

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington. — When President Roosevelt took office for his first term, one of the outstanding observations that he made was to the effect that the American people "feared fear" and of this condition was born instability. It was a remarkable statement and the truth of it may not now even be denied. It accurately presented one of the fundamental influences disturbing American life and if that psychology could have been completely swept away, I believe things would have been different now.

As I remember, I commented at that time upon the new President's remark. Subsequently, I called attention to the conditions of administration policy under the New Deal that were necessarily causing a continuation of that "fear of fear" instead of calming the nation's nerves.

As Mr. Roosevelt closes his first term and begins his second tenure, I believe it is entirely proper again to advert to his significant and truthful observation of 1933. We can look at this picture only in retrospect, regrettable as it is that we cannot see into the future. It would then seem to be an entirely permissible thing to do to examine the basis of Mr. Roosevelt's observation and see what has been done to correct the condition about which he complained.

I shall not attempt to go into the various phases of the four-year term. Indeed, I think it is neither advisable nor necessary to analyze conditions beyond those that are basic, fundamental, in our national economic and political structure.

For that reason, and because of recent developments of administrative policy, I am writing something about money in this report to you.

The Scripture quotation is: "The love of money is the root of all evil." In treating of the subject of money from our practical standpoint, "the love of money" takes on quite an unusual definition. For, may I point out in candor, there never has been a national administration, so far as my research goes, that has so thoroughly loved the spending of money. I believe Mr. Roosevelt himself enjoys it but Mr. Roosevelt is not the chief offender of his administration in this regard. The two men whose records stand out with an absurd willingness to throw money around as I used to throw pebbles when I was a boy on a Missouri farm are Harry Hopkins, Works Progress administrator, and Secretary Wallace, of the Department of Agriculture. I am quite convinced that Mr. Hopkins is the worse of the two. My conclusion is based on a conviction that Mr. Hopkins is the more wasteful. I am afraid that when the history of this great depression is set down in the cold light of facts as they will appear a quarter of a century from now, Mr. Hopkins will have a place in that spotlight that will not do credit to the hundreds of people who have the real welfare of the poor at heart.

The latest development concerning Mr. Hopkins in his public statement that there must be at least three-quarters of a billion new money appropriated for his relief work.

President Roosevelt previously had said he would ask congress for only half a billion. It is difficult to reconcile these two statements or the reasons therefor. Some slipshod thing has taken place or else Mr. Hopkins again is indulging in his favorite sport of spending and wasting taxpayers' money.

Now, the figures reveal that relief operations, as managed by Mr. Hopkins, are costing about \$165,000,000 a month. If Mr. Roosevelt intends to use only \$500,000,000 for relief, curtailment in sharp fashion must take place. If no such curtailment is intended, even the Hopkins figure is too small.

Thus, we are brought face to face again with a question: What is to be the policy? I hear more and more discussion as congress gets under way that some definite statement ought to be made, some commitment given, so that the nation would know what it is proposed to do with all of this money and how much of it is to be used.

Incidentally, Mr. Roosevelt recently spoke rather curtly to some of his departmental heads about their printing bills. He thought they were too large and that money should be saved in that direction. Now, it happens governmental printing bills amount to no more than a drop in the bucket when compared to the waste that goes on in the enormous relief set-up of which Mr. Hopkins is the head. It has been shown too many times to need elaboration here.

Since Mr. Roosevelt has taken note of the departmental printing bills, however, I would like to make the suggestion that there is no valid reason any longer for excluding relief appropriations from the regular estimates of expenditures as included in the annual budget. Like many other items, the relief totals

may have to be revised later, but that does not excuse the rather careless practices that have grown up in the calculation of relief expenditures. It does not exclude the necessity for a real protection against heedless spending nor does it prevent the formulation of intelligent policies.

Individually, I do not quite understand why the administration should fuss about a few millions of printing bills and toss out half a billion or three-quarters of a billion, as the case may be, with reckless abandon when such tossing is done without any evident continuity of sound policy.

I referred to Secretary Wallace's spending proclivities. Mr. Wallace has been going about the country lately talking of the necessity for

Wallace Talks Money
soil conservation and the payment of a subsidy to farmers to accomplish that end. He has been talking about money in sums as large as a billion dollars a year for crop insurance—a program in furtherance of Mr. Wallace's "ever normal granary" idea.

