

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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By Drew Pearson

**IT HASN'T** leaked out yet, but former Secretary of War Pat Hurley and the State Department have got themselves into the middle of a hot debate over Palestine and the Jews which has got Zionist leaders very much upset.

The debate concerns a proposed statement to be issued by the United States and British governments barring any further discussion now of Jewish settlement in their ancient home, Palestine.

Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Minister Eden have been against barring further discussion of the Palestinian question, but the State Department has been pushing them vigorously.

The question arose following the visit of Pat Hurley, now a major general, to Arabia where he called on the famous Arab chieftain, Ibn Saud.

Ibn Saud, now recognized as the most powerful of all Arabs, gave Hurley some strong words against the Jews in Palestine, saying he was determined to drive them from all Arab lands. Hurley reported that he had told Ibn Saud diplomatically that he was in agreement.

## New Policy

**FOLLOWING** this, and after Hurley's return to this country, the State Department prepared a new policy for the approval of the White House and the British Government. The policy would bar any further discussion of Palestine and the Jews until after the war.

Those in the State Department who prepared and pushed this new policy are:

1. **Wallace Murray**, Hull's political adviser on the Near East who also has been an ardent champion of the King of Italy and future Italian rule by the House of Savoy.
2. **Adolf Berle**, Assistant Secretary of State and an original Brain Trustee, who began some time ago to "build up" a series of buffer states in Hungary and Poland against Russia.
3. **Harold Hoskins**, former chief detective and investigator for Berle, now in the Army, who was raised in Syria, where his father was an official in the Syrian Protestant College, Beirut, and a great expert on the Arabic language. When in the State Department, Hoskins, an admirer of the Arab, was sent by Berle to Capitol Hill to interview Congressmen who had signed the Zionist petition for a Jewish army.

This new State Department policy, when sent to London, at first got a rebuff from Churchill and Eden. Following pressure from Washington, however, they finally yielded.

## Plan Spreads Alarm

**MEANWHILE**, news of this maneuvering leaked out and alarmed some of the President's close advisers, including Judge Sam Rosenman and Bernie Baruch. While many of them do not necessarily believe in Jewish settlement in Palestine, they do emphatically believe that the door should not be closed to discussion of the question, just as they believe it is important and healthy for all peace problems to be discussed.

As a result of State Department activities, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise came to see the President several days ago. When he entered the executive office, the State Department's proposed policy was lying

on the President's desk awaiting his approval.

Rabbi Wise persuaded Roosevelt to postpone decision for a while, and the matter is still in abeyance. Meanwhile, the State Department has been trying to get Secretary of War Stimson to go along with Hull. Stimson, however, has replied that he favored a frank discussion of the entire problem, and so far has not yielded.

**Note:** Hard-hitting Senator Langer of North Dakota, has served notice that if the State Department puts through its plan to stifle discussion of the Palestine situation, he will demand an investigation. "The Jewish people," Senator Langer says, "have suffered tremendous hardship in Germany and have a right to migrate to Palestine, their ancient home, where, in real fact, they have aided the Arabs as much as themselves."

## Embarrassing Moment

**VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE**, the farmer who got his first taste of society when he came here from Iowa, has now become a reasonably congenial diner-out. But one gathering he didn't enjoy, recently was during the height of the Jesse Jones row, when he had to attend a dinner in honor for high Canadian and Australian legislators.

At the dinner were Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Honorable Thomas Vign, Speaker of the Canadian Senate; Honorable D. O. Watkins, leader of the Australian delegation to the Empire inter-Parliamentary conference; Vice President Wallace, who presides over the U. S. Senate, and Justice Hugo Black.

The ladies' present included Mrs. Wallace, beautiful Mrs. Black, lovely Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, widow of Woodrow Wilson's Attorney General, stentorian Mrs. Blair Banister, sister of Senator Carter Glass and Assistant Treasurer of the United States, and gracious Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, former Governor of Wyoming, now Director of the Mint.

It was a very official, very starchy gathering, during which Wallace had his mind on the life-and-death battle he was waging with Jesse Jones. The visiting legislators, however, blissfully ignorant of the crisis inside the Roosevelt cabinet, plied Wallace with questions about American parliamentary procedure.

"I suppose you have been in the Senate a long time?" asked Colonel Vign, speaker of the Canadian Senate.

"No, I was never in the Senate," answered Wallace.

Colonel Vign looked a little puzzled, not realizing that the Vice President of the United States presides over the Senate but is not elected to it. But he proceeded with his quest for information.

"Your joint sessions of Congress, they are held in the House of Representatives, I understand."

"Yes," replied Wallace.

"And how do you get over there?"

"We walk."

Wallace then explained how the sergeant-at-arms sent word when the House of Representatives was ready to receive the Senate, and how the Senate marched in a body over to the other chamber.

"I was up in the Senate for two hours this afternoon," continued Speaker Vign, "and I failed to see you officiate."

"No, I wasn't there," replied the Vice President. Then in a whispered aside to Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, he added:

"I was down in Jimmy Byrnes' office, where he was trying to make me shake hands with Uncle Jesse."