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SEEN and HEARD around the National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington.—Grave concern is felt by high administration officials over the lack of eagerness of so many people, all over the country, to get off relief rolls, even when fairly good jobs are offered. It is impossible to obtain accurate figures about this phase of the situation, all the bureaus, administrations, agencies, etc., being very much publicity shy about this disturbing development.

It is known, however, that reports from all over have been received, and that President Roosevelt's hopes of getting everybody off the relief rolls as speedily as possible have run up against a very stiff resistance.

In many cities young men eligible for the CCC camps are refusing to take the examinations. In one large city families are insisting that their boys be trained as soldiers—that they hear beer is sold at the camps—that their boys would have to associate with low characters.

Professing entire ignorance of the situation in that city, the CCC officials here insist they do not believe the objections cited by the parents are genuine. They say that the talk about military training was very widespread when the camps were first started, but that it broke down of its own weight a long time ago. They believe the sole and only reason is unwillingness to get off relief rolls.

In other cities, in fact in most cities, enrollment in the CCC camps has been way below what was expected, and the answer is believed by officials here to be just unwillingness to get off relief. But in every instance officials say to inquiring reporters from the city in question: "Please don't mention that you talked to me about this."

Incidentally the Veterans' bureau has been having its troubles along the same line.

A Real Problem

The whole question brings up the point whether the United States is now going through what England went through a few years back. In England the dole brought some interesting consequences, and as they occurred before the depression hit this country, there was quite a self-righteous feeling in this country that Britain was bringing her troubles on her own head by pampering the dole collectors.

Then came the depression, and the New Deal. Whereupon it became progressive in this country to insist that it was the duty of the government to take care of the cold and hungry, and reactionary to point to Britain's troubles on the same sort of problem.

Now it is being realized that it is a problem involving fundamental traits of human nature, and that the United States is not very different in the character of its people from Britain. No one, not even the most bitter critic of the administration on Capitol Hill, is advocating that people should be allowed to starve or freeze. But a very interesting mental transformation is becoming apparent in New Deal circles.

For example, a high official of the Federal Emergency Relief administration was told that his agents in a large middle western city had threatened to take families off relief if they refused to permit their sons to go to the CCC camps, or if able-bodied men in the families refused to take jobs which were offered.

"I have not heard about that," he said shortly. "You see it is a purely local problem. The man on the ground handling the relief situation has authority to handle the matter in any way he sees fit."

"You mean if he turns families off the relief rolls for such reasons as that, it is entirely up to him?" he was asked.

"Exactly," he replied.

"Would the local officials make a report to headquarters here about it?" the questioner persisted.

"Nothing of the kind need be reported," he replied.

And his whole manner indicated, what some of his underlings told the writer in confidence, that he did not want any such reports!

Cut Huge Fortunes

President Roosevelt's objective is to reduce all large fortunes to a maximum of \$7,000,000—all large incomes to a maximum of \$80,000 a year. He said this in a conversation a few days ago with a very rich Democrat, who incidentally had been a big campaign fund contributor, and the gentleman is still sputtering about it.

In another most interesting conversation with a Wisconsin man who had backed him when Roosevelt really needed backing, in the pre-convention days, the President advised his caller to "go back to Wisconsin and make your peace with the La Follettes. They are our kind of people."

Which of course is purely corroborative of what the President has been saying about his tax program—that it has two objectives, a better social order, as well as revenue.

Meanwhile business men as a whole are aghast at the prospect, for they see in the drive against bigness almost surely further boosting of the rates to apply against all corporations which have big earnings.

Most business men do not agree with the wisdom, entirely aside from their selfish interests, of this policy. Most of them admit that there is some merit in the contention so often made in private conversations by Justice Brandeis against bigness in privately owned corporations. Frequently, they admit, many of the faults which characterize

all large scale government operations creep in when a corporation attains unwieldy size. They even admit that instances can be cited where the mere size of the corporation increases the cost of whatever unit it may manufacture, or the item of service it may render.

Take the Automobile

But they insist that for the most part these instances are for the exceptions, and not the rule. A favorite illustration of the reverse is the automobile. Anyone who knows anything about manufacturing admits that if the automobiles of this country were produced by say 200 manufacturers of fairly even size, the cost per automobile to the purchaser would be more than double.

