

THE U. S. GOVERNMENT IS A GOOD PATRON OF RADIO; MANY OFFICIALS ARE HEARD

The government of the United States consumes more time on the air than any organization or individual, it was revealed today by H. M. Aylesworth, president of the National Broadcasting Company, in a letter to H. A. Lafount, member of the Federal Radio Commission.

In the first ten months of this year the letter disclosed, 245 government officials, including the President, were presented in programs over the National Broadcasting Company System. More than 300 hours of broadcasting time was utilized for government activities during this period, it was stated.

The information was supplied Commissioner Lafount following suggestions that special broadcasts by government officials should be attempted to determine the interest of the radio audience in governmental activities.

Mr. Aylesworth pointed out that the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company had always been available for governmental activities and declared that his company would continue to lend its aid to every worth while project of the departments in Washington.

President Speaks

Every branch of the government, excepting the judicial, is represented in the government's broadcasting activities. The president, during the ten month period, made ten addresses; the vice-president spoke twice; every member of the cabinet was heard, except Secretary of State Stimson and Secretary of Treasury Mellon; twenty eight Senators made addresses; twelve members of the House spoke, and more than 150 chiefs and sub-chiefs of the various governmental bureaus appeared before the microphone.

There is a growing tendency, Mr. Aylesworth pointed out, for greater use of radio broadcasting in government activities. He said that records of the company each month reveal an increasing number of appearances of government officials.

Agriculture Leads

The Department of Agriculture during the ten months led all other departments and branches of the government in the use of radio time. Providing a service primarily for farmers this department utilized nearly 100 hours of broadcasting. In its programs the department presented 165 of its officials who made a total of 419 different addresses. The department

presents, in cooperation with the NBC the National Farm and Home Hour, a forty five minute program daily, except Sunday. This program, with the talks originating in Washington and entertainment coming from Chicago, is broadcast by more than thirty stations.

Presenting music, the three service bands provided the radio audience with more than 135 hours of entertainment. The Navy Band led with 61 separate programs totalling 56 hours; the Army Band was second with 45 programs and 40 hours; the Marine Band third with 44 programs and 39 hours.

United States Senators and Representatives were very active over the radio during the year and the subjects discussed touched on almost every activity of the government. During the ten months the NBC conducted a program known as "Half Hours with the Senate," during which twenty-one Senators spoke.

Cabinet Ministers

Of the cabinet members, Secretary of the Interior Wilbur led, with five radio addresses; other members of the cabinet spoke at least twice, excepting Jostmaster General Brown and Secretary of the Navy Adams, who spoke only once.

Miss Grace Abbott, chief of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor, made twenty-seven addresses on "Child Welfare." She appears before an NBC microphone every Thursday morning for a fifteen minute talk. Dr. Julius Klien, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, delivered twenty fifteen minute talks; seven other officials of the Commerce Department spoke fifteen minutes each, describing the department's activities; three members of the Federal Farm Board made addresses.

A number of Assistant Secretaries talked over the radio, among them William P. MacCracken, former Assistant Secretary in charge of Aeronautics at the Department of Commerce; F. Trubee Davison, Assistant Secretary of War; David S. Ingalls, Assistant Secretary of the Navy; R. W. Dunlap, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Charles B. Robbins, Assistant Secretary of War.

Major General Charles P. Summerall, Chief of Staff of the Army; Rear Admiral William A. Moffett of the Navy, and other officers of the two branches of the service were among the speakers.

EXPLAINS TRICK OF THE MISSING BIRDCAGE

(New York Sun)

The disappearing bird-cage trick of a magician now paying one of the city's vaudeville houses, according to the entertainer's own statement, is one of the oldest illusions in the prestidigitator's bag, yet no one seems to be able to solve it.

The other day, however, an explanation why the trick was so seldom seen in performances of magic was volunteered by an oldtimer who "used to be in the racket himself."

"You saw the trick, did you?" he asked. "Did you see where the cage and the bird went?"

"No," admitted the tyro.

"Well, he held the little cage between his two hands, which were outstretched about six inches from his vest, didn't he? Then he counted, breaking the count like this, 'One... two... two and a half... three.' That 'Two and a half' never fails to throw most of the audience out of their close attention, and then the cage and the canary have vanished."

The tyro admitted that the oldtimer had described the procedure to the last detail, but demanded, "What's the gag, and why don't more magicians use it?"

"You'll owe me a drink for telling you, but it's this: The cage is collapsible, made of wires, cloth and little rods which form the bars of the cage. The canary is genuine. When the operator releases his left hand, the cage, which is on a string elastic, flashes up his sleeve.

