

AIR LINES CAN PROSPER, SAYS RICKENBACKER

Ace Predicts Profits for Systems If Freed of Politics.

This is the third of three interviews with Colonel Eddie Rickenbacker, in which America's most famous war ace presents the air mail contractors' side of the present controversy with the government. After the air mail contracts were cancelled and the army ordered to carry the mail, The Times and the Scripps-Howard Newspapers invited Col. Rickenbacker to present the arguments for the operators.

BY GEORGE DAWNS
Times Special Writer

Air transportation, given a fair opportunity and not burdened with political control, would return a profit on operations within a maximum of three years, Colonel Eddie Rickenbacker declared today.

"I know what I'm talking about," he insisted. "It is not guess work, optimism or bluff. All we ask is the same chance the railroads were given. That and freedom from political control."

He paused, smiled and then added: "Politicians and airplanes do not mix well."

Air aviation once meant flaming death, spitting bullets and daily gambles with life to America's ace of aces. Now it is a problem of cold figures, charts and reports. The strong, sun-browned hands that aimed the guns which downed twenty-five German planes moved swiftly through a stack of reports on his desk. He lifted a paper, studied it, then spoke slowly.

Says Cos. Has Been Cut

"The cost to the government of carrying the air mail has gone down," he said. "The revenue has increased. The gap between income and expenditure has thus been sharply reduced. It is inevitable that aviation, given a fair chance, will soon return a profit."

Colonel Rickenbacker, vice-president of North American Aviation Corporation, the General Motors subsidiary that owns control of three great air lines, carefully chose his words as he commented upon previous government operation of transportation systems.

"The government, you know, has not done so well in the transportation field," he said. "After the war, it was mighty glad to relinquish control of the railroads. The shipping board now is trying to get out of the steamship business. I don't know why I should expect any better luck with the transportation of air mail."

Industry Needs Revenue

An air transport system, he pointed out, must have revenue from every possible source, the same as railroads or shipping.

"A rail company would have a difficult struggle if it had to exist solely on the revenue from passengers, or freight, or mail," he said. "Why, then, expect the younger and relatively weaker air transport system to exist without the aid of the mail payments?"

"We must not make believe; we must face the realities. If the government permanently assigns the mail job to the army, our air transportation system will be wrecked. A few lines might struggle along for a brief time, with infrequent schedules and almost prohibitive rates. Hundreds of millions of dollars invested in air line securities would be swept away. Hundreds of men, who have risked their lives to pioneer a new industry, would lose their jobs."

Shows Decrease in Payments

Rickenbacker produced a table showing the decrease in annual payment by the post office department for every mail item with mail in the United States. The table, by fiscal years, follows:

1929 \$1,000,000,000 42
1930 98,1932 58
1931 79,1934 38

During the same period, he said, the annual mileage increased from 10,212,511 to almost 36,000,000.

With the assistance of technical experts, Colonel Rickenbacker has prepared a proposal, "How the transportation of air mail can be made to return a profit to the government and the air transport industry." It is a long, detailed study, bristling with columns of figures and estimates.

Opposed to "Stigma"

It recommends, first, the elimination of the stigma of "subsidy" in referring to air mail appropriations, charging that "it is unjustly assumed that the air mail operators are being subsidized, whereas it is the general public which is being subsidized in view of the fact that without passenger and express revenue, the so-called air mail subsidy would not equal the cost of the transportation of the present volume of air mail over the vast mileage and the number of schedules and at present speeds."

Colonel Rickenbacker recommends reduction of air mail rates to stimulate use of the service. The letter rate, he believes, should be 5 cents an ounce, a postcard 2 cents and a telegram, a single sheet that folds into an envelope, 3 cents.

Also, he recommends "a method of payment that will penalize those not carrying profitable loads and reward the others."

The schedule of minimum rates he recommends would begin with 40 cents an airplane mile this year and gradually be reduced until the rate would be only 25 cents at the end of five years.

Sees Profit to Postoffice

I estimate conservatively that the post office department would be making an annual profit of more than \$2,000,000 at the end of the third year and a profit of almost \$5,000,000 in the fifth year," he said.