The best illustration of this is the Ford car now manufactured by a fairly good sized plant in Strassburg, France. That car costs the purchaser in Paris about \$1,700. This is not due to the protective tariff, for the car is made in France. Actually of course, if the cars were made in the big Ford plant at Dearborn, they could pay 100 per cent tariff and still save the purchaser a good deal of money. It is the French quota system on imports which forces their manufacture on a small scale at Strassburg.

Manufacturers contend that if Ford cars were produced by separate plants of small size in this country, each owned by a different owner and operated independently—in short if the policy desired by the administration in this use of the taxing power against bigness were forced into effect—the cars would cost purchasers in this country more than the \$1,700 charged in France. For it so happened that wages in the Strassburg plant are lower than in the Dearborn plant.

All of which helps to explain what some critics of the plan mean when they insist it is a "distribution of poverty" not a "distribution of wealth."

One Real Danger

Only one phase of the huge "share the wealth"—level off the big fortunes and "pass prosperity around"—taxation program of President Roosevelt seems in any real danger. This is the sliding scale tax aimed at big corporations. There seems no doubt whatever that the big levies on inheritances, and the boosts in the upper income tax brackets, will be approved by congress substantially as desired by the President.

Already a trickle of protests has begun arriving from holders of common stocks in the big corporations. A few of them have already realized that heavier taxes on the companies in which their savings are invested hits them, and them alone. For the bondholders, and the preferred stockholders, will continue to get their interest and dividends, if they are earned. Additional taxes will hit the equities, not the debts, of these corporations. Except of course such as are not earning enough to pay dividends at present, and have no prospect of paying any in the near future.

If the big companies should do anything like as thorough a job in rousing their stockholders as the utilities did, there is little doubt that this phase of the program would be in serious danger. For there is nothing like the spontaneous appeal to this levy that there is to the proposal to tax big fortunes, both when in estates and in incomes.

Some lawyers are contending, however, that the big inheritance taxes are unconstitutional. They contend that the object of the tax is not to raise money for the needs of the government, but is purely social in character, with the object of leveling off fortunes. This, they contend, runs counter to the Constitution.

Not much attention is apt to be paid to this by the senators and representatives. "Soak the rich" has always been a popular slogan, politically, and the theory that it is good politics to vote for such legislation is strongly held.

Question of Politics

Lots of men in both house and senate will vote for these levies who do not really approve of them. Hence the comparative certainty that they will pass. Opposition to them might prove very hurtful at the next election.

The opposition is based chiefly not on any theory that it is a bad idea to cut down the big fortunes—though there are a few who insist that many big fortunes have proved far more beneficial to the public at large than if the same amount of money had been spent by the government—but on the old Mellon theory of efficiency.

Andrew W. Mellon, when secretary of the treasury, frequently contended that lower percentages of taxes for the high brackets would bring more money into the treasury than higher percentages. He pointed to the fact that every time taxes were reduced on big incomes, receipts from big incomes increased. Critics of the Mellon regime always insisted that the reason for this was merely that it occurred during a rapidly rising tide of prosperity.

As there was undoubtedly such a rising tide during that period, there is no conclusive method of demonstrating that Mellon was right. But there is a strongly held view that he was. This theory—and it is the one entertained today by many men in congress who will vote for the new levies despite their views—is that when tax rates are too high, ways of evading them will be found.

Those holding this view insist that those with big incomes are either smart themselves, or have smart lawyers, and that they will have no scruples whatever about finding methods of evading both inheritance and income levies if they regard them as confiscatory.

Captain Cook, Explorer, Was Slain by Hawaiians

Capt. James Cook, English naval captain and explorer was born on October 28, 1728, at Cleveland in Yorkshire. In 1755 having become a mate on a commercial ship he joined the Royal navy. After four years' service he was appointed master of the sloop "Grampus." From 1759 to 1767 Cook surveyed the St. Lawrence and the coast of Newfoundland, relates the Philadelphia Record.

In 1768 he was sent to the Pacific with an expedition to observe the transit of Venus. Having observed the transit from Tahiti, he voyaged westward, completing the first circumnavigation of New Zealand, charting the coast. Passing on to Australia, he surveyed the east coast northwards and, sailing through the strait separating it from New Guinea, showed that these two lands were not connected.

The following year (1772) Cook received command of an expedition which was sent out to determine the extent of the reported southern continent. Sailing again to the south and east, in January, 1774, Cook's second voyage covered more than 20,000 leagues, and was the first circumnavigation of the globe eastwards. Upon his return he was made a member of the Royal society and received the Copley medal.

