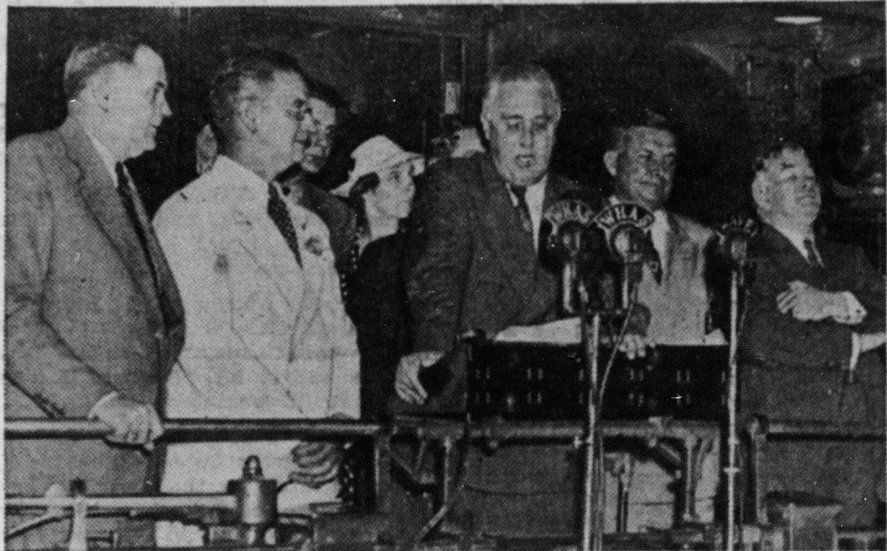


News Review of Current Events

FLIGHT AROUND EARTH

Howard Hughes and Companions Set New Record of 91 Hours . . . Japan Cancels 1940 Olympics



President Roosevelt addressing Louisville citizens from the platform of his special train, urging them to support Senator Barkley for renomination. The senator is at the President's left and Mayor Scholtz of Louisville at his right.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Hughes' Great Flight

HOWARD HUGHES and his crew of four completed their remarkable flight around the world when they landed at Floyd Bennett airport, New York, 3 days, 19 hours and 17 minutes after starting from that place. They had covered 14,824 miles and made six stops for refueling — at Paris, Moscow, Omsk, Yakutsk, Fairbanks and Minneapolis.

They cut more than three days off the record made by Wiley Post in 1933, but Hughes said after landing that he still considered Post's solo flight was the most remarkable job of flying ever done. On the hop across the Atlantic the time made by Lindbergh was nearly halved.

With Hughes, wealthy sportsman and aviator who financed and organized the flight, were Harry Connor and Thomas Thurlow, navigators; Richard Stoddard, radio operator, and Ed Lund, flight engineer.

Hughes himself was at the controls all the time, but said the robot pilot did all the flying except the takeoffs and landings. Much credit also was given the automatic navigator loaned by the army air corps. The chief perils encountered were on the flight to Paris, because they had barely enough fuel to reach Le Bourget airport; and the trip over Siberia where they had to go to an altitude of 17,000 feet and accumulated much ice. Radio communication with the land was maintained most of the time except for six hours before Minneapolis was reached. During that period their transmitter was out of commission. The monoplane, named "New York World's Fair, 1940," was welcomed at New York by Mayor La Guardia and Grover Whalen and a tremendous crowd. The weary fliers soon got to bed, but next day the metropolis gave them one of its customary ticker-tape receptions with a parade. The wives of Stoddard, Connor and Thurlow were at the airport to meet their husbands. Katherine Hepburn, the movie star, bade Hughes good-bye when he started and welcomed him back. In Hollywood it is rumored they are engaged or possibly secretly married. Another woman deeply interested in the flight was Miss Elinore Hoagland of New York, fiancée of Ed Lund.

Deficit to Be 4 Billions

IN REVISED budget estimates for the current fiscal year, given out in Washington, the President forecast a net federal deficit of \$3,984,887,600, an increase of \$2,525,639,500 over last year's deficit and \$3,035,000,000 more than he had estimated in January for the 12 months ending next June 30.

