

LOWELL THOMAS SUNOCO OIL BROADCAST - THURSDAY - 9/21/33

Good Evening, Everybody:

Please forgive me if I shout into the mike tonight. My ears are ringing and I can't hear very well because I've just flown in across the Alleghanies from Harrisburg in an open plane - a Curtiss Speedwing. We came through like the wind -- in less than an hour. Major Peyton Gibson and I got a shock when we jumped out of the plane. It was news about Wiley Post. He cracked up today. After flying twice triumphantly around the world, doing it solo the last time, Wiley had hard luck today. He cracked up at Quincy, Illinois.

The world-famous one-eyed ace from Oklahoma is now in St. Mary's hospital at Quincy. The last thing we've heard the doctors had not made a final count of his injuries, but they think his shoulder is fractured, in addition to which he has numerous cuts about the face and has suffered considerable loss of blood. At latest reports they were taking X-rays of him.

As for his almost equally famous plane, the Winnie Mae, she's a wreck. A sad end for the gallant airship

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that went around the world within a week.

Deputy Sheriff Coyle of Quincy told me on the telephone that Wiley was taking off at the Quincy Airport when suddenly the Winnie Mae swerved. At that time he was only twenty-five feet off the ground. He cracked first into a clump of trees and then into the Administration buildings of the landing field. Wiley had attended a banquet and reception given in his honor in Quincy last night, and he was taking off for Davenport, Iowa, when he smashed up. Perhaps Wiley has been under too great a strain lately. Flying around the world, Lieutenant Les Arnold of the First World Flight once told me, wasn't nearly as tough an ordeal as surviving a series of banquets and receptions like Wiley Post has had to go through with these last couple of months.

NBC

KIDNAP

Another instance of the fantastic audacity of kidnap racketeers has just come to light. Three weeks ago the authorities in Kansas unearthed a plot to kidnap ~~Miss~~ Peggy Anne Landon, sixteen year old daughter of the governor of that state. Miss Peggy Anne was to be held captive until the Governor issued a pardon to members of the notorious Bailey Underhill gang, The gang that made that spectacular jail break on Decoration Day.

For all these weeks, we learn, in fact, ever since the plot was discovered, the Executive mansion in Topeka, Kansas, has been under especial surveillance by the police, and Miss Peggy Anne Landon has been and still is heavily guarded.

Unfortunately, no evidence was procured that justified the making of any arrests. And it was only today that Governor Landon consented to make public the ~~fact~~^{story} of this conspiracy. Eleven men and one woman were in this ~~conspiracy~~^{plot}, including six long term convicts. The scheme was organized by friends and relatives

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of the convicts. Of the members of that gang who escaped on Memorial Day Underhill is still at large. Bailey, ~~of course,~~ is on trial ~~with others~~ in Oklahoma City for the kidnapping of Charles Urschel, *the oil man.*

And here's a still further token of the insolent lengths to which those kidnapers are prepared to go. George "Machine-gun" Kelly, who is supposed to be second ~~in~~ in importance to Harvey Bailey in that gang, has sent in threats to murder the United States Attorney who is prosecuting the case, *also the prosecutor's* ~~his~~ assistant, and, also, young Charles Urschel, who is the government's star witness. These threats were mailed somewhere in Texas. As ~~the~~ ^a result, the guards around the courtroom were doubled and special protection is being given to the prosecutors and to Mr. Urschel.

A feature of this morning's procedure in court was that the money found on Harvey Bailey was positively identified as part of the marked ransom money.

KIDNAP - 3

Another bit of kidnap news broke today. Detectives of New York's finest rounded up a gang of five men and two women. They are being held on a number of charges including murder and bank robbery. The importance of these arrests lies in the fact that the cops believe they have got some of the gang that kidnaped Lieutenant John O'Connell, son of the Democratic political boss of Albany, New York. Young O'Connell looked them over and thought he could identify a couple of them as the men who grabbed and held him. ~~But I understand so far that his identification was not positive. The state troopers also came over from New Jersey to look over these prisoners on the chance that they might be able to connect them with the kidnaping of the Lindbergh baby.~~

N.B.C.

EXCHANGE

Well, the New York Stock brokers have started their trek to New Jersey to evade the taxation of New York City. Some of the best known Wall Street firms have already announced the transfer of their main offices to the New Jersey cities of Jersey City, Newark, and Englewood. However, they will still retain their present quarters on Wall Street. But their Wall Street offices will be designated as branch offices.

