

# The WEEKLY WASHINGTON MERRY GO ROUND

By DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

## GOP Studies Elaborate Griffith Plan For AAA Substitute; McCarl Now Going Out Of His Way To Help Administration; ICC Reverses Policy Of Generosity To Unsound Railroads; Mahaffie And Senate Probe Forced Turndown Of New Haven.

Washington — A confidential memorandum containing the details of Dr. Ernest S. Griffith's plan for an AAA substitute has been placed in the hands of executives of the Republican National Committee.

(On November 1 the Washington Merry-Go-Round reported exclusively that Dean Griffith of American University was drafting a farm program probably for next year's GOP platform.)

Griffith's formula is a variation of the old McNary-Haugen export subsidy scheme, plus several unique innovations. Specifically his program calls for the following:

Removal of all Government restrictions on crop production. Farm prices to be pegged at the 1910-14 level through purchase of all surpluses by a Government-operated non-profit corporation.

This corporation to dispose of the surpluses through (1) barter for foreign goods not at present produced in quantity in the U. S.; (2) barter for tourist discounts on steamship, railroad, hotel and other travel charges; (3) barter for scholarships to enable American students to study abroad.

The goods obtained through barter from abroad to be turned over to cooperatives for unemployed, the co-ops to pay for the commodities in scrip. This scrip in turn would be used by the Government to pay unemployed for work on Relief jobs, the workers using the scrip to purchase the goods of the cooperatives.

The non-profit corporation also to retain some of the surpluses as a reserve, in event of drought or destruction, and to prevent speculation.

The barter proposal is outlined in great detail in Griffith's memorandum. Items listed by him as available for exchange without injury to domestic industries are: tin, rubber, works of art, jewelry, antiques, books "and other unique articles." The

latter he would dispose of by Government auction, the money obtained to be applied "toward the cost of the crops purchased and exchanged."

Griffith's novel foreign travel and study features of his plan are his special pride. He sees the farm surplus problem as a heaven-sent means of providing opportunities for thousands of Americans, both adult and young, and at the same time helping the grower.

### WRONG NUMBER

Newspapermen perked up their ears at an Ickes press conference when the Secretary's telephone rang during a barrage of press questions.

Reason for their interest was the Interior chief's boast that only "one man" could interrupt his press conference—the President of the United States.

Ickes answered the phone, listened for a moment, then said: "No, madam, there is no one by that name here. You have the wrong number."

### SUPREME COURT RELIGION

The religious affiliations of the members of the Supreme Court are: Van Devanter, Episcopalian; Sutherland, Episcopalian; Stone, Episcopalian; Roberts, Episcopalian; Cardozo, Jewish; Brandeis, Jewish; Butler, Catholic; Hughes, Baptist; McReynolds, Christian.

### COOPERATIVE

Comptroller General J. R. McCarl has been quietly making peace with the Administration. For months the target of New Dealers' accusations of obstructing their plans, McCarl more recently has gone out of his way to be helpful.

Not only did he assure the President personally of his cooperation, but followed this up by clearing nearly a billion dollars of Work-Relief funds.

His latest act of friendliness was to come to the rescue of the Bituminous Coal Board. Deprived of its appropriation through Huey Long's defeat of the Deficiency Bill, the Board has been having a rough time devising ways and means of functioning.

Finally Board Chairman Hofferford made a personal appeal to McCarl. To which the Comptroller replied:

"Mr. Chairman, rest assured I will do everything in my power to help you. If there is a legal way to provide money for you I shall do so promptly."

A few days later, McCarl's office authorized an emergency grant to the Coal Board.

### HEALTH CENSUS

"Good morning, madam. Do you have cancer, diabetes, hemorrhoids, tuberculosis, or tumors?" Surgeon General Cumming hopes that Harry Hopkins's Relief people will have more tact than to put the queries quite that way, but those are some of the questions being asked in the WPA health census.

For the first time in the history of the country, a nation-wide survey is being made of health conditions. It is employing 6,000 white-collar Relief workers, touches nineteen states, and costs \$3,500,000.

