

DOUGLAS HINTED TOP CANDIDATE FOR HIGH COURT

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

FRANCE sold air secrets, Gen. Craig testifies (Page One). DOUGLAS ranked high for Supreme Court post. REPUBLICANS to fight Guam fortification plan. RELIEF request may start study of whole program. ROOSEVELT to board cruiser after two talks today. ICKES may probe PWA "promotion" charge in Georgia.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (U.P.)—An authoritative source said today that President Roosevelt seriously is considering Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman William O. Douglas for the Supreme Court vacancy caused by the retirement of Justice Louis D. Brandeis.

The main objection to Mr. Douglas was said to be geographical. He is a "transplanted" Westerner now residing in Connecticut. It was understood, however, that Mr. Roosevelt would not let that factor stand in the way.

Considerable pressure is being exerted from Western Congressmen for a representative on the Court since none of the present Justices resides west of the Mississippi River.

Head of SEC Since 1937

The authoritative source said the President might change his mind during a two-week vacation in the Caribbean. Before leaving Washington, Mr. Roosevelt indicated that he would not name Mr. Brandeis' successor until his return early in March.

Mr. Douglas was elected chairman of the SEC in 1937, despite opposition from Wall Street where he was considered a "market theorist." Financial leaders charged that he would attempt reforms injurious to business. Much of his law practice in New York was with corporate affairs. He is the author of numerous articles on the distribution of securities, functions of brokers and dealers, and on bankruptcy subjects.

Although born in Maine, Minn., and educated in the State of Washington, he studied law at Columbia University and practiced in New York. Later he became a professor of law at Yale.

Other Possibilities Listed

His name entered the list of prospective nominees to the Court after the President was known to have considered Solicitor General Robert H. Jackson, Senator Lewis B. Schwellenbach (D. Wash.), Federal Judge Florence E. Allen of Cleveland, and others.

It was understood that although Senator Schwellenbach was acceptable geographically, his qualifications were considered less than the caliber desired.

Mr. Jackson has indicated that he does not desire the post. His friends believe it would cut short a promising political career which the hope will lead to the White House.

The source who said that Mr. Douglas was the leading candidate now, said that he possessed all the qualities which Mr. Roosevelt will require in making his selection. He is only 41, an outstanding liberal, an ardent New Dealer, an astute lawyer and a fighter.

House Republicans Balk on Guam Plans

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (U.P.)—House Republicans planned today to fight the proposed expenditure of five million dollars for harbor improvements on the island of Guam when an authorization bill for new air and naval bases is brought to the floor Tuesday.

Minority leaders said they would oppose the Guam provisions in the bill on the grounds the project would "invite trouble" with Japan. The island is only 1400 miles from the Japanese mainland. Naval officials testified that establishment of a naval and air base there would extend this country's first line of defense within 500 miles of Japan.

The bill was approved by the

Hospital Gets Portable Baby Incubator



To aid in saving lives of prematurely born babies, this portable baby incubator, shown in the rear of a City Hospital ambulance, has been presented City Hospital by the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega. The three-foot, electrically heated and air conditioned incubator first one in Indianapolis, will be used to transport babies to the

hospital from homes. Dr. Charles Myers, City Hospital superintendent, said 66 of 107 babies born prematurely last year died. Left to right above are Miss Edith Allen, Mrs. Marie J. Noel, City Hospital social service director; Dr. Myers; Miss Rae Bauer and Mrs. Robert L. Mason, president of the donating sorority. The "baby ambulance" cost \$175.

Times Photo.

Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—The Public Works Administration is expected shortly to investigate the charge that Lawrence W. (Chip) Robert Jr., Democratic National Committee secretary, got a one-cent cut for political "promotion" in obtaining Federal funds for a five million dollar hospital-building program in Georgia.

His firm, the L. W. Robert Co. of Atlanta, was awarded the architectural and engineering contract under an agreement with Governor Rivers and the State Board of Public Welfare which called for a 6 per cent fee.

Mr. Robert denied before a state legislative committee that 1 per cent of this was for political "promotion," as charged, but said that part of the fee was for services in Washington, to be described as "engineering and planning."

The case has attracted wide notice because of Mr. Robert's political and social prominence here and his former connection with the Roosevelt Administration as Assistant Secretary of Treasury in charge of the Rep. Delacey Allen of the Georgia Legislature, who opened up the subject, charged that Mr. Robert used his political position and "influence" here to get millions of dollars' worth of contracts for his company, and that he was forced to resign from the Treasury post.

Heads of Naval Affairs Committee yesterday. It authorized expenditure of \$2 million dollars for 12 naval air bases, but does not provide specifically for other than harbor dredging at Guam. Naval officials said, however, that they might recommend the building of such a base later.

Republicans indicated that they would not hold together on this issue as they have on other crucial tests in the House.

In addition to Guam, the project for which the bill would authorize appropriations are:

Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, \$800,000; Midway Island, \$535,000; Wake Island, \$2,000,000; Johnston Island, \$141,000; Palmyra Island, \$11,000; Kodiak, Alaska, \$8,741,000; Sitka, Alaska, \$2,884,000; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, \$2,821,000; San Juan, Puerto Rico, \$19,138,000; Tongue Point, Ore., \$1,500,000; and \$1,800,000 for the naval aircraft factory at Philadelphia.

