Current Events IN REVIEW

by Edward W. Pickard

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Mellon's Aluminum Company Attacked by Uncle Sam

ANDREW MELLON, frequently the target of administration attacks, is again called on to defend his business. Attorney General Cummings announced that the Department of Justice had filed in the Federal District court in New York a suit to compel dissolution of the Aluminum Company of America—which Mellon controls—for the purpose of breaking "its monopolistic control" of the aluminum industry. By this action the government revives the Sherman anti-trust act as a legal weapon in regulating business.

Andrew Mellon

The suit named 36 officers, directors, and stockholders of the company, including Mellon. Twenty-five subsidiary and affiliated companies were named co-defendants. Other members of the Mellon family named with the former Treasury head are Paul Mellon, Richard K. Mellon, Jennie King Mellon, Sarah Mellon Scaife, David K. Bruce, son-in-law of Mellon, and Ailsa Mellon Bruce, his daughter.

Action of the company on March 1, 1937, in advancing the car-lot price of virgin ingot was cited as the most recent act of "oppressive and unreasonable price fixing" in the petition signed by Cummings and Robert H. Jackson, head of the department's anti-trust division. It is alleged that this advance was made in the face of an increase in earnings from $9,571,206 in 1935, to $20,866,936 in 1936, which amounted to an increase in common stock earnings from 55 cents to $8.65 per share.

The suit charges that the company is a monopoly in violation of the anti-trust laws and that it has power to fix arbitrary and discriminative prices. It charges the defendants with conspiracies to restrain and monopolize, attempts to monopolize, and monopoly in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act.

Government Employees May Not Speculate in Stocks

IN A letter addressed to H. B. Mitchell, president of the civil service commission, President Roosevelt placed a ban on speculation in securities by government officials and employees. There was no official explanation of this act, but for some time there have been rumors that some persons high up in the New Deal have been making a lot of money by speculating in the stock markets after getting tips on probable White House moves.

305,000 Unemployed Got Jobs During March

NO ONE knows how many unemployed persons there are in the country, the estimates ranging from about 9,000,000, by Secretary Perkins, to less than 3,000,000. However, according to Madame Perkins, the number was reduced by 305,000 during March. Weekly pay rolls for the period, she said, were $15,100,000 larger than during February in the manufacturing industries. She said the employment increase continued "the practically unbroken succession of increases which have been shown each month since February, 1936."

Of the 305,000 workers who obtained employment the majority found jobs in manufacturing and in retail trade. The secretary said the government had no way of knowing how many of the total had been on relief rolls.

President Intervenes to Avert New York Strike

INTERVENTION by President Roosevelt averted, for the time being at least, a strike of 25,000 freight handlers on eight railroads that threatened the food supply of New York city. The President appointed an emergency board of three members to attempt a settlement. In his proclamation he said the dispute threatened "substantially to interrupt interstate commerce within the state of New York and other states in the eastern part of the country to a degree such as to deprive that section of the country of essential transportation service."

A dispute between rival workers' unions balked efforts of the national mediation board to effect a settlement. Under the railway labor act, the President forced a postponement for at least 30 days while mediators work.

Byrd Would Consolidate Federal Housing Units

SENATOR HARRY F. BYRD of Virginia, Democrat, prepared for introduction in the senate a bill providing for the consolidation of the Home Owners' Loan corporation and the Federal Housing administration. This merger, said Mr. Byrd, would result in a saving of more than $24,000,000 a year without impairing the work of the units.

Senator Byrd is chairman of the senate committee on government reorganization and is not at all satisfied with the plan offered by President Roosevelt, believing it will not save tax money. Discussing his own scheme for merging the housing units, he said that there are 20 or more other agencies which, established and publicly justified as emergency establishments, can be consolidated, merged, or liquidated just as profitably. If the appropriate committee will allow this bill to come to the floor for full and open discussion by senators, he predicted, other bills of this nature, providing for substantial savings, are sure to follow.

