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THE DAILY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND  
(Trademark)

By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen

Authors of "Washington Merry-Go-Round"  
and "More Merry-Go-Round".

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ROOSEVELT SAVED ON BRINK OF MAJOR ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE  
AS REORGANIZATION PLAN BACKED BY RAILROAD EXECUTIVES  
DISCLOSES AIM TO PUT THE BIG ROADS "THROUGH THE WRINGER";  
PRESIDENT FINDING DIPLOMATIC JOBS LIKE A JIGSAW PUZZLE

WASHINGTON---The Roosevelt Administration has been on the brink of a major economic catastrophe, and despite the Roosevelt grin, is still feeling a little shaky about it.

The cause of the sick feeling is a list of big railroad lines that need help. Heading the list is the big group of newly organized lines with headquarters in Cleveland. Second is a big road operating in the Northwest with its central offices in Chicago. The third road expected to go is a large line operating out of Baltimore. A line operating between Chicago and New Orleans, and another reaching out to the Southwest are next on the list.

RAILROAD WRINGER

The railroad executives have determined that these and other roads must be "put through the wringer". They must have their watered stock wrung out. Most lines are over-capitalized, they say, and the only way to revive railroad prosperity is to let the unsound companies go into bankruptcy, then reorganize with much diminished capital.

Accordingly, the big executives drew up a plan. It called for the regrouping of lines, the elimination of waste, the appointment of a federal czar or coordinator. This was all to be done under legislation sponsored by President Roosevelt. One of the chief promoters of this plan was Adolf A. Berle, brilliant member of the "Brain Trust", graduate from Harvard at the age of 17. Others also urged it on Roosevelt, including Secretary of the Treasury Woodin.

COLOSSAL BLUNDER

But what Woodin, Berle, other Roosevelt advisers did not see was this. Once the executives' plan was adopted, it would be hailed as "the Roosevelt plan" and ballyhooed as another great achievement. Before the echoes of the fanfare of trumpets had subsided, the executives would begin their strategy of "wringing out the lines". And as each railroad went to the wall, the Roosevelt Administration would get the blame.

If this had happened, nothing could ever have convinced the public that the bankruptcy of the railroads was not the direct result of Roosevelt mal-legislation.

RESCUER RICHBERG

The President was warned of this in time. The man who warned him was Don Richberg, sagacious counsel of the Railway Brotherhoods. Richberg wrote Roosevelt's railroad speech during the campaign, is one of his close advisers on transportation, is not afraid to tell the

President exactly what he thinks.

In this case the President listened. As a result there will be no hasty action regarding the railroads, and the plan of the big executives will not be adopted.

#### GALLANT GENTLEMAN

During an exciting afternoon's debate recently, one of the younger senators received a note at his desk. It was signed by a lovely Washington matron and read: "Dear Senator, would you be good enough to squeeze a friend and me in the senators' gallery?"

The reply, written on the bottom of the note said: "I'd love to squeeze you in the senators' gallery, or anywhere else".

#### DIPLOMATIC PICTURE PUZZLE

Franklin Roosevelt is having a hard time placing some of his friends and supporters in diplomatic posts pleasing both to them and to the best interests of diplomacy. It is something like a jigsaw puzzle. Embryo ambassadors are shifted from one spot to another; if they don't fit in one place, two or three others may have to be moved as a result.

Genial Jim Cox, Democratic candidate against Harding, heads the list in this respect. Roosevelt, anxious to make use of his ability in an important post, first offered him Germany. Cox turned this down. He said he could not afford to be far away from his newspapers. Then Roosevelt offered him Havana just a few hours from Miami where Cox publishes one of his papers. This also was declined.

James Michael Curley, mayor of Boston, has been another puzzle. He wanted Rome, was indignant at being offered Dublin, where it was thought his broad Irish humor would be most welcome. Now he will get the ambassadorship to Poland.

#### UNWELCOME

Francis White, assistant secretary of state, pulled many wires to get Cuba. White is a career man, but closely identified with Republican Administrations, so that he will not get Cuba. That job goes to John Cudahy, of Milwaukee. Instead White will go to some less important Latin American post.

But here arises another puzzle. White has been so active in trying to straighten out Latin American wars that through no fault of his, there are not many capitals where he would be welcome.

In Buenos Aires for instance, the Argentine foreign minister dislikes him. In Peru everyone remembers the stand he took in declaring that country an aggressor against Colombia. Bolivia and Paraguay both hate White for his urgent demands that they stop fighting.

So about all that is left for White is Colombia which he befriended.

#### MERRY-GO-ROUND

Dapper, chipper Secretary of the Treasury William H. Woodin wears black, high-top shoes, with cream colored doe-skin uppers..... He also has tiny side-burns on both cheeks..... Claude Swanson, sonorous Secretary of the Navy, wears heavy horn-rimmed pince-nez glasses with a wide black ribbon..... Attorney General Cummins is the tallest man in the cabinet..... He is six foot three inches..... Secretary Woodin is the shortest with five foot four inches..... President Roosevelt uses a merchaum cigaret holder when he smokes cigarettes..... Vice President Garner uses a white felt sombrero for every day wear.... Nathan Bachman, tall, heavy chested newly appointed Senator from West Virginia, is the most distinctly attired man in Congress..... Bachman parts his hair carefully in the middle, wears a plain white shirt, without vest, a stiff, turn-down collar, and a black bow tie, with the ends tucked under the collar.

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