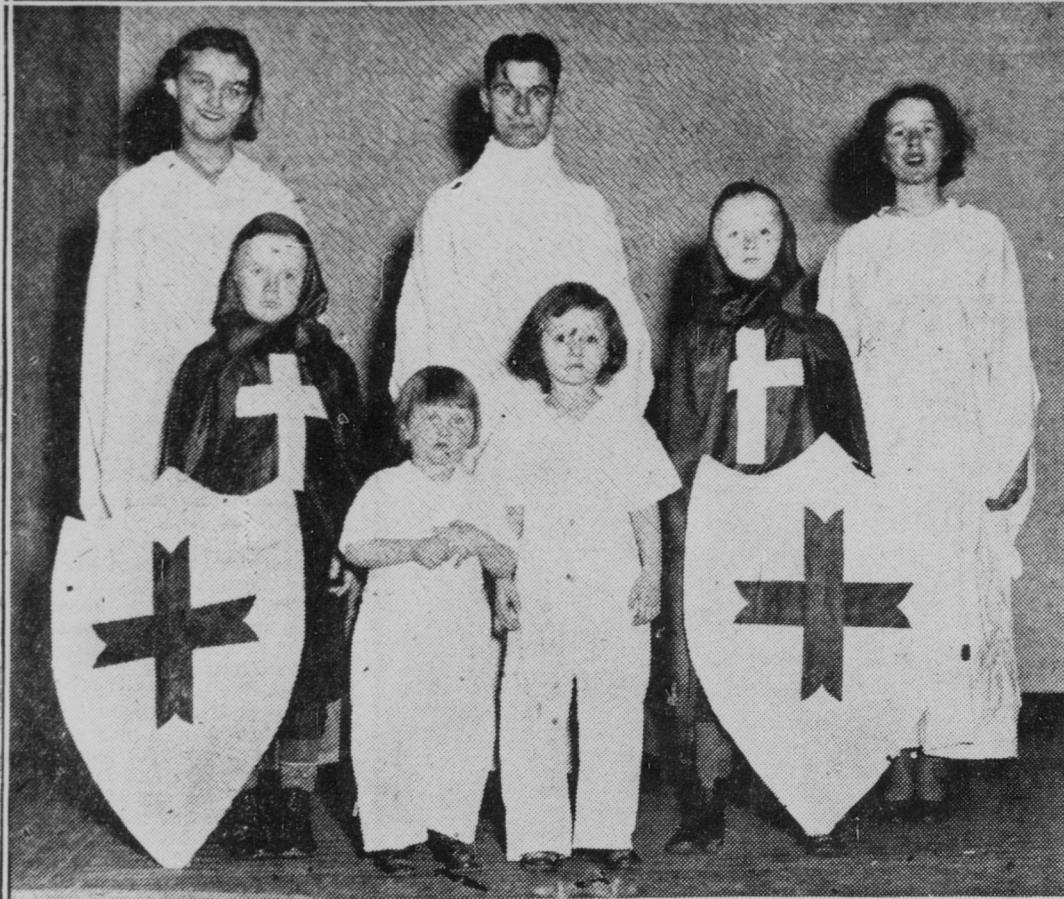
Operators of the long, heavy lines can make a profit for the government almost immediately. The lines that extend into sparsely settled areas, where the mail loads are light, must be aided for a few years.

"The government should tackle this air mail problem in a sensible business-like way with a disregard of politics. Operators of the busy lines should be paid a low rate per pound mile. They are willing to work for that low rate today, too."

Colonel Rickenbacker finds one bright ray of sunshine in the present army operation of the mail.

"It may result in having a lot of obsolete, dangerous equipment washed out," he said. "The army is loaded up with junk planes. The way things were going it had no chance to get rid of the obsolete equipment. If the boys wreck some planes, then congress may give them the money to buy some badly needed new ones."

MARION COUNTY W. C. T. U. TO OBSERVE 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Marion County W. C. T. U. will be observed with a noon meeting Friday at the North M. E. church. Appearing in a pageant in honor of the anniversary are, front row, left to right, Chester Cones Jr., Rosalind Bunce, Patricia Ann Templeton, Robert Frank Cones Jr.; (back row, left to right) Charlotte Richey, George Sharpe and Rosalind Cook.

FIRST LADY INSPECTS PUERTO RICO PRISON

Mrs. Roosevelt Astonished by Good Conditions at Institution.

By United Press

ST. GERMAN. Puerto Rico, March 13.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, touring Puerto Rico to learn living conditions at first hand, has found them unexpectedly good.

