

FROM THE BELL SYNDICATE, INC.--RELEASE TUESDAY, FEB. 7, 1950.

DREW PEARSON

ON

THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: (CAPS) MRS. TRUMAN'S "PLAIN DOG;" TIDE OF TOYS REPRESENTS TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT; SEN. TYDINGS PLANS "INVASION" OF MARYLAND. (END CAPS)

WASHINGTON.--HARRY TRUMAN HAS FREQUENTLY SAID THAT THE TWO MEN HE WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE RETIRED FROM CONGRESS ARE THE REPUBLICAN SENATORS FROM HIS HOME STATE--FORREST DONNELL AND JAMES P. KEM OF MISSOURI.

HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT LEANED OVER BACKWARD TO BE POLITE TO THESE BITTER FOES WHEN HE AND MRS. TRUMAN LUNCHEONED WITH THE MISSOURI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. IN FACT, POLITICS PLAYED A MINOR ROLE AT THE LUNCHEON, GIVING WAY TO A DISCUSSION OF DOGS, LED BY CHARMING MRS. BENNETT CHAMP CLARK, WIFE OF THE JUDGE AND FORMER SENATOR FROM MISSOURI.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN A LEGENDARY DOG PLAYED A FAMOUS ROLE IN THE LIFE OF MRS. CLARK'S LATE FATHER-IN-LAW, SPEAKER CHAMP CLARK, WHOSE THEME SONG WHEN HE RAN FOR PRESIDENT WAS: "I DON'T CARE IF HE IS A HOUN', YOU'VE GOTTA QUIT KICKING MY DOG AROUND'."

BUT MRS. CLARK, A FORMER ENGLISH ACTRESS, PROBABLY DID NOT REMEMBER THAT FAMOUS CONVENTION BATTLE OF 1912 IN WHICH WOODROW WILSON FINALLY BEAT OUT CHAMP CLARK. FOR SHE DOMINATED THE CONVERSATION WITH A EULOGY, NOT OF HER HOUND, BUT OF HER SMOOTH-HAIRED FOX TERRIER WHICH, SHE BOASTED MODESTLY, OUTSHONE EVERYTHING IN WASHINGTON CANINE CIRCLES AND WAS PRACTICALLY OUT OF THIS WORLD IN PEDIGREES.

THIS WENT ON FOR SOME TIME, WITH MRS. TRUMAN SAYING NOTHING. WHEN MRS. CLARK FINALLY RAN OUT OF ADJECTIVES ABOUT HER POOCH, THE FIRST LADY BROKE IN GENTLY:

"WE USED TO HAVE A DOG, TOO."

"HOW WONDERFUL," ENTHUSED THE JUDGE'S WIFE. "WHAT KIND?"

"OH, JUST A PLAIN DOG," REPLIED MRS. T.

--TIDE OF TOYS--

EVERY CHRISTMAS I HEAR SOME FOLKS ARGUING THAT CHRISTMAS HAS BECOME TOO COMMERCIALIZED, THAT WE GIVE PRESENTS CHIEFLY TO THOSE WHO WE THINK ARE GOING TO GIVE US SOMETHING IN RETURN, THAT WE SHOULD NOT MERELY PRACTICE CHRIST'S TEACHINGS ON HIS BIRTHDAY, BUT EVERY DAY.

I HAVE HEARD QUITE A FEW PEOPLE TALK THIS WAY, BUT UNTIL NOW I HAVEN'T KNOWN MANY PEOPLE TO DO MUCH MORE THAN TALK ABOUT IT. THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, IT'S BEEN DIFFERENT.

(MORE)

CHRISTMAS HAS BEEN OVER MORE THAN A MONTH NOW, AND AT PHILADELPHIA TODAY AN EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE SHOWING THAT SEVERAL MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE ABOVE ADVICE AND ARE TRYING TO MAKE CHRISTMAS COME NOT ONCE A YEAR BUT IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH TOO.

FOR TODAY THE U.S. LINES' STEAMER AMERICAN ADVENTURE EMBARKS FOR ROTTERDAM CARRYING THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF ONE OF THE MOST PRECIOUS CARGOES EVER COLLECTED IN THE U.S.A.--THE TIDE OF TOYS. THESE FRIENDSHIP TOYS ARE BEING DONATED THROUGH THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TO THE CHILDREN OF EUROPE.

OF COURSE, THIS COLUMN IS SUPPOSED TO REPORT THE CLOSED-DOOR MEETINGS OF CONGRESS AND THE BACKSTAGE MANEUVERINGS OF DIPLOMATS. BUT NO STORY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BACKSTAGE ACCOUNT OF HOW THE AMERICAN LEGION COLLECTED SOME 3,000,000 TOYS IN THE SHORT SPACE OF FIVE WEEKS, GOT THEM SORTED, PACKED FOR EXPORT, AND SHIPPED TO PHILADELPHIA.