In theory, there is much to be said in favor of spreading unpredictable losses of farming through insurance. A large part of the distress found in agricultural regions is due to the destruction of crops by causes over which the farmers have no control. If the consequences of these hazards could be minimized by adjusting losses over wide areas, and by using the surplus of one year to offset the shortage of the next, one major farm problem would be solved. But, as matters now stand, there is a natural tendency to regard this move with a skeptical eye. This is necessary because, like so many theories, the Wallace crop insurance, ever normal granary plan seems to omit the one element that is necessary to be included. If this proposition is to be successful, there simply can be no doubt that it must have almost unanimous support. It does not have it and never will. The reason is that it calls upon the government to pay part or all of the cost and human nature inevitably resents taking from one to give to another.

Mr. Wallace's ideas were adopted by the President's crop insurance committee. That committee was supposed to have the interest of agriculture at heart. Its recommendations indicate that it had not only such an interest but an even greater interest, namely, making sure that the farmers were given everything. From all of the discussions that I have heard, I believe it is quite apparent that the committee went too far. It went so far, indeed, that it is arousing resentment from the consumers who think that they will have to pay the bill. Therefore, by proposing a program that is too extreme, the crop insurance committee and Mr. Wallace have forced a cleavage between producer and consumer and that is likely to result in a renewal of warfare between these two segments of our national life. It will cause a revival of an age-old quarrel instead of a healing of old wounds.

No one can deny that the farmers, as a class, have not been getting their fair share. From the attitude of many thinking farmers, however, I rather believe that agriculture would prefer to have a farm aid program which would permit it to produce and sell to the consumers under harmonious conditions and regulations rather than get too much and earn the hatred of the masses who are to buy the farmers' output.

To advert to the original theme, Mr. Wallace likes to pass out money. He knows, as all others in public life know, that the government will be generous with agriculture and I am afraid that fact has caused the otherwise genial secretary of agriculture to lose his perspective—to forget that he is fostering a program that will change traditions and practices on the farms of America as surely as the sun shines.

Farmers are human as everyone else is human. Some of them, like some of us, who must exist among modern cliff dwellings of concrete and steel, entertain a fear that a policy of government payments equivalent to a dole, may have the effect in the end of destroying rather than saving the business of agriculture.

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Our Early Watches
The first watches were produced in all sorts of fanciful designs, with cases shaped like crosses or shells or mandolins, says a writer in the Washington Star. A peculiar fashion was that of a watch-case shaped like a skull, to remind the owner when he looked at it that time was fleeting and death was drawing near. The lovely and unlucky Mary Queen of Scots had a skull-shaped watch, and in view of her death on the headsman's block it was gruesomely appropriate. Cavaliers had swords and poniards with little watches set into the hilts.

OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

Redmond—Although all other WPA work has been discontinued in Central Oregon, a crew of about a dozen men are still at work on the Redmond airport. The project will be kept active until the airport has been made safe for use.

Penitton—A. D. Molohon, executive under the Taylor grazing act, will be one of the chief speakers at the annual convention of the Oregon Woolgrowers association at Oatfield January 12 and 13. W. A. Holt, Penitton, secretary, announced Monday morning.

Nehalem—Mrs. Marian Rich found a baby skunk feeding with her male house cat the other day and since then the two have become inseparable companions. Although Mrs. Rich admits she doesn't like the newcomer, the friendship appears permanent. The cat and skunk go forth on a stroll each night.

Newport—Carl W. Mays, ex-big league baseball pitcher, will develop a sportsmen's resort on the Corvallis-Waldport highway along the Alsea river, where Steelhead fishing is excellent. A 140-acre farm purchased from Dick Evans, spanning the river, will be improved immediately. A lodge costing \$20,000 will be constructed, and boats, launches and equipment will be added. Cabins and accommodations will be available in a few weeks.

Salem—More than 18,000 acres of burned over timber lands in Coos and Curry counties have now been reseeded to forage grasses, according to W. A. Hazelwood, airplane pilot in charge of the reseeded operations. Seeding of the area, which is done from a plane, is costing the farmers of the area only 20 cents an acre in addition to the cost of the seed. The plane from which the reseeded is being done was purchased by the farmers and is being paid for out of the 20-cent-per-acre cost.

Astoria—Fish packing has continued in light quantities throughout the fall and winter here for the first time in several years. River Silvers and Steelhead are now being processed. What salmon are caught pass on to the fresh fish market, where they command a high price. Considerable part-time employment has been provided for cannery workers in handling of winter fish. Generally canneries close late in the fall after the last of ocean troll Silversides have been milled-cured and canned.

