

President Says Earhart Hunt Cost Navy No Extra Expense

Washington, July 20.—President Roosevelt said today no additional cost was involved in the navy's search for Amelia Earhart who disappeared in the south Pacific.

He made this statement at his press conference when his attention was called to reports that some quarters on Capitol Hill intended to ask a congressional investigation of the expenditure.

Mr. Roosevelt pointed out that every navy plane has to do so many hours annually in the air and that ships burn fuel oil regardless of the duty to which they were assigned.

The money would have been spent for the purposes regardless of whether the planes and ships had been engaged in the Earhart search or in maneuvers, the chief executive said. The cost to the government was no greater than it would have been if there had been no search, he added.

He described the search—now officially ended—as a sad mission, especially since it resulted in no trace of Miss Earhart or her navigator, Fred G. Noonan.

At the same time, he said, however, the search was valuable for the training and experience it gave the navy.

The President added that the navy would have done the same thing in the case of any American rich or poor, when there seemed a chance of saving life and it knew where to go to look.

ENGLAND SLACKENS HER DIVORCE LAWS

Parliament Completes Enactment Of Far Reaching Changes In Statute

London, July 23.—The fight of a humorist turned crusader against the "holy deadlock" of England's rigid divorce laws was victorious today when parliament completed changes in the conditions for terminating marriage.

Adultery is now the only grounds for divorce in England. When the new law becomes effective next January 1 these will be added:

Desertion without cause for at least three years; cruelty; incurable insanity for five years.

The new law will apply only to England and Wales, not to Scotland or northern Ireland. Scotland already recognizes desertion as the grounds for divorce.

Herbert Triumph

The new act was hailed as a triumph for A. P. Herbert, who first achieved fame as a member of the staff of "Punch," wrote in his novel, "Holy Deadlock," a powerful indictment of present divorce laws, and carried his fight for liberalization to the house of commons when he achieved election as an independent member from Oxford university in 1935.

Advocates of more liberal conditions for divorce had fought an uphill battle for a quarter of century.

Today's action consisted of the commons' acceptance of amendments in the house lords to Herbert's original bill, which the commons had approved. The act now needs only the king's assent, which is automatic.

Most important of the amendments was a provision that no divorce petition shall be made until three years after marriage. The original bill had specified five years.

Members of the house who laughed when Herbert announced in his maiden speech, December 4, 1935, that he intended to sponsor a bill "removing the indecent, hypocritical, cruel and unjust marriage laws of this country," cheered him and shook his hand today.

Then it was considered impossible to secure divorce reform. Numerous attempts had failed. Herbert was accused of tilting against windmills. Today the jubilant author said:

"I hope there won't be too much talk about a 'personal triumph,' and went on to name those who had helped him.

"Last but not least," he said, was "the much maligned king's proctor, Sir Thomas Barnes."

Sir Thomas Barnes figured in the divorce case of Mrs. Ernest Simpson, now the Duchess of Windsor, as the official charged with supervising the conduct of parties to a divorce during the six months that must elapse between the conditional degree and absolute divorce.

Mrs. Simpson's divorce, which freed her to marry the former King Edward VIII, spurred public interest in the divorce question but had no direct effect on today's legislation, which was originated a year before the abdication crisis.

Attempts to have incurable drunkenness, life imprisonment and sexual abnormalities added to the list of divorce grounds were defeated during the act's course through parliament.

The Church of England refused to fight the bill. The Archbishop of Canterbury, its primate, declined to vote when it was before the



HIS MAJESTY

Farouk I, Egypt's 17-year-old King, who will take the oath and hold his first court as ruling King, after two years of government by regency.

ROCKEFELLER SEAT TO STAY IN FAMILY

New York Stock Exchange Membership Goes To Grandson Of Dead Oil King

New York, July 22.—The New York Stock Exchange membership held by the late John D. Rockefeller, Sr., for 54 years will remain in the Rockefeller name, it was disclosed today.

A brief announcement by the exchange said it was "proposed" it be transferred to Laurence Spelman Rockefeller, his 27-year-old studious grandson, now assisting his father, John D., Jr., in the management of the Rockefeller charitable enterprises.

Persons close to the family said that Laurence Rockefeller has no present intention of making any active use of the exchange seat. His grandfather, likewise, was never known to go on the floor of the exchange, retaining the membership merely to obtain benefit of the lower brokerage commissions charged members.

The transfer will not be complete until two weeks from today, when the admissions committee will ballot on the membership change.

Brokers noted with interest that one of young Rockefeller's two sponsors—required under the rules—was Robert W. Kellips, once John D., Sr.'s private secretary.

It was recalled that it was Kellips who, on November 13, 1929, when the market reached its lowest level for that disastrous year, walked out on the floor at a few minutes before closing time and said:

"Bid 50 for a million or any part, Standard of New Jersey."

That meant he would pay \$50 a share for anything up to 1,000,000 shares of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, then quoted considerably under that price.

The bid was the beginning of a rally in the market that lasted until April, 1930.

Laurence Rockefeller was a graduate of Princeton in 1932 and then a student at Harvard law school.

Three years ago he married the former Mary French, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John French of New York.

When Rockefeller, Sr. bought his seats in the 80's they were selling at between \$23,000 and \$30,000. During the boom year of 1929 changes of membership were recorded at more than \$500,000. The most recent transfer was at \$93,000.

house of lords. Most vigorous opposition came from Catholics.

Herbert's final speech for the measure today referred to the archbishop, apparently to his refusal to vote.

"I don't agree with the Archbishop of Canterbury," Herbert said, "and I am bound to say, with great respect and not for the first time, that I am not able to follow the workings of that great mind."

Authoritative church circles, however, indicated opposition to easier divorce would continue. Church leaders were said to favor legislation to offset partly the effect of the Herbert bill. Such legislation would make a civil marriage ceremony before a registrar compulsory in all cases and provide that those couples who accepted the church's teachings on divorce would have a church ceremony afterward.

Such a law, it was believed, would prevent persons married by the church from seeking divorce on the new grounds.

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