The idea is that New York clients will place their order with the Wall Street branch offices, whereupon the orders will then be telephoned or telegraphed to the main office over in New Jersey. The clients will be billed from New Jersey and thus avoid the New York tax. More than eleven hundred members have signified their agreement to join in the move across the Hudson River.

However, I learn that this will not mean that the sumptuous building of the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street will be closed. The new exchange in New Jersey will be used as a trading center for the most active shares, but the New York Exchange will remain open and will function as a branch exchange.

SEADROME

One of the most astounding pieces of air transportation news became known today. It means that air traffic across the Atlantic, the dream not only of aviation engineers, of transportation authorities, but more or less of everybody, seems about to be realized. The Seadrome Ocean Dock Corporation of Wilmington, Delaware, applied today for a loan of thirty million dollars from the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. The purpose for which this money will be used is to construct, and do it immediately, five seadromes, mid-ocean floating airports between America and Europe.

Four of these dromes will be anchored at regular intervals on the thirty-ninth parallel of latitude. That is the southern route between the eastern coast of the United States and the Azores. The fifth of these will be anchored half way between the azores and the coast of Spain. That means six landing stations between Europe and America.

What a revolution in traffic that will mean! It will bring the whole world closer together in spectacular fashion. It opens up extraordinary vistas and there is nothing vague about it.

The corporation has complete plans right down on paper. The plans for engineering, organization and construction. Right off the reel it will make possible the employment of ten thousand men. It needs ~~xxx~~ but little imagination to see that this is a project not even second to the Panama Canal. It means that the long cherished dream for safe and almost lightning transportation between Europe and America is a practical reality.

All it needs is the approval of the ^{our present Washington} ~~Roosevelt~~ Administration.

If it is approved, it will not only mark a new epoch in the development of long distance aviation, It will become such a signal honor and credit to the government that it will connect this administration for all time with a memorable date in the history of transportation.

I am informed that construction can begin within ten days after ~~Mr. Roosevelt gives his O.K. to the plan~~ ^{Washington okayes it.} And

by the way, more than eighty per cent of the money to be advanced by the government will go into the pockets of labor.

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These seadromes will be huge steel landing fields, each one of them to consist of one hundred and twenty-five tons of steel, as well as large quantities of other metals. On each of these dromes will be a hotel, a restaurant, life-saving equipment, and completely organized repair shops. They will be one hundred and twenty-five feet long on deck, three hundred feet amidships, and one hundred and fifty feet wide at either end.

These huge steel platforms will be supported by twenty-eight buoyancy tanks. The landing deck of each of these structures will be one hundred feet above the surface of the water,

~~That is,~~ well over the highest wave^s in the severest storm. They

~~platforms~~
~~platforms~~ will reach two hundred and eight feet below the surface of the ~~sea,~~
~~water.~~

In addition to other facilities, these seadromes will be floating meteorological stations equipped to gather and supply complete information about weather.

~~These seadromes~~ have been designed in such a way as to be quite immune to the impact of the waves. They will be safe in

hurricanes.
the most violent ~~storms~~. They will be anchored to the bed of the ocean by huge powerful steel cables; **but** to provide against the remote possibility of breaking loose from these moorings each of them will have engines with motors of twenty-four hundred horsepower and propellers capable of maintaining a speed of four knots an hour. Models ~~of these seadromes~~ have been constructed and subjected to the severest tests, against all of which they have been impregnable.

I forgot to say that in addition to the top or landing deck each of them would have three other decks. The safety of the seadrome is assured by the nature of its construction, since each one of them has twenty-eight water-tight compartments. Each one of them will have elevators.

And the thrilling thing about it all is that this plan will make possible aerial transportation of mail, passengers, and of express, from New York to London in thirty hours, from New York to Berlin in thirty-six hours.

