

# DIGNITY PREVAILS WHEN NAVY EYES BIDS ON VESSELS

### Noon Stroke of Clock Signals Opening of Offers— Crowd Attends Seeking Small Supply Orders

WASHINGTON.—Have you ever seen people bid on \$200,000,000 worth of battleships?

The conclusion of this first stage of the drama by which the United States steps out to become the master of her share of the waves is calm, precise, dignified.

Back of it lies an agony of preparation, thousands of blue prints drafted and re-drafted, discussions in ship yards, financial houses, in the White House, in technical quarters in the navy, and in committees of the house and senate.

When all this is finished, months later a group of the nation's foremost madogs cluster around the desk of Secretary Swanson of the navy. His office is in one of the rattiest buildings in Washington, a concrete labyrinth slung together during the World war to house a swilling navy. When street buses pass, it quivers like a chicken coop.

However, an acceptable office has

been set up for the secretary on the second floor, roomy but far plainer than the quarters of doormen in the newest governmental castles along Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues.

The bids will be opened at "high noon," says the announcement. An hour before the door to the secretary's office is opened, the hallway outside is jammed with men. Some are hard-bitten shipyard operators. Many are small operators hopeful of an order of insulation or a few rugs for the officers' quarters on the ships. As the main door opens the crowd rushes forward. A marine stops them. He lets in a few at a time to seek places in orderly fashion about the room. Nearly a hundred men, a woman or two as well, stride into the room. There is a momentary pause, a shuffling of papers as late arriving officials receive copies of this and that.

Back at Swanson's desk is a huge brass clock of seagoing design, but it is an old grandfather's clock in the center of the room that starts off the party.

"Ding," it begins, with the first beat of 12 patient strokes to signal that "high noon" has arrived.

The navy is prompt. At the instant of the first "ding" Admiral DuBois, naval chief of construction, is on his feet. The secretary, formerly senator from Virginia, has little part in the final ceremony. The sea fighters take the wheel. They are a trim lot. Seven of ten high rankers in the navy have blue eyes. Must be the viking strain. At 60, Admiral DuBois (blue eyes) is white haired, erect as a picket pin.

Talk in Millions

Briefly he explains the terms of the bidding, then opens the first bid. Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation

offers to build one ship for \$52,145,000. New York Shipbuilding corporation will do it for \$54,704,000. Newport News Shipbuilding comes somewhere between with a bid on slightly different terms.

The navy wants three built in private yards. It will put another together in its own yards. Likely each private yard will get a contract for a ship, after some conference on prices.

When the private yards are finished with their part of the shipbuilding—which includes building the hull and stuffing it with machinery, the navy must take them over and load them with \$20,000,000 more of guns, armor and fighting gear.

When finished, each ship will cost \$70,000,000, maybe more. And like our present battleships, they may never fire a shot at an enemy in battle.

More Movies for Warships

LONDON.—(UP)—The Admiralty has placed an order for the installation of talkie apparatus in 150 ships and shore stations. A company operated by the admiralty will see to the program. About 10,000 films a year will be shown.

Big Day for Grandfather

BRECKENRIDGE, Tex.—(UP)—W. H. Vick, Stephens county farmer, became a grandfather twice in one day, and the grandsons were not twins. His son, Floyd, was father of a 7½-pound boy. Another son, John, was father of a 6-pound boy.

Smiths, Then Thompsons

BERLIN, O.—(UP)—Twenty-six Smiths—a whole alphabet, from Andrew through Xoura—are listed in the "Pusser's Guide," the student directory here. The second ranking name is not Jones or Brown—but Thompson, with 11 Thompsons listed.

# MODERNISTIC HOME CALLED DWELLING MADE TO MEASURE

### Modern Architect Stresses Needs of Family in Designing Houses— Uses Curved Lines to Get Sun

AP Feature Service

NEW YORK.—William Lescaze can get pretty impatient when people think that glass-brick walls, tressed into a house plan for decoration, make the house "modern."

He says there's much more to modernism than that, and he should know. He's been pioneering modern-

istic architecture since 1929. His own New York home was the first modernistic home in the city.

He practically had to build it, he says, because people had such confused ideas about modern architecture. He put up the "sample" in 1934.

Any Old Monday

There were times when his first home seemed a mistake. It caused such a rumpus that the Lescazes, husband and wife, had about as much privacy as a traffic cop.

But they were sweetly reasonable. They invited the curious to come back any Monday—and they themselves got out on Mondays. They left a man servant to conduct visitors on tours of their much-discussed home.

The house shows the way Lescaze thinks, and explains his other buildings. When he starts a plan he asks himself, "What kind of people will live here?"

The old-fashioned architect, he says, would ask a client, "What style house do you want?" And if they say Dutch colonial that's what they get whether it had the kind of rooms they needed or not.

Brownstone Transformed

Here's how Lescaze goes about it.

For his house he had one of those dreary old brownstone houses in the heart of New York to start with.

He went after that dreary brownstone. Cleaned out the interior walls on the fourth (top) floor and made a large living room away from the traffic noises. Built the back wall of the master bedroom (third floor, back) in a flattened "S" shape, and put a four-foot-wide curved window the length of the wall. That lets in maximum sunlight. Lescaze's study juts out in back on the ground floor. It has a glass-brick ceiling that provides diffused, bright sunlight, good for reading. Its roof provides a sun deck.

Modern architecture, he contends, says, "Yes" to life. The Philadelphia bank he designed is an example. Banks generally look like stone fortresses. Not Lescaze's building. That's almost all glass. He convinced his clients that stones can't protect a bank half so well as visibility. If the bank were held up passersby could see and give the alarm.

The Sun and Wind

Again: Lescaze was one of the ten architects who designed Williamsburg, the huge New York housing project that covers 12 blocks. The

buildings were to be built parallel to the sidewalks, like little blocks on a big block.

But Lescaze conferred with the weather man and found that the sun shone and wind blew slantwise across that part of town. "So," demanded Lescaze, "why can't we put the buildings slantwise so they'll catch all the sun, and all the summer breezes possible?" It was done that way.

Lescaze tells people who can afford only small houses that modern architecture is a perfect answer for them.

He says modern architecture asks, "What kind of rooms do you need for the things you do at home?" That way you're less likely to have a library thrown in it when you never buy books.

Lock Defies "Jimmyming"

TORONTO, Ont.—(UP)—A gadget for measuring heads and a lock that cannot be picked or "jimmied" were two of the inventions exhibited at the International Police Congress here. The pick-proof lock was invented by a policeman.

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