

Lowell Thomas Broadcast

June 9, 1932

Good Evening, Everybody:-

Politics were sizzling today all over America, especially, of course, in Chicago, as a prelude to the Convention next week.

But national politics for one day took a back seat in the news. The front seat was occupied by the dapper figure of Major Jimmie Walker of New York City.

(There's a rather amusing controversy as to whether the communication which Judge Samuel Seabury sent to Governor Roosevelt of New York State, constitutes charges or not. Mr. Seabury declines to call them charges. He described them as an analysis of the testimony that he has dug up against Mayor Jimmie for the Hofstadter Committee.

Governor Roosevelt, on the other hand, asks: Why quibble? I consider these documents as formal charges against

the Mayor."

Governor Roosevelt added that he would not pass upon this evidence until after the Democratic Convention. That will give Mayor Jimmie two weeks to formulate his defense.)

Mr. Seabury sets forth fifteen points against the Mayor. The gist of them all is that the Honorable Jimmie has shown himself unfit for office.

Judge Seabury makes a great point of the fact that he is acting as a private citizen. But we learn from the New York Sun that the committee of one thousand, a private civic organization will use this analysis as a basis for demanding the Mayor's removal.

Meanwhile Governor Roosevelt is frankly annoyed that Mr. Seabury's letter and analysis were published in the newspapers before he, the Governor, had a chance to read them himself. The Governor considers the information to the press should have come from his office rather than from Judge Seabury's.

So there's another nice little edge to the squabble.

POLITICS

Prohibition has run away with the Republican National Convention in Chicago before the session has even started, so reports Mike Straus to the New York Evening Post. It has aroused public interest in the GOP meeting to a degree nobody had expected. Everybody had anticipated that this convention would be nothing more than a love feast.

But the impending fight over repeal of the 18th Amendment bears every promise of being what show people call a WOW.

The word REPEAL is plastered all over Chicago. The groups fighting for repeal are the noisiest in town. The organizations upholding Prohibition are going about their business in quiet, even subdued fashion.

Meanwhile the Indiana GOP were holding a State Convention in Indianapolis. And a United Press dispatch to the New York World Telegram reports that the Drys went down to defeat in a hectic scene.

POLITICS - CONT'D

It resembled the historic bolt to the Progressive party in 1912.

This is remarkable because Indiana for years has had a bone-dry law which was one of the most drastic in State Prohibition enforcements.

BONUS

A new figure has appeared on the scene with the Bonus Army in Washington. That is, he is new to this drama, but he is not new on the American scene. He is Father James Cox of Pittsburgh, the priest who recently led an army of 10,000 hunger-marchers to Washington. He appeared dramatically. He was literally a sky-pilot, for he made the trip to Washington in an airplane. He was dressed in a captain's uniform.

He made a stirring speech to the veterans. Some of the things he said in it were incendiary. Father Cox denied vigorously that he was going to advise the ex-soldiers to go home. He would not advise them to leave until they got what they came for.

He arrived four hours after the veterans had laughed at the attempts of the police to get them out of town. Such is the United Press report in the Rochester Times-Union. The trucks provided for them by Police Chief Glassford stood unused.

BONUE - CONT'D

They received a measure of aid from both Houses of Congress. Senator Brookhart of Iowa offered a resolution instructing the Secretary of War to issue army rations to the boys. Another resolution in the House was offered instructing the Secretary to provide tents and equipment.

But General Hines, administrator of the Veterans Bureau, had very little consolation for the Bonus Army. He told their leaders that the government has reached the limit of hospital facilities. He added that the officials have no authority to pay the expenses of the veterans back to Oregon or anywhere else.

LINDBERGH

After a long interval the Lindbergh case is in the news again. This was brought about by the arrest in Detroit of a man named Fleischer. The police call him a gangster. They admit they have been hunting him for months in connection with the kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby. A search has been going on throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Fleischer is also accused of being implicated in what is known as the Collingwood Massacre. This was the murder of three victims in a Detroit apartment some time ago.

Fleischer has been arrested 22 times by the Detroit police in the last 11 years. In each case he drew a fine or was discharged.

Policemen from New Jersey will go to Detroit to question Fleischer in connection with the Lindbergh kidnapping case. Fleischer's attorney protests that he is completely innocent.

DIGEST PLUG

I've been reading over some of the letters from the junior salesmen of the Literary Digest. One thing that happened to strike me was the extraordinary wide range of residences of these youngsters. Here, for instance, is a lad who's sending in his order for his copies of the Digest from Shanghai.

Then there's a youngster who writes from Liberia in Africa. Yes, Liberia. The correspondence includes letters from some of the most romantically named places on the earth. Pago Pago, Tahiti, Cape Town. In fact there are few parts of the earth, no matter how remote, where there's not one or more youngsters making money for themselves and having a good time while doing it by delivering the Literary Digest.

BERLIN

A sensational declaration was made today by Germany's new Minister of the Interior. His name is Baron Wilhelm Von Gayl.

It was a declaration of loyalty to the Hohenzollern family. At the same time he denies that the new government has any definite intention of restoring the monarchy.

