

The Washington

Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

Early Lead

Republican party leaders are very red-faced about the results of a poll conducted on the question—"Who should be the Republican presidential standard-bearer in 1944?"

The winner, so far, has proved to be the man most party chiefs least want as the G. O. P. presidential nominee—Wendell Willkie. Willkie grabbed off all honors, just as he did in the 1940 Republican convention in Philadelphia.

On the other hand, Gov. John W. Bricker of Ohio, favorite of old-line Republicans, was a poor also-ran.

The poll was taken among G. O. P. county chairmen, Republican members of State Legislatures and delegates to the 1940 convention, chiefly in key Northern States.

Two questions were asked:

First—Who would make the best available candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 1944?

Thirty-six per cent answered: "Willkie." He ran far ahead of other choices, including Gov. Tom Dewey of New York, who got the second highest number of votes.

Second question was—who among the available Republican candidates would make the best President, from the standpoint of ability?

Willkie again led the field with 35 per cent of the votes. Ex-President Herbert Hoover was second in this balloting; Tom Dewey, third, and Governor Bricker, the man generally conceded to have the edge on other candidates, hobbled in fourth.

Churchill's Tip

One significant phase of Winston Churchill's conversations here has just leaked out. He volunteered some valuable advice on the make-up of the U. S. delegation to the peace conference.

Talking to a closed-door session of the Senate and House Foreign Relations Committee, he was reminded that if Woodrow Wilson had given more thought

to the make-up of the U. S. delegation, his efforts to enroll the United States in a League of Nations might not have been such a failure.

Churchill at first tacitly sidestepped comment, explaining he didn't want to stick his nose in American affairs. However, he finally observed with a grin that he knew a little about politics himself and probably could offer one suggestion.

"What is it?" chorused several of the politicians.

"Appoint a delegation that is strictly bi-partisan," Churchill replied, "half Democrat and half Republican."

If the President named such a commission of outstanding leaders of both parties, the Prime Minister added, his chances of winning congressional approval of a treaty among the Allied powers would be greatly enhanced.

The idea evoked some smiles, but was generally applauded as a practical suggestion.

Farley, Roosevelt And Mrs. R.

VERY few people know it, but back in 1940 just after the democratic convention in Chicago nominated FDR for a third term, Mrs. Roosevelt had a friendly talk with Jim Farley to try to make peace between Jim and her husband. That talk, strange as it may seem, has had some interesting repercussions on an important congressional situation—the Congressman Cox investigation of the Federal Communications Commission.

Mrs. Roosevelt had always thought a great deal of Jim Farley, and he had respect for her. Their talk appeared to make some progress. One of the things Jim requested of Mrs. Roosevelt as a part of the reconciliation plan was that her son, Franklin D. Roosevelt, jr., join the law firm of his old friend, Eugene L. Garey.

Mrs. Roosevelt, anxious to please Farley, agreed. So young

Franklin joined the Garey law firm. This was a real concession, because Garey had represented the big Wall Street enemies of young Franklin's father, and the son of the President in any law firm means real business.

Friend of Viereck's

FURTHERMORE, Garey's partner, Raoul Desvernine, was a Liberty League opponent of the President's and had other interesting connections. He also knew George Sylvester Viereck, at one time convicted as a Nazi agent, and now up for a second trial on June 18.

Viereck was engaged in publishing various anti-British, pro-Nazi books through a publishing house run by Sigfried Hauck, and Hauck later informed the Justice Department that he had seen one of Desvernine's manuscripts, "War Is Bad Business," in Viereck's apartment. Viereck apparently was considering it for publication.

Desvernine, when subsequently queried about this by the Justice Department, did not deny that one of his speeches had been at Viereck's apartment, but said he knew the Nazi agent only slightly. He said Mrs. Desvernine had met the Vierecks on a boat returning from Europe in 1938, and had been to his house on one or two occasions.

Sacrificed F. D. R. Jr.

Into this isolationist, anti-Roosevelt, Wall Street law firm young Franklin Roosevelt was thrown as a sacrificial lamb—all for the sake of Jim Farley.

But after one month Jim began knifing the President again and it became apparent that the agreement with Mrs. Roosevelt was off. Whereupon, young Franklin was pulled out of his uncongenial surroundings in the Garey-Desvernine law firm. That made Eugene Garey sore as blazes.

Now on Jim Farley's recommendations Garey has been appointed counsel of the congressional committee conjured up by Congressman Cox of Georgia to investigate the Federal Communications Commission. This appointment came after the Federal Communications Commission recommended criminal prosecution of Cox on a charge of accepting a \$2500 lobbying fee.

At present bitterly anti-Roosevelt Garey and bitterly anti-FFC Cox are investigating the agency which had the temerity to move against Cox and which still retains some semblance of Roosevelt liberalism.