, the authority is building a 240-unit extension for enlisted men and their families.

At Manette another project will provide homes for 560 families and dormitories are being made available in Bremerton for 500 single men.

Snow said that 600 private homes

are under construction in Bremerton and that a private corporation is erecting 180 units.

At the dedication of the Westpark project, one of the highlights will be a flag raising ceremony in which representatives of the Bremerton Chamber of Commerce, the navy band and public and naval officials will participate.

Pro America Plans Defense Program

All units of Pro America, Republican Women's organization, will elect defense chairman at once and start work on numerous defense projects, Mrs. Neil Haig, state president has announced.

As a beginning all members are asked to collect books and magazines for army camps. These will be brought to central points and picked up by army trucks.

King county chapter of Pro America has elected Mansel Griffiths as chairman and are beginning a detailed campaign to carry out the collection work.

COMPOSER WILL LEAD FESTIVAL

Well-loved selections by the noted Salvation Army composer, Brig. William Broughton of Detroit, will be played at the Salvation Army Music Festival, to which the public is invited without charge at the Swedish Tabernacle, E. Pike St. and Bellevue, at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Brigadier Broughton will serve as guest conductor. For the past nine days he has directed the music at the Salvation Army Music Camp at Lake Boren, where more than 100 students have been in intensive training.

This afternoon diplomas and medals earned at that music camp will be awarded. J. W. Spangler, civic leader and chairman of the Salvation Army advisory board, will preside.

Thirty-nine-foot cruiser. Cost \$18,000; sell for \$5,750; 400 H. P.; 40 miles per hour. Beautiful finish. Looks like new; owner going into service; fully equipped; mahogany and brass. See Classification 119, P.-I. Want Ad.

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