The deficit, which will increase the gross public debt by \$3,485,000,000, will be financed, the President indicated, by a reduction of \$500,000,000 in the working balance of the treasury's general fund; by the use of \$680,000,000 in special issues of government obligations and by \$2,805,000,000 in new federal financing.

The gross deficit was estimated at \$4,084,887,700, in which is included \$100,000,000 for debt retirement.

The business slump, which grew sharper after Roosevelt submitted his budget estimates to congress last January, was blamed by him for the inaccuracies of his forecasts.

Japan Cancels Olympics

JAPAN evidently thinks the war in China is not near its end. The Tokyo government has cancelled the Olympic games of 1940, dropping all plans to be the host of the world's athletes. The announcement, made by Marquis Koichi Kido, public welfare minister, surprised even the Japanese organizing committee, and the members of

Wheat Loan Basis

SECRETARY WALLACE announced the government loans to wheat raisers. They will average 59 to 60 cents a bushel. Only farmers cooperating in AAA crop control who have not exceeded their soil depleting acreage allotment by more than 5 per cent will be eligible for the loans for which the RFC has provided 100 million dollars.

Under the loan plan the wheat farmer stands to win much and to lose nothing. If he is able to sell his wheat eventually for more than the loan, he will sell and pay off the loan.

If the farmer is unable to get more for his wheat than the loan rate he can default payment of the loan and let the government take his wheat.

PWA Aid 'Conditional'

PUBLIC Works administration, of which Harold Ickes is head, withdrew the outright allotments of about \$10,000,000 for power projects that would have competed with privately owned facilities, and substituted "conditional" loans and grants for 21 of the projects.

This action followed upon publication of the fact that the PWA had approved loans and grants totaling \$55,000,000 for 54 duplicating public power plants and that the private companies affected had not been given opportunity to sell their plants at a reasonable price.

New Air Board Meets

MEMBERS of the new Civil Aeronautics authority got together in Washington and prepared to take up their work. Edward J. Noble presided as chairman. Other members are: Harleee Branch, second assistant postmaster general, vice-chairman; G. Grant Mason, Pan-American Airways official; Robert Hinckley, WPA director for far western states, and Oswald Ryan of Anderson, Ind., general counsel for the federal power commission.

Clinton M. Hester, assistant treasury general counsel, has been assigned the independent administrative position. He is responsible to the President. The board is responsible to congress.

Du Pont and Raskob Hit

THE United States board of tax appeals ruled that Pierre S. du Pont and John J. Raskob must pay back federal taxes of upward of \$1,200,000.

The board held that a series of transactions by which DuPont of the Wilmington dynasty, and Raskob, former chairman of the Democratic national committee, sold each other large blocks of stock, could not be considered eligible for purposes of tax reduction.

Raskob's share of the payment will be between \$800,000 and \$900,000, and DuPont's will be at least \$400,000.

Canton Bombed Again

BOMBING of Canton, great South China port, was resumed by the Japanese airmen, and in three successive days hundreds of civilians were killed by the warplanes. Uncounted numbers were driven to abandon their homes.

In one of the boldest moves in the war, powerful Chinese guerrilla contingents landed secretly on Namao island, off Swatow. They claimed to have recaptured a considerable part of the island which had been taken by the Japanese.

Justice Cardozo Dies

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO, associate justice of the United States Supreme court, died at Port Chester, N. Y., of a chronic heart ailment that had kept him from work on the bench since last December. He was sixty-eight years old. Descended from Spanish Jews who came to America in 1750, he was born in New York city and educated at Columbia university. He was appointed to the Supreme court by President Hoover in 1932 and lined up with the liberal minority. His scholarship and hard work won the highest respect. Chief Justice Hughes, informed of Cardozo's death in Italy said: "It is an irreparable loss to the court and the nation. He was a jurist of the highest rank and noble spirit."

