

News Review of Current Events the World Over

President Roosevelt in Inaugural Address Pledges Aid for Forty Million Under-Privileged—Secretary Perkins Tries to Break Motor Strike Deadlock.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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LOFTY ideals, beautifully worded and eloquently voiced. That seems to be a fair description of the second inaugural address of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Standing bareheaded in the capitol portico in a cold, pelting rain, he took the oath of office administered by Chief Justice Hughes, and then, in ringing words carried by radio to the ends of the earth, he pledged his administration to carry on its fight for the social security and material prosperity and happiness of the entire people of the United States. In effect, he promised that the federal government would bring about a better life for one-third of the nation now underprivileged, and that the program of planned economy would be continued. For forty millions who are not getting their share of the nation's material benefits the government will provide homes, food, clothing, education, recreation and increased incomes.

The President's listeners interpreted some of his phrases as a challenge to the Supreme court, as when he said: "Nearly all of us recognize that as intricacies of human relationships increase, so power to govern them also must increase—power to stop evil; power to do good. The essential democracy of our nation and the safety of our people depend not upon the absence of power but upon lodging it with those whom the people can change or continue at stated intervals through an honest and free system of elections. The constitution of 1787 did not make our democracy impotent."

"In fact, in these last four years, we have made the exercise of all power more democratic; for we have begun to bring private autocratic powers into their proper subordination to the public's government. The legend that they were invincible—above and beyond the processes of democracy—has been shattered. They have been challenged and beaten."

Before the inauguration ceremonies, Mr. Roosevelt and members of his family attended a special service in St. John's Episcopal church. After delivering his address the President reviewed the military parade from a cupola built in front of the White House. In addition to the soldiers, sailors and marines, samples of the Civilian Conservation corps and of the National Youth administration were in the line, as were the governors of 46 states with their staffs.

SECRETARY OF LABOR FRANCES PERKINS herself undertook the difficult task of breaking the renewed deadlock in the General Motors strike, but at this writing she had not made much progress. Governor Murphy of Michigan, who went to Washington for the inauguration, helped her, arranging separate meetings with John L. Lewis, C. I. O. leader, and President Sloan of the motor corporation. But his efforts to bring these two gentlemen together seemed futile. Lewis is summoned Homer Martin, head of the striking union, and John Brophy, C. I. O. lieutenant, from Detroit and conferred with them on "strategy". All the union leaders appeared supremely confident, and Lewis insisted the demand that the union be recognized as the sole bargaining agency must be conceded if there were to be any strike settlement negotiations.

Secretary Perkins, after talking with both sides, went directly to the White House. She said she was "keeping the President informed" of developments. The belief was general that it would be necessary to invoke the personal aid of Mr. Roosevelt to bring about a peaceful settlement. Lewis brought about the temporary suspension of negotiations by a statement he gave the press. With brutal frankness he said: "We have advised the secretary of labor that the 'economic royalists'—and the du Ponts and Mr. Sloan are among them—used their money to try to drive Mr. Roosevelt out of the White House. "Labor rallied to the President's support when they attacked him. "These same economic royalists now have their fangs in labor, and labor now expects the government to support labor in its legal and logical objectives."

This was too much for Sloan, who started for home with the remark: "We find it useless to attempt any further negotiations in Washington."

Any time the President sends for us we'll be there."

Lewis' position was strengthened by the settlement of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass company strike and increased prospects that Libbey-Owens-Ford glass workers would return to their jobs. His strategy has been to curtail General Motors production, and interfere with its principal competitors, Ford and Chrysler, as little as possible. Resumption of production by glass manufacturers would permit Ford and Chrysler to produce at full speed while sit-down strikers keep General Motors plants inoperative.

CONGRESS did not wait for the inauguration to rush through the bill asked by the President extending for two and one-half years his power to control the two billion dollar stabilization fund and to devalue the dollar. Senator Vandenberg and Representative Snell, minority leaders, made futile efforts to amend the measure so that it would call on the secretary of the treasury to submit to congress a complete audit and report upon the operations of the fund after the expiration date in 1939.

The fund originated three years ago at the time of the 40 per cent devaluation of the dollar. Gold holdings of private individuals, banks and the reserve banks commandeered by the Treasury, were "revalued". Each ounce of gold formerly valued officially at \$20.67 an ounce was arbitrarily raised to \$35 an ounce. This resulted in a two billion, 800 million dollar "profit" for the Treasury.

The odd 800 millions was immediately diverted to the Treasury's general account to cover federal expenditures. Two billions were allocated for use as a "stabilization" fund. New legislation was passed authorizing the secretary of the treasury to use the stabilization fund to manipulate the value of the dollar in foreign exchange transactions, to purchase silver and gold and to rig the quotations on United States government securities in the market.