Every day for the next six months, door bells will be rung in Ipswich and in Oakland, in Pontiac and in New Orleans, in Birmingham, Schenectady, and Moline—in ninety-five cities all told, and Relief workers will ask a lot of questions that a lot of people won't like.

Thus far, however, Public Health Service finds that few doors have been slammed in the face of the interviewer.

One of the things Cumming hopes the Health Survey will reveal is the answer to this troublesome question: What are the causes of that chronic disease which causes more deaths than any other ailment—heart trouble?

He hopes that 700,000 families can give him the answer.

### NO MORE PORK

There was vast significance behind the refusal of the Interstate Commerce Commission to grant the \$5,000,000 RFC loan requested by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad—a rebuff that sent the road careening into bankruptcy.

The turn-down marked a significant reversal of policy on the part of the ICC. In accord with this new attitude, there will be no more ICC okay on RFC loans to railroads in shaky financial condition.

Two men are chiefly responsible for the Commission's conversion to a rule of tight-fistedness with public money. One is

Charles D. Mahaffie, an ICC career man who formerly headed its Finance Division and is now a Commissioner. The other is Max Lowenthal, noted financial authority, who is directing the Senate investigation of railroad finances.

Mahaffie is the man who fought the ICC's policy of ignoring the Act of 1933 which bans loans to unsound roads. He was overruled by a majority of his colleagues, and the ICC authorized the RFC to pour \$119,000,000 into railroads which later went into bankruptcy.

This easy-going generosity tightened perceptibly when Senator Wheeler, toward the close of last session, passed a bill for an investigation of railway financing and then put Lowenthal in charge of the inquiry. With Lowenthal on the job, Mahaffie's colleagues had a change of heart.

But when the New Haven loan was submitted a hot behind-the-scenes struggle ensued. Powerful pressure was brought to bear on the Commission. No less a personage than RFC Chairman Jesse Jones threw his weight on the side of the railroad.

But the ICC, vigorously prodded by Mahaffie and with its eye on the watchful Lowenthal in the background, stood firm. The loan request was vetoed.

Note—Moody's Railroad Manual for 1935 lists the following railroads as owing money to the Government: Rock Island, \$13,000,000; Frisco, \$7,995,000; Missouri Pacific, \$23,000,000; Chicago & Northwestern, \$46,588,000; Chicago & Eastern Illinois, \$5,916,000; Western Pacific, \$4,366,000; New Haven, \$7,699,000.

### DO YOU KNOW?

That only bachelor officers are chosen for the post of military and naval aide to the White House?

That the cornerstone of the Capitol was laid September 5, 1793, by President George Washington but that its dome, built of cast iron and modeled after St. Peter's in Rome, was not completed until 1865?

That contrary to the statement of Capital guides, there are only thirty-six and not forty-eight colonnades around the Lincoln Memorial? Reason is that there were only 36 states in the Union when the martyred President was assassinated.

That the families of members of Congress who die in office usually are voted \$10,000—a year's salary?

### MERRY-GO-ROUND

William O. Douglas, SEC inquisitor who recently tore into Cuban bondholders' protective committees, still carries on his law classes at Yale, shuttles between New Haven and Washington. Spanish grapes will not appear in Christmas fruit baskets this year. Spanish merchants overplayed their hand last year, shipped too many Malagas, lost money, are retrenching now. Municipal jails report that they have taken on a new popularity since September 17. That was the deadline Hopkins set in his transient camps. Transients, turned away from the Federal camps, drop in at the city jail for a night's lodging. Harry Hopkins has received more than a dozen letters from one man urging the employing of "141,000 graduate psychiatrists, to be kept from the Relief rolls." Buckets of blood are required to feed the creatures recently acquired in the National Zoo. They are vampire bats, whose diet consists of beef gore. TVA's big problem now is to find fish for stocking Norris Lake. They are looking for a species that can adjust itself to widely varying depths of water. The lake will have a "draw-down" of 50 feet when the sluiceways are opened in dry weather. When you come to Washington, you can get your teeth fixed at the expense of Uncle Sam—if you are a merchant seaman. The Public Health Service has a free clinic for them. Thirty of the forty-eight states have selected entirely new color schemes for their 1936 auto license tags—not reverse combinations of 1935.

