

STOCK MARKET QUIZ HINGES ON NEW YORKERS

More Vigorous Probe May Be Made Under New Roosevelt Regime.

BY RAY TUCKER

Times Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—With the senatorial investigation of the New York Stock Exchange dragging to a slow death, responsibility for a more vigorous prosecution under the new administration may depend upon three New York men.

They are President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose attitude undoubtedly will influence Democratic leaders in their decisions; Senator Robert F. Wagner, who may become head of the committee under Democratic control; and Ferdinand Pecora, who was named committee counsel after several others had resigned with charges that the senatorial group did not want a real inquiry.

Probe to Continue

It generally is believed the investigation will be continued by the Democrats, although the trend and extent still is undecided.

Mr. Roosevelt demanded regulation and publicity with respect to stock and bond issues during the campaign, and the committee's study of the Kreuger and Toll fiasco revealed the need of more rigid control of certain financial companies' books and audits.

The New York influence in the investigation strikes some committee members as ironic, for it originally was felt that supervision of the examination should be kept out of the hands of any one even geographically associated with Wall Street.

Bar Skilled Lawyers

For this reason the committee refused to seek the services of such skilled lawyers as Samuel Untermyer or Max Steuer, both of New York, and turned to other sections of the country for counsel.

After little success was obtained by these men in cross-examining golden figures of the Exchange, the committee finally turned to the man who headed Seabury's staff of investigators—Irving Betz Cooper.

But he resigned with the charge that chairman Peter Norbeck (Rep., N. D.) refused to give him a free hand, and when Pecora was selected, he at the time was a Tennessee assistant district attorney at New York.

It is known efforts to get the services of Untermyer or Steuer were made before Pecora was engaged, but neither man would serve.

SLAIN IN PENAL FARM

Former Chicago Gunman Is Victim of Stabbing in Texas.

By United Press

ANGLETON, Tex., Feb. 13.—Tommy Reis, former Chicago gunman serving a thirty-five year robbery sentence at the Texas prison farm near here, was stabbed seven times and killed Sunday by Clyde Thompson, a fellow convict serving a life term for murder.

Captain L. K. Kelly, manager of the farm, said he believed Reis was killed because he refused to join Thompson and others in an attempted break a few weeks ago.

The stabbing occurred as 200 convicts left the dining hall after lunch.

PAUL JARDINA IS DEAD

Native of Italy Will Be Buried Wednesday; Lived Here Since 1881.

Funeral services for Paul Jardina, 82, a native of Italy who died Sunday at his home, 619 Stevens street, will be conducted by the Rev. Marino Priori, pastor of Holy Rosary Catholic church in the home at 8:30 Wednesday, and in the church at 9. Burial will be in St. Joseph's cemetery.

Mr. Jardina was a fisherman in Italy during the early part of his life and in 1887 came to Chicago. Four years later he came here to operate a fruit business. He operated a stand on the city market for a number of years. He was a member of the Holy Rosary parish.

M'NUTT TO HEAD DRIVE

Governor Is Honorary Chairman of Legion Membership Campaign.

At a meeting of the state executive committee of the American Legion Sunday, Governor Paul V. McNutt was named honorary chairman of the second Indiana membership drive.

McNutt was unable to attend the meeting, but his secretary, Mrs. E. Greene, assured the committee he would accept leadership in the drive.

Plans for special awards for members' accomplishments were approved by the committee.

More than 4,000 members were placed on the legion's rolls by the "early bird" drive that concluded Saturday.

FREE SLUDGE OFFERED

Fertilizer for Lawns, Gardens May Be Obtained at Sewage Plant.

Sludge from the city sewage disposal plant, suitable for use as fertilizer on lawns and gardens, may be obtained free, sanitary commissioners have announced.

Trucks or wagons will be loaded without charge each day of the week except Saturday, according to the announcement. The sludge has been used with good effect by the park board in city parks and at the park nursery.

The sewage disposal plant is located half a mile south of Raymond street on Belmont avenue.

DEATH TAKES BIOLOGIST

Noted Scottish Scientist Was Believer in Theory of 'A Merry Heart.'

By United Press
LIMPSFIELD, Surrey, Eng., Feb. 13.—Sir John Arthur Thompson, 72, the Scottish biologist, died Sunday after an illness of several weeks.