Probably President Roosevelt will not appoint Cardozo's successor before fall, for the court is in recess until October. But speculation as to his choice began immediately. The name most frequently heard in the discussions in Washington was that of Sen. Robert Wagner of New York, one of the President's chief lieutenants in the field of social legislation. Other New Yorkers mentioned are Ferdinand Pecora and Samuel Rosenman, state Supreme court justices, and Solicitor General Robert H. Jackson. The Far West is not now represented on the court.

Van Nuys Nominated

OPONENTS of Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana accepted defeat with wry faces. They had intended that he should be "purged" for his fights against New Deal measures, but realized his threatened independent candidacy would split the party in the state wide open, and also would injure the presidential aspirations of Paul V. McNutt. So Governor Townsend invited the senator to present his name to the state convention, and other candidates withdrew.

Van Nuys was then preferentially renominated without anyone saying a good thing about him.

TVA Inquiry Opens

INVESTIGATION of the activities of the TVA by a congressional joint committee was opened in Knoxville, Tenn., with Chairman Vic Donahey presiding. After an executive session the investigators started on an inspection tour of the projects involved. Public hearings in Knoxville were next on the program, and Donahey said these would continue "until we run out of money."

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
By WILLIAM BRUCKART
NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—President Roosevelt addressed a letter to Chairman Stuart Rice of the central statistical board the other day, in which he asked in effect why there is need for so many "official reports" from individuals and corporations engaged in business. The President's letter indicated a feeling that, if there are so many reports as complaints have disclosed, something ought to be done about it.

It is now Mr. Rice's job to find out when, and where, and why concerning these floods of reports which government demands. But how about me finding out, too, I thought! I started on the job like a bird dog through the bush. It did not take long for me to realize that I had set myself to a task that is likely to occupy Mr. Rice and his staff of several hundred perhaps a year to assemble an answer. I learned a lot of things, however, and that is the reason I am writing about "official reports" at this time.

Speaking generally, at first, I can say that never in all history has there existed a condition such as business men and women now face, and, of course, within the last few years farmers have had to make out reports, too. The reason for the statement that the condition is worse now is that the situation represents a growth. Year after year, generation after generation, succeeding Presidents and succeeding congresses have added to the functions of the national government. Government has gone into new fields, taken on new obligations, new commitments, increased its scope of regulation of this and that and the other. As these functions have increased, more and more reports have been ordered and required; more facts have been needed, and, in addition, bureaucrats have relegated to themselves additional and unanticipated powers. Now, what we have is a tangled mess, a slimy octopus whose tentacles reach into every corner and nook and cranny of the nation.

Before considering some of the horrible details (which are horrible only because they are so general in application), it seems to me we can well consider who is responsible. I mentioned above how succeeding Presidents and congresses have expanded the functions of government. Those Presidents and members of the congresses were elected by the voters. The campaigns, in nearly every instance, included haranguing for establishment of some new agency, passage of some law to drive money changers out of the temple; to prevent grinding the little fellow, the poor, into the earth; to regulate monopolistic business; to care for the aged after their lives of useful work had been spent; to collect new taxes here and there; to assure the agricultural community a parity price for its products—a thousand and one things were campaigned for or against. So the people voted and elected a President or a senator or a representative. They also elected a governor and the various officials of their state wherein a legislature operated as does congress for the people.

It has not mattered, therefore, whether there has been a Democrat or a Republican in the White House, except in the matter of degree to which the new laws have been enacted. The growth has gone on just the same. Every time a politician conceived an idea to get votes, he campaigned on it—and a new law resulted. With the new law came another deluge of "official reports."

In a general way, therefore, the voters must accept some responsibility. But the chief responsibility must rest with members of the house and senate and the various presidents who have served in their turn. Why? Because no one can be expected to understand fully this gigantic machine called government unless that person has had an opportunity to study the machine. The layman has not had that chance. Presidents and congresses have had the chance.

