

Hoover Commission Urges Shrinkage of U.S. 'Realty Empire'

Washington—(U.P.)—The Hoover Commission recommended today that the federal government shrink its "vast realty empire" and run it more efficiently to save the taxpayers \$185,000,000 a year.

In addition to that annual saving it might be possible, the commission said, to return \$1,225,000,000 to the treasury "through disposal of plants and other properties which might be determined to be surplus if all occupied space were fully and efficiently utilized."

In a report to Congress on real property management the commission found that the government:

400,000 Properties Owned

1. Owns 400,000 properties, buildings, and facilities controlled by 27 different agencies and representing 2,475,000,000 square feet of floor space—"the equivalent of 1250 Empire State buildings."

2. Uses 370,000 federal employees to operate and manage these holdings under a "decentralized and wasteful system."

3. Has \$40,800,000,000 tied up in original acquisition and construction costs. The Defense Department alone has \$21,400,000,000 worth of "working space."

The report recommended that the Budget Bureau be "staffed and strengthened to carry out its full function" of coordinating agencies and advising the President on management within the executive branch.

The commission, headed by former President Herbert Hoover, was set up to look into all activities of the executive branch and recommend better and cheaper ways of doing them. It concluded in today's report that there is "little in the nature of modern property management in the government."

No Central Agency

Since no one agency is charged with overall real property management, the report said, "new property is acquired without consideration" of what may already be available in the government.

The commission's real estate report was prepared by a task force, headed by John R. Lotz, former board chairman of the Stone & Webster Engineering Corp. of New York, which urged that management control of federal holdings be largely central-

ized in the General Services Administration.

The GSA, it said, should conduct a comprehensive and continuing inventory to keep track of service and maintenance costs, condition, type and extent of occupancy of all these buildings. Funds should be appropriated directly to GSA for this purpose.

Soldier Speared By Javelin Thrower

Kentville, N. S.—(U.P.)—Doctors battled today to save the life of a Canadian soldier who was drilled through the breast bone to within a hair's breadth of his heart by a six-foot javelin.

Pvt. James Strickland, 24, of Mill Cove, Nfld., was speared Saturday afternoon as he walked across the sports field at the nearby Aldershot military camp, base of the Blackwatch Highland regiment.

A soldier shouted to Strickland who turned around and a javelin hurled by another soldier accidentally struck him in the chest.

Before Strickland could be moved to hospital medical orderlies sawed four feet of the steel-pointed javelin off. Two civilian surgeons removed the rest in a delicate operation.

Dr. Vernon D. Schaffner said the steel point stopped just on the lining of the pericardium of the soldier's heart.

"It's a miracle he is still alive," Schaffner said. "The javelin entered the sternum and did everything except actually pierce the heart." The victim was reported making progress.

Walter Hampden Rites To Be Held In New York

Hollywood—(U.P.)—The ashes of Walter Hampden, well-known Shakespearean actor who died Saturday in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, will be shipped to New York with no funeral services here.

Hampden suffered a stroke last Thursday while riding in a taxicab to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios where he had started work in the film "Diane," starring Lana Turner.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday

German Airline Grants Cause Stir By U. S. Officials

Washington—(U.P.)—Administration officials denied today the charges of some U. S. airline officials that American negotiators went overboard in granting air routes to West Germany in a still-secret international agreement.

The agreement was scheduled to be signed Saturday, but has been held up for possible modification because of sharp protests from some segments of the domestic airline industry.

Airline Rights

According to industry sources, the agreement as originally negotiated would have given the West German airline Lufthansa rights to fly from Germany to New York, Boston and Philadelphia; from Germany to Chicago via Montreal; from New York to South America; from New York to the Caribbean; and from Germany over the Arctic to San Francisco and Los Angeles.

It was the Caribbean route, on which Lufthansa would compete with several domestic airlines for passenger traffic originating in this country, that appeared to be the chief cause of complaints.

One airline trade association spokesman, who declined use of his name, told reporters that the State department, in negotiating the agreement actually gave West Germans "much more" than they requested. He suggested that U. S. diplomats had "gone overboard" in an effort to please West Germany, which is currently being wooed by Russia.

U. S. Rights Said Ignored

Government officials, who similarly refused to be quoted by name, said the industry complaints of a "giveaway" ignored valuable rights which American carriers would receive from West Germany under the agreement. While these have not been officially disclosed, it is known that both Pan American and Trans World airlines have extensive routes to and through West Germany, and have been seeking still others.

Born June 30, 1879, in Brooklyn, N. Y., Hampden was famed for his portrayals of Hamlet and Cyrano De Bergerac. His recent films included, "All About Eve," "Sabrina," and "Sombbrero."

