

FROM THE BELL SYNDICATE, INC.--RELEASE THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1950.

CORRECTION: MERRYGOROUND WEDNESDAY MAY 24, 190 DOWN READ: REP. WALTER LYNCH, DEMOCRAT OF NEW YORK, WAS MOWED DOWN BY THE TEXAN WHEN HE ARGUED THAT ETC. (DELETING REFERENCE TO ROBERT W. KEAN)

DREW PEARSON

ON

THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: (CAPS) EASY CHICAGO MONEY MAKES DEMOCRATS UNHAPPY; VICE PRESIDENT BARKLEY ACCOMPLISHES THE IMPOSSIBLE IN SPEECHMAKING; REASONS BEHIND REPRESENTATIVE CHATHAM'S ABSENTEEISM.

(END CAPS)

WASHINGTON.--TOP-DRAWER DEMOCRATS WERE NOT HAPPY WHEN THEY GOT TO CHICAGO AND DISCOVERED THE MANNER IN WHICH A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS HAD BEEN RAISED TO WELCOME PRESIDENT TRUMAN TO CHICAGO.

FIRST, A RULING WAS OBTAINED FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE BUREAU THAT DONATIONS TO THE HOST COMMITTEE WERE A CHARITY GIFT AND TAX DEDUCTIBLE. CHICAGO, IT WAS ARGUED, WAS PLAYING HOST TO THE PRESIDENT REGARDLESS OF POLITICS.

HAVING SECURED THIS, LOCAL DEMOCRATS MAILED A COPY OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE RULING TO PROSPECTIVE DONORS WITH AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS. AND IN THE SAME LETTER, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THEY INSERTED THE SCHEDULE OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

WHEN GEORGE KILLION, EX-TREASURER OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE, ARRIVED IN CHICAGO, HE SHOWED THE NONPOLITICAL APPEAL FOR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE FUNDS, WITH THE DEMOCRATIC EVENTS SCHEDULE TO CHAIRMAN BILL BOYLE.

"THAT FOOL NATE LICHTBLAU," GROWLED KILLION.

"IT'S THE FIRST I KNEW ABOUT IT," REMARKED THE WORRIED BOYLE.

LATER, HE REPORTED THE WHOLE MATTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN.

NOTE--THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS AND EX-CONGRESSMAN EVERETT DIRKSEN, GOP CANDIDATE FOR THE SENATE, MADE THE MOST OF DEMOCRATIC RED FACES AND OF THE HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY CONTRIBUTED BY THE LIQUOR INTERESTS TO THE TRUMAN RECEPTION.

--ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE VEEP--

YOU CAN'T BEAT ALBEN BARKLEY WHEN IT COMES TO ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE DEBATE OR AFTER-DINNER SPEECHES.

THE OTHER DAY IN CHICAGO, BARKLEY PULLED A NEAR-MIRACLE. THE OCCASION WAS THE BIG DEMOCRATIC PALLY HONORING THOMAS JEFFERSON JUST BEFORE PRESIDENT TRUMAN ARRIVED FROM THE WEST. THE DINNER WAS POORLY HANDLED. THE TOASTMASTER FORGOT TO INTRODUCE POSTMASTER GENERAL DONALDSON AND SECRETARY OF THE NAVY MATTHEWS. JACK ARVEY STAGED A SHOW OF DANCING GIRLS FROM CHEZ PARIS, WHILE IN CONTRAST MOTHERLY CONGRESSWOMAN MARY NORTON OF NEW JERSEY DRONED OUT A 30-MINUTE SPEECH.

(MORE)

BY THIS TIME IT WAS NEARLY MIDNIGHT, THE HONOR-GUEST TABLE WAS ALMOST EMPTY, AND THE AUDIENCE WAS READY TO GO HOME. BUT BARKLEY WAS STILL TO BE HEARD FROM.

MOST SPEAKERS WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO DISCOURAGED TO START. BUT THE VICE PRESIDENT GOT TO THE POINT OF WHAT OTHER SPEAKERS HAD IGNORED-- THE REAL STORY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON. HE DESCRIBED THE DETAILS OF HIS LIFE, HIS INFLUENCE ON THE NATION, AND DID IT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE TIRED AND MILLING AUDIENCE ACTUALLY LISTENED.

--ABSENT CONGRESSMAN--

THIS COLUMN, LEANING BACKWARD TO CONGRESSMAN THURMOND CHATHAM OF NORTH CAROLINA, RECENTLY EXPLAINED HIS PROLONGED ABSENCE RECORD FROM CONGRESS BY THE FACT THAT HIS WIFE HAD PASSED AWAY 10 MONTHS AGO AND HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS WORK.

THAT EXPLANATION MAY HAVE BEEN OVERLY GENEROUS. SINCE THEN, IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT CONGRESSMAN CHATHAM'S ABSENCE HAS BEEN PARTLY DUE TO HOUSE PARTIES AT HIS CURRITUCK SOUND COTTAGE.