ON THE SURFACE, THIS MAY HAVE SEEMED EASY. BUT IT WASN'T. IT TOOK DAYS OF CAREFUL ORGANIZING, PLUS A LOT OF COURAGE ON THE PART OF LEGION LEADERS, TO START SUCH A GIGANTIC PROJECT--ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN EVERYONE WANTED TO RELAX AFTER CHRISTMAS.

--SOLDIERS OF TOMORROW?--

HOWEVER, THE MEN WHO HAVE FOUGHT OUR WARS IN THE PAST REALIZED THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO WIN PEACE FOR THE FUTURE--BY WORKING AT IT. FOR PEACE IS NOT A BERIBBONED PARCHMENT WHICH DIPLOMATS SIGN AFTER A WAR IS OVER. IT IS A LIVING, BREATHING DAY-TO-DAY DOCUMENT WHICH THE PEOPLE OF A NATION MUST WORK AT YEAR AFTER YEAR.

PEACE IS LIKE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE. THE HARDEST PART BEGINS AFTER THE MARRIAGE LICENSE IS SIGNED. AND THE FACT THAT SO MANY AMERICANS FORGOT TO WORK AT PEACE AND RETREATED INTO THEIR SHELL OF ISOLATION DURING THE HARDING-COOLIDGE DAYS AFTER 1918, WAS ONE REASON WHY WE HAD TO FIGHT AGAIN IN 1941.

WARS, THE AMERICAN LEGIONNAIRES KNOW ALL TOO WELL, COME IN CYCLES OF ABOUT EVERY 20 YEARS. AND THE CHILDREN OF TODAY CAN BE OUR FRIENDS OR THE SOLDIERS OF TOMORROW. THAT'S WHY THE FRIENDSHIP GESTURE OF TOYS, THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF WHICH SAILS FROM PHILADELPHIA TODAY, CAN BE SO IMPORTANT.

THAT'S ALSO WHY THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOYS, WHICH WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EFFICIENT CARE ORGANIZATION, WILL HAVE TO BE DISTRIBUTED WITH A LITTLE PUBLICITY AND FANFARE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE UNDERSTAND THE FULL MEANING OF THIS CAREFULLY AND PATIENTLY COLLECTED TIDE OF TOYS FROM THE VETERANS OF AMERICA.

(MORE)

--"INVASION" OF MARYLAND--

TWELVE SHORT YEARS AGO DEMOCRATIC SEN. MILLARD E. TYDINGS SCREAMED ABOUT A "COLLAPSE" OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WHEN PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PERSONALLY INVADED MARYLAND IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO PURGE THE SENATOR.

AT THAT TIME A LOT OF PEOPLE FIGURED THAT THE DEFEAT OF THE ELONGATED REACTIONARY FROM MARYLAND WOULD NOT BE A BLOW TO DEMOCRACY, BUT TYDINGS DEMAGOGUED HIS WAY THROUGH THE CRUCIAL BATTLE AND WAS RE-ELECTED AGAIN IN 1944.

HOWEVER, TYDINGS ONCE MORE IS ASPIRING TO ELECTION TO THE SENATE IN 1950 AND, THIS TIME, THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT. THIS TIME TYDINGS WANTS THE PRESIDENT TO "INVADE" MARYLAND AND RECENTLY URGED TRUMAN TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO DEDICATE A NEW AIRPORT NEAR BALTIMORE IN JUNE.

"YOU WILL HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE BOYS ON THE TICKET," EXPANDED TYDINGS, NOT REFERRING TO HIMSELF. "BY ALL MEANS, YOU SHOULD ACCEPT THIS INVITATION TO SPEAK IN MARYLAND."

"NOW, JUST WAIT A MINUTE," BROKE IN REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN GLENN BEALL. "I'M IN THE MINORITY HERE, BUT I THINK IF THE PRESIDENT IS TO MAKE THIS AIRPORT DEDICATION A POLITICAL SPEECH, MAYBE HE HAD BETTER STAY OUT OF MARYLAND."

"OH, YOU WON'T GET HURT, AND YOU WON'T BE HELPED EITHER IF THE PRESIDENT DECIDES TO ACCEPT OUR INVITATION," DECLARED TYDINGS.

HOWEVER, THE SENATOR WASN'T HAPPY WHEN TRUMAN BROKE IN: "I MAY TOUCH ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS IF I GO TO MARYLAND TO DEDICATE THE AIRPORT, BUT I WON'T MAKE A POLITICAL SPEECH."

(END PEARSON COLUMN FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 7, 1950.)

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PEARSON SPECIAL FOR NORTH CAROLINA AND MINNESOTA PAPERS; AVAILABLE TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS. RELEASE TUESDAY, FEB. 7, 1950.

