CURRENT EVENTS IN REVIEW

By Edward W. Pickard

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the nine justices ruled that the Louisiana law imposing a punitive tax on the advertising of the principal newspapers of that state is unconstitutional. The law was passed by a legislature controlled by the late Senator Huey Long. The court [illegible] it.

"It is bad b[illegible] light of its history and [illegible] setting, it is seen to be [illegible] deliberate and calculated device in the guise of a tax to limit the circulation of information to which the public is entitled in virtue of the constitutional guarantee.

"A free press stands as one of the great interpreters between the government and the people. To allow it to be fettered is to fetter ourselves.

"In view of the persistent search for new subjects of taxation it is not without significance that, with the single exception of this Louisiana statute, so far as we can discover, no state during the 150 years of our national existence has undertaken to impose a tax like that now in question.

"The form in which this tax is imposed is in itself suspicious. It is not measured or limited by the volume of advertisement. It is measured alone by the extent of the circulation of the publication in which the advertisements are carried, with the plain purpose of penalizing the publishers and curtailing the circulation of a selected group of newspapers."

Raskob Sued for Alleged Income Tax Deficiency

ACTION against John J. Raskob, former chairman of the Democratic national committee when Al Smith was the Presidential nominee, and who is now president of the American Liberty league, has been begun by the government for an alleged deficiency of $1,026,340 on his 1929 income taxes. The claim was [illegible] amendment to the petition recently filed against Pierre S. du Pont two days before Al Smith had bitterly assailed the New Deal. In the petition, which Raskob described as "New Deal persecution," Mr. du Pont was alleged to have understated his 1929 income by $2,897,832 and an additional tax of $617,316 was asked. In the amended petition accusing Mr. Raskob, it was alleged that he and the industrialist engaged in "fictitious" sales of securities, one to the other, to a total of about $[illegible],000,000 for the purpose of showing losses.

J. J. Raskob

New Farm Bill Pushed for Early Adjournment

LEADERS of congress hope for an early adjournment, by May 1 at the latest, and therefore they pushed the new farm bill forward, trying to get it through both houses by the end of the week. In their desire to get away from the Capital, they already had decided to let the proposed permanent neutrality legislation go by the board.

The farm bill as rewritten by the senate agriculture committee is based on the soil erosion prevention scheme. Some Democrats joined with many Republicans in opposing the measure, one of them being Senator Walsh of Massachusetts. In a statement issued to the press he declared it was a "dangerous" bill conferring "autocratic and blanket authority" on the secretary of agriculture. He said the measure was "neither valid in law nor valid in economics."

Chairman Doughton of the house ways and means committee said he expected definite word from the White House or treasury soon on the amount and kind of taxes that might be imposed to finance the new farm program.

Speaker Byrns said he could see no reason why the tax measure should not emerge from the committee by the end of February.

He and Doughton insisted they had no advance information on what the administration might propose. Many congressmen who are usually well informed said they looked for a recommendation for levies to raise more than $500,000,000, perhaps through excise taxes.

Liberty League Hits at Share-Wealth Schemes

AMERICAN LIBERTY LEAGUE has issued a document concerning plans for sharing the national wealth, calling them "not only impractical but utterly impossible." Reminding that wealth is not money, but land, buildings, industry, railways, raw materials, manufactured goods and metals, the league said the most feasible method of dividing it equally among all the people would be for the government to issue securities against all property, and then to take over its management.

Actual division of wealth might "give a city apartment dweller an unwelcome pig or sheep," the statement added, while the farmer might receive an equally unwelcome piece of urban property. Division also would destroy wealth, the league argued, because separate units of income-producing wealth "would have no value."

Michigan Party Chief Convicted of Fraud

ELMER B. O'HARA, Democratic state chairman of Michigan and former clerk of Wayne county, which includes Detroit; State Senator A. J. Wilkowski and 16 others of lesser prominence were convicted in Detroit of having attempted to steal the 1934 election. Eight defendants in the recount case, which had been on trial for nearly 12 weeks, were acquitted. Two other defendants previously had pleaded guilty, thus bringing to 20 the number facing sentence for their part in the vote recount conspiracy.

Elmer B. O'Hara

For O'Hara, the verdict came as the culmination of a series of calamities in a brief political career. Last November a jury in Macomb county, adjacent to Wayne, found him guilty of bribery in a drainage transaction in connection with real estate deals he had made before 1932 when he entered politics and was elected Wayne county clerk. He awaits sentence under that conviction. After conviction he was removed from office.

In the recount case O'Hara was found guilty on three counts, permitting others to alter ballots, conspiring to permit others to alter ballots, and conspiring to permit others to conduct the recount in an unlawful manner and change the result of the November, 1934, election.

Rigid Policy Announced on FHA Mortgages

HOUSEHOLDERS defaulting on government-guaranteed renovation and mortgage notes will be no more gently treated by the Federal Housing administration than are tax delinquents by the Treasury department. Stewart McDonald, FHA administrator, says there has been a general misunderstanding of this matter, and so he enunciates this policy:

"When a borrower under the modernization credit plan defaults on a loan, the lending institution files claim with the housing administration for the insurance on the loan. The matter of collecting the defaulted obligation then is turned over to the Federal Housing administration.

