

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, May 15, 1936 *General
file*

RELIEF

President Roosevelt today had reassuring words for his lieutenants, Messrs. Tugwell and Ickes. At the press conference he told the newspapermen that Dr. Tugwell's Resettlement Administration Work would go on, and so would Secretary Ickes' Public Works Administration. The money will be forthcoming for them to keep going - though on a somewhat smaller scale.

Both of these gentlemen have been considerably perturbed by the relief program before Congress - figuring that the financial schedule would leave their departments without cash.

Rex Tugwell is running the job of taking farmers from poor, non-productive land and transferring them to richer fields.

Earlier in the day, he testified before the Congressional Committee considering the Relief Program, and told the legislators that if the bill did not put up some money, his Resettlement Administration would have to go out of business on July first. It had enough cash to last only until then.

But after what the President told the press conference today, it looks as though Tugwell, with his Farm Resettlement, and Ickes, with his P.W.A., were confused about the provisions of

the tax program. What got them tangled up, apparently, was the fact that the whole relief appropriation of a billion and a half is listed under the heading of - Works Progress Administration, making it look as though it were all for W.P.A. and nothing for Resettlement and P.W.A. Now the President has made it clear at the press conference that both Resettlement and P.W.A. will get theirs - though not in such a big way as heretofore.

Money ~~is~~ for Messrs. Tugwell and Ickes will come out of the W.P.A, ^{the} ~~the~~ alphabetic agency ~~is~~ run by Harry Hopkins.

So it looks as if he were in the driver's seat, with the other two departments subordinate to his own, ^{— maybe.} And that may cause a little perturbation.

ZEPPELIN

I heard today from Commander Rosendahl, chief of the naval air station at Lakehurst, New Jersey. He was full of enthusiasm, enthusiasm for dirigibles. He is, of course, America's Number One expert on big airships. He survived the crash of the Shenandoah, and later commanded the Akron - though not when it crashed. And he was away on sea duty when the Macon crashed. But he still keeps the faith, and he's elated over the action of the House Naval Affairs Committee, which has passed a unanimous resolution to have the dirigible Los Angeles put back into commission. The Los Angeles was a German ship taken over by the United States, after the World War. She's the only surviving American dirigible. After the other three great ships crashed, there was a wave of sentiment against the Zeppelin type, and the Navy decommissioned the Los Angeles and put her into cold storage down at Lakehurst.

Today there's quite a controversy in Washington, with the friends and enemies of the big gas bag arguing for and against.

Commander Rosendahl told me that when the public

reaction against the Zeppelin type caused the Navy to order the Los Angeles out of commission - that order was only partly carried out. Because, in Nineteen Thirty-Four, Commander Rosendahl persuaded the Navy authorities to let him use the airship for training purposes. She hasn't left the ground, but she has been kept in perfect trim, her motors tuned up every day, while thirty-three officers and two hundred and fifty enlisted men have been going through the manoeuvres of flying. That's why the Congressional Committee announced the Los Angeles was in excellent shape.

All of this new break of dirigible news has been caused by the visit of the Hindenburg, and the banner headlines that hailed the magnificent flight. In fact, Commander Hugo Eckener, when at Lakehurst, inspected the Los Angeles and found her sound and airworthy.

And the airship enthusiasm is due for an increase when the Hindenburg gets here again next Tuesday, the second voyage on her North Atlantic schedule. She arrived here from Germany last Saturday, went back to Germany on Monday, and will

return to New York next Tuesday. That's trans-oceanic sky service on the speediest sort of schedule.

It's doubly interesting to me, because last night I had dinner with a party of four, who were passengers on the Zeppelin trip over here. Sir Hubert and Lady Wilkins - Sir Hubert who was on the trip to the Antarctic with Lincoln Ellsworth. And Leslie Charteris and his wife - Charteris is an English writer of mystery stories, about a queer detective character called "the Saint". They were telling us some odd things about their experience aboard the biggest thing that sails the sky.

