

# Merry-Go-Round

Registered  
Trade Mark

By DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

The President minced no words in his conference with Harvey Brown, president of the AFL machinists, whose strike in the San Francisco Bay shipyards tied up work on \$500,000,000 worth of desperately needed ships.

Roosevelt bluntly declared there was no justification for the walkout and demanded that Brown order the men back at work. Brown retorted that the "Government hadn't raised its voice" against the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company, one of the firms involved in the strike.

"Just a minute," the President snapped, in effect. "You don't have to tell me about Bethlehem. I know all about it. I also happen to know all about your local in San Francisco. It's controlled by Communist influences who are far less anxious to get better working conditions than they are to impede the defense program. If the union has any just grievances, you know as well as I do that they can be ironed out without any further obstruction of work."

Brown insisted he was powerless to call off the strike, saying: "My executive council approved this strike and it will have to call it off."

"Then call the council together at once," Roosevelt ordered. "How long will that take?" Brown replied that the earliest would be Thursday.

"All right," replied Roosevelt. "I'll give you until Thursday."

## Summer Recess

Barring an unforeseen crisis, congressional leaders are quietly planning a two months' recess around July 1.

Democratic and Republican chiefs figure that by the end of June a bill pending appropriation and major defense measures will be disposed of, except the tax bill.

The House may act on the tax bill by July 1, though that appears unlikely. But even if it does, the Senate will take its time, since Senator Pat Harrison, chairman of the Finance Committee, is slowed up by illness. There is no need for haste, and the chances are the bill won't go to the White House until November.

The vacation plan discussed by the leaders is not to adjourn, but to continue nominally in session with three-day recesses, under a gentlemen's agreement that no business will be transacted until after Labor Day.

## Leakages to Axis

The proposed congressional investigation of "leakages" of U. S. supplies to axis powers is running into stiff undercurrent opposition from the State Department. This is why Assistant Secretary Dean Acheson appeared at the closed hearing of the House Rules Committee on Congressman John M. Coffey's bill to authorize the probe.

Acheson admitted that there had been some leakages of vital materials to Germany, through South America. Also that large quantities of petroleum are being shipped to Japan. But he vigorously opposed an investigation, arguing that it might have a "disrupting influence" on our Latin-American relations, and create trouble in the Pacific when our "attention" was required in the Atlantic.

Acheson flatly asserted that Japan would move against the Dutch East Indies "within 15 minutes" after oil exports from the United States were shut off—and then the United States would be at war with Japan.

"The question you must decide," he told the committee, "is whether the American people are ready to provoke a war with Japan while we are faced with the menace of Germany in the Atlantic. An investigation of this nature would give enemies from within a chance to undermine confidence in the State Department, at a time when we

are doing all in our power to keep the boat from rocking."

Acheson revealed he had personal knowledge of one cargo of war supplies shipped from the United States to South America then moved on a German raider to a French port for delivery to Germany.

"Maybe some other shipments got through, also," Acheson said. "Some South American nations need military supplies very badly and it is difficult to keep track of every cargo that leaves here. But we're doing our best and I'm sure there have been no appreciable leakages to the axis."

Trade with Russia, he said, is dwindling so fast that Amtorg Corporation, official Soviet trading agency in the United States, probably will "fold up soon." He said that all but \$5,000,000 of a total of \$100,000,000 in exports slated for Russia had been canceled since January.

## We Supply Japan

Representative Coffee gave the Rules Committee some interesting figures on U. S. exports to Japan, Spain, Finland and Portugal which, he asserted, are finding their way to the Nazi war machine. He said the following data were obtained from official sources:

**Japan**—Between July 1, 1940, and March 15, 1941, American companies shipped 157,534,350 gallons of petroleum products to Japan. More than 53,500,000 gallons were shipped in the first three months of 1941.

American oil firms which were granted export permits to Japan include: Socony Vacuum, Cities Service, Tidewater Associated, Union Oil, General Petroleum, and the Pan-Pacific Trading and Navigation Company. Coffee also declared that Standard Vacuum (a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey) and Royal Dutch Shell, both holders of vast properties in the Dutch East Indies, recently reached a joint agreement with Japan to export 1,800,000 tons of petroleum in the year beginning May 15—more than 300 per cent increase over the two companies' business with Japan in the preceding year.

**Spain**—1,574,000 pounds of toluene (base for nitroglycerine) were shipped to Spain in 1940, against none in 1939 and 1938. Also 2,000,000 pounds of scrap copper in 1940 as against 1,300,000 pounds in 1939 and a paltry 22,000 pounds in 1938; also 3,525,000 pounds of scrap rubber as against 2,637,000 pounds in 1939 and 433,000 pounds in 1938. The big increases in these and other exports to Spain, Coffee contended, was conclusive evidence of leakage to Germany.

**Portugal**—Despite a tight tin situation in this country, 34,976,000 pounds of U. S. tinplate were sold to Portugal last year—34 times this item in 1938 and twice the figure for 1939. Who really got the increase?

**Finland**—In 1938 U. S. exports of lard to Finland amounted to 122,000 pounds; in 1939, 732,000 pounds; but in 1940 they jumped to an astounding 17,602,000 pounds. Hitler has a grave shortage of fats, essential in carrying on a war. Transshipments from Finland to Germany accounted for a large portion of our lard exports, Coffee charged—also for the 4,254,000 pounds of tinplate that went to Finland last year.



Senator Harrison