Grants Pass—Dr. Samuel B. Osgood of Portland assumed his duties this week at head of the new Josephine county health unit, recently approved for 1937 by the county court. Doctor Osgood was appointed upon the recommendation of Dr. Frederick D. Stricker, state health officer. He was in Grants Pass last week conferring with the court members and officials of the local Red Cross chapter, prior to taking over the work on January 1. Doctor Osgood recently studied in the University of California public health administration department, and was previously at the University of Oregon Medical school in Portland, where he taught bio-chemistry for five years.

FERN PROFITS HELP
Tillamook—Unemployed persons in this county, augmented by some from valley points, are taking advantage of the market offered for ferns. Considerable demand for these occurred before Christmas and it is hoped by the gatherers that it will continue until spring. During the Christmas trade, gatherers were paid 4 cents for a bunch of 49 sword ferns. Some were shipped to Portland and some went to eastern markets.

Gatherers have been exceptionally busy in the vicinity of Lake Lytle, Rockaway, Garabaldi and along the Miami river.

LONG RECORD NOTED
Salem—Surviving seven complete changes of administration, Dr. Robert E. Lee Steiner this week began his 30th year as the head of one of the largest and most important of the state's institutions—the state hospital for the insane which now houses nearly 2500 patients. Dr. Steiner did not celebrate the event, but in political history the reappointment by nine governors was considered unusual.

When Steiner became head of the institution in 1907 he set as his goal "the better care of the insane." Since that time he has changed the functions from one of custodial for the insane to one of treatment and cure.

Coquille—Tax collections for 1936 in Coos county now exceed 1936 budget estimates by 3 per cent., officials report.
Bend—Bend on July 1, start of the postal service fiscal year, will become Oregon's 11th first-class post-office, it was announced this week when receipts from sales of stamps mounted well above the \$45,000 mark for the year. Heavy Christmas business, with more than 19,000 letters canceled here in one day, boosted Bend into the first-class rating.

Skiing Draws Winter Visitors to Lake Placid



A group who are enjoying the popular winter sport at Lake Placid, N. Y. Left to right: Miss Edith L. Jauschek of Peiping, China; Miss Nancy Page Carveth of Niagara Falls, N. Y.; Dorothy Trumbidge of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Jean Stanhope of New York city; Victoria Nebeker of Los Angeles; Nancy Perkins of Baltimore; and Marie Carveth of Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Big Demand for Windsor Souvenirs



Professor Steinberger is seen at work in his London studio on statuettes of the duke of Windsor, for which there is now a tremendous demand. Thousands of such statuettes had been made for Edward's coronation, and when he abdicated London business men groaned in anticipation of writing off terrific losses on stock that they could not sell. Instead of diminishing, the demand for the Edward figures has increased.

HELPS UNEMPLOYED



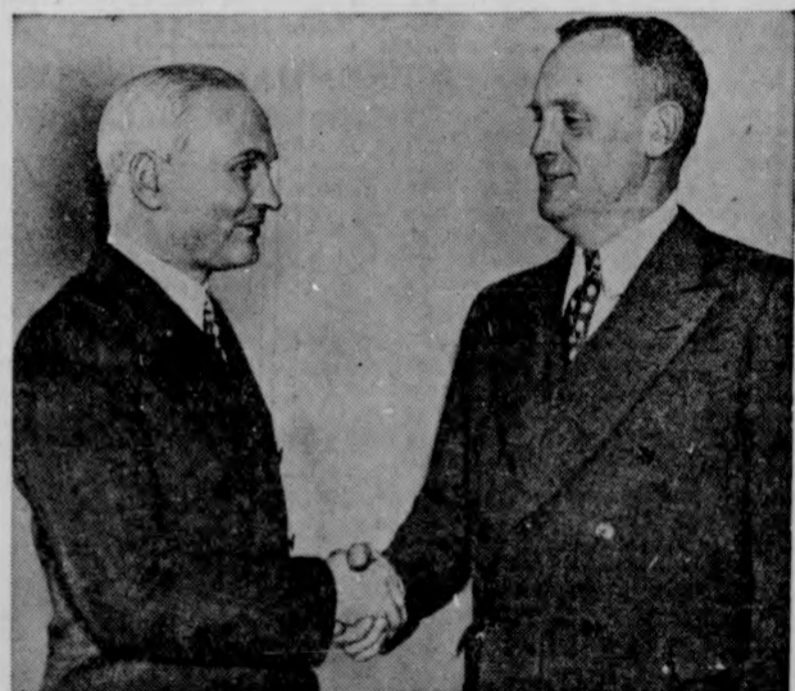
Baron Nuffield, who is Sir William Morris, head of a vast manufacturing organization including automobile plants, export companies, a publishing house and affiliated subsidiaries, donated \$10,000,000 to stimulate employment in Great Britain's "depressed areas."