"And the canary?" urged the novice, with his passion for details.

"The canary got killed, usually, or at least gets so badly squashed by the rods when they fold up that he isn't good for much but the cat after that," said the oldtimer. "That's why so many magicians won't use the trick. They're too tender hearted, and in some States the S. P. C. A. gets after them. A few have tried the trick with a stuffed bird, but it looks too artificial, and it doesn't get over as well as when there's a real, wiggling, fluttering canary inside."

"Gosh!" exclaimed the novice, "I hope you won't tell me now that they actually saw the woman in half, and have to have a new one for every performance."

"It's not quite that bad," grinned the old hand. "There's a little place down the line where we can get a couple of drinks if you have the time."

TELLING DESCRIPTION

Guest (angry at being kept waiting at station)—So you couldn't find me, eh? Didn't your master describe me? Chauffeur—Yes, sir, but there were several bald-headed old buffers."

Old stuff, but how time does fly. The king of Rumania is now eight years of age.

"The Afridi are among the world's most practical thieves. They grease their bodies before going on a foray and if caught, they can easily wriggle out of the clutch of their captors. Often when detachments of enemy troops have been sleeping, Afridi marauders have stolen into the camps and taken booty from the persons of the sleepers. A guest under an Afridi roof is secure, but the minute he leaves the doorstep of his host he may be shot and disembowelled by his former entertainer."

"European music the natives of the North West Frontier Province consider just so much howling. It is said that their mountain shepherds have managed to extract notes unknown to western music—strains in weird minor keys. Much of their music resembles the Gregorian chants whose somber strains characterize some of the religious observance of the Roman Catholic Church."

"Guest houses are maintained in the different villages by the headman or a group of the leading villagers. In these houses sleep the men of the village who have reached man's estate and are unmarried. Custom forbids bachelors sleeping at home. Robbery is the national sport of the Pathans, but it is not the only one. They are enthusiastic hunters and practice widely hunting with dogs and hawking."

HON. R. B. BENNETT DENIES THAT HIS PARTY'S POLICY IS ONE OF HIGH PROTECTION

Toronto, Nov. 23—High protection is not the policy of the Conservative Party, declared Hon. R. B. Bennett, Conservative leader in the House of Commons, addressing the Ontario Conservative Association banquet here last night. All his party asked, he said, was that Canadians should be given a fair fighting chance to develop their own country and compete against foreigners in their own home market. This, of course, would involve a measure of protection, but not the high protection policy his opponents attributed to him.

Speeches at the dinner were short. Premier Ferguson declared the election program of his Government would be implemented to the hilt. Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Hon. W. C. Buckle of the Saskatchewan Government and Eric Willis, of Winnipeg, also spoke.

Conservatives of Ontario had just won a great victory at the polls, said Mr. Bennett. But it was well to remember a vote in a provincial election did not reach beyond the confines of the province. He appealed for a broad interest in Canada as a whole, a frank consideration of the problems facing the country.

Vital Problem

One of the most vital of these was the disposal and development of our natural resources. These should not be sent out of the country to be fabricated and brought back after the labor of foreigners had enhanced their value.

"All we ask," he said, "is to give Canadians a fair chance to compete in their own markets. When you ask a country of 10,000,000 people to compete with the mass production of 120,000,000, you are asking the impossible."

"When men out in the west say the Conservative Party is the party of high protection, that is the voice of our enemy. It is the old game of trying to mislead the people and set up sectional differences for political purposes. What we want to do, and what we will do if we are given the power, is to see that Canada is developed by Canadians. We must

make the boys and girls of Canada realize that they will never get jobs in Canada as long as the King Government is in power."

Mr. Guthrie also spoke of fiscal matters, and recalled Premier King in a speech in the west had said the next election would be fought on the issue of protection. This was true, he said, but the Conservatives were not going to let him get away with the idea it was to be the only issue.

Another issue, he declared, would be the gross extravagance of the King Government. Taxes today were \$57,000,000 greater than under the late Conservative Government.

Immigration Issue

Other things on which the Conservatives proposed to attack the Government, he went on, were its "absolute fall-down with regard to immigration, the inefficiency and gross mismanagement of the department," and "its shabby treatment of returned soldiers, particularly in the Post Office Department."

Last of all on the program came Premier Ferguson. "We intend to implement every detail of our program," he said. "It is true that to do this we will have the treasure's statement for this year is issued you will find we spent considerably more than last year. But I challenge anyone to show there is any more taxation on the people."

