

'Staked My Reputation On Flying Boat,' Hughes Says

Washington Calling—
Cuts by British
In Imports Won't Ease
Food Prices in U. S.

Heat Wave Damage in Corn Belt Offsets Deflationary Effect Program Might Have

(Continued From Page One)

In other segments of U. S. economy, too, unless Marshall plan, or some other, gives Europeans additional purchasing power.

Washington and New York—both baffled by sudden large British withdrawals—wonder if they were made to dramatize British economic plight, frighten U. S. into quicker action on Marshall plan. Present

starts on Taft-Hartley. Procedures and penalties differ. Probability is board will decide to administer old penalties for unfair practices proved to have occurred before Aug. 22, on theory that new law can't be retroactive.

Speaks to Hoosiers

REP. FRED A. HARTLEY'S doing a thriving business explaining new labor law to employer groups. Two-day seminar on Taft-Hartley act is scheduled by Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and Hartley will be paid speaker. Even with their \$15,000 salaries, several senate and house members increase incomes further by speaking for fees. Recently Senator Joseph H. Ball (R. Minn.), unable to fill Cleveland speaking date, offered it to another G. O. P. colleague and told him fee was \$1000.

This is first time inquiry by this committee has backed fire by this nationally. Mr. Brewster and Mr. Ferguson can be counted on to let next hearing wait till they're sure they can control all angles.

Still hanging fire is Brewster investigation of navy's purchases of Arabian oil. Ex-Senator Wheeler, hired as special investigator, quit, and now matter is in hands of committee's regular staff. It is still seeking more "inside" information from White House files.

Mr. Ferguson flashed confidential White House correspondence in Hughes inquiry. It caused only a ripple.

Democrats who aren't sore at Brewster-Ferguson escapade are chuckling at its failure to make political capital. Some think Brewster's presidential ambitions—which he took seriously, other Republicans say—are hurt beyond repair.

Mr. Brewster insisted on this special committee for war investigations and its creation was one of the hottest political fights last January. Democrats proposed inquiry by regular senate committee, as reorganization act provided. Special group won by two votes.

WOMEN SOUVENIR hunters have been having field day at Hughes' hearings. After each session they rush to press tables, scoop up large glass ashtrays, dump contents, and put trays in their handbags. Each day janitors in senate office building have to supply new ones.

Fight Book Clubs INDEPENDENT book-sellers take their fight against book clubs to court.

If they do, their suit will be against some of major publishers rather than clubs. They claim publishers are guilty of unfair trade practices in making special rates to outlets like Book-of-the-Month club, and will seek to get same prices for retailers. Right now, they're trying to work it out without court fight.

Retailers claim there are 64 book clubs in U. S., all underselling market. Book-of-the-Month is biggest, sells between 700,000 and 750,000 books monthly. Stanton Grimes, newly appointed ambassador to Poland, is principal stockholder in Bren-tano's, whose New York manager, Joseph Margolies, is leading fight.

ONE PROBLEM for national labor relations board: What to do after Aug. 22 with its backlog of 4500 old cases. On that date, board cases administering Wagner act.

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If It Fails,
Producer Says

Probers Still Hunt

Johnny Meyer

(Continued From Page One) the opportunity to make himself scarce. The committee wants to ask him some more questions about his expense accounts.

The committee also decided to pass up the New York and Hollywood lovelies whom Mr. Meyer paid \$100 a night for entertaining at his parties.

Contrary to pre-probe buildups, the women probably will not put in an appearance before the committee. Two Hollywood glamour girls were subpoenaed and there were hints that even more "cheesecake" would be on display in the senate caucus room.

But a committee aid said today there are no plans to call any of the charmers for questioning.

When asked about this, Mr. Ferguson said grumpily:

"I never said any girls would be called. We put them under subpoena just in case we wanted to call them."

'Staked Reputation'

After Mr. Fulton withdrew, Mr. Hughes was put back on the stand. After some additional questions about the contracts, Senator Claude Pepper (D. Fla.) asked Mr. Hughes for his present opinion of the 200-ton flying boat, which still has not flown.

"I've staked my reputation on this flying boat," Mr. Hughes said. "If it is a failure, I probably will leave this country and never come back."

Mr. Pepper asked Mr. Hughes if there were any fraud or corruption involved in the \$18 million flying boat contract—one of two contracts under investigation.

"I certainly do not know of any," Mr. Hughes said.

"Was this project undertaken with a profit motive?" Mr. Pepper continued.

Police in Room

The committee specifically said that no profit could be made," Mr. Hughes replied.

Mr. Hughes also testified that army air force procurement officers displayed "hatred" toward him because he didn't entertain them as much as other aviation companies did.

"They thought me stuck up, too good for them," he said, "because I sat out in my Hollywood ballroom instead of going to Wright field to kow tow to them."

Police were scattered around the hearing room today to prevent demonstrations such as have occurred in recent days. Mr. Ferguson instructed them to remove any spectator who clapped his hands or otherwise disturbed the decorum of the hearing.

The audience has been consistently friendly to the witnesses, particularly to Elliott Roosevelt and Mr. Hughes.

Suspect Bagged By Bag of Silver

Detectives today questioned a 38-year-old ex-convict who had 42 pounds of pure silver in his possession when he was arrested last night.

The suspect is Noble Sims, resident of the Barton hotel. Police said Sims has a record a mile long" and is now under bond on a second degree burglary charge.

He was arrested on Indiana ave. last night after police received reports he was trying to sell the silver. When captured, police found a bag containing pure silver melted into small balls.

Today, Sims refused to make a statement. In municipal court 4 today, a charge of vagrancy was continued to Thursday at the request of investigating detectives.

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For the Week

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