To get down to the details; that is, to relate some of the incidents which had become known to the President and which resulted in his letter to Mr. Rice, we might begin with taxes. The head of a dairy company which operates in three states reported to his stockholders lately that in one year his firm had been compelled to make and file a total of 11,115 separate tax reports. That company maintained a staff for the sole purpose of handling the various reports that had to go to the federal government, the governments of the states in which the company operated and the cities where milk and dairy products were sold. Having such a staff, the company knew exactly what it cost—\$265,000 a year. It should be added that the cost of these reports necessarily became a part of the company's overhead and the overhead ex-

pense enters directly into the cost of the dairy products for which the consumer pays. It could easily result in an increase of one cent per bottle for the milk served to its customers.

It takes no stretch of the imagination to conceive what the cost is for a large corporation to handle its official reports to various agencies of the national, state and local governments if that corporation operates, say, over half of the United States. The expense runs into millions upon millions of dollars annually. Who pays? You and I, the consumers.

I have not had access to all of the records required by the department of agriculture because many of them are confidential, but I believe it is safe to say that some fifty-odd reports have to be made respecting every farmer who has signed up in compliance with the crop control laws and the land conservation program. I think the farmer directly involved has from eight to ten of these reports and official documents; the county committee which inspects and reports on him has others; the county agent has still more reports to make—all still involving this one farmer but including others as well—and these are followed by regional and national reports until all totals are entered here in Washington.

Or, at the risk of being too personal in dealing with a national problem, I might cite my own experiences. Mine is what is called a one-man office. That is to say, with the aid of a secretary, I must run my own little business. But even as inconsequential as that office is, consider this situation: I must file an income tax return annually. That return must include an extra statement which covers a general outline of my meager income and the expenses of my office. I must pay ten dollars a year for a "license" which gives me the privilege of writing to earn my living, but I must file a report before I get that license in the District of Columbia. Twice a year, I must file a report of my gross return from my work in the District of Columbia—and pay a tax on that income. Each month, I have to file a report to the District of Columbia employment board, showing how much I pay my secretary, how many hours a week she works and pay a tax which theoretically is saved up and paid to her in case she is unemployed. Each month, also, I am required to file a report with the United States social security board, giving the same information—and pay another unemployment tax. And each three months, I am required to file another report with the social security board which seems to be a report showing that the monthly reports are correct.

It has been my good fortune to have gained a legal education by the virtue of four long years of night school, so I have not had to hire a lawyer to help me with my reports. They have been comparatively simple, generally. But that is not the case with a larger business.

Lawyers, however, would be no help in the circumstance that I am now about to relate. A young lady who had served as my secretary several years left my service. When I filed the last monthly report for her name and paid the tax, I attached a letter explaining that she was leaving and that there would be no further reports in her name as far as I was concerned. The letter was written in the hope that the file would be complete.

This incident happened last October. In March, 1938, I received a notice from the board, advising me that I had not paid the tax on the salary of the lady in question for the month of February, 1938. Not a word about the other months from October to February. And if I didn't pay, said the notice, there were penalties, court proceedings, etc. Yes, you guessed it! I threw that notice into the waste basket. Two months later, I had the honor to be visited by an inspector. He was courteous and gentlemanly, but firm. I must pay the tax—not for February, but for December. You can let your own imagination run high, wide and handsome about the results of that visit.

Well, I merely bring out those facts because they show the need for the voters of the country to take some action on their own and quit following blindly the demagoguery of the politicians.

Previously in this column I have written about several corporations which, after filing several thousand reports, have had inspectors visit them to see whether they were complying with the law. Since that time, one of the business men about whom I wrote originally has told me that other inspectors have come to see whether the first crew had complied with the law in making investigations.

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Women in Baseball

One of the few women holding an executive position in major league baseball is Mrs. Barney Dreyfuss, chairman of the board of the Pittsburgh Pirates. She was married to the late Barney Dreyfuss in 1894 and has been connected with the game for more than 40 years. Miss Dorothy Hummel, assistant to Will Harridge, president of the American league, is another woman who has succeeded in this line. She has had nearly 25 years' experience in the American league and handles all details connected with contracts, assignments of umpires and financial matters.

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