Naval officials disclosed during the hearings on the bill that some of the air bases might also accommodate submarine bases, particularly in Alaska, Guam and Korea.

Rep. Martin Maas moved yesterday to broaden the air base program by introducing a bill authorizing establishment of a base on Wrangell Island, north and west of Alaska. The island now is held by Russia. Rep. Maas said it actually belongs to the United States and termed the Russians "trespassers."

Senator Reynolds (D. N. C.) introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

Check on Entire Relief Program Considered

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (U.P.)—House Committee consideration next week of President Roosevelt's request for an additional 150 million dollars for relief may be turned into an investigation of the entire work relief program.

Rep. Clifton A. Woodrum (D. Va.), head of the Deficiency Subcommittee,

F. D. R. TO JOIN IN NAVAL GAMES

No More Spending or Taxes This Session, He Tells Business.

KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 18 (U.P.)—President Roosevelt boards the heavy cruiser Houston this afternoon to take an active part as commander-in-chief of the Navy, in fleet maneuvers in the Caribbean.

The Houston, and her escort, the Warrington, will be integral parts of the defending force repelling a theoretical enemy from American waters, and Mr. Roosevelt will observe the tactics from the bridge of his flagship, whose 8-inch guns will be in action. He also will live, as nearly as possible, under the simulated war-time conditions prevailing in the fleet.

If it was, then the contract with the State will be rescinded.

Mr. Ikes is expected to show no mercy if the Robert case comes before him and the charges made in Georgia are sustained. It is commonly known in Washington that it was Mr. Ikes who forced Mr. Robert from the Public Works Advisory Council, which passed on public works projects.

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DR. BENES FEARS MUNICH MERELY DELAYED STRIFE

Czech Ex-President Gives First U. S. Address In Chicago.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18 (U.P.)—Dr. Edward Benes, former president of Czechoslovakia, believes that the Munich agreement brought little if any decrease in the clouds of fear that hang over Europe.

He made his first American public appearance last night in a lecture before 2000 alumni and friends of the University of Chicago. He is to start a course of 10 lectures on the history and science of democracy at the university Monday.

"It cannot be denied," he said, "that the so-called policy of 'appeasement' served well its purpose of postponing for a certain period a conflict. There is, however, no decrease in the number of those who fear that it does not mean a real prevention of war but only its postponement."

"Although even today I rather incline to the opinion that no European conflict will break out in the near future, I must still admit that there is no degree, or very little, in the fear of a heavy conflagration in Europe eventually."

He said the regimes of Italy and Germany "have many interests in common but have also some latent conflicts and could at a later stage drift apart."

"I do not believe, however, as is frequently asserted," he said, "that this will happen in the near future. They still have much in common, and they have a pretty long common road in front of them before they have realized their common aspirations."

SET NEW MAHANEY TRIAL FOR MONDAY

Accused in Fatal Stabbing Of Mooneyhan Year Ago.

The second trial in the case of Everett Mahaney, charged with the murder of Luther Mooneyhan a year ago, is to be started in Criminal Court Monday.

In the previous trial last December a Criminal Court jury reported it was unable to reach a verdict after 24 hours continuous deliberation.

Mahaney is charged with fatally stabbing Mr. Mooneyhan during a fight in an Oliver Ave. poolroom Feb. 5, 1938.

A special venire of 100 prospective jurors has been drawn for the selection of a new panel to try the case.

NIGHT WATCHMAN'S SLUGGING PROBED

4 Purses With Contents Valued at \$200 Taken.

Police today investigated the reported slaying last night of a Federal Foundry night watchman, James Bailey, 37, of 918 N. Pershing Ave. He was taken to City Hospital. Mr. Bailey said \$6 in his billfold was missing.

Theft of four purses containing money and jewelry valued at nearly \$200 also was reported.

Three purses, belonging to Miss Marcella Reynolds, 5766 N. Pennsylvania St.; Miss Dorothy Craft, 2116 Park Ave., and Miss Ann Mitchell, 1465 N. Alabama St., were taken from a dressing room at Jordan Conservatory of Music, police said.

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ANDREWS TO CHECK HOMEWORK RECORDS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (U.P.)—Andrews will place in effect March 15 more stringent regulations governing the keeping of industrial homework records.

Mr. Andrews said that the new regulations "will at least test the practicality of this kind of control of industrial homework."

The rules will be in effect for a six-months' trial period.

He defined the new rules as an "industrial homework" as person producing in or about home for an employer, goods or materials furnished directly or indirectly from such employer."

The new regulations require the keeping of a separate handbook for each homeworker. They will be furnished free after March 1.

Congressmen who pilot relief appropriations through Congress have indicated that they intended to stand pat on the amount today, and said the President's strategy, which they interpreted as intended to put Congress "on the spot," had made it hard for anyone who had already taken a stand on the issue to change it.

They anticipated that the President would send Congress another message on relief after his return from the Caribbean fleet maneuvers.

Rep. John Taber (R. N. Y.) reprimanded the chairman of the Deficiency Subcommittee, renewed his attack on WPA yesterday with a House speech in which he said the agency was "rotten to the core."

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