On a visit yesterday to what had been described as the worst spot in Puerto Rico, the National Women's prison at Arecibo, she was astonished to find conditions good.

The hospital was clean and the women able to sit up were working at lace making. Other prisoners were lined up for her, wearing blue wrappers, in a big room in which they saw by day and sleep at night.

COMMUNICATIONS BILL ATTACKED BY GIFFORD

Measure Would Disrupt Business, Says A. T. & T. Head.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Walter S. Gifford, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, today charged that the communications regulation bill of Senator Clarence Dill (Dem., Wash.) would disorganize the telephone business, imperil its efficiency and jeopardize the investment of \$61,000,000 stockholders.

Testifying before the senate transportation committee, Mr. Gifford argued that any communications legislation should be restricted to that called for by President Roosevelt.

Mr. Gifford interpreted the President's recent message as suggesting merely a transfer to a new commission of the powers over communications now exercised by the interstate commerce and federal radio commissions.

EYE BLOWN OUT, BOY CYCLES HOME 2 MILES

Iowa Lad Injured When Railroad Torpedo Explodes.

By United Press

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia., March 13.—When a railroad torpedo with which he was playing exploded, blowing out one eye, 15-year-old Clarence Tyler leaped astride his bicycle and pedaled two miles to his home. At a hospital physicians said they believed they could save the other eye.

Despondent Man Kills Self

By United Press

LOGANSPORT, Ind., March 13.—Carl C. Taylor, 34, died in a hospital of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in the head after being brought here from Monticello, where the shooting occurred. He was said to have been despondent over his wife's intention to seek a divorce.

DOCTORS' MEETING SET

200 Mid-West Physicians to Assemble Here Today.

By United Press

GREENCASTLE, Ind., March 13.—William E. Fine, 28, Roachdale, confessed robber of the Fillmore State Bank Oct. 25, awaited sentencing in Putnam county jail here today as authorities planned a jury trial March 16 for Mrs. Fern Allen Gooch, 25, Bainbridge, held on a similar charge.

Fine pleaded guilty to the robbery charge when arraigned before Judge Wilbur S. Donner late yesterday. Mrs. Gooch pleaded not guilty. Her bond was set at \$3,000. The couple was returned here Sunday after being arrested in Nashville, Tenn.

The Fillmore bank was robbed of \$1,127 by a man and a woman who kidnapped Amos Hunter, bank cashier, and forced him to accompany them a short distance.

DOCTORS' MEETING SET

200 Mid-West Physicians to Assemble Here Today.

By United Press

CARLISLE, Pa., March 13.—Will Entertain Friday for Mrs. Malcolm.

Naomi chapter No. 131, Order of Eastern Star, will entertain Mrs. Ross L. Malcolm, worthy grand matron of the Indiana grand chapter.

Friday night in the Masonic temple, North and Illinois streets. Dinner will precede the meeting in the dining room. Reservations should be made before Wednesday noon.

Mrs. Millie Gilmore, chairman of the arrangements committee, has arranged the dining room seating to form a triangle. The tables will be decorated with spring flowers and colors appropriate to the occasion.

Mrs. Frances Luke, accompanied by Mrs. Mamie Passmore, will sing a number arranged in honor of the grand matron. Mrs. Passmore also has written words of greeting which will be given in song. Additional entertainment will be presented through the courtesy of a downtown music house.

Other members of the committee are Mrs. Jessie Craig, Mrs. R. Eddie Hammerschlag, Miss M. Belle Cope, Harry Byrke, Mrs. Cora Weiland, Mrs. Goldie Carden, Mrs. Kathryn Bortsfield, Mrs. Kathryn Armbruster and Mrs. Passmore.

Music in the chapter room will be in charge of Mrs. Passmore, assisted by Miss Alice Otto, Mrs. Mabel Hughes and A. D. George, soloists. A quartet composed of Mrs. Elizabeth Magison, Mrs. Craig, Mr. George and Walter Motsinger, a member of Queen Esther chapter, will sing.

