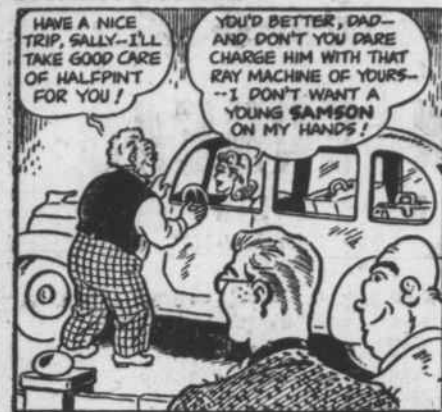


Fun for the Whole Family

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS

REG'LAR FELLERS—Rear-End Guy



By GENE BYRNES

The MIDDLES

By BOB KARP



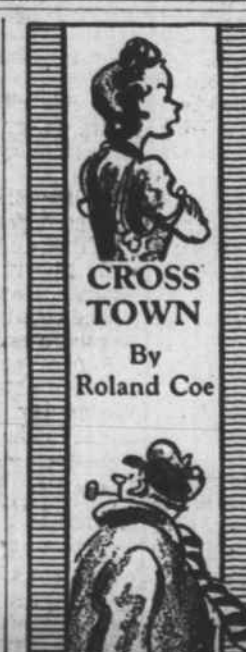
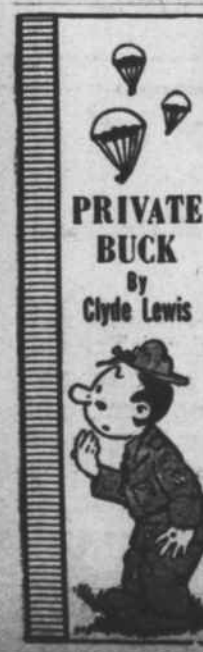
POP—On the Right Side of the Lines



By J. MILLAR WATT

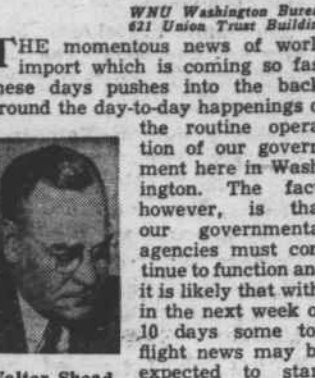
VIRGIL

By LEN KLEIS



The HOME TOWN REPORTER In Washington By WALTER A. SHEAD WNU Staff Correspondent

Something Is Cooking



THE momentous news of world import which is coming so fast these days pushes into the background the day-to-day happenings of the routine operation of our government here in Washington. The fact, however, is that our governmental agencies must continue to function and it is likely that within the next week or 10 days some top flight news may be expected to start popping from the department of commerce.

Former vice president Henry A. Wallace, new secretary of commerce, has been ominously quiet since he took over from Jesse Jones. Wallace thrives on action and it's not like him to remain quiet. Clipped of his powers over the vast Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the new commerce boss has been quietly combing the multi-numbered bureaus within his department with the assistance of a committee of three outstanding experts, in an effort to find out what makes commerce tick and to draw up a program on what the department needs for revitalization.

The rumpled-haired secretary occupies a huge office, walnut paneled, on the fifth floor of the two-block-long and block-wide gray stone building. It is a bee-hive of activity. Musty, staid, slow-moving offices which line the maze of corridors are being given a thorough going-over and house-cleaning. Wallace wants a department of commerce which can be a real help, offer a stable program to business, not just an information and research agency. He is attempting to streamline the department for post-war action.

One of the first needs of small business, he opines, in the post-war era is a return to what he calls character banking... that is, loans on a man's record and ability, rather than on his collateral assets. He declares that, increasingly since 1913, the small banks of the nation have been operating under bank examining rules which make it impossible for these small banks to make this type of loan... and he further believes that what he terms as equity financing... some modification of the government guaranteed loan plan of the FHA, should be provided for small business in this postwar era.

Closest to Wallace's heart, probably, is his bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

"I am going to go all-out to get the maximum of usage from whatever powers may reside in the difficult bureau of foreign and domestic commerce to foster and develop trade here and abroad," he said. "I am going to use those powers to the maximum to get an increased foreign trade." This means that Mr. Wallace will have developed a program based on removal of tariff barriers because he believes. "That when this nation raised the tariffs on our exports after World War I, 'that is when the world tailspin really began with a vengeance.'"

Wallace likely will revamp completely the patent office which is said to be a year and a half behind in its work. Civil Aeronautics administration will play a decidedly more important role under the Wallace regime. So important does Wallace believe the air age will become after the war, he himself has learned to fly. Ben Stern, blustery, but efficient public relations director of CAA, has apparently made a good impression on Wallace and may be stepped-up in the reorganization.

