

Angton merry go round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON—It will probably be denied, but last February the Soviet government offered the United States all its patents, information and technical experience in making synthetic rubber—and now, six months later, still has received no reply.

The offer was made by Russian officials at a meeting with Will Clayton, assistant secretary of commerce, and Jesse Jones' righthand man; and with George H. Hill Jr., vice president of Jesse's defense supplies corporation.

This was shortly before the fall of the Dutch East Indies, but when its fall appeared imminent.

Russia, realizing the danger to our rubber sources and being then the biggest synthetic rubber producer in the world, offered its information to the United States. The Soviet uses an alcohol process for synthetic rubber, which it developed, and published in its trade journal, even before Germany.

However, the rubber reserve decided to use a petroleum base for rubber instead of alcohol. It clung to that thesis until recently when congress raised such a terrific furor over discrimination against midwest grain and contended that Jesse Jones was favoring the big oil companies of Texas.

NOTE—The Russians asked nothing in return for their synthetic rubber information, but, even so, got no reply.

will have little to do with American embassies, will wear no cutaway or white spats, but is expected to do more for understanding among the common people than some of the tophat gentry.

SOLOMON ISLANDS STRATEGY—

What the navy was up against in the battle of the Solomon islands was the little known fact that the Japs were fortifying the islands at breakneck speed. Working night and day the Japs have been building runways, gasoline tanks, anti-aircraft installations.

Since the Solomons extend down near the supply route between Hawaii and Australia, they have been a direct menace to United States shipping and the trans-Pacific air line. Therefore it was up to the navy to move before the Japs became too deeply entrenched. Moreover, Japanese activities in the Solomon islands were typical of their zeal in other South Pacific islands, in many of which they have been spending 24 hours a day with bulldozers and tractors leveling runways and fortifying harbors. All of this was going on during the lull after the battle of Midway and during the monsoon rains in India.

Some strategists figure that if the Japs are given one full year to fortify the South Pacific islands it would take three or four years to dislodge them. That is why the attack on the Solomon islands was partly a race against time.