

LOWELL THOMAS SUNOCO BROADCAST MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1933.

Good evening everybody! I am in Washington again tonight; flew down in an autogyro, just to see if any change has taken place since the adjournment of Congress and since the President left on his vacation. Would you imagine that Washington was now a deserted city, or any quieter than a week ago? Well, the temperature has gone down considerably. There isn't the blanket of hot air turning the city into a furnace, like a week ago, and, of course, there isn't so much hot air in the historic halls of Congress. But if you think Washington is any less busy, you are wrong. It's the busiest spot on earth.

And the big news is that the United States Government now has a new Cabinet, a totally different Cabinet than it ever had before. Perhaps it would be more accurate to describe it as a National Board of Directors, co-ordinators and directors of the most gigantic piece of machinery this spinning planet has ever seen, the men who are getting ready to give us the New Deal.

I have forgotten just how many people there are in the

INTRO - 2

United States, somewhere around 120 millions, and they are ~~the~~ the stockholders of the new company - U.S.A., Inc. Now that Congress has complied with the requests of the President and given us an utterly new system of government, the President assumes a new role. Here in Washington they are calling him the "Boss Coordinator". And while he is away on his vacation, his lieutenants, his board of directors, are certainly getting busy. Here in Washington there is a gigantic building which stands as a monument to Herbert Hoover. It's right across Pennsylvania Avenue from my office in the New Willard. Cut deep in the stone are the words "Department of Commerce." This is the building Mr. Roosevelt spoke about the night he addressed the National Press Club. He said "At last I have been in Washington long enough to drive all the way around the new Department of Commerce Building in an automobile." Well, evidently it's a good thing that vast building is here. They need the office space now.

I have just been over there, and one floor - it seems to cover miles of space - has been given to the Directors and others who are setting up the machinery for the economic

revival, the New Deal. They are working fourteen hours a day over there, some of them longer.

And are they swamped with visitors? Well, I should say so. I found a thousand of them outside the office of the Chief Coordinator, Brigadier General Hugh Johnson, who is in charge of the job of administering the National Industry Recovery Act. General Johnson is not exactly the Chief Coordinator, yet. President Roosevelt fills that role. But many think that he is going to turn it over to the General, who at present is in charge of the movement to stabilize industry.

The clamoring mob I found outside his offices was made up of people who are there for two reasons: Looking for jobs - and you can't blame them for that; and trying to see what they can do about getting appropriations for work in their community - and you can't blame them for that.

Who are the members of this new Cabinet? Who are the directors of this new government we have set up? Well, there is General Hugh Johnson, who is to stabilize industry. There

INTRO - 4

is Mr. Peek, whose work is to raise farm commodity prices; my Dutchess County neighbor, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., in charge of the revision of the entire farm credit situation. Co-ordinator Stevenson is the man who has the immense problem of home loans. Wages for the unemployed will be dispensed by Mr. Hopkins. President Hutchins, the widely publicized youthful head of the University of Chicago, is top man for federal re-employment. Czar over the banks, guarantor of bank deposits, etc., is the all-powerful Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Woodin. And here are two men who will be much in the limelight: Col. Spauling and Mr. Sawyer. They are the co-ordinators who will handle the vast public works that are to be built in this country, reclamation projects, water power, roads, etc.

Here's encouraging news from Washington: Some of that three billion three hundred million which our Congressmen recently voted under Senator Wagner's Industrial Recovery Act will start getting into circulation soon. It was announced today that four hundred millions, appropriated for construction of highways, will be turned over to the Bureau of Public Roads within the next day or two. This Bureau will begin immediately

distributing funds to the various states. Texas is to receive the largest share, ammounting to twenty-four millions. New York will get eighteen millions, while Pennsylvania, Illinois, California, and New Jersey will all receive large sums. The Roads Bureau expects contracts will be signed and work will be under way by the end of next month. There will be minimum wage scales and all contracts will be let on the understanding that nobody is to work more than thirty hours a week.

Last week one chapter of the dramatic story of the new Democratic regime came to an end. That was the President's struggle to get Congress to pass the legislation he and his advisors had worked out. Congress did its part nobly. And now the second chapter is to be written.

General Hugh Johnson says that there is no news to be given out today, except that they're getting ready. Actual work starts this week.

Oh yes, and I forgot to mention another one of the members of this new extraordinary cabinet, the Federal Coordinator of Railroads, Mr. Joseph B. Eastman. Mr. Eastman told me this afternoon that he is going to take up a problem we have heard a

lot about. Tomorrow he is going to confer with railroad managers and heads of railroad labor regarding the wage situation. He states that he is doing this unofficially, simply in the general public interest.

So the job of attempting to bring about domestic recovery is getting under way, the attempt to bring up the prices of steel and wheat, the railroad rates, wages of labor, re-employment, construction of public works, etc. A gigantic task, if ever there was one. And now the President's greatest test will come. He believes that he can handle the big job. We all hope so. He knows that his political future depends on it, and that the Nation is counting on him.