Goods as Debts Payment Offered to United States

SENATOR JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS of Illinois said that several nations had offered to ship a billion dollars' worth of food supplies and manufactured products to the United States in part payment of their war debts, and that he approved their offer. The State department formally denied that such an offer had been received, but Mr. Lewis said his information was authoritative. He had a conference with the President before the latter left on his fishing trip and urged that the plan be given serious consideration. He recommended that the commodities be distributed for use by states for relief purposes, arguing that this might well facilitate the cutting down of the proposed relief appropriation of a billion and a half dollars.

Senator Nathan L. Bachman of Tennessee Dies

NATHAN L. BACHMAN, United States senator from Tennessee, died suddenly of heart disease in Washington at the age of fifty-eight years. Mr. Bachman was appointed senator in 1933 to succeed Cordell Hull who became secretary of state. He had been a consistent supporter of the Roosevelt administration policies and was especially interested in the Tennessee valley program. He is survived by his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Thomas A. McCoy of Asheville, N. C.

Franco Creates Authoritarian State in Spain

FRANCISCO FRANCO is well on the way to becoming a real dictator of the part of Spain his insurgent forces control, and of the entire country if they win the war. By decree the general has merged the two chief rightist factions under his leadership and has outlawed all other parties, thus creating a one-party authoritarian state. His decree left open the way to restoration of the monarchy in Spain "if the nation needs it," and the monarchists of the Carlist and Bourbon persuasions agreed that if this takes place, the king shall be Prince Juan, youngest son of Alfonso XIII. He is known as prince of the Asturias and is twenty-three years old.

Gen. Franco

Whether the "high seas" begin three or six miles from the coast line is a matter of dispute between the British government and General Franco. A number of British ships ran the blockade into Bilbao harbor with food and coal, and in most cases they were escorted to the three mile limit by British warships. The insurgent guard ships threatened to fire on the blockade runners within the six mile limit and were warned not to do so by British representatives. Protests were made by both sides.

Windsor Gets Apology for a Slanderous Book

EDWARD, duke of Windsor, was thoroughly enraged by many things about him and Mrs. Wallis Simpson printed in "Coronation Commentary," a book written by Geoffrey Dennis and published by William Heinemann, Ltd., of London. The former king of England, through his solicitor, demanded the withdrawal of the book and the publication of a suitable apology, and the publishers gave in and complied with the demands.

At first it was said Edward's anger might lead him to marry Mrs. Simpson as soon as her divorce was made absolute; but later dispatches averred the lady had persuaded him to delay the ceremony until after the coronation of King George VI and thus avoid further criticism.

Mrs. Harriman Named as Minister to Norway

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT sent to the senate the nomination of Mrs. Florence Jaffray Harriman of Washington as minister to Norway. She is the widow of J. Borden Harriman, New York banker, and has been active in politics for a number years. Others put it higher.

Belgium Freed From Its Locarno Obligations

BELGIUM has attained the position sought in a recent move toward complete neutrality. Great Britain and France have released the little buffer state from its Locarno treaty obligations, practically abandoning that pact, and have promised full protection of Belgium against aggressors. In return Belgium promises to rearm and defend its frontiers effectively, and to observe its obligations as a member of the League of Nations.

The agreement was signed in Brussels by Paul Spaak, Belgian foreign minister; Sir Robert Clive, British ambassador, and Jules Laroche, French ambassador.

England and France also were reported as getting closer together in a co-operative plan for a united front against Mussolini's designs in the Mediterranean and for the development of an understanding with Germany. It also may result in the loosening of France's friendship with Soviet Russia, which has been irksome to Britain.

Mussolini's conference with Chancellor Schuschnigg of Austria in Venice was believed to have been mainly about Austria's relations with Germany and the Duce was reported to have told Schuschnigg that Nazi expansion toward the south was inevitable, to which the chancellor replied that Austria would resist to the limit any attempt by Germany to annex Czechoslovakia.

President Asks Economy but $1,500,000,000 for Relief

REVISING his budget estimates for the fiscal year 1938, President Roosevelt told congress in a special message that the deficit probably would amount to $418,000,000 exclusive of debt retirement payments of $400,000,000, instead of the "layman's" balanced budget he predicted in January. He recommended the appropriation of $1,500,000,000 for relief; and he demanded rigid economy to combat an anticipated drop in federal revenues amounting to $600,000,000. Mr. Roosevelt also said there must be a careful survey of the nation's tax structure, and intimated that a new tax bill would be introduced at the next session of congress.