Thompson believed in the slogan: "A Merry Heart Is the Life of Flesh."

The scientist advised young men to fall in love.

"There is a great tendency," he often said, "to make sex a scapegoat. The men, all employees of the John Bull mine, were taken to an Evansville hospital."

HOT CAR RING WRECKED

Master Mind of Auto Theft Gang Is Persistence Victim

This is the fifth of a series of stories, based on information from the files of the United States Bureau of Investigation and other sources, telling for the first time the Bureau's agents' part in famous mysteries.

BY LOU WEDEMAR

Times Staff Writer

IN the secret files of the United States bureau of investigation are details of a most amazing racket—traffic in stolen automobiles. More than 100,000 high-priced cars are stolen in America annually. Some disappear in New York City and are located in Florida, Texas, or California. Others never are found and probably are sold in China, the Argentine, or Europe.

The traffic costs more than \$100,000,000 a year, almost all of which is profit to the thieves, and their danger is less than that of the old-fashioned horse thief, who risked the penalty of death by hanging.

Special Agent J-8 was assigned by the bureau of investigation in September, 1930, to break up a notorious stolen-car ring which operated in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Long Island.

"They're so bold they'll be stealing police cars next," J. Edgar Hoover, the bureau director, told him.

Agent J-8 made a few inquiries, consulting, among others, the Automobile Writers' Detective Bureau, which traces stolen cars.

He found Director Hoover had not overstated the boldness of the ring.

Professional car spotters patrolled the streets, picking out new automobiles whose owners habitually left them unlocked and unguarded.

Through underworld contacts, J-8 learned that the ring apparently was under the guidance of an intelligent chief, whose identity none of the minor employees knew. One young spotter, whose confidence the agent retained, told him:

"We report to the owner's schedule, his habits, how long he stays in a place. When we get half a dozen good cars lined up, the chief engages space on a boat, telling the captain the cars are on their way in from a distant city, and will arrive just before sailing time."

"And while I'm driving my new car down Broadway the gang may be planning to ship it to Argentina, and have the transportation all arranged. Is that it?"

The spotter admitted that it was.

"A juicer racket," he boasted. "Want to get in it?"

"Let you know later," said J-8. "I have to get home for supper."

As it turned out J-8 did not join the auto theft ring. Neither did he get home to supper.

That afternoon the police department auto squad notified the bureau that it had arrested William S. Hayes, whom I described as the master mind of the auto theft ring. A newspaper man had recognized him on the street as the man who had sold him an auto that ran very nicely, but which the police had seized as stolen.

Agent J-8 hurried to headquarters and joined in the questioning of Hayes.

"Well," said Hayes, "I may as well admit it. You've got me right. I'm the big cheese and you don't need to look any further."

He refused to talk any more. But J-8 was far from convinced that Hayes was the criminal master mind he pretended to be. He was far too meek.

In a garage in Brooklyn the police found stolen automobile to which they said Hayes had the keys.

J-8 examined the car with them, but apparently all the identification numbers had been removed. The license plates had been taken from another stolen car.

The bureau of investigation has jurisdiction over stolen auto cases when the theft is planned or carried out in more than one state. So J-8 paid particular attention to interstate aspects of the stolen car, which was listed on the bureau's record as car No. 21.

After considerable search J-8 emerged from the storeroom triumphant. Car No. 21 had been put in the garage at the Creamer hotel, three months previously by Leo Berman, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

J-8 telephoned the bureau, and instituted a search of police records in all cities between Dallas and New York. Before he arrived in New York, traffic violations against Car No. 21 had been listed in Louisiana, Ohio, and New Jersey. He had proof of the car's Interstate movement.

Whether Berman was the legitimate owner of the car J-8 could not at once determine. Motor vehicle records failed to show his name. Who was Berman? That was the next question.

The agent's first act on returning to New York, however, was to complete his examination of Car No. 21. And to his delight he and the police detective who helped him found a number on the generator which only partially had been erased.

A magnifying glass showed the number to be K-7856981. With this, determination of the original owner was easy. The factory reported the car had been sold to William Soshnick, of Bay Twentieth Street, Brooklyn.

Mr. Soshnick was well pleased to see Agent J-8.

Without these numbers J-8 would be unable to trace it to its owner, and so—if the car had been stolen in another state—he might be unable to prove violation of federal laws.