At the same time, abroad, at the London Conference, the Roosevelt Administration is attempting to work out our foreign problems. Of course, the ideal would be to have our domestic and foreign affairs harmonize and each help the other. Can this be done, Well, let's see how things are going in London today.

LONDON

Tonight's news from London doesn't look so good for the World Economic Conference. Ralph West Robey, Financial Editor of the New York Evening Post, cables his paper that there is growing feeling in England that a complete breakdown of Conference is threatened. London feels that Washington is to blame because the White House vetoes the moves of the American Delegation at the Conference. Members of Uncle Sam's delegation clearly show a willingness to cooperate, says the New York Evening Post, but every time they make a move towards progress Washington steps in and hampers them. At any rate, such is English opinion on the subject.

The Post further says that European resentment toward Uncle Sam first broke out over the news that Roosevelt refuses to approve of the idea of a truce in currency maneuverings. But grumbling grew louder over the tangle on proposals for tariff reductions. Unofficial statements accuse the U.S.A. of a flippant attitude towards the Conference. What happened to produce an antagonistic feeling is this: Technical experts accompanying the American Delegation submitted a plan for handling the tariff situation. When this was made public

European newspapers accepted it as an official suggestion from the U.S.A. Uncle Sam's delegation, however, denied that it was an official plan offered by our administration. To this Europe retorted that it is impossible to carry on negotiations with a country which denies responsibility for the proposals of its representatives. Altogether it looks like an awkward mixup tonight. Meanwhile Uncle Sam's dollar became an important actor in this drama. Its price dropped to a new low point, a point which the English Pound Sterling became worth four dollars and thirteen and a half cents. The N. Y. Evening Post reports this is believed to indicate a breakdown of the temporary agreement between the central banks of the principal nations to steady the dollar.

Market symptoms indicate today that neither the Bank of England nor the Bank of France is doing what they both did last week, that is step into the market to prevent further depreciation of the dollar. While this seriously affects progress of the Conference, observers declare that it makes Uncle Sam's position over their particularly strong.

The N. Y. Evening Post points out that there are two things



which the sixty-five other nations all want from the U.S.A., things which only Uncle Sam can give:- One is easy settlement of the debt question; another, stabilization of exchange. President Roosevelt is in a position to withhold these until he sees what the other Nations have to offer in return. In other words, they are his big trading points, and to some observers it looks as though he is making ~~shrewd~~ shrewd diplomatic use of his advantages.

A serious note was struck by M. Sarraut, French Minister of Colonies. He told the Conference that lowering of tariffs was nothing. That what the world needs from France's point of view is international regulation of exports and imports of all basic commodities. Unless this is effected he said, France will have to rely upon herself and her colonies.

The delegate from Cuba objected vehemently to the French Minister's proposal. He said that what the world needs is less government activity of all sorts and fewer government tariff barriers.

FRANCE

Ambasssador Andre Laboulaye of France conferred with Under-secretary of State Phillips in regard to the debt situation today. It was understood he was informed that the United States cannot grant a hearing until the December payment of nineteen million dollars, upon which France defaulted, is cleared up and at least part of the June fifteenth payment is made.

## LAFAYETTE

Barney Somerville, fish story teller extraordinary and manager of the New Willard Hotel, introduced me to a Virginia banker a few minutes ago. This banker, Captain Frank Lawrence, was all upset about the failure of the French to pay something of her war debts. The French are reported to be much upset today because Washington has intimated that France will make more of a hit with Uncle Sam if she pays something and then discusses the debt matter afterwards, like England and Italy.

Captain Lawrence said that he had attended a convention at Valley Forge, There in the Museum he saw a check, either for \$200,000 or \$300,000, that was given by the United States Government to Marquis de Lafayette. The Captain had always thought, until he saw that check, that we owed Lafayette plenty.

It's curious to recall, in this connection, that when Uncle Sam gave that huge sum to young Lafayette, Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, one of the greatest of our Presidents, was practically penniless, and Congress didn't do much for him.

## FARMERS

Now something to interest the farmers. An important announcement was made today here in Washington by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace. It concerns the plan to retire more than ten million acres from the current cotton acreage and levy a processing tax. This tax will provide funds to recompense farmers for thus curtailing their crops. Mr. Wallace is enthusiastic about the plan and indicates this will reduce the cotton crop by at least two million and perhaps even three million bales.

The Department of Agriculture will open an extensive campaign next week to induce farmers to sign agreements to reduce their acreage. Committees are being organized in more than eight hundred cotton producing counties to this end. Secretary Wallace says his Department feels that a substantial portion of this year's production should be eliminated or else the price of cotton this Fall may be disastrous to the producer.

LICKER

Tomorrow will be another important day in the move toward repeal of Prohibition. Voters in three states will go to the polls:- Connecticut, New Hampshire and Iowa. Leaders of both Wet and Dry causes are closing their campaigns. Both sides, as usual, are predicting victory. So far eleven states have voted on the repeal question and all of them are in the Wet column. However, Dry Leaders maintain that so far there has been no real test. At any rate, news from these three states will be interesting to watch tomorrow.