TWO WEEKS AGO, FURTHERMORE, HE BROUGHT MRS. JOHN T. BARNES, JR., WIFE OF A REYNOLDS TOBACCO OFFICIAL, TO THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL AT WINSTON-SALEM AT 2:30 A.M., MAY 8, WITH A SEVERE GASH AT THE BASE OF HER SKULL. MRS. BARNES, 35 YEARS OLD AND A PROMINENT SOCIALITE, WAS SUFFERING FROM LOSS OF BLOOD. MR. BARNES ARRIVED AT THE HOSPITAL AT 5 A.M.

HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES, NURSES AND INTERNES FLATLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT, BUT CONGRESSMAN CHATHAM, WHEN QUERIED, SAID THAT MRS. BARNES HAD BEEN DINING, WITH OTHERS, ON HIS TERRACE, HAD CAUGHT HER DRESS IN A CHAIR AND FALLEN, HITTING HER HEAD AGAINST A MARBLE WALL.

WE ARE DELIGHT<sup>ED</sup>/TO ACCEPT THE CONGRESSMAN'S STORY, BUT IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT HIS PROLONGED ABSENCES FROM CONGRESS APPARENTLY ARE NOT ENTIRELY DUE TO THE LOSS OF HIS WIFE.

--MERRY-GO-ROUND--

SECRETARY OF STATE ACHESON IS SO TIRED FOLLOWING HIS LONDON CONFERENCES THAT HE CABLED THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT HE IS NOT TO BE DISTURBED ON THE VOYAGE HOME--NO MATTER HOW MANY SPEECHES SENATOR MCCARTHY MAKES ABOUT HIM....FRANCIS PICKENS MILLER, THE BYRD MACHINE'S SWORN FOE IN VIRGINIA, TOSSED A REAL HOT POTATO AT SEN. HARRY BYRD. HE PROPOSED A VIRGINIA STATE "COMMITTEE ON REDUCTION OF NONESSENTIAL EXPENSES." SENATOR BYRD USES HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF A SIMILAR COMMITTEE IN CONGRESS TO FIRE SHOTS AT THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT NO SUCH PROBLE OF PADDED PAYROLLS IN BYRD-CONTROLLED VIRGINIA HAS EVER BEEN DARED BEFORE....ANOTHER HOT FIGHT BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT WINGS OF THE GOP IS ON IN NORTH DAKOTA. FRANK VOGEL, A CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR "OLD BOB" LA FOLLETTE'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN 1924, IS RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR....PROFESSOR HAROLD UREY, FAMED ATOMIC SCIENTIST FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, IS SLATED TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW SCIENCE

(MORE)

MERRY-GO-ROUND--THURSDAY, MAY 25--PAGE 3. X X X THE NEW SCIENCE FOUNDATION....LANDLORDS HAVE BEEN GETTING SUCH BAD PUBLICITY OVER HIGH RENTS THAT THE NORFOLK, VA., REAL ESTATE BOARD APPOINTED A 22-MAN COMMITTEE TO KEEP RENTS DOWN. INSTEAD OF CURBING RENTS, HOWEVER, NINE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, THEMSELVES, BOOSTED RENTS FROM 27 TO 100 PER CENT. THE NINE MEN WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO HOLD RENTS DOWN BUT INCREASED THEIR OWN RENTS ARE: LUDWELL BALDWIN, WALTER BOTT, CLIFTON CAUNCILL, RALPH DREWERY, M. ETHERIDGE, ROBERT KOOLAGE, WILLIAM KUTZ, LAWRENCE PAGE AND C. V. W. TRICE.

--"DRIVER OF THE YEAR"--

LLOYD REISNER, 37-YEAR-OLD TRUCK DRIVER OF INDIANAPOLIS, WAS AS COOL AND COLLECTED AS YOU WOULD EXPECT THE "DRIVER OF THE YEAR" TO BE WHEN HE WAS CONGRATULATED BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN FOR HIS HIGHWAY SAFETY FEATS.

TRUMAN HIMSELF SEEMED TO GET A BIGGER THRILL THAN THE TRUCK DRIVER AS REISNER TOLD OF SAVING A LITTLE GIRL'S LIFE ON A HIGHWAY NEAR LOUISVILLE, KY.

"OUR HIGHWAYS ARE BECOMING SAFER EVERY YEAR," REMARKED TRUMAN, "AND WE HAVE MEN LIKE YOU TO THANK FOR IT."

BEFORE DEPARTING, REISNER GOT A PRIZED PRESIDENTIAL AUTOGRAPH FOR A NINE-YEAR-OLD INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBOR, JOHN TRUMAN HARMON--NO RELATION TO THE PRESIDENT.

"YOU'RE MAKING A LIFELONG DEMOCRAT OUT OF THIS BOY," GRINNED REISNER AS TRUMAN INSCRIBED A PERSONAL CARD FOR THE YOUNGSTER.

"WITH A SECOND NAME LIKE THAT, HE OUGHT TO BE," QUIPPED THE PRESIDENT.

(END PEARSON COLUMN FOR THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1950.)

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