

Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

(This is the fourth of Drew Pearson's columns on the State Department, the Government agency now most in the spotlight of the Nation.)

JOHN HUBNER, the young diplomat who saved the Queen Mary with around 10,000 American troops on board, has just resigned. His resignation illustrates one of the fundamental problems in keeping an alert American diplomatic service—marriage to foreign women.

In this case Hubner is marrying the niece of the Archbishop of Sao Paulo in Brazil. To do so the State Department has told him he must resign.

This means the loss of a man with many years experience, also one who proved himself especially quick-witted in a major emergency.

More than a year ago, the Nazi radio announced that the Queen Mary, crammed with United States troops, was sunk off Brazil. From the War Department came complete silence. In order not to play into Nazi hands, no word of explanation was given as to what actually had happened to the Queen Mary. There was a good reason for this. Here is what happened.

Plot Against Queen Mary

UP IN SAO PAULO, central state of Brazil, the State Department's John Hubner had discovered that a large radio transmitter had been imported by the German firm of Siemens & Co., and was being held for delivery to a purchaser. The address of that purchaser was phony and probably the name also.

So Hubner had the efficient Brazilian police watch the Siemens store night and day to see who might take delivery of the radio transmitter. No one came. Finally, one evening at 6:45, just before the store closed, a German picked up the radio transmitter. He was immediately arrested, subjected to stiff cross-examination, and after many hours finally broke down. He disclosed the names of his confederates, together with the location of a Nazi radio station in the hills above Rio de Janeiro.

Hubner, working with the cooperative Brazilian police, immediately rounded up the gang, and flew to Rio where the radio station was seized—just as it was sending out a message to Nazi submarines regarding the sailing of the Queen Mary.

It had been a perfect Nazi trap. The Queen Mary had put in at Rio for fuel and supplies. She was too big to hide. Nazi agents in Rio learned her sailing time, and flashed this to lurking U-boats.

So sure was Berlin of this setup that it actually announced the sinking of the Queen Mary to the world.

What the Nazis did not know was that Hubner and the Brazilian police had seized their radio station, and that the course of the Queen Mary immediately was changed.

Last month Hubner asked the State Department for permission to marry a Brazilian girl. His request was refused. He resigned.

Too Many Foreign Wives

SEVERAL years ago Bill Bullitt, then Ambassador to Moscow, sat down to dinner in his embassy. Around the table were his staff with their wives, supposed to mingle and make friends with the Russians. They included:

(1) Counselor John C. Wiley, whose wife is Polish and hates the Russians; (2) First Secretary Loy Henderson, whose wife is Latvian and hates the Russians;

(3) Third Secretary George Kennan, whose wife is Norwegian and hates the Russians; and (4) Attache Angus Ward, whose wife is Finnish and hates the Russians.

After dinner, Bullitt got up and cabled the President that American diplomats should not be permitted to marry other than American wives. In this, he was 95 per cent right. For years American diplomacy has been warped and weakened by the fact that U. S. diplomats married foreign wives.

Today, for instance, Ambassador Norman Armour, one of the ablest and most fair-minded of U. S. envoys, probably is barred as Undersecretary of State because he married a White Russian, Princess Myra Koudacheff. Actually, this would never affect Armour in his relations with Russia, but in the last three weeks, ever since the publicity given to Russian policies, the State Department is bending over backward to avoid any appearance of being anti-Russian.

On the other side of the picture, however, young U. S. diplomats are not given enough time in their own country to get acquainted with American girls. They can't make love, propose, and persuade their fiancées to desert their parents for an unknown foreign country, all in a three-week visit. And they don't get home more than once every four years—unless they are among the wealthy inside the State Department who can afford it.

Therefore, one fundamental need in American diplomacy is to let young diplomats come home every so often for a period of a year, during which they not only can mix with the American youth of their own age, but also can get out in the Middle West, which really dominates the foreign policy of the United States, and see what the people are talking and thinking about. (Until a few years ago every top executive in the State Department was picked from east of the Allegheny Mountains.)

Also the marriage ban might be relaxed somewhat, especially regarding wives from Pan-American countries where the Good Neighbor policy is important, and where marital union with a leading family may actually help a U. S. diplomat.

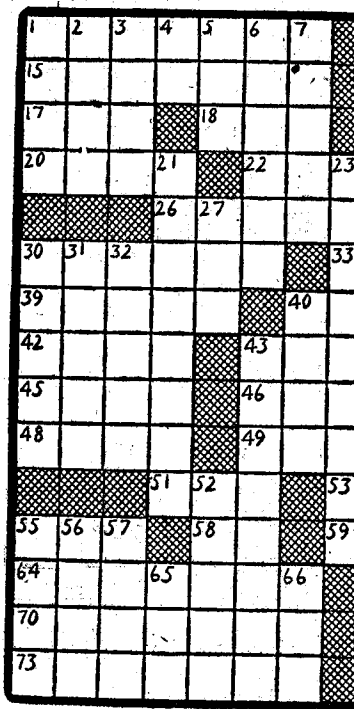
Hull vs. Lehman

MEANWHILE, the question of personnel, which actually is the root problem inside the State Department, has bobbed up in another revealing manner. Secretary Hull has refused to permit ex-Governor Lehman of New York to appoint the personnel he wants for his Foreign Relief Administration. Specifically he has banned Morris Rosenthal, prominent New York import-export man, a chief executive of the old Board of Economic Warfare.

Governor Lehman, rated as one of the best executives New York ever had, feels that he knows how to pick men, perhaps knows more about personnel than Secretary Hull. Also he feels that as long as he keeps in line with State Department policy, the details of managing his office should be left to him.

At this writing, however, Hull continues adamant against Rosenthal's appointment. Rosenthal, recognized by Washington as a top-notch executive, was friendly to Vice President Wallace, who refused recently to let Hull censor his speech on post-war peace made in Chicago.

Today's Puzzle by E



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