Webb Miller, who was United Press correspondent in Ethiopia, and who was also aboard the Hindenburg, had mentioned to me - the silence, the high altitude stillness in the passenger cabin, with the roar of the motors sound-proofed away. I spoke of that to the company at the table, and the conversation ran something like this:

"There's one outstanding sound that I remember," said Charteris, "and that was when the Hindenburg was bucking the

storm - the sound of the rain beating down on the gas bag, almost like a downpour on a tin roof."

"Yes," observed his wife "and the sound of the water draining from the gas bag, and rushing along the gutters at the side."

Lady Wilkins remarked that it was exceedingly odd. "It seemed", said she, "like the rushing of a stream in the country, and that sounded strange up there so high in the sky."

"That shows you how easily the airship rode the weather," reflected Sir Hubert, "with the slant of a practiced explorer. "The only way the passengers knew there was a storm was by the sound of rain and running water."

MODEL

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The artists of New York took a vote today on the question of models. Who is the most popular model among the chaps that paint canvases and draw illustrations? When the votes were counted, the answer was - Caryle Barrett, a striking brunette. You've seen her in scores of drawings in magazines. ^TThis was the high spot at the exhibition put on by the Society of Illustrators here in Rockefeller Center, where the assembled artists spent a good deal of time discussing the qualifications of the perfect model. "She must be a skilled actress," said John LaGatta, an illustrator much in vogue right now. "She must lose her own individuality and identify herself with the fiction character for whom she is posing."

"What's the most difficult task for a model? One girl ^{says} ~~tells~~ it's posing while an artist draws the figure of a girl diving. Sometimes it's so realistic that the artist rigs up an edifice with chairs and boxes, and over this the model hangs ~~her~~ head downward in a diving posture. If the heap of chairs and boxes happens to collapse, down she goes for a real dive on the hard floor - which is mortifying for a beautiful girl!

DEBT

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The foreign news today pops forward with one idea that will interest Americans - the payment of the French War Debt. However, we needn't expect to get all those billions that France owes us, but we may get something. Let's observe where Leon Blum, who is slated to be the new Socialist Premier of France, has stood in the past. When the Chamber of Deputies has voted not to pay, Leon Blum has never voted with the non-payment majority. ^{it is reported today that} And further - ^{the} new Socialist cabinet ~~is scheduled to~~ ^{will} include Edouard Herriot as Foreign Minister. Monsieur Herriot was formerly Premier and has always been an advocate of coming to terms with the United States on the debt question. ^{That} That gives the more force to Leon Bloom's exceedingly guarded declaration today. He spoke to the American Club in Paris and used such phrases as these: "The French", he said, "have a tendency to believe the debts have been effaced." Then he added: "Now I hope the debt misunderstanding can be cleared up."

The Premier-to-be argued that the United States had never understood the French attitude toward the War debt, and that the Americans had misinterpreted the **refusal** to pay as a

sign of ingratitude on the part of France. He said he wanted to change all that.

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So ^{the supposition is} ~~it's apparent~~ that Paris will try to come to some settlement with the United States, with the qualification that the French government will reaffirm its contention ~~all along~~ that the Hoover Moratorium ^(made) ~~took~~ back in those deep depression days, diminished France's moral obligation ^{to pay.} It is to be remembered that under the Moratorium plan proposed by President Hoover, France consented to let Germany suspend the payment of reparations. Following that, the whole reparations thing vanished, France got no more money from Germany. The French claim that in the Hoover Moratorium affair, ^{American} promises were made to France, promises that did not materialize, so they feel they should be compensated on the debt question. That's one argument that Paris will use, when the new Socialist government gets around to talking debt with Washington. No doubt they'll want those billions scaled down plenty. But Uncle Sam will be offered something, when he hasn't had much expectation of late of getting anything!