~~It is no visionary~~ ~~scheme~~ ^{scheme}. It has been worked out in

the most complete engineering and ~~and~~ technical details down to
the last cubic foot of concrete which will be required.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt ~~has~~ evidently ^{has} ~~quite~~ recovered from his cold, ~~and was on the job today.~~ Last night ~~the~~ he entertained former Governor Cox of Ohio at dinner and today ~~he~~ saw numerous visitors including Professor Moley, former Assistant Secretary of State, and a committee from the labor unions and Postmaster General Jim Farley. He also saw that delegation of southern cotton planters who were introduced by Senator Bankhead of Alabama. This delegation urged the President to instruct the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to buy from the cotton growers one half of this year's crop at fifteen cents a pound. This to be done on the understanding that the planters who sold their cotton to the government would ~~lose one half of their next year's crop. By this means~~ reduce their next year's crop by one half. By this means Uncle Sam would be sure of getting a sufficient price for the cotton he bought to prevent the government sustaining any loss.

N.B.C.

NORMAN

An interesting thing was said in London today by Montague Norman, governor of the Bank of England. In the course of his speech he told his listeners that ~~mix~~ during his recent two weeks' visit to the United States, changes were occurring so rapidly that he almost felt that a new country was developing over here.

And by the way, some ~~correspondente~~ from England tells of one particular group of workers who are grateful to President Roosevelt. Those are the hop growers and hop pickers. Owing to the legalization of three per cent beer, they've had their best season in ten years. It has given employment to thirty thousand of them, and they're all, by way of a change, shouting hurray for Uncle Sam.

N.B.C.

Schoonmaker.

TREASURY

The Treasury Department has some glad tidings for you today. Secretary Woodin announced that Uncle Sam now has a surplus of thirty-one and a half million dollars, whereas at this time last year he had a deficit of twelve million. The Department considers that this is due not only to the result of increased taxation, but to a general improvement of business.

N.B.C.

GENEVA

Just as I was beginning to be afraid that I would not have anything amusing to tell you in today's news, along comes a dispatch from Geneva where delegates from all over the world are assembling for the international disarmament conference. But here it is: The Chief of Police of Geneva is taking the most extraordinary precautions ever heard of in the history of the city to protect the delegates. The entire police department of the city of John Calvin has been ~~wholly~~ mobilized, ~~I presume~~ ^{maybe} to keep those peace conferees from tearing each other limb from limb.

N.B.C.

CUBA

I've just learned that Uncle Sam's men of war, on guard around the Island of Cuba have been ordered to draw closer to shore at all Cuban ports. Reports of impending trouble are becoming more and more threatening. The warships have been ordered in closer in case any foreigners' lives are in danger. Labor troubles said to be growing in the interior of Cuba, and at one point today there were encounters between the troops and mobs of so-called Communists. A strong guard surrounds the palace of President San Martin, and both in Washington and Havana everybody is waiting, waiting for more trouble.

NBC

RUSSIA

(Sec. Hull says there is no final word on this, but official circles in Washington today were predicting once again that recognition of the Soviet Government of Russia by Uncle Sam is at hand.) The thing that revived this rumor was the report that Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, has been appointed trade negotiator to talk things over with the representatives of the Soviet. He replaces former Senator Brookhart of Iowa who has been handling these discussions. And it was learned that Mr. Morgenthau will recommend that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation make further loans to Russia on condition that she buy our surplus agricultural produce with the money. All these dealings will be handled by Mr. Morgenthau.

NBC

AUSTRIA

Austria continues to loom large in the day's news.

Dr. Dolfuss, the fiery little chancellor, seems to be in a fair way to make himself the Mussolini of his country. He now announces a complete reorganization of his Cabinet, making himself the whole Cabinet, just like Mussolini. Another thing he has done is to throw out his vice chancellor, Dr. Winkler, and replace him with an enthusiastic Fascist. It is believed this is with a view to bringing about closer relations with France. Winkler of late had been opposing some of the Dolfuss policies.

NBC

LEGION

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One of the callers at the White House today was Commander Johnson of the American Legion. He came to invite the President to attend the Legion's convention in Chicago week after next. The President told Commander Johnson that he would give a definite answer within two or three days. He is not sure whether he can attend because on one evening in that particular week he has to ~~xxxxxxx~~ come to New York to address the Catholic Charities at the Waldorf Astoria.

N.B.C.

WHEAT

From London comes the news that Russia has made a kick about the fifty million bushels allotted to her under the wheat export agreement between the big four. So the representatives of the big four will hold a meeting in London tomorrow to discuss the matter, the big four being the United States, Argentina, Canada and Russia.

N.B.C.