President Roosevelt

In correcting the over-estimation of revenue and the under-estimation of expenditures, the President indicated that the national debt will rise over the 36 billion dollar mark.

Though he made no specific recommendations as to economy, the President spoke sharply about "special groups" who are exerting pressure to bring about increases in government expenditures. It was understood he referred especially to the farm tenancy program, proposing an annual expenditure of $135,000,000; the Wagner housing bill, calling for an expenditure of $50,000,000 a year, and the Harrison-Black education bill, calling for allocations among the states beginning at $100,000,000 for the first year and reaching a maximum of $300,000,000 a year.

Mr. Roosevelt had rejected these measures at a White House conference and his attitude provoked various prominent senators and representatives so much that they declared they would favor cutting down the relief appropriation he asked to one billion dollars.

In the house the economy program lost a point when Representative Vinson of Kentucky succeeded in getting through his $1,000,000 stream pollution bill.

Next the $927,000,000 Agriculture department bill came up in the house and was passed despite the efforts of Republicans to have it sent back to the committee with instructions for a blanket cut of 10 per cent. It is reported that the Democrats of both house and senate plan to put through a joint resolution at the close of the session reducing all departmental appropriations by 10 per cent.

Maine Governor Quick to Check Strike Violence

GOV. LEWIS O. BARROWS of Maine has lined up with other state executives who will not stand for riotous and illegal tactics by strikers. When an unruly mob of 1,000 men tried to storm two of nineteen factories in Auburn involved in a general shoe strike and the local authorities were unable to handle the situation, Governor Barrows ordered out eight companies of the National Guard.

"I'll order out the entire military forces of Maine, if necessary to preserve constitutional authority," the executive said.

The trouble followed a state Supreme court injunction, issued by Judge Harry Manser, outlawing the shoe strike which affects about 6,500 workers. The mob had been aroused by speeches by Powers Hapgood, New England secretary for the C. I. O., and other organizers.

Keeping "foreign agitators" out of the picture, the representatives of General Motors of Canada and of the workers at Oshawa, Ontario, reached a settlement of the strike in that plant. The company agreed to raise wages and shorten work hours, but does not recognize the United Automobile Workers of America. J. L. Cohen, Toronto attorney who represented the strikers, said the settlement reached was "eminently satisfactory."

AROUND the HOUSE — Items of Interest to the Housewife

Dust-Proofing Pictures—Has the dust got into your picture frame? It should be examined periodically and new brown paper backings should be stuck on to make it dust-proof.

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Cleaning Reed Furniture — A stiff brush dipped in furniture polish is good for cleaning reed and rattan furniture.

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Colorful Apples — If apples are put in water containing a little lemon juice a few minutes before cooking, they will keep their color.

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Oiling Household Machinery—A little oil applied when needed will keep household machinery working longer and always ready for work. You can use cooking or salad oil to lubricate small cooking equipment.

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Angel Cake — One cupful of white of eggs, one and one-quarter cupfuls of granulated sugar. One cupful of flour. One-half teaspoon cream of tartar. A pinch of salt added to whites before whipping; flavor to taste. Cook in a very slow oven. Yolks of the eggs may be used for mayonnaise.

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Date Pie—Two cups milk, half pound dates, two eggs, one-quarter teaspoon salt, nutmeg. Cook dates with milk twenty minutes in top of double boiler. Strain and rub through sieve, then add eggs and salt. Line pie plate with paste, pour in filling and bake in quick oven at first to set rim, decrease heat afterwards.

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Stuffed Celery—Prepare inner stalks of celery. Fill them with equal parts of creamed Roquefort and cream cheese, mashed till smooth with paprika, and serve side by side on a boat-shaped dish, or diced, in place of celery and cheese. Or if preferred use creamed cream cheese for the filling after flavoring it to taste with pepper, salt, paprika, chopped chives or shallots and pimiento. A touch of tomato catsup can also be added.

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The Farmer's Choice FOR RURAL HIGHWAYS

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