These statements were made in a speech before the German Federal Council. The eye-glassed baron's address created a sensation. Among other things he used the following words:

"Personally, I consider a monarchy to be the most suitable form of government for a nation situated in the heart of Europe."

This is the first time since war days that a cabinet member has come out openly for monarchical government. The rumors that the Von Papen regime plans to reestablish the Hohenzollers on the throne of Germany were described by the Baron as nonsensical chatter.

BERLIN - CONT'D

Apropos of this there is an important article in the current issue of the Literary Digest which is out today entitled Why Germany Alarms Europe. An edition cabled to the Literary Digest from an important French newspaper is quoted. Hindenburg has struck. So runs this French editorial. It points out that his first thought is to turn toward the military chiefs. One receives a truly sad impression. It is evident that the French are seriously wondering whether the old Marshal is not methodically preparing for the Hohenzollern Dynasty.

The Digest has also special articles cabled to it from London. These make it obvious that Von Hindenburg's discharge of the Bruening cabinet has aroused grave doubt and uncertainty in England.

A United Press dispatch in the Cleveland Press reports that Hohenzollern Dynastic shares have undoubtedly risen. At least eight of the ten members of the new cabinet are strong monarchists.

BERLIN - CONT'D)

At the same time the opinion of most political leaders in Germany is that monarchism will probably remain a side issue in the policy of the feudal aristocrats and generals who now control the government. Restored now, such a move would risk the entire destruction of the unity of the nation.

If a Hohenzollern were put on the throne in Berlin, the age-old hatred of Prussia throughout South Germany would be revived and strengthened. It would stimulate the Bavarian movement behind the Crown Prince Rupprecht, and it is pointed out that Von Hindenburg, when he assumes office, takes the oath of allegiance to the Republican constitution.

Apropos of all this, an interesting incident occurred in Munich today. Herr Hitler, the Handsome Adolf, was fined a thousand marks by a Bavarian Judge for contempt of court. It was his unseemly behavior as a witness that earned him the fine. The occasion was the trial of a newspaper man for perjury.

BERLIN - CONT'D

This newspaper man in a previous libel suit against the Handsome Adolf, had testified that the Hitlerites receives subsidies from Italian sources.

When the Handsome Adolf was on the stand, he refused to be cross examined by the Defendant's lawyers. He got high hat and was fined for it.

PARIS

Uncle Sam caused no little consternation in Paris today. The announcement of our State Department that Uncle Sam won't cancel the war debt was considered untimely. Aloyze Boulevars, one French newspaper protested that such obstinate statements aggravate the European situation. Well, when anybody tries to collect a bill, it always aggravates the situation. I'm speaking from personal experience.

EARTHQUAKE

This appears to be open season for earthquakes. They had one in Mexico City at noon today. The municipal building at Lxtapalapa was seriously damaged by the shock. Ixta - and the rest of it, is a suburb of Mexico City.

The Mexican government observatory reported that the quake apparently was only local. But it was accompanied by terrific subterranean rumbles.

MANILA

Uncle Sam's officials in Manila are checking up on a strange story that was reported today. According to the editor of a Manila newspaper, rumors have been coming in of a man who was cast away on a tiny island in the northernmost group of the Philippines. He is supposed to be an aviator whose plane crashed there.

The Manila newspapers are speculating whether this could be Glenn Brophy. Glenn Brophy has been given up as lost since March 23, 1931. He was making a flight to Manila from the Portuguese island of Macao. He disappeared and was believed to be dead.

But a Manila newspaper man now has returned from a trip to a number of small islands in the north. He brings news that natives of that region had spoken to him about a strange white man. This white man, accompanied by a black dog, is supposed to have been seen among the natives of an island called Yami.

MANILA - CONT'D

This island is small, wild and totally savage. It is inhabited by pagans with whom other islanders never associate.

So there's a mere possibility that Glenn may come back to civilization to write a new "Robinson Crusoe."

GREAT MEN

I found an amusing story today about the great and the near-great. It's a United Press story in the New York Sun. From this we learn that President Hoover doesn't like linen suits, that when Rudy Vallee is in a huff he screams like a woman, that the eminent Mr. Babe Ruth is strong for ham and cabbage, even as you and I.

The list of peculiarities is not only interesting but long. John D. Rockefeller Senior considers he has misspent the day if he hasn't played at least one number game. Young Mr. Rockefeller's favorite pastime, on the other hand, is collecting Chinese porcelain. J. P. Morgan can't endure press photographers. At his office he works behind an old-fashioned roll-top desk -- vintage, 1880. He likes rowing, tennis and golf, and grows tulips. He is a profound student not only of the Bible but Shakespeare.

And here's some more about Mr. Hoover. He often wakes up in the middle of the night to read detective stories.

GREAT MEN - CONT'D

When Henry Ford gets home late at night he goes to the pantry and rifles the icebox -- even as you and I.

Clarence Darrow is a fiend for cross-word puzzles. He has filled out every one of the series of cross-word puzzle books that has been published, from one to 24 -- and he often refers to the Funk and Wagnalls Standard Dictionary, even as you and I.

And here's more about Mr. Ford. Henry has 100 suits -- almost all light in color.