In 1776 he started on his third and last voyage in an attempt to find the northwest passage. However, he was going to sail from the Pacific to the Atlantic, not from east to west as had the others. Of course he didn't accomplish this, but on turning back from Alaska, he discovered the Hawaiian Islands. Cook was slain by the natives there, on February 14, 1775.

Leap Year Is Needed to Average the 365 1/4 Days

Leap year comes from the addition every four years of one day to the length of the ordinary year of 365 days. This is to make an average of 365 1/4 days, to correspond more closely to the solar year than a 365-day calendar year. With the numbering of years every year exactly divisible by four, as 1932, 1936 and 1940, is a leap year with the exception of years divisible by 100 and not by 400. Thus the year 1900, though divisible by four was not a leap year, while the year 2000, divisible by 400, will be a leap year.

The date February 29 occurs in leap years, that month in other years having only 28 days. In ordinary years the day of the week on which any date, say July 4, occurs advances one step each year, falling say on Monday one year and on Tuesday the next, but on leap year there is a leap of an extra day. For instance, July 4 occurred on Friday in 1930 and Saturday in 1931, but on Monday in 1932, a leap year.—Indianapolis News.

Old Time Splendor Seen in Japan's Aged Temples

It seems that every important city of Japan has been the capital and seat of government of the nation at some time in the 2,500 year reign of the present imperial house, notes a writer in the Chicago Tribune.

Jimmu Tenno, founder of this oldest existing dynasty, who took over the rule of the country in 600 B. C., is buried in Nara province. Nara was the first permanent capital of Japan, but succeeding mikados have changed the seat of government many times to various cities. Moving the capital did not cost the people so much in this land of typhoons, earthquakes, and fires as it would in countries where government buildings are constructed on a more costly scale with a view to permanent occupancy.

At the height of its glory Nara was rich in palaces, temples, public buildings and residences of noble and wealthy families. It established arts and crafts and encouraged literature and religion. Many tokens of Nara's former splendor still survive in the magnificent temples and shrines erected in bygone centuries, carefully preserved and loyally cherished.

Noisy Celebration

A corroboree is a ceremonial dance, of a more or less public character, in vogue among the Australian aborigines. It is generally held at night, the men doing the dancing and the women furnishing the music. This dance is the nearest approach to a national institution among these primitive people. It serves also as a peace ratification and as a means of intercommunication. Hence, the term is applied to any noisy or disorderly celebration.

Formation of Natural Glass

Natural glass is a phenomenon well known to science. As a rule it is caused by the fusion of lightning and sand. Examples found in the Arabian and other deserts are invariably tubular and friable. Another variety, known as tektites, occurs in meteoric craters, and has long been familiar as "obsidian," "water chrysolite," and "Moldavite," the various names given to gem stones cut from it.

When East Is West

Columbus was ridiculed by the ignorant when he proposed sailing west to reach the East yet his apparently crazy idea was eventually proved sound. A similar paradox is found at the Isthmus of Panama where it is necessary to move east (by traveling southeast) in order to reach the West or vice versa. In traveling from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean the exit of the Panama Canal near the city of Panama is virtually 30 miles south and 25 east of the entrance near Colon.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Pronunciation of "Moscow"

The correct pronunciation of this name is Mos'ko, first o as in not, second o as in go, says Literary Digest. With one exception, all of the dictionaries, pronouncing gazetteers, and word-books agree on this pronunciation. The one exception follows the German pronunciation mos'kau, au as ou in out. The Russian name is Moskva. To determine American preference, letters were sent to the postmasters of the 12 cities and towns of this name in the United States. Of the 11 who replied, nine said, "Second o in go." One of these amplified his statement: "Local people say mos'ko; outsiders say mos'kau." Another wrote: "We pronounce it the same as Moscow, Russia, riming with the word go." The postmasters of Moscow, Idaho, and of Moscow, Mich., favored mos'kau. One of these wrote: "Riming with cow, same as Russian city." Without exception, official and nonofficial Russian authorities in Washington to whom the question was put verbally agreed in favor of mos'ko.

Brain Grows Fast

The brain is one of the fastest growing parts of the human body. Under normal conditions, it has attained 29 per cent of its adult size at birth, 50 per cent at the end of two years, 80 per cent at the end of four years and its full growth at the end of six years.—Collier's Weekly.