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## The Family Doctor

by John Joseph Gaines, M. D.

### "CAFFEINE"

Most important vegetables contain "active principles" which distinguish the particular plant from others. In medicinal plants, leaves, roots, flowers or seeds, the active principle thing is called an "alkaloid." That means, like-ness of a salt, or alkali. Nicotine is the ultimate principle of tobacco. Morphine, the alkaloid of opium; theine the alkaloid of tea, and so on.

Caffeine is the active principle of coffee. I have said in these columns that, caffeine is one of the most valuable of heart tonics. It is virtually harmless, if used in moderation. Immoderate use is harmful in anything. I have been criticized, even berated, for telling this sort of truth. I pay no attention to the senseless carping of shallow, ignorant faddists.

Let me give you some opinions of eminent authors on caffeine:

Hare says, "Caffeine is a valuable cardiac stimulant and tonic, as well as a renal (kidney) stimulant. . . so useful in cases of cardiac disease, that it has largely supplanted digitalis in the hands of some practitioners. . . A cup of strong black coffee is often useful in relieving a paroxysm of asthma. . . In headache, due to nerve-strain, it is often of the greatest service."

We give two to four grains of caffeine in disease; the average cup of coffee contains about half a grain. Caffeine gently raises lowered blood-pressure by its tonic action. It may slightly increase high blood-pressure by stimulating the entire nervous system. But that is only temporary.

Don't rely on coffee to offset the effects of overwork. If you are overworking, rest. . . And, do it right now.

## Whitehead

Whitehead, Nov. 11.—Mr. and Mrs. Reece Heath and daughter, Lucy, and Mr. and Mrs. John Heath and two children, of Clinchburg, Va., visited relatives here over the week-end.

H. G. Billings and son, Hobert, of Hanes, were here on business last week.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Pruitt, on November 4, a daughter, who has been named Jerelene.

Dinner guests at the home of William Cleary Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Reece Heath and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Heath and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Blackburn, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Blackburn and Mrs. Rosa Nichols.

Elmer Crouse has returned to his work in West Virginia after spending several weeks with his family here.

Lee Blackburn and family have moved to the home of Mrs. Rosa Nichols.

## Twin Oaks

Sparta P. O., Nov. 11.—E. M. Williams, Mae Williams and Howard Vaughan spent Sunday visiting relatives at Whitehead.

Howard Vaughan returned last week from a trip to Long Island, N. Y., where he had been attending to business concerning his employment. It will be remembered that Mr. Vaughan's brother, George, was drowned in Long Island August 18 and was later brought to Alleghany for burial. It is reported that Howard plans to make his home with his uncle, E. M. Williams, at Stratford.

Dower Watson and Gene Irwin made a trip to Statesville Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Joines and daughter, Rama Lee, visited friends here Saturday night. Ray Billings and family, of

## Hanes, spent the week-end with relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gardner, Statesville, who have been visiting here for a week, returned to Statesville Sunday. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Clay Edwards and daughters, Ella and Louise.

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Irwin, Sparta Route 1, spent several days last week with relatives at Stratford.

## Ennice

Ennice, Nov. 11.—Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Higgins spent Friday afternoon with Mrs. Higgins' brother, R. C. Todd, at Elk Creek, Va.

Mrs. Guy Taylor and son, Guy Frank, Jr., and Misses Ruby and Gelein Higgins spent Friday night at the home of G. N. Evans.

Mrs. Pinkey Wilson spent Saturday night with her sister, Mrs. Ross McGrady.

Bryan Bailey and Ray Wilton, Oak Hill, W. Va., visited Mr. Bailey's mother, Mrs. Mae Bailey, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Larrie Cooper and daughter, Mildred, spent Saturday night at the home of W. C. Higgins.