AUSTRIA

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In Austria, the new dictator, Chancellor Schuschnigg, ~~has gone to work promptly~~ ^{publicly proclaimed himself today.} ~~the~~ Day before yesterday, he said he was going to abolish the Heimwehr, the private army of the deposed Prince von Starhemberg. And today he started abolishing it. He dissolved the Vienna auxiliary police force of six hundred men, which was an adjunct to the Heimwehr. Right now in Vienna, the only Starhemberg men that remain under arms are ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~serving as~~ ^{the} bodyguard of the Prince, who ~~was trying~~ ^{wanted} to be ^a Fascist Dictator.

Meanwhile, the deposed Vice-Chancellor is breathing menace against the new set-up in Vienna. He threatens civil war and declares that within a week the world will hear of his private army of fifteen thousand Heimwehr. Starhemberg has gone to Rome, where he hopes to see Mussolini, to persuade the Duce to lend him a hand, intervening in his favor with Dictator Schuschnigg.

Mussolini, on his part, is breathing a few menaces of his own - against sanctions. Last September he declared that if the League of Nations took military action against Italy, that would bring "the danger of remaking the map of Europe."

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Those were his words^s - "the danger of remaking the map of Europe." Today he referred back to that, and added: "What I said then regarding military penalties, I say now regarding an aggravation of economic penalties." So we have the frowning Duce uttering the pronunciamento - that if the League slaps more sanctions on Italy, it will mean war.

The League meanwhile isn't feeling so good, because today a nation withdrew from Geneva. The Central American Republic of Guatemala said: "I resign!" But can Guatemala resign? The little republic hasn't been paying its dues to the League, and is ^{away} behind. One League rule is that a nation cannot step out, unless its dues are paid up. It can't step out, it must remain a member, with the dues continuing to pile up. I don't know how they'll solve that problem of statesmanship.

Anyway, Guatemala is at least trying to follow the example of other Latin-American countries, like Chile, Mexico and Columbia!- ~~to~~ pull out of Geneva. And the League statesmen are afraid that it's merely a part of a general walkout of the American republics. Equador has refused to apply sanctions to

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Italy, and at the last ^{League} meeting Chile proposed to abolish the sanctions. League experts say that Mussolini is putting commercial pressure on those countries. Guatemala, for example, sells a lot of coffee to Italy in normal times, and no doubt the Duce has said he would like to buy a big bill of goods, but how can he do it, while Guatemala remains a sanctionist country?

At the same time, the ⁱⁿ Central American Republic has been taking the lead in proposing the establishment of an American Court of Justice, a Pan-American League of Nations. This western Hemisphere ~~idea~~ ^{may turn out to be} a dangerous rival for the Geneva covenant. The Latin-American Republics seem to be thinking less and less of the League in Europe and more and more of the Pan-American set-up which they are going to discuss with the United States at Buenos Aires this coming summer.

Quite in contrast with all of this, is Prime Minister Baldwin's new inspiration. The head of the London government today spoke of plans for changing the League of Nations. He said he hoped that the League Covenant could be reformed and rewritten in such a way that the United States could be induced to join. ~~the League. It~~ looks as though old Uncle Sam were being wooed, if not won.

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There's a woman over in Europe who lives a peculiar sort of double life. When she goes to bed at night she is -- Fraulein. When she ^{gets} ~~goes to~~ breakfast in the morning she is -- Mademoiselle. It's an extreme instance of the phenomenon of people who live on the borderline between nations.

The Franco-German frontier cuts right through the Alsace ^{town} ~~town~~ of Lauterburg -- and right through the house of Fraulein-Mademoiselle Morgan. Her bedroom is German territory. Her kitchen is part of France. Her life is one incessant alternation between two nations.

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An English reporter called on the Fraulein-Mademoiselle ^{to} ~~was~~ interviewed her. They were standing on her front porch, which is in Germany.

"How do you frontier people feel about politics," he asked her.

"I cannot reply," she said, "because we are in Germany where it is forbidden to talk politics." She led him through the house to her back porch.

"Now," she said, "we're in France, and I can tell

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you that the way to solve the problem between France and
Germany is to have all Frenchmen and all Germans live on
the border. Here we have to get along with each other in
a friendly way, or life would stop."

And I must stop, and

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SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.