EX-PRIVATE IS GENERAL



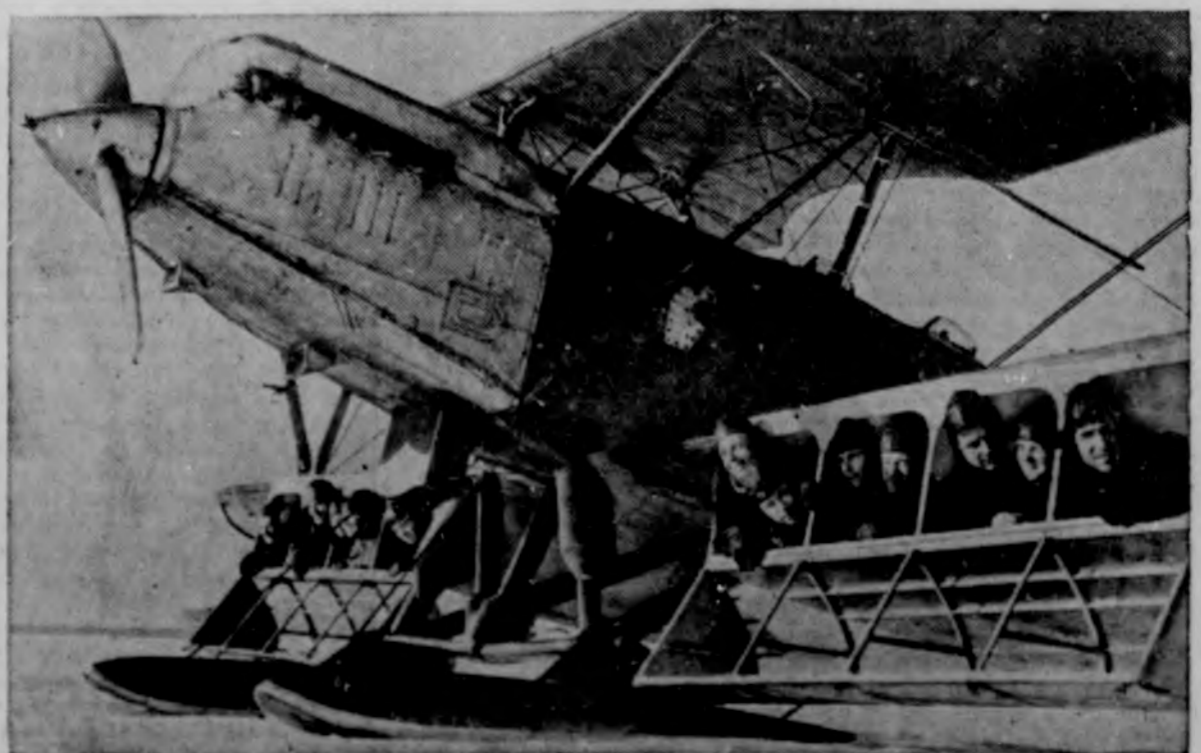
Once a soldier, always a soldier, is an old army belief, but once a private, a general, is a paraphrase that fits Brigadier-General Kenyon Joyce, whose new rank was announced recently by President Roosevelt. General Joyce, once a ranker, now commands the "President's Own" third cavalry troop at Fort Myer, Va. During the World War he won the D. S. C., Order of the Purple Heart, Croix de Guerre and the French Legion of Honor.

Bernie Bierman Made Coaches' Prexy



Bernie Bierman, left, of Minnesota, new president of the National Football Coaches' association, is greeted, and welcomed to his post by Tuss McLaughrey, of Brown, the "passing" president. Bernie was elected at the annual convention of the coaches in New York city recently.

Trick Accommodations on New Soviet Plane



An interesting photo, showing the arrangement of accommodations in the new Soviet army two-seater plane. Berths are arranged below the wings as shown. In recent tests, 16 persons were carried in this manner, including pilot and co-pilot.