But before he had completed his examination, J-8 came upon a clew that sent him half-way across the United States.

Under the back seat was a hotel room key, bearing the name of a hotel in Dallas, Texas. This J-8 thought, might be the clincher.

J-8 went home for his suitcase, but still he couldn't stop for supper. A short time later he was in Dallas.

At the Creamer hotel he sought the manager.

"I want the names of every body who has occupied Room 309 in the last few months," he said. "I want to locate the owner of a Cadillac we found in New York."

"I can help you quicker than that," said the manager. "We keep a record of cars owned by guests. Maybe you can find the license number there."

WILLIAM B. THOMAS CLAIMED BY DEATH

Executive Comes Sunday to Retired Executive of Indiana Bell Telephone.

Following an illness of one week, William B. Thomas, 62, of 76 North Layman avenue, a retired executive of the Indiana Bell Telephone Company, died Sunday in the Methodist hospital.

The Rev. Guy O. Carpenter, pastor of the Irvington Methodist church, will conduct funeral services at 2 Tuesday in the church. Burial arrangements have not been made.

Mr. Thomas had spent his entire life in telephone activities, and was connected with the old Central Union Telephone Company. He was a supervisor for the Indiana Bell Telephone Company at the time of his retirement last June.

He had been a resident of Indianapolis thirty-five years.

LEGGER SUSPECTS HELD

Follow Car, Find Fifty-Gallon Still in House, Police Claim.

Following an automobile with six barrels lashed to the running board, police were led Saturday night to 43 South Alabama street, where it is alleged preparations were being made for setting up a still.

John Dean, 60, and his son, Claude, 32, of the Alabama street address, and Walter Hudson, formerly of New Albany, were arrested when a fifty-gallon still, five sacks of corn sugar, and a bag of barley were found.

Police said the younger Dean and Hudson told them they had brought the still from New Albany, but had not begun operation.

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William S. Hayes as he appeared in court and at, photo of a trick of the auto ring—license number changed by two strokes of paint, as shown.

went to work on the identifying numerals.

"They did a poor job on the generator," said J-8.

Hayes' statement was a revelation. He told of a huge conspiracy, an organization that hired garage owners, mechanics, dealers, lawyers, doctors. Several pretty women were members.

The most interesting fact, however, was that there was a man named Berman—and he was chief of them all!

"Why did he tie himself up to that car?" J-8 asked.

"It was just a pleasure trip," said Hayes.

"Why don't you tell the truth?" J-8 asked.

"I told the truth."

"Come on. I know all about Berman."

Hayes leaped to his feet.

"What's this all about?" he demanded. "J-8 told him.

"I'm going home and get supper," said J-8 grimly.

Berman and thirty-eight others in various parts of the country were arrested in simultaneous raids.

Many received heavy sentences, pleading guilty. Berman was sentenced to the federal penitentiary at Atlanta.

NEXT: Killer Fleagle.

YOUNG ORATORS WILL DECLAIM ON PEACE

Church Groups Will Sponsor Contests in March.

Declamation contest on the subject, "The Way to Peace," will be sponsored the second week in March by the Indianapolis Federation of Churches and the Indiana Council on International Relations, it is announced.

Entrants will be drawn from young peoples groups in the various churches. Church winners will engage in district contests to be held in five churches the third week in March. Prizes will be held at the raid on the place Saturday and the arrest of Sullender and Short.

Charges of operating a blind tiger were placed against Sullender when police reported finding forty-three gallons of alcohol. Short was arrested on a charge of drunkenness when he entered the place during the raid.

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Prizes include bronze, silver and gold medals and scholarships at Butler University and Indiana Central college. Committee in charge of the contest includes Dr. David M. Edwards, executive secretary of the church council, the Rev. Wilbur D. Grose and Mrs. W. S. Lockhart.

Post Pays Visit to City

Municipal airport was visited briefly Sunday by Wiley Post, who, with Harold Gatty, flew the Winnie Mae around the world in eight days a year ago. Post was en route from New York to Oklahoma with three passengers in the Winnie Mae.

He has contributed to the American Economic Review, the quarterly journal of economics, Coal Age, Natural Gas and the American Lumberman monthly, and is a member of the American Forestry Association.