DISPATCHES from Vatican city said the condition of Pope Pius XI was steadily growing worse. He was suffering excruciating pain, especially in the right leg. The pontiff, however, insisted on conducting some of the business of his office, telling Archbishop Castiglioni he was determined to work as long as breath remained in his body.

The pope was greatly distressed to hear of the death of Bishop M. J. Gallagher of Detroit, the superior of Father Charles Coughlin, "radio priest." Bishop Gallagher made a visit to the Vatican about six months ago.

THE conflict between fascism and communism in the Old World grows more intense day by day, and the German Nazi leaders insist every nation must espouse one side or the other. Air Minister Goering declares England especially should align herself with Germany and Italy, but Foreign Minister Eden in a speech before parliament virtually handed back to Germany the question of Europe's fate. "We cannot cure the world by pacts or treaties," said he, "or by political creeds, no matter what they be." He demanded to know whether Germany intended to use the " manifold gifts of her people to restore confidence to a world sick of antagonism," or "to the sharpening of international antagonism and a policy of even greater economic isolation."

German officials called Eden's speech "untimely;" and Ulrich von Hassel, German ambassador to Italy, speaking in Cologne, described the "axis of Rome-Berlin" as a "central pivot around which the whole of Europe revolves." "Germany and Italy," he said, "are destined to fight the false doctrines of the east (Russia) and surmount western capitalism. Germany and Italy are neither east nor west, but the center, and Europe will be able to keep in harmony only if they remain the strong central axis."

It was said in Berlin that a mixed German-Japanese commission has been named to carry out provisions of the Berlin-Tokio anti-communist agreement of last November.

Over in Japan Foreign Minister Hachiro Arita opened the parliament with a speech in which he declared communism was to blame for the political troubles of the world. He defended the German-Japanese pact as directed only against communism and not intended to foment dispute with world powers. He advocated that all colonial possessions of all nations be opened to free trade.

JOSEPH E. DAVIES, our new ambassador to Russia, arrived in Moscow and at once declared: "It is amazing! Russia is one of the most interesting countries in the world." Then he and his party of ten moved into Spasso house, the official residence of the ambassador, and prepared for a lively social season.

The envoy's group was preceded to the capital by another party of almost equal size, including maids, chauffeurs, other house servants, a personal physician, Commander N. W. Bunkley of the United States navy, and others. Mr. Davies said he intended to entertain extensively but not on the lavish plan previous reports had intimated.

REPRESENTATIVES of five railway brotherhoods who have been in conference in Chicago decided to demand a 20 per cent raise in wages for the members of those unions, numbering about 250,000. These are employees in the train service classification—conductors, engineers, firemen, trainmen and switchmen.

Based on the October, 1936, payroll statistics issued by the interstate commerce commission, a 20 per cent pay raise for these workers would require an increase of 116 million dollars in the annual pay rolls of the country's railroads. The total payroll for 251,598 train service employees last October was \$48,623,261.

RUMORS were current in Washington that Dr. Arthur E. Morgan would soon resign as chairman of the Tennessee Valley authority as the result of his long and bitter disagreement with Director David Lilienthal over TVA policies.

Both the gentlemen were in the capital and it appeared they had laid their cases before President Roosevelt for his decision as to which should be the leader. Lilienthal, who was formerly Wisconsin utilities commissioner under Gov. Phil La Follette, favors unrelenting warfare on private utility interests. Doctor Morgan, on the other hand, doesn't want a "fight to a finish" but, rather, a co-operative effort to pool public and private electricity in the Southeast in order to end TVA's legal war with the private interests. The chairman, however, stood almost alone among those who are shaping the administration's power policy. He issued a statement to the press setting forth his views but it didn't arouse much sympathy in high circles.

Decision in the controversy is necessary soon for the first big contract between TVA and private utility interests expires February 3 and the question of renewal must be settled before then. Drafting of a national power policy was asked by the President of a committee headed by Secretary of the Interior Ickes. He said that this policy, once established, would apply to all existing projects and to new power developments as they are completed.

HOWARD HUGHES, wealthy manufacturer, motion picture producer and amateur aviator, set a new record for the flight from Burbank, Calif., to New York—7 hours 28 minutes, 25 seconds. It was an astonishing performance. Hughes' average speed for 2,490 miles over what he calls a "modified great circle course" was 332 miles per hour. This achievement is the greatest sustained speed flight ever made.

The flight was made without a stop, the cruising altitude being about 14,000 feet, and the motor of the plane could not be allowed to operate at full throttle for more than a small fraction of the time. The top speed reached was 380 miles an hour.