"What we have done and will continue to do, for we will spend more money, is to establish services and charge the individuals who use those services. Our revenues are increasing each year, the proceeds of the gasoline tax are mounting. We are receiving more money from succession duties. But we are spending more and it is well spent."

The Government proposed to extend hydro until every person in the province had it, he continued. Last year there had built 1,000 miles of rural lines. Next year the program called for 2,000 miles and so year after year the Government would continue to increase its services. Also more attention would be

paid to the secondary roads of the province now that there was a good system of trunk roads.

DOUBLY HONORED

Toronto, Nov. 23—As the "representative of the womanhood of Ontario," Mrs. G. Howard Ferguson, was honored with a double presentation at the Conservative Banquet here last night.

First Arthur R. Ford, of London, president of the Western Ontario Association presented her with a basket of flowers on behalf of the Ontario Association. Then John R. Macnicol, president of the association, presented her with a jewelled brooch in the form of the coat of Ontario, on behalf of the Women Conservatives. It consisted of diamonds and rubies set in platinum.

CHINESE MAIDS PRAY TO MOON FOR HUBBYS

Shanghai, Nov. 23—Nationalist government decrees notwithstanding, Chinese maids of the middle and working classes persisted this year in their annual entreaties to the moon for husbands. The prayers were offered at midnight on the 15th day of the eighth moon, in accordance with a custom of immemorial age.

It was a part of the mid-autumn festival against which nationalist reformers have rallied in vain. The more enlightened Chinese have given up this and similar superstitions but they constitute a decided minority.

While the maids and spinsters were praying for mates the rest of the populace enjoyed its annual feast of roast pork and moon cakes. It required more than 10,000 hogs to satisfy the appetites of Shanghai Chinese alone this year.

In contradiction of the axiomatic belief that there is nothing new under the sun they tell of a baby being born in an airplane at Miami.

Alas for the modern housewife! Her mornings are consumed with answering the doorbell—always afraid if she doesn't respond, she may miss somebody she wants to see.

DISPUTE BETWEEN TRIBESMEN OF INDIA WAS ENDED BY LAW; A JIRGAH RECENTLY HELD

Recently a jirgah was held in the edge of the Tirah.

To the average news reader this statement probably has little meaning. To the student of Indian affairs it is an announcement that gives food for thought.

It means that an argument between the Afridi and the Orakzai, some of the world's most bloodthirsty warriors has been ended by law and not by blood. In the North West Frontier Province of India, where people build houses with towers wherein they can sit and take pot shots at their neighbors and relations, and husbands formerly cut off the noses of flirtatious wives, jirghas or conferences are superseding blood feuds and killings.

Live In Maze of Mountains

"The Afridi and Orakzai, between whom the jirgah was held reside in summer in the Tirah, a maze of mountains south of the Khyber Pass," says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C. headquarters of the National Geographic Society. "Only a few Afridi live in this region but it is the summer abode of all the Orakzai who are divided into the two main sects of Mohammedanism, the Shi'ahs and the Sunnites. The former pay reverence to the Sayids, or descendants of Ali, the son in law of Mohammed. The Sunnites are orthodox Moslems who respect the influence of their priests or mullahs. They adhere to the main part of the Koranic laws."

"The summer climate in the Tirah mountains is delightful, but the win-

ters are bitterly cold. The district lies not far from Peshawar, the only large city in the North West Frontier Province, and has a thriving export trade in cordage, ropes, raw fibre, fruit, vegetables and nuts, hides and skins, leather mats and timber. Most of the Orakzai are agriculturists."

Why Women Wear Red Trousers

"Only about a third of the total area of the North West Frontier Province is under British jurisdiction. The rest is tribal territory. The Pathans, as all the tribes of the Province are usually called, are as wild looking as their mountainous back ground. They are usually tall, with piercing eyes, long plentifully oiled hair and pointed mustachios springing from under hawk noses. The men wear a long loose tunic over baggy trousers, sandals, and a sheepskin coat with the wool inside. The women dress somewhat like the men with the exception that their trousers are always red so that ferocious neighbors do not mistake them for the men of the household and fire at them. The only factory in the Province is a rifle factory."

"A rifle or two well conditioned camels will buy a wife in the Tirah, unless she is unusually good looking when the price will be raised a bit. It pays the wife in this part of the world to be discreet. If she is unfaithful and her husband is in a good humor he will give her a divorce. Some other time he may cut her feet off. Child marriage as it is practiced in Hindu India is unknown."

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