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Eastern Star degrees will be con-

firmed at 8 o'clock by Mrs. Gertrude Gray, worthy matron, and William R. Gray, worthy patron, assisted by Mrs. Leona Byrke, associate matron; Frank Dungan, associate matron; Mrs. Nellie K. Stammel, secretary; Mrs. Goldie Carden, treasurer; Mrs. Mae Wright, conductress; Mrs. Genevieve Bard, associate conductress; Mrs. Cora Naugle, chapter; Mrs. Mollie Spear, marshal; Mrs. Passmore, organist; Miss Charlene Ray, Adah; Mrs. Kathryn Bortsfield, Ruth; Mrs. Mary Hoffmeyer, Esther; Mrs. Anna Lydick, Martha; Mrs. Nore Moore, Electa; Mrs. Bessie Wikoff, warden; Mrs. Florence Carr, sentinel.

CITY OWNERSHIP OF UTILITIES IS TOPIC

6,000 SHOE WORKERS CONTINUE ON STRIKE

National Labor Board Action May Settle Haverhill Dispute.

By United Press

HAVERHILL, Mass., March 13.—Action by the national labor board appeared today the only means of settling an eight-day strike involving 6,000 Haverhill shoe workers.

The New England regional labor board had suggested that operatives return pending arbitration and blamed officials of the United Shoe and Leather Workers Union for the strike. The union's answer came when 3,000 workers voted to remain out until new working agreements were signed.

Meantime, union leaders announced that thirty-three independent manufacturers had met their terms and that 2,000 shoe workers had returned to work on the new basis.

DRIVER INJURED WHEN TRUCK WRECKS BRIDGE

City Man's Vehicle Falls Through Structure at Bowling Green.

By United Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ind., March 13.—Robert Hancock, Indianapolis, was injured seriously when the truck he was driving fell through the floor of an old covered bridge near here late yesterday.

The bridge, built more than eighty years ago, collapsed, throwing the truck, loaded with a caterpillar tractor, into five feet of water. The truck fell thirty-one feet and landed upside down.

Hancock was pinned in the truck, but was able to extricate himself before workers on another bridge nearby reached him. He suffered a crushed leg and internal injuries.

SUPPRESSED LINDBERGH BOOK TO BE PRINTED

Economic Discussion by Flier's Father Bought by United Features.

By United Press

NEW YORK, March 13.—Suppressed by government order, and its plates destroyed in the Washington printing plant, a book written by Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh's father, discussing economic phases of war, at last will be given wide publication, it was announced today.

The United Feature Syndicate announced that it had purchased newspaper serial rights to Charles A. Lindbergh Sr.'s "Your Country at War and What Happens to You After a War," and that publication would begin March 26.

The book, written in 1918, predicted with strange accuracy current economic trends, and included a plan similar to the NRA and other phases of the "new deal."

THREE ARE BEHEADED

Medieval Battleax Used to Kill Young German Trio.

By United Press

KARLSRUHE, Germany, March 13.—Three men were beheaded by means of a medieval battleax today at Ploetzenzene prison, near Berlin.

Richard Bahr, 24, a Communist, was executed for setting fire to a score of barns and farmhouses. Friedrich Mann, 30, and Alfred Schulz, 30, were executed for the murder of a taxicab driver.

Quantity Man, 77, Ends Life

A quantity of lyocell solution taken in a suicide attempt Saturday night proved fatal to James McAllister, 77, of 350 West Washington street. He died last night in the city hospital.

Junior Bible Class Meets

Tom Mumford has been elected president of the Junior Bible class of the Church of the Advent, 3243 North Meridian street.

Professor of medicine at Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago, will speak, as will Dr. C. I. Reed, University of Illinois medical college; Dr. A. David Wilmeth, Louisville; Dr. Albert F. Tyler, Omaha, Neb., president of the congress; Dr. R. Beutner, University of Louisville medical school, and A. R. Hollender, University of Illinois medical school.

There will be a dinner at 6 tonight at the Atheneum, followed by a joint meeting with the Indianapolis Medical Society. Speakers tonight will be Dr. Max Thorbeck, Chicago, and Dr. John Stanley Coulter, associate professor of physical therapy at the Northwestern University medical school; Dr. C. B. Smith will be read by physicians.

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LARRABEE AND BOEHNE SEEK RENOMINATION

Democratic Congressmen File Intentions at Statehouse.

Congressmen William H. Larabee, New Palestine, and John W. Boehne Jr., Evansville, filed for renomination with the secretary of state yesterday. Both are Democrats.

George W. DeMoss, Greenwood, filed for the Republican nomination for congress from the Seventh district.

Candidates filing for Marion county offices included:

George A. Henry, 58, East Regent street, judge of