BRITAIN'S plan to bar from Spain volunteers from other nations met with a big setback when Russia refused to adopt prohibitive measures. Foreign Commissar Maxim Litvinov headed to Ambassador Chilton a note saying: "The Soviet government, although it presently does not practice the dispatch of volunteer detachments, does not consider it expedient to adopt unilateral prohibitive measures."

Explaining the refusal, Litvinov continued: "I consider it necessary to point out that in the Soviet government's opinion unilateral prohibitive measures on the part of some participants in the London committee (on non-intervention) while other participants not only are free from obligations, but continue sending military divisions to Spain, will not only fail to accomplish the desired aim but will result in intervention."

AN ARMY communique issued in Tokio announced the conviction and sentencing of seven former army officers and eight civilians for their part in the Tokio military revolt of last February 26. The communique said the conspirators planned a nation-wide uprising of militarist, ultra-patriotic elements. The special court martial sentenced Maj. Gen. Ryu Saito and Capt. Saburo Suganaka to five years in prison, Lieut. Col. Sakichi Mitani to three years, and four other officers and eight civilians to shorter terms.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington.—Two messages to congress by the President have created more than the usual excitement upon such things as the new session has settled down to its annual consideration of public affairs. In each of these were Presidential declarations that are beginning to reverberate and that means they are highly controversial.

In Mr. Roosevelt's annual message "on the state of the union," he took occasion to tell congress how much he appreciated its "co-operation" with him. He followed that bit of back patting with probably the boldest statement he has made since entering the White House four years ago for the first time. He called upon the Supreme Court of the United States, in a roundabout way to "co-operate" with the other two branches of the government, the legislative and executive.

The other wave of excitement, not to say disturbance, was caused by the President's special message asking congress for a wholesale reorganization of the executive departments and agencies—calling this proposal a plan for modernizing the government.

One can circulate through the corridors and offices of the Capitol and office buildings and hear mutterings aplenty and even a considerable bit of outspoken criticism by senators and representatives of the two circumstances I have mentioned. There are many members of the legislative branch who are entertaining a feeling that the demand for Supreme court co-operation was equivalent to carrying the ball out of bounds. But that part of the Presidential pronouncement is not likely, in the end, to produce the battle on the floor of the senate or house that will result from some phases of his "modernizing" program.

The fact is that our national government has become a structure, insofar as the executive agencies are concerned, that sprawls out like an octopus. About 75 per cent of these units and agencies are products of the New Deal recovery program; they work at cross purposes; they move in their own sphere and make their own policies with almost no direction from the White House. Certainly, the time is ripe to clean up that mess.

Yet, in cleaning up these conditions, in reorganizing, it is undoubtedly the consensus of those charged with responsibility for the job that common sense must be used and discretion employed or else untold damage will be done to the government and to the whole economic structure of the nation, including the taxpayers.

The Presidential reorganization program was sweeping in character and that is the reason why it has run into obstacles.

For example, the plan calls for placing the interstate commerce commission, the general accounting office, the federal trade commission and the civil service commission largely inside of old-established departments over which cabinet officers preside. Now, a cabinet officer is and always has been in the past a political appointee, an individual who had been active in promotion of a party campaign and usually one who has made important contributions of money to his party's campaign fund. So, it becomes plainly evident, I believe, that to place such agencies as those I have named in regular departments, is to place them completely under political domination.

Where it is good, therefore, to place strictly administrative agencies under cabinet control, it becomes equally dangerous to place under political domination such quasi-judicial agencies as the ICC and the general accounting office. There can be no doubt of that fact. That is the crux of the disturbance among the legislators under the reorganization proposal.

Those of us who have had long experience as writers and observers in Washington have seen evidence in almost every administration of attempts of politicians to get their fingers into the pie of railroad rate making. They have adopted all sorts of tricks; they have used subterfuges and they have employed strong political pressure time after time to gain control of railroad rate making. Through all of these years since the ICC was established, there has always been enough sane minds in congress who, with White House backing, could resist this political move. Naturally, therefore, it is a matter of some question why President Roosevelt should attempt to toss the interstate commerce commission and

its rate making power straight into the laps of the politicians.

Of course, the Presidential message on this point appears on its face to provide against the end that I have mentioned but old timers in congress point out how this wedge, driven only a little further, will bring about political domination of the ICC.

It is hardly necessary here to set down all of the potential dangers that can emanate from political control of such a vast structure as the railroads of the United States. It is unlimited in its possibilities. Dangers are inherent in any program of that kind with which the politicians are identified and it appears to be a circumstance in which congress, if it is going to serve the people properly, should call a halt.