Mr. and Mrs. Herley Edwards and family, of Sparta, spent Sunday at G. N. Evans' home.

Miss Mildred Cooper is recovering from a serious illness.

Miss Cecil Combs, of Galax, spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. Alice Combs.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Combs spent Sunday night at the home of W. C. Higgins.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Evans and son, Kyle, and Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Edwards spent Sunday at the home of P. J. Richardson.

Miss Ruby Higgins spent the last week with her sister, Mrs. Larrie Cooper.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Higgins and Mr. and Mrs. Carrie Cooper spent Saturday afternoon at the home of A. M. Greene.

## Mt. Zion

Piney Creek P. O., Nov. 11.—Mrs. Mary Cox visited her sister, Mrs. Rebecca Smith, Sunday.

Mrs. W. F. Pugh spent Sunday with Mrs. George F. Smith and Mrs. H. Clay Smith.

Eugene Black and daughters, of Topia, spent Sunday with relatives in this community.

J. F. Shepherd spent Sunday afternoon with relatives and friends in this community.

Mr. and Mrs. George Pugh and Miss Ethel Pugh spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Douglas, Piney Creek.

Mrs. Hallie Douglas, Piney Creek, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pugh, recently.

J. C. Pugh visited his mother, Mrs. Nancy A. Perry, near Peden, Sunday.

News has been received here of the death of Arthur Williams, formerly of this community, but at the time of his death, of Washington, D. C. His body will be brought to Mt. Zion for burial.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Combs, Sparta, visited G. D. Roupe, whose condition does not improve, Sunday.

See Castevens Motor Co. for radio batteries, tubes and service.—adv.

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Ambulance Service Day or Night  
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**HIGH-COMPRESSION VALVE-IN-HEAD ENGINE**  
giving even better performance with even less gas and oil

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AND UP. List price of New Standard Coupe at Flint, Michigan. With bumpers, spare tire and tire lock, the list price is \$20 additional. \*Knee-Action on Master Models only, \$20 additional. Prices quoted in this advertisement are list at Flint Michigan, and subject to change without notice.

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## NEW CHEVROLET FOR 1936

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SPARTA, NORTH CAROLINA

## NOTICE SALE OF REAL ESTATE

### NORTH CAROLINA, ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Under and by virtue of an order of the superior court of Alleghany County, made in the special proceeding entitled Mack Woodie, Administrator of L. Woodie, deceased, Vs. Mattie Woodie, C. D. Woodie and others, heirs at law of L. Woodie, deceased, the undersigned commissioner will on Thursday, Dec. 5, 1935, between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, in said county and State, offer for sale to the highest bidder, one-fourth cash and the residue on 6 months time, the following described tracts of land:

**FIRST TRACT**—(to be sold first) adjoining the lands of Isom Cox, S. E. Smith, Rebecca Smith, Charlie Williams, T. E. Pugh and C. D. Woodie, known as the "Nathan Williams Place," containing 29 acres, more or less, being a part of the lands conveyed by deed from B. A. Weaver and wife, to Loggins Woodie, recorded in Book 32, page 73, Alleghany County Registry.

**SECOND TRACT**—Adjoining the lands of Calvin Andrews, Isom Cox, J. W. Atwood lands and others, known as the "Joshua DeBoard Place," containing 13 acres, being the land conveyed by W. H. Sturgill and wife, to Loggins Woodie and recorded in Book P. at page 538, Alleghany County Registry.

**THIRD TRACT**—Adjoining the lands of J. C. Andrews, J. M. Smith, Paul Fields, A. C. Sturgill and the J. W. Atwood lands, containing 14 acres, more or less, being the lands conveyed by J. W. Atwood and wife, to Loggins Woodie and wife, by deed recorded in Book Z, at page 245, Alleghany County Registry.

This 4th day of November, 1935.

MACK WOODIE, Commissioner

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Nose Drops  
HEADACHES