"In such cases it will be the policy of the Federal Housing administration to be just as rigid as the Treasury department in the collection of taxes. The collection machinery is well organized and, while every reasonable consideration will be given to borrowers in default, the public must not get the impression that the housing administration will be lax in performing its duty.

"There is no reason to assume that borrowers in default will be treated like tax evaders, but rather along the same lines as an individual who is in default of tax payments."

Relief Given Industrial and Farming States

INDUSTRIAL states, such as Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, although they pay most of the internal revenue taxes, receive much less of federal relief largesse than such agricultural states as North and South Dakota, Mississippi, Alabama, New Mexico, Arkansas and Arizona. This was pointed out in a statement released by the Illinois Manufacturers' association which compares the internal revenue collections of the various states with the amount each state received in relief funds for year ending June 30, 1935.

Illinois collected $323,138,933 and received in federal relief grants only $113,185,365 or 35 per cent of what it sent to the United States treasury.

New York collected $672,473,493 and got back $262,868,658 or 39 per cent of what it sent to the United States treasury.

Pennsylvania and Ohio did somewhat better. Pennsylvania collected $244,355,727 and received in relief funds $173,151,832 or 71 per cent. Ohio collected $164,079,273 and received $107,702,953 or 66 per cent.

South Dakota received $27,565,643 and collected only $1,540,795. In other words, South Dakota got back from the United States government nearly eighteen times the amount paid in internal revenue.

North Dakota got approximately $25 for each $1.75 paid in taxes, receiving $25,087,327 and collecting only $1,748,657.

Mississippi received $18,745,41[illegible] in relief funds or nearly seven and one-half times the amount collected in internal revenues.

Senator Borah Formally Enters Nomination Race

WILLIAM E. BORAH, the liberal Republican senator from Idaho, is now a full fledged candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination. He formally put himself in the running by announcing that he would enter the primary in Ohio which will be held May 12. That state requires that the candidate shall declare himself in writing, and this Mr. Borah said he would do.

Senator Borah

The senator's statement follows:

"After a thorough survey of the Ohio situation I am convinced that the people of that state should be given an opportunity to express their choice in the Presidential primary on May 12. Under the so-called 'favorite son' plan this privilege is denied them.

"To obtain an expression of popular will it is my intention to place at least eight candidates or delegates at large in the field.

"I shall make a number of speeches in Ohio and present the issues as I see them."

Mrs. Huey Long Takes Husband's Senate Seat

MRS. HUEY P. LONG, widow of the slain senator from Louisiana, took her seat in the senate to complete Huey's unfinished term, becoming the second woman member of the upper house. After eleven months she will be succeeded by Allen Allender, speaker of the Louisiana house of representatives, who was nominated for the regular term.

Mrs. Long, middle aged and comely, said:

"In my mind I have a hazy idea about the things I want to do, but I am not yet ready to announce them. I want to take my seat in the senate and get right to work—I'll need a lot of luck."

Vandenberg Doubts Value of Florida Canal

SENATOR VANDENBERG of Michigan has grave doubts of the economic necessity or value of the ship canal that is being dug across central Florida, and offered in the senate commerce committee a resolution for investigation by a special committee. In support of his move he produced letters from eleven companies operating steamships saying they would not use the canal even if no tolls were charged. They asserted the expense of employing canal pilots added to the risk of damage to ships would offset saving in navigation costs.

Work was started some time ago on the canal, which, if completed, will cost between $140,000,000 and $200,000,000.

Great Britain Rushes Rearmament Program

IF THERE must be another war in Europe, Great Britain proposes to be in readiness. The government is hurrying up its rearmament program, which will be financed by a loan of probably about $2,000,000,000. Plans for the expansion and modernization of the army, navy and air force will be submitted to parliament early in March, and it is said will include mechanization of the entire army. Impetus to the work was given by the latest statement attributed to Mussolini that the Italo-Ethiopian war "may yet be a world-wide disaster."

There were indications that Il Duce was looking more favorably on suggestions for peace, and so some observers predicted that the extension of sanctions against Italy would be delayed. The Italian armies in Ethiopia, however, were continuing their activities, one of their latest exploits being an attack on Dessye by seven planes. For an hour high explosive bombs were rained on that town, which is the field headquarters of Haile Selassie.

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Lundy Island Given Its Name by Cruel Vikings

Lundy island, a tiny speck, three and one-half miles long by one-half mile wide, in the Bristol channel, 12 miles off the coast of Devon, has no traditions handed down by word of mouth as might be expected of a place inhabited from prehistoric times, since no population until recently had been able to maintain itself more than a few generations before being violently superseded by another. The remains of bases of round towers similar to the archeological enigmas in Ireland are reminders of an early Celtic habitation. The name Lundy, meaninng Puffin island in the Norse language, was given it by the Vikings who used it as a base for their sea raids.

After the Norman Conquest it fell to the Marisco family, a younger branch of the Plantagenets, who maintained themselves there for some two centuries in a huge stone castle with walls nine feet thick, a considerable part of which is standing, and which on its high headland location is visible for miles around. The Mariscos were a troublesome lot and twice were ordered off and the island given to the Knights Templar, but neither time did the Knights actually obtain possession. Several members of the family were plain pirates. One was hanged for participation in a plot to assassinate Henry III, and the last of the line was beheaded for being on the wrong side in the Barons' war which resulted in the deposing of Edward II.

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