

Kennedy's Plugging For Envoys

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unless President-elect John F. Kennedy can convince Congress that American ambassadors need more expense money, he'll have to fill some top diplomatic posts from the ranks of the wealthy.

Kennedy started a move in the direction of more expense money last week when he had an amicable discussion of the problem at Palm Beach with Rep. John Rooney, D-N.Y. Rooney has referred to ambassadorial entertainment funds as "booze allowances." As chairman of a House Appropriations subcommittee Rooney has fought for years against increasing them.

Rooney reported that the president-elect's father, Joseph Kennedy, felt obliged to spend about \$100,000 a year of his own money while he was ambassador to Great Britain. Such sums are not usually found in the bank accounts of career diplomats of the type Kennedy reportedly wants to send to some of the most important—and expensive—foreign capitals.

Nobody denies that the country has had a number of outstanding amateur ambassadors. Among the 20 non-career appointees serving abroad today are some excellent men, State Department professionals agree.

But the present system makes it virtually impossible for a career man to accept an assignment to London, Paris, or a similar major post. Moreover the president could not send a non-career but brilliant man, such as a university professor who is an expert on international problems, to such a post unless he was also rich. Officials feel this is a dangerous limitation.

The pay of an ambassador varies from \$20,000 to \$27,500 a year, which means that an ambassador in the highest category gets more than the secretary of state, whose pay is only \$25,000 a year.

How many are in this highest category is an official secret because it varies from time to time. It is no secret, however, that the ambassadors to the United Nations, London, Paris, Rome, Bonn, Tokyo, New Delhi, Karachi, Moscow, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and some other places receive the highest possible amount.

Besides his pay, the ambassador gets two allowances. The first is the entertainment allowance. The other is the house allowance for the upkeep of his residence.

The State Department prefers not to talk about the entertainment allowance. Some suggest the reason for secrecy is that the department is ashamed of how little it is.

It is generally known that ambassadors at major posts get \$6,000 a year for entertaining and a house allowance ranging from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year. The yearly \$6,000, put at their disposal at the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, usually lasts for four days. After the traditional July 4th parties at the embassies, nothing is left for the rest of the year.

Therefore, it has been necessary to appoint rich men to certain posts. If the department was lucky it got a rich man like Douglas Dillon, now undersecretary of state and Kennedy's Treasury secretary-designate. Dillon started his public career as ambassador to France.

How much these rich men spend from their own money is their business and anybody's guess; the State Department has no way of knowing.

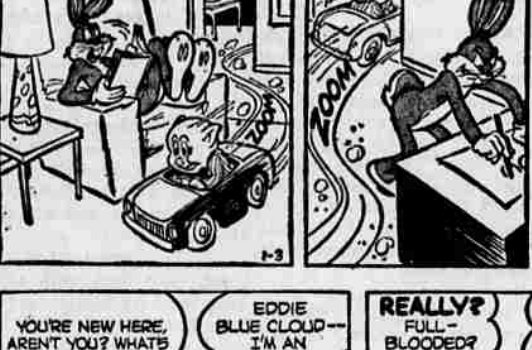
James Reston, Washington bureau chief of the New York Times, wrote recently that James D. Zellerbach, President Eisenhower's envoy to Rome, spent \$55,000 a year above his salary and allowances, and John Hay Whitney, the ambassador to London, over \$100,000.

The embassies themselves get a certain amount for entertainment, to be divided among diplomats who have to wine and dine in the capitals in which they are stationed. The embassy in London, for instance, is understood to get \$29,000 a year for such purposes, of which \$6,000 goes to the ambassador himself.

The remaining \$23,000 is divided among diplomats based in London, Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and Southampton, which leaves hardly enough for a modest dinner a year for a press attaché.

While British diplomats may get less in pay than their American colleagues, their entertainment allowances are known to be far higher. The British ambassador to Washington is rumored to get 10 times as much as his opposite number in London.

In some posts the U. S. military comes to the aid of the diplomats. In Berlin, for instance, the military picks up the tab for the State Department, which has a sizable group of diplomats there.



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SHORT BIRD
WASH TUB
FRANDY
LE. GERTY
SABOTAGE ALBERT
BUFFY BERRY
BACK TRACY
RECKLES
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GUE BOARDING BOOBY
BLONDIE
FOGHO
ALLEY OOP
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