--U.S. "TRAINING" PLANES TO FOREIGN POWERS--

CAUGHT IN A COBWEB OF RED TAPE IS A SURPLUS B-17 THAT THREE ORGANIZATIONS CLAIM, THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO FLY, AND THAT SOMEHOW DISAPPEARED FROM THE WADESBORO, N.C., AIRPORT. THE INCIDENT ILLUSTRATES THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ARMY SELLS SURPLUS PLANES FOR \$350 IF USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. THEN SOMETIMES THEY ARE RESOLD TO FOREIGN POWERS FOR AS MUCH AS \$25,000.

THIS PARTICULAR B-17 WAS LAST REPORTED IN THE CUSTODY OF THE BABB COMPANY AT A NEWARK, N.J. AIRPORT. THIS COMPANY, WHICH SELLS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, WON'T SAY WHERE THE MYSTERIOUS PLANE IS NOW, EVEN THOUGH IT CLAIMS FULL OWNERSHIP. OWNERSHIP IS ALSO CLAIMED, HOWEVER, BY THE CIVIL AIR PATROL OF CHARLOTTE, N.C., WHICH WANTS TO GIVE THE PLANE BACK TO THE AIR FORCE. MEANWHILE, THE MARK HURD MAPPING COMPANY OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., IS WAITING WITH A PRIORITY TO BUY THE CONTROVERSIAL B-17.

(MORE)

(PEARSON SPECIAL FOR NO. CAROLINA AND MINNESOTA PAPERS--PAGE 2.)

FOR TWO DAYS THE AIR FORCE POSTED A GUARD AROUND THE GROUNDED BOMBER, BUT QUICKLY RETREATED UNDER LEGAL FIRE AND NOW WANTS NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH IT. AN AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN SUGGESTED IT IS A MATTER FOR THE WAR ASSETS ADMINISTRATION. BUT THE DUTIES OF WAR ASSETS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WHICH IN TURN CLAIMS THAT LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE B-17 RESTS WITH THE FEDERAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

A HALF DOZEN SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN HAVE ALSO GOT INTO THE ACT ON BEHALF OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

HOWEVER, HERE ARE THE FACTS IN THE CASE: AFTER RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY, THE CONTROVERSIAL B-17 WAS SOLD TO THE CHARLOTTE, N.C., CIVIL AIR PATROL FOR A TOKEN \$350. IN ORDER TO QUALIFY, THE CAP WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN "EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION." IT ALSO AGREED THAT THE B-17 "WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY ACTUAL FLIGHT PURPOSES" AND "WILL BE SOLD ONLY AS SCRAP AND THEN ONLY AFTER IT SHALL HAVE BEEN RENDERED COMPLETELY UNFIT AND USELESS."

--PLANE TO DICTATOR--

YET THE PLANE MYSTERIOUSLY LEFT THE WADESBORO AIRPORT ON ITS OWN POWER, AND THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS REPORTED TRYING TO BUY IT--WITH THE IDEA OF FLYING IT.

THE BABB COMPANY SEEMS TO HAVE BOUGHT THE PLANE FROM A CAP OFFICIAL, R. A. LYON, WHO HADN'T READ THE FINE PRINT IN THE CONTRACT. THE CAP DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THE DEAL, HOWEVER, BECAUSE LYON IS NO LONGER A MEMBER. EVEN LYON IS SORRY ABOUT IT AND TRIED TO RETURN THE MONEY, BUT THE BABB COMPANY WOULDN'T TAKE IT BACK.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE MARK HURD MAPPING COMPANY OF MINNEAPOLIS HAS BEEN TRYING TO BUY A SURPLUS B-17 TO AID IN CHARTING ARMY MAPS. THE PRIORITIES ARE IN ORDER AND THE MONEY IS IN THE BANK--BUT NO B-17S HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE.

MEANWHILE, AT NEWARK, N.J., THE BABB COMPANY ADMITS IT HAS PURCHASED THREE B-17S FROM "EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS," SOLD ONE OF THEM TO DICTATOR TRUJILLO OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THE OTHER TWO WILL PROBABLY BE SOLD TO FRANCE AND DENMARK. FURTHERMORE, THE BABB COMPANY HAS DONE A BIG BUSINESS IN SINGLE-ENGINE AIR FORCE "TRAINING" PLANES, SELLING 200 TO THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS, 75 TO THE SWEDES, 75 TO THE DUTCH, 40 TO THE SWISS, 20 TO THE JEWS AND AN ASSORTMENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN ITS APPROVAL FOR ALL THESE EXPORTS, THE BABB COMPANY CLAIMS--EVEN THOUGH THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT GROUNDS THE B-17 AND RESTRICTS ITS USE TO EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, OR SCRAP.

NOTE--FOR THESE B-17S, THE BABB COMPANY GETS AS HIGH AS \$25,000 DEPENDING UPON THE IMPROVEMENTS, THOUGH THE ARMY SELLS THEM FOR \$350.

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