

THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE

Clean Comics That Will Amuse Both Old and Young

SPARKY WATTS



By BOODY ROGERS



VIRGIL

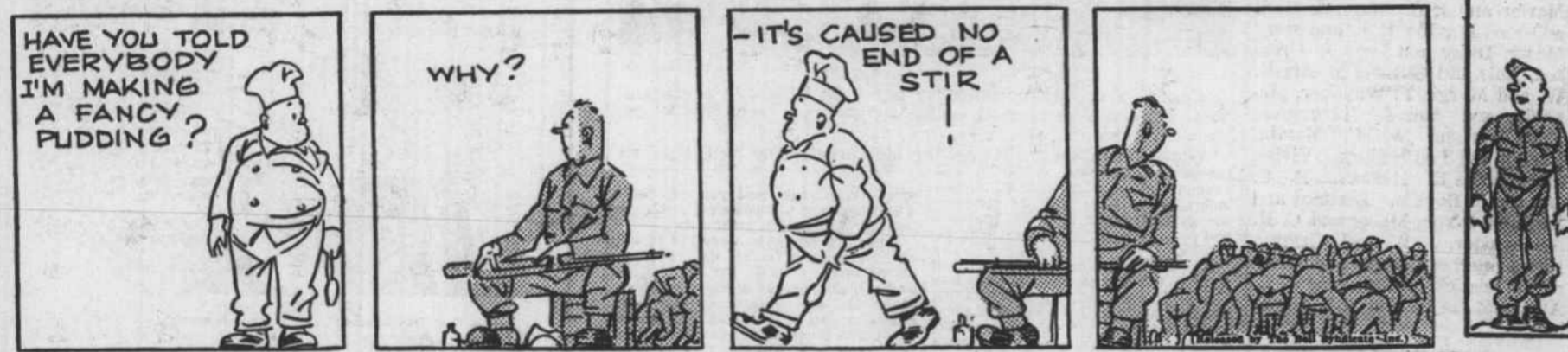
By LEN KLEIS

REG'LAR FELLERS—Problem Cleared Up



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POP—A Stirring Job



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SOMEBODY'S STENOG—Hurry It Up, Please



PRIVATE BUCK

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CROSS TOWN

By Roland Coe



The Home Town Reporter
in WASHINGTON
By Walter Shead
WNU Correspondent

Sportlight
by GRANTLAND RICE

What Congress Left Undone

MEMBERS of the 79th congress are now back in their home towns for their summer vacations, lasting until congress convenes again on October 8. Some few of them contrived to take junkets to Alaska, Europe or the Pacific "on business of congress."

This session will go down in history as the one that abruptly reversed the traditional isolationist policy of self-sufficiency, to one of full co-operation with other nations on military, social, economic and cultural questions.

Ratification of the United Nations charter by the senate, adoption of the Bretton Woods agreement, the Reciprocal Trade agreements and the Agricultural and Food agreements by both houses of congress mark important milestones in the life of the nation toward world peace and security.

But this reporter feels that when congress adjourned for the summer it did so with some trepidation over sins of omission. It had left undone many things necessary to safeguard our domestic economy—things dangerous to postpone until after next October, particularly reconversion plans.

Grave Matters Shelved

It did nothing on full employment, except to hold some belated hearings on the Murray bill, introduced last January. It did nothing on the "human" side of reconversion, such as acting on President Truman's proposal for an emergency \$25 per week for 26 weeks for laid-off workers. It did nothing about sub-standard wages among some 17 million white collar and other workers to raise minimum wages to at least 65 cents an hour. It did nothing about enlarging the social security program to include farmers and small business and professional men, as provided in the Murray - Wagner bill. It did nothing about the report of the Mead War Investigating committee which urged immediate control of all war agencies by the office of war mobilization, and severely criticized government delay in reconversion plans. It did nothing about government work programs to tide over any emergency.

It did rush through a measure intended to give some tax relief to business, but did nothing about a general interim tax revision, considered necessary for reconversion.

We Will Be Unready For Peace

This twinge of conscience was apparent in a meeting of some 20 senators and a published outline of a program of pending legislation, made the day before adjournment. The Mead committee report declared that if the war in the Pacific ends soon, it will find us largely unprepared to overcome our domestic problems. Unless reconversion is speeded up, unemployment on a large scale will ensue.

Many folks here believe that end of the Jap war will come within the next two to four months, and the feeling among those in position to know best is divided about half and half on that proposition. Congressional leaders apparently are among the 50 per cent who look for a longer war in the Pacific.