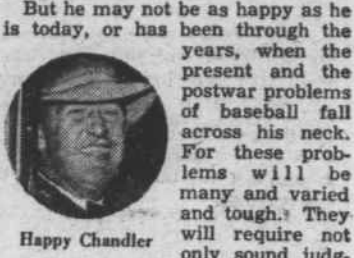
Then May 1, Wallace took over, lock, stock and barrel, the huge job of surplus property disposal, some hundred billion dollars worth, from treasury procurement. This will throw him in closer contact with business, and he likely will make some changes, probably setting up state offices, instead of the 11 regional branches as operated by treasury. Maritime commission is another department which looms important in post-war with our need for ship bottoms.

Do not let the adverse publicity received by Wallace as a so-called "idealist" and a "dreamer" fool you. He firmly believes in free enterprise for business. He says:

"The key to making this American bill of rights a part of the American way of life is the whole-hearted recognition by all our people of the simple fact that in America the future of the American worker lies in the well-being of American private enterprise and the future of American private enterprise lies in the well-being of the American worker."



HAPPY CHANDLER, the new baseball commissioner, was a first-class Kentucky governor and a first-class Kentucky U. S. senator. He has been a good all-around athlete in many sports, including football, baseball and basketball. He has been a sportsman at heart—a clean, honest shooter.



But he may not be as happy as he is today, or has been through the years, when the present and the postwar problems of baseball fall across his neck. For these problems will be many and varied and tough. They will require not only sound judgment on Commissioner Chandler's part but also the ability to face more than a few club owners who are going to look largely to their side of the argument. They have the money invested, and that's always a big point in most human debates. It isn't any question of crookedness that Happy will have to face, but now and then a matter of craft and cunning.

I can tell Happy that practically every club owner and ball player had so much respect for Judge Landis that it amounted almost to fear. They wanted no part of the fiery, aggressive judge.

After the war there will be over 4,000 of these ball players shedding their fighting uniforms for baseball clothes. These men had contracts before they left, varying in financial amounts up to Hank Greenberg's top of around \$50,000. A majority of these may not be as good as they were after two or three years service in army and navy. By those who return—and many won't—who expect to get what they received or were guaranteed before moving into war. They won't expect to take any cut, until they have had at least a year to prove their places in the game.

It may be that every club owner will fall into line and pay old salaries. It may be that many won't. But the new commissioner must support the ball player to the limit—not the club owner.

Cardinal Stars

The Cardinals are the leading example. Sam Breadon's Redbirds had more good ball players than any two clubs you can mention, including quality and quantity.

If the Jap part of the war is over within a year the Cardinals will have more good ball players on hand than any two teams can handle. Take the case of the Cooper brothers. They were asking \$30,000 a year from the Cardinals, together, before Walker Cooper was taken into service. Both know that the Yankees, Giants or Tigers would be extremely pleased to give them \$50,000 or \$60,000 a year. But St. Louis isn't a good baseball town, so far as attendance goes.

St. Louis is no New York, Detroit, Brooklyn, Chicago or one of several other major league cities. The Cooper brothers at \$30,000 a year, combined, would have been a tremendous baseball bargain almost anywhere else.

Plenty of Headaches

When the war is entirely over, Happy Chandler will have at least 4,000 headaches which he must face, regardless of what the baseball owners think or want.

- Here is the way I rate baseball's importance—
1. The players who make the game — including, of course, the stars who help draw the crowds.
 2. The fans or crowds who make baseball possible as a major spectacle. They pay the salaries and keep up the ball parks.
 3. The owners—who can get in and out at almost any time—and who in the main get into baseball through the motives of profit and publicity.

The latter comes last. If they quit, others are more than ready to take their places. With few exceptions, they hardly count in the building of the game. They have contributed less than any other factor.

It is for this reason that Happy Chandler must look after the game first — the players second — the crowds third — and refuse to let the owners shove him around. Happy Chandler has been the best-natured man I ever met in sport. But to carry out this job he now faces, he will need all the iron a single system can carry. Unless he does, he has traded happiness for \$50,000 a year. It isn't worth it.

The Black Sox Series

It was 26 years ago that the Black Sox scandal developed.

Lately we talked that famous series over with Earl Greasy Neale, who played with the Reds.

"We had no idea at all this series was crooked," Greasy said. "How could we? There had been rumors about Chick Gandil, Joe Jackson and Buck Weaver. But Gandil's hitting beat us in one game. In fact, the fellows rumored as the crooks starred all through the series."