French Automobile Race Will Continue Despite Disaster

Le Mans, France—(U.P.)—The greatest disaster in automotive history will not stop the jinxed 24-hour "endurance" race of Le Mans, its sponsors declared today.

Death failed to flag down the racers in France's motor classic Saturday when a trackside tragedy killed 78 persons. The race ground on until Sunday when an ashen-faced Briton won and said he was sorry he had.

There still were 77 persons in hospitals today, some of them not expected to survive injuries suffered when a Mercedes-Benz racer plunged into the crowd.

But the automobile club which sponsors the annual "Prix D'Endurance" Prize of Endurance said there will be no halt to the annual affair.

Mostly Spectators

The dead were mostly spectators who were cut down in a terror-filled Saturday afternoon when the Mercedes driven by Pierre Levegh of France hit an Austin-Healey and sailed over the track, exploding in midair over the tightly bunched spectators, who had been laughing and drinking champagne while watching.

The race never stopped, but the crowd of 250,000 had been so horrified by the tragedy that only about 50,000 spectators were on hand to watch the Jaguar driven by Britain's Mike Hawthorne and Ivor Bueb win Sunday. The crowd was too stunned to cheer and Hawthorn himself said "It was the most tragic race of my life; it could have been my greatest."

Today women with tear-stained cheeks and grim-faced men waited in silence at hospitals where the moans of the injured could be heard above the quiet padding of nurses and doctors. The gay music that had filled the cafes of Le Mans had disappeared, and customers listened only to the news programs.

Reports Studied

The prosecuting attorney of Le Mans, accompanied by a magistrate, studied reports on the tragedy, but there was no announcement immediately whether an official investigation will be made.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, which authorized the race, said the United States Forest service was created Feb. 1, 1905.

Bloodhounds Pick Up Scent of Lost Man

Eugene—(U.P.)—Bloodhounds early today picked up the scent of Leo Hibbs, renewing hope that the 78-year-old Blue River man, missing since last Thursday near McKenzie pass would be found alive.

The scent was picked up at what state police believed was used as a bed by the missing man. The bed was in four feet of snow.

The hounds followed the scent southeasterly from the resting place, on a line toward North Sister. The scent was picked up at 4 a.m. Within two hours, according to Sheriff Ed Elder, the

search had been resumed "in earnest." Hibbs was last seen about noon Thursday by Arnold Allen of Springfield. He had gone to a lake to fish.

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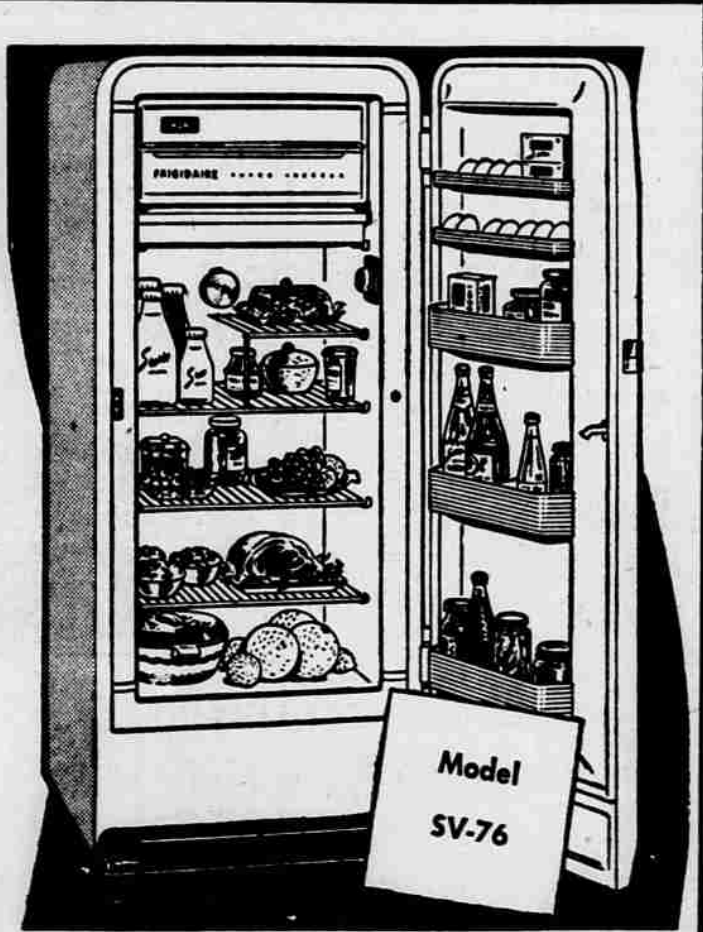
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