As to the general accounting office and the plan to include it in the Treasury again under the rule of an auditor general, the reorganization scheme simply will set control of public expenditures back a quarter of a century. One of the earlier Presidents made no effort to conceal the use that could be made of the auditing unit of the government when he said, on an occasion where the chief auditor ruled an expenditure illegal, that if it were not possible to change the ruling under the law, it still was possible to change the chief auditor.

I am not making a charge that the present administration desires to spend congressional appropriations illegally; but one cannot dodge the conversations that are taking place around the Capitol in which legislators recall how President Roosevelt criticized John R. McCarl when he was comptroller general for a decision that prevented use of public money in a manner desired by the President. To sum up this particular phase of the situation, one hardly need to say more than that if the auditor general is a subordinate of the Secretary of the Treasury, he is likely to take orders from the Secretary of the Treasury, whoever that Secretary may be. And, since the Secretary of the Treasury is an appointee of the President and serves only at the President's pleasure, in my mind a link is established whereby the White House again will control determination of legality and illegality of expenditures.

Congress created the general accounting office in order that it would have an agency independent of the Chief Executive and the executive departments to keep tab on how those executive agencies expended the money which congress appropriated. That was the reason why the office of comptroller general was made to carry a fifteen-year appointment with removal only for malfeasance or misfeasance. Now it is proposed to tear down that structure and bring the whole auditing organization under a cabinet officer.

But there is another phase to be considered. It has been my good fortune to be in Washington during the entire life of the general accounting office as well as for several years before. Of my own knowledge, I can say that the general accounting office has recovered millions of dollars of illegally disbursed funds as well as prevented illegal disbursement of other millions.

There seems to be more support for inclusion of the civil service commission in the form of a civil service administrator under an executive department than there is support for breaking up of the federal trade commission as the President proposed. Neither of these agencies has such an important bearing on the public as a whole as do the other two I have discussed. The plan to make the civil service administration subject to cabinet control was softened considerably by the President by inclusion of a proposal to make all government employees below policy-making grades subject to civil service laws. That is a big step forward, provided it is not a ruse to permit packing the lists with adherents of one political party or the other, whichever may be in power.

The federal trade commission, like the interstate commerce commission, is a quasi-judicial body. There has been objection to its present setup as prosecutor, judge and jury but many legislators believe this can be corrected without emasculating the agency and destroying its identity by putting it into an executive department. It ought to be free and independent and ought not to have any politician in a cabinet chair telling it what to do when it seeks to make business be honest.

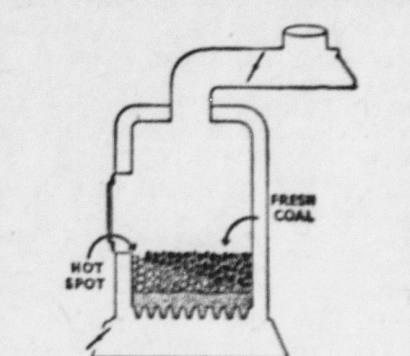
Home Heating Hints

By John Barclay Heating Expert

Refueling Furnace Fire Correct Way Means Most Heat at Lowest Fuel Cost

THERE'S an art in refueling a furnace fire that enables you to get the most heat at the least cost. There's more to it than just scooping up a few shovelfuls of coal and tossing it into the firepot. The economical way is simple.

Shake the grates gently when necessary. Don't do it vigorously and shake a lot of live coals into the ashpit. When you see a slight red glow in the ashpit, stop shaking. Then pull a mound of live coals from the rear to the front of the firebox, just inside the fire-door, using your shovel or a hoe. Don't disturb the ash under the



live coals. That gives you a fire bed sloping down from the edge of the door to the rear.

Now, shovel a charge of fresh coal into the hollow toward the back of the furnace, being careful to leave a mound of live coals in front. These live coals ignite the gases rising from the contact of the fresh and hot coal, causing them to burn.

Finally, when these gases are thoroughly burned, clean the ashpit and reset the dampers. The turn damper in the smoke pipe, remember, should be nearly closed. The check damper should be entirely closed. The ashpit damper should be open. Open the slide in the fire-door only about the width of a wooden match.

That's the way to refuel economically and the best way to obtain the most satisfactory results.

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Foreign Words and Phrases

Ad Kalendas Graecas. (L.) At the Greek Kalends, never (the Greeks having no Kalends).
Bel esprit. (F.) A brilliant mind.
Compos mentis. (L.) In possession of one's faculties.
De novo. (L.) Anew, afresh.
Espirit de corps. (F.) Loyalty to one's comrades; the spirit of solidarity.
Improvisatore, improvisatrice. (It.) An impromptu poet or poetess.
Mauvaise quart d'heure. (F.) A bad quarter of an hour; an awkward or uncomfortable experience.

Miss REE LEEF says:

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Be Worthy
The only way to compel men to speak good of us is to do it.—Voltaire.

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