

# Constant Demands On Time Irk The Secretary Of State

Accustomed to Quiet Aloofness of Supreme Court Mr. Hughes Finds Himself Unable to Concentrate by Too Many "Unnecessary Contacts."

By DAVID LAWRENCE  
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Washington, Oct. 10.—Secretary Hughes' speech protesting that too many organizations and individuals outside the Government make a practice of bothering Federal officials and that about half the time is given by public executives "to contacts that are really unnecessary" occasioned today not a little gossip as to just what the head of the Department of State had in mind.

For many months there have been repeated requests from the outside from various societies and associations who feel that they should make known to the Secretary of State their views on foreign policy. Their suggestions range all the way from a plea that the soviet government in Russia be recognized to demands that the colored man in Haiti be freed from American restraint.

Mr. Hughes has no objection to getting the views of all kinds of organizations but what he finds is that the same things that are said to him can usually be put in writing just as well and time saved. To refuse to give his time to various organizations of a national scope leads to bad feeling and all sorts of ill effects for the administration. To give one's time means, as Mr. Hughes describes it, "countless intrusion upon serious work."

Mr. Hughes is the type of man who likes to concentrate on his work. He is of the reflective and studious class of statesmen. While he recognizes that the press, for instance, is an important institution and while he gives at least 20 minutes of his time nearly every day to the conference with the correspondents in order to answer their many questions, there is not the slightest doubt that he wishes even that task could be spared so that he could work uninterruptedly when he wants to do so. Then there is the feeling that the press by its enterprise discusses in print many delicate situations which might be more easily adjusted by the Government itself if the press reports didn't produce definite impressions on the minds of those with whom the Department of State is in the process of negotiation. Sometimes a situation is completely altered by the necessity of denying or amplifying an innocently intended press report that has produced irritation.

When Secretary Mellon of the Treasury Department took office he is said to have remarked to his friends that a Government portfolio wasn't a bit like a private business because nearly half of his time had to be given to members of Congress who were seeking jobs for their friends. Personnel problems that ought to be handled by lesser executives were thrust upon the head of a department by the insistence of members of the legislative branch of the Government, to incur whose ill-will was not wise for the department head who must go before Congress to get needed appropriations or sanction for other acts.

Secretary Hughes has spent a great many years on the Supreme Court bench of the United States where neither the press nor outside organizations can take up any time of the court. The judges regulate their own time. What Mr. Hughes

## PLEADED GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT

Cincinnati, Oct. 11.—Frederick W. Hecht, former cashier of the American National Bank at Dayton, today pleaded guilty of embezzling \$308,000.

## SUN YAT SEN HAS DECLARED WAR

Shanghai, Oct. 11.—Sun Yat Sen, South China Constitutionalist leader, has issued an open declaration against Thao Kun, president-elect of China, according to a telegram Sun's personal representative.

## DOLLAR PACKAGE SALE THIS WEEK AT BRIGHT'S

Thursday and Friday of this week will be dollar package days at the H. C. Bright Company. Values from \$1.00 to \$15.00 will be sold in dollar packages for these three days only.

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## Thirty Thousand In Fair Premiums

Mrs. Vanderbilt Sends Out Last Call For Entries Before Big State Event

Raleigh, Oct. 11.—Thirty thousand dollars in premiums are offered by the North Carolina State Fair, which opens Monday, in contests of the various departments, according to the fair management. Entries have been received from many states. Mrs. Edith Vanderbilt, president of the fair, has sent out the last call for entries, though she says that the number already received exceeds that of last year.

The generally prosperous business State are declared to be reflected in the outlook for the fair this year. It is the expressed belief of the management that this will be the biggest and best fair ever held in Raleigh.

Livestock entries for the State Fair have closed. Entries in the cattle exhibits, says General Manager E. V. Walborn, have been made by breeders from as far north as Ohio and New York and as far south as Florida. Even Iowa will be represented, he says.

Mrs. Vanderbilt has expressed much elation over the prospects of the fair. This is her second year as president of the State Fair Association and she is taking even more lively interest in the organization's annual event than she did during her first year—as head of the association.

misses is that freedom which he enjoyed on the bench when he could work all day on a legal opinion if necessary and turn out a satisfactory piece of work without being harassed by a dozen different demands on his time. The Department of State is an exceptionally busy institution nowadays. It began to develop unprecedented importance with the outbreak of the European war in 1914 and there are literally thousands of questions hanging over from the war period. Besides the formulation of a policy, the Secretary of State must give time to conference with the bureau chiefs and subordinates and also watch the administrative side of the whole organization. To be obliged to receive callers days in and day out who could just as well write what they have to say is what Mr. Hughes had in mind in his chiding remarks last night when he referred to the "unceasing requirements of those who have little to do with public business and by their constant importunities for extra officials attention use up the nervous energy which should be devoted to public service."

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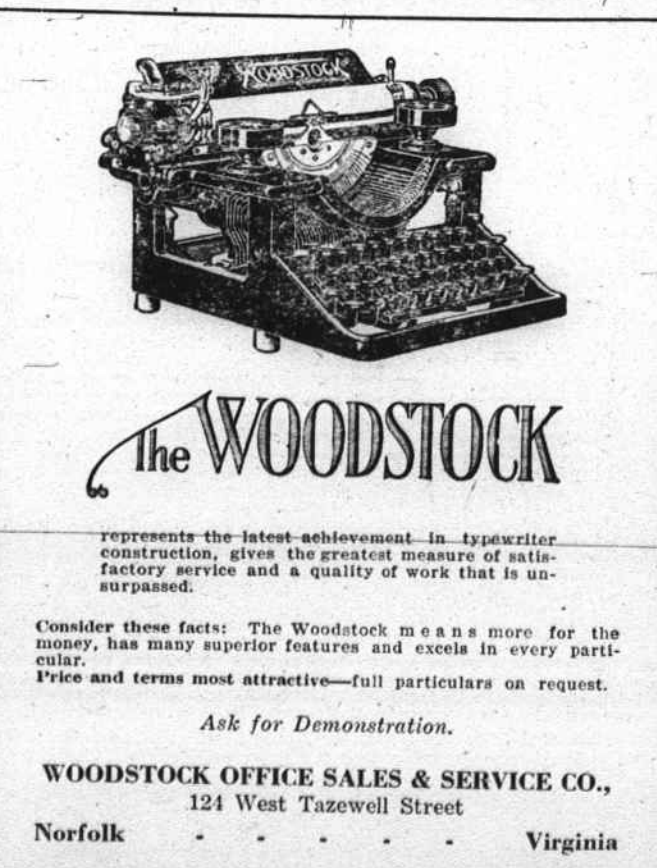
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