Old Map Agencies

The oldest and largest governmental agencies for making maps come under this heading: Respectively, the coast and geodetic survey, established in 1807, and the geological survey, now more than 56 years at the business of plotting various phases of the earth's surface.

"Ravenously Hungry"

The word ravenously is derived from the verb raven which means: "To eat voraciously; prey upon; tear, as a beast of prey." These meanings do not necessarily involve hunger; they denote rather manner of appeasing greed. It is quite permissible, therefore, to employ the expression "ravenously hungry," indicating a hunger so intense that one would satisfy it by eating voraciously.—Literary Digest.

Blenheim Spaniels

The Blenheim spaniels were always popular in the south of England, particularly in and around Oxfordshire, in which Blenheim castle was constructed as a testimonial of gratitude to the duke from the English people after the Battle of Blenheim. This popularity was confined largely to the hunting people, who liked a small dog for hunting woodcock and other feathered game in the more or less open country of that section.

Lemon Pie . . . a Man's Favorite

By Louise Brown

Would you like a new hat? Serve your husband's favorite dinner and top it off with a luscious lemon pie—flaky crust—melting, just-tart lemon cream filling—and meringue piled high like miniature mountain peaks glazed a delicate brown. No man could resist it, and under its mellowing influence the hat will be yours.

The oven of the modern electric range, pie baking becomes a very simple process and perfect results can be duplicated time after time.

You see you are working with a definitely measured and controlled heat which naturally eliminates guesswork. Baking becomes a matter of timing—without watching.

Whether you have a "light" hand with pastry or not, you'll have splendid results with this recipe.

HOT WATER PASTRY

- 2 cups flour
- 2/3 cup shortening
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 5 tablespoons boiling water

Sift dry ingredients together. Place shortening in bowl, add boiling water and stir until fat is thoroughly softened. Cut sifted dry ingredients into shortening with spatula, working swiftly. Pat into compact ball and wrap in waxed paper. Chill in electric refrigerator for several hours before using.

PIE SHELL

Place chilled paste upon lightly floured pastry cloth or board. Toss it quickly over to coat surface with dry flour. Pat into a round flat cake and roll out with quick light motions of the rolling pin. Roll in all directions away from center keeping the paste as near a perfect circle as possible. Roll 3/4 or 1/2-inch thickness and then roll paste onto rolling pin and unroll over pie plate. Push the pastry down into pan being very careful not to stretch it. Build up the edge about 1/2 inch by fluting, using thumb, and forefinger or left hand and forefinger of right hand. Prick shell liberally with a sharp fork. Return to shelf of electric refrigerator and chill before baking.

To bake, set the temperature control to 425 degrees, turn the oven switch to Preheat and when the temperature is reached, turn switch to Bake. Place the shell in the oven and bake 15 minutes.



You can tackle a delicate baking process such as a meringue with confidence in the dependable electric oven.

LEMON FILLING

With the controlled Low heat of the surface unit of the electric range you needn't bother with a double boiler. Make the filling in an ordinary saucepan.

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 4 tablespoons cornstarch
- 5 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups boiling water
- 4 egg yolks
- 2 grated lemon rinds
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons butter

Mix the sugar, cornstarch, and flour in a saucepan. Add the boiling water gradually, stirring constantly. Place the saucepan on the surface unit, turn switch to High and cook 5 minutes stirring constantly. Add butter, egg yolks, slightly beaten, rind and juice of lemon. Turn switch to Off and continue cooking until thick, stirring slowly all the time. Cool and pour in baked pie shell.

MERINGUE

Have you found meringues a problem? Do yours get watery or tough? They won't if they are baked at a low, even temperature.

In the oven of the electric range, the temperature control can be set at the right degree of heat and the thermostat will see that it stays there. This is what we call measured and controlled heat, and in the electric oven it's so dependable that we can tackle a delicate baking process such as a meringue with confidence.

Try this recipe.
3 egg whites
6 tablespoons granulated sugar
Beat egg whites until stiff and dry, using the electric mixer on High speed. Add the sugar gradually and beat until the consistency of marshmallow. Spread over pie. Set the temperature control for 300 degrees, turn the oven switch to Preheat, and when the temperature is reached, turn the switch to Bake. Put pie in oven and bake meringue 15 to 20 minutes.

TARTS

If you are making a one crust pie, make up the rest of the pastry into tarts and bake them at the same time, thus using the oven heat economically. They can be filled later with fresh fruit and whipped cream or a custard.