Another thing left undone was establishment of presidential succession which President Truman urged be done immediately. Many leaders here think this to be one of the most important and vitally essential questions at this time.

So if the end of the war in the Pacific does come sooner than congress thinks, the expected temporary chaos in which our domestic economy will founder can be laid directly at the door of congress. They have been forewarned, not only by the President, but by reports of conscientious and authoritative committees of their own membership.

Planning Takes Time

This business of reconversion, or getting back to normal after the war, requires planning and thinking through of tough problems on both temporary and long-range domestic questions. It cannot be done on the spur of the moment, and likely will take weeks or months after congress comes back next October.

Witnesses on the full employment bill, including senators and representatives of labor and business, were all agreed that sudden end of the war will mean "quite a period of lay-offs." Meanwhile Sen. Elbert Thomas (D., Utah) declared that legislation to boost the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards act from 40 to 65 cents an hour is "one of the first important measures for consideration of congress." At the same time, labor leaders are urging congress to restore War Labor board authority to order substantial wage adjustments.

IT WAS in the later part of summer, 31 years ago, when the Boston Braves began to warm up and get winging in their famous flight from the bottom to the top, leading to a four straight world series victory over Connie Mack's Athletics, rated then the best team in baseball.

We began thinking of the Braves' miracle when George Stallings worked Rudolph, Tyler and James

in this successive order for three months, because most managers today have deep trouble in getting by one game with three pitchers.

Day after day back in 1914 it was Rudolph—Tyler—James—Rudolph—Tyler—James—on through July—on through August—on through September until the same trio—working in this order—cleaned up the Mackmen in four sunny October afternoons. Here was one of the most remarkable combinations in pitching history. Dick Rudolph won 27 games that season, and he was ably supported by Tyler and James.

In talking with Rudolph after the series he had an interesting angle to offer—

"I'll tell you why we did so well," Dick said. "Working every third day, we had a much better chance to keep better control, to keep our arms in pitching condition, and to build up our confidence. I can see no reason why any able-bodied pitcher can't work every third or fourth game. Why, Ed Walsh worked in 68 games back in 1908 or 1909 and won 40 of them, saving 10 or 12 others. I've seen strong pitching staffs pulled back because their best men worked every fifth or sixth day. That isn't enough work to strengthen a pitcher's arm or to keep his control."

"As you know, control is a lot more than a matter of bases on balls. It is also a matter of putting the ball where you want it to go, high or low, over the outside or the inside corner. You can't get that sort of control working every fifth or sixth day. Even after pitching most of the Braves games for three months we were still in top shape for the world series. It has always been my belief that pitchers should be worked in something well over 300 innings each season to keep them in shape and to keep them geared up for their best work. I know that's why and how we won the pennant and the big series. We had enough work in the box to keep right."

Rudolph Was Right

Practically every fact you can pick up proves that Dick Rudolph had the answer. We have seen most of the great pitchers of baseball. In this list you'd have to include Cy Young, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson, Grover Alexander, Carl Hubbell and Bob Feller.

Old Cy was always good for better than 300 innings. Walter Johnson in his best years averaged around 370 innings. Alexander and Mathewson averaged around 360 innings. In his two best years, 1915 and 1916, Alexander worked 376 and 389 innings.

This amount of pitching turned their arms into steel. It helped them to keep the ball where they wanted it to go. It kept them conditioned, and also was a big factor in keeping them confident.

In comparison with these brilliant records from former years, take a look at the modern breed. Last year there were only two pitchers in the American league who worked over 300 innings and they were Hal Newhouser and Dizzy Trout. What happened? Together they won 56 ball games. Not another pitcher in the American League worked over 270 innings. None of the others drew much more than a warm up, doing about two-thirds of a season's job.

What about the National League? Bill Voiselle of the Giants with 313 was the only pitcher in this circuit to pass the 300 inning mark. None of the others reached 290. Most of them fell below 250 innings. This can't be helped where a pitcher has a sore arm, but hard working pitchers rarely have sore arms.

John Siddall, one of our best editors, once wrote—"There is no substitute for work." This goes for pitchers also.

"I'd like to have a pitcher who could work over 300 innings," a manager recently said when he brought up the argument that most pitchers were far underworked.

"The trouble most of us are having now is getting a pitcher who can last five innings." This is true, but no pitcher working only 180 or 200 innings from April to October is going to have any chance to develop, to strengthen his arm, to build up his control—or amount to much. It would be much better for modern practice or at least find some method of throwing the ball oftener. They need stronger, tougher arms. They need better control. And they can get this in no other way.