

WASHINGTON Calling

A Weekly Sizeup by the Washington Staff of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers

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by making this a party issue. Democrats believe soldier-vote controversy will baffle back on Republicans later.

ODDS FAVOR postponement of selection of new senate Republican leader to succeed that late Charles McNary until after November election. Decision will be made at a party conference next Wednesday. Acting Leader White of Maine will continue in that role if selection is postponed.

HOUSE NAVAL affairs subcommittee, back from tour of U. S. bases in South Africa and Caribbean, will recommend that we give or lend part of our naval vessels to Latin American republics after the war, with stipulation that warships be manned and maintained for joint hemispheric defense. Committee men say it's solution for swollen navy which we won't want to retain in peacetime.

OPA to Seek More Funds

OPA WILL ask congress for more funds to enforce price regulations but won't abolish—as many ration boards have advocated—the system of price investigations by volunteer assistants. (OPA plans to concentrate price compliance drive at wholesale level, believing pressure can thus be diminished on 1,750,000 retail outlets, which would be difficult to police.)

CONGRESS TRAINS its sights on completion of annual appropriation bills and other "must" measures by June 1 to permit recesses for national party conventions. Leaders also are holding out promise of week or 10-day vacation for Easter.

Note: Congressmen, no strangers to crowded conditions, will feel at home if they attend Chicago conventions. Arrangements committee, still at sea on how visitors can be handled because of severe hotel room shortage, are telling them they'll have to double up.

WATCH FOR renewed pressure on WPB to expand civilian production, on heels of Truman committee report which, in effect, spanked WPB for its policy of using cut-back unemployed to supply labor shortage in critical areas. Donald Nelson contends reconversion period is still far away, puts its after the collapse of Germany.

PRELIMINARIES in war labor board's big steel-wage case indicate the administration may move eventually toward upward revision of little steel formula. This would vindicate F. D. R.'s most faithful union supporter, Philip Murray, and also help stem a widely reported political defection among rank and file in C. I. O. as well as in A. F. of L. and rail brotherhoods.

Note: Republicans, seeing a chance to split the labor vote this year, plan to work along those lines. A labor committee named at the MacNamee conference may ask leaders of several union groups to take part in preliminary platform discussions.

Political Pressure on Army Camps

ARMY SEES old peacetime handicap again looming on horizon. For years it had to quarter small units at posts kept open only because of political pressure. Result has been that troops got no adequate large-unit training. Now these pressures are being felt again, with senators and congressmen protesting against possibility of closing various war-emergency camps.

WILLKIEITES claim 40 "loyal Willkie men and women" on G. O. P. national committee. Their first act, if Willkie is nominated, will be to oust Harrison Spangler as chairman.

Rep. Charles M. LaFollette of Indiana created a stir among the more cautious Republican colleagues by announcing his candidacy with the statement: "I am for Willkie for President and if there are those who do not agree with this stand, let them enter the primaries and not wait and fight their own party candidate in the general election."

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS are clamoring for right to send their own publications to fighting men on all fronts; charge that other conveyors of news misrepresent their case. War department foresees similar demand from churches, industry groups, perhaps; shudders at thought of transportation difficulties.

NUTRITION IN WAR plants get surprising results. Where well-planned, well-balanced meals have been put before workers, 56 per cent changed their eating habits, ate more vegetables, milk, raw salads. One textile mill in Alabama upped production 10 per cent two weeks after starting nutrition program. West coast iron works decreased labor turnover from 12.5 per cent to 4.9 per cent; cut absenteeism from 9 to 4.1 per cent.

Strong management groups, feeling their representatives on war labor board are being outmaneuvered by labor members, partly because the latter gave more time to it, are making plans to throw in reinforcements, work out a way to assure closer contact between their board spokesmen and industry in general.

'Funeral Flipper' Absent in Services for Irvin S. Cobb

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those dismal numbers run up by the undertakers' dress-making department. I'll come back and ha'nt 'em," he said.

The humorist asked that his ashes be laid at the roots of a dogwood tree in Paducah "at the proper planting season. Should the tree live, that will be monument enough to me."

Paxton said that Cobb's wishes will be carried out.

"We won't hold a celebration because Bill (a youthful nickname for Cobb) didn't mean exactly that. There will be no tube roses or lilies."

Cobb suggested that if someone felt moved to say a few words, that would be all right and he suggested for the job—"Well, say, Tom Waller."

Waller Will Speak

Waller, a lifetime friend of the humorist, will speak. He said he will describe Cobb as he knew him when the two were barefoot kids together and tipped over outhouses and fished in the streams.

Irvin Shrewsbury Cobb was author, humorist, lecturer and newsaperman. He started as cub reporter on his hometown paper, and while a young man moved to New York and became one of America's most beloved humorists.

Cobb's letter specifically requested that the Christian burial service "which in view of the language employed in it I regard as one of the most cruel and pagan things inherited by our forebears from our remote pagan ancestors, be avoided in any services for him."

Wants 23d Psalm

He asked, however, that in justice to the faith of our dear mother . . . perhaps the current pastor of the First Presbyterian church would consent to read the 23d Psalm, which was her favorite passage in the Scripture, and is mine since it contains no charm, nor morbid mordant about corruption and decay, and being merciful without creed or dogma carries no threat of eternal hellfire for those parties we do not like.

The following data is required: Form W-2 from employers stating tax withheld; form 1125 sent by the collector showing tax reported and paid in 1942; the declaration of estimated taxes for 1943, if made, and a record of other income besides wages recorded in 1943.

BRAZIL SOLDIER KILLED

BRAZIL Ind., March 11 (U. P.)—The body of Cpl. William A. Pittman Jr. was being brought to Brasilia today for burial. The 20th Clay county victim of the war, Pittman was killed in an accident near Camp Maxey, Tex.

"Hell may have the worst cli-

NOTED AUTHOR VAN LOON, DIES

Historian Stricken While Talking to Wife About New Book.

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author had been discussing with her the progress he was making on a new book, "The History of the Eighteenth Century." The attack ended this talk.

Van Loon, who achieved fame through his self-illustrated historical works, was born in Rotterdam, Holland, in 1882 and came to the United States when he was 21.

After two years at Harvard university, he entered Cornell university where he took his A. B. in 1915. Six years later, he received his doctorate at the University of Munich. In the intervening years, he was an Associated Press correspondent at Washington and during the 1906 revolution in Russia, at Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Warsaw.

Covers War Fronts

From 1911 to 1914, Van Loon lectured on history and the history of art at various American universities and in 1914 returned to the Associated Press for which he went to Belgium immediately after the outbreak of the first world war. For that service he covered the siege of Antwerp and later worked in England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark until 1917, when he returned to the United States after an accident.

Van Loon turned to writing and lecturing following the phenomenal success of his sixth book "The Story of Mankind" in 1921, two years after he had become a naturalized citizen of the United States.

He was professor of history at Antioch college, Yellow Springs, O., in 1922-23 and associate editor of the Baltimore Sun, 1923-24. In 1934, he made a lecture tour of New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and South America.

Honors Come Fast

A member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, Van Loon was awarded the John Newberry medal in 1923, was made an officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau.

Van Loon was married in 1908 to Eliza Bowditch and in 1920 to Helen Criswell, whom he remarried after a marriage to Frances Goodrich. He had another son, Henry B.

Van Loon died in 1943.

He was professor of history at Antioch college, Yellow Springs, O., in 1922-23 and associate editor of the Baltimore Sun, 1923-24. In 1934, he made a lecture tour of New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and South America.

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