ST. PAUL

William Hamm, Jr., millionaire brewer of St. Paul, was returned to his home today after he was held a captive since last Thursday when he was kidnapped by two men while going ~~home~~ from the Hamm Brewery Company to his home for lunch a distance of one block. The ransom asked was \$100,000, but the brewery officials would not say whether this full amount had been paid for his release.

Hamm was held at a farm house in northern Minnesota, four notes and many telephone calls were made to negotiate the payment of the ransom. The money was paid on a lonely road between Duluth and St. Paul by W. W. Dunn, the brewery sales manager, and Hamm was released near Wyoming, Minnesota, a small town 65 miles north of St. Paul.

CHICAGO

Aces of the racquet and net gathered at the River Forest Tennis Club in Chicago this afternoon to open play in the United States western tennis championship. Headliners included George Lott and Frankie Parker, the two favorites for the singles championships, Jay Cohn of Kansas City, Henry Prusoff of Washington, Pacific Coast Champion, Lefty Bryan and Doc Barr of Texas, defending doubles champions.

Also Hebert Bowman of New York, six times champion of Bermuda, Fritz Mercur, Longwood Bowl Champ, and John McDiarmid of Ft. Worth, Texas.

Doroth Hack, wife of former Cubs third baseman, is favorite for the women's title.

----- 0 -----

Dr. Salo Finkelstein, only 35 years old, is amazing scientists gathered in convention in Chicago with his almost super-human mathematical calculations in Chicago this week. He performs with perfect ease such feats as scanning in one second a dozen ~~ix~~ two-diget numbers and calling out the total, or adding seven single digets in a tenth of a second.

MATERN

I discussed the Jimmie Mattern search with officials of the Navy Department this afternoon. The theory is that Mattern, who took off from Khabarovsk, Siberia, last Wednesday afternoon, probably got out of Siberian skies, jumped the bleak mountainous peninsula of Kamchatka, and then got into trouble with those wild storms, those crazy storms, that whirl up and down Bering Sea. The hunch is, and of course it is only a hunch, that Jimmie Mattern, trying to fly solo around the world, successfully weathered the "Willy-Was," as those freak Bering Sea storms are called, but was driven down somewhere in the Aleutian Islands.

Navy flyers are now combing the Aleutians for some sign of Jimmie. Captain Ingraham, of the Navy Department, told me that two Naval flyers, Ensign William A. Moffett, Jr., and Naval Lt. John Vest, are out with their planes searching up and down the thousands of indentations along the shores of these treeless, volcanic islands, the Aleutians, the farthest west land owned by Uncle Sam. Officials of the Navy Department told me that these two flyers have been up there about a month, continuing their important and hazardous aerial survey of the Alaskan Coast which started several years ago.

~~Jimmie Mattern hasn't been heard from for four or five days~~



BOB BARTLETT

It's too bad Captain Bob Bartlett isn't up in the Aleutian Islands to help find Jimmie Mattern. Bob knows the Arctic as few men do. Years ago, when he was with the Stefansson Canadian Expedition, you may recall how his ship, the Karluk, was caught in the ice.. Captain Bob went overland across the polar ice field and then south across frozen Siberia, to get aid for his men. And now Bob Bartlett is off to the North again. He is on the high seas today, with his famous North Pole-going schooner, the Morrissey. His cruise this time is a secret one, shrouded in mystery.

Before Captain Bob and his party sailed away in their Gloucester schooner they were interviewed, and refused to tell their destination, or anything about their journey. I asked Cap'n Bob about it and he said, "Boy, blankety blank, blank, I can't tell you nawthing about it this time." As usual, Bob has a <sup>crew</sup> of his fellow countrymen, Newfoundlanders, aboard the Morriseey, and the deck is loaded with chinkens, pigs, calves and everything in the barnyard, all alive, to provide food when the Arctic regions are reached.

Captain Bartlett, as you all know, was in command of Admiral Robert E. Peary's famous ship, the Roosevelt, and he was

with Peary on his spring<sup>er</sup> across the ice to the North Pole, going most of the way. He is the most famous of all the skippers who ply the waters of the Arctic Ocean. A mysterious expedition, sailing for an unknown destination! I wonder what Bob is up to?

## ENDING

Mary Roberts Rinehart, who always seems to write books that become best sellers, and who has just written another fascinating one called "The Album", has become a legendary figure in the world of books. Here's an item about her that I ran across in a Canadian paper, or rather it's a quotation from one of her books. It concerns ~~that~~ the grandmother in the story, and runs as follows: "Completely untrained, and with no openings outside of school teaching for women in those days, she" (referring to the grandmother) "fell back on her needle." To which the newspaper editor adds: "That's like the man who sat down on the spur of the moment."

And that brings me to the time when I must jump up on the spur of the moment, run out to Washington Airport, climb into the old autogiro and fly across Chesapeake Bay to Georgetown, Delaware, where I have a date this evening. So, so long until tomorrow.