

# Roosevelt Challenges Statements by Meyer

(Continued From Page One)

ing Army officers, government of Social and others.

2. Declared he knew nothing about a wartime gift of \$132 worth of Nylon stockings by Meyer to Faye Emerson, actress, the present Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt.

3. Accused the Republican senators on the committee of singling him out for inquiry because he is a son of the late President Roosevelt.

Relating the details of the Hughes wedding gift, Roosevelt said that just before his marriage to Miss Emerson late in 1944 he was staying at the Beverly Hills Hotel in California.

Roosevelt said he was accompanied by his children by a former marriage and a maid, and that as he was about to pay his bill Meyer approached him and said:

"You cannot pay that bill."

Elliott added:

"I said I certainly could and that I already had written the check."

Elliott said Meyer told him that Hughes wanted to pay the bill as a wedding present.

Young Roosevelt declared his acceptance had "nothing to do" with any contract for war planes.

**Hosiery Bill Query**

Questioned by Chairman Ferguson, Republican, Michigan, about the gift of hosiery, which Meyer had listed for Miss Emerson, Roosevelt said he had never heard of it. Meyer listed the item on August 25, 1945, more than a year before Roosevelt and Miss Emerson were married.

"I would seriously question the propriety of the item on a business account," Roosevelt said, "when the wearer could have no connection at all with the business."

In angry tones, Roosevelt contended at another point that the Senate group has directed its inquiry at him because he was "the son of the President" and passed over gifts by contractors to other Army officers.

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he would agree to merge Trans-World Airlines, in which Hughes has a controlling interest, with Pan American. Brewster has denied that.

Roosevelt's attack on Meyer's denials was launched with bitter words.

"Reference to the name of Elliott Roosevelt" in Meyer's accounts reminded him of a proverb. Fishing a piece of paper out of his pockets, he read:

"He who digs a grave for another almost invariably falls in it himself."

"I think the colonel is questioning my veracity without reason," Meyer commented.

The publicity agent reiterated that he put Roosevelt's name on his expense sheets because he was entertaining friends of the President's son.

Ferguson asked Meyer if he entered the name "because you wanted to influence the Colonel?"

"It was a matter of business," Meyer replied.

Roosevelt shouted that it was "utterly despicable" that Meyer should indicate "every girl he got was for me."

Elliott demanded that Meyer be called to the stand to "state for the record whether he ever got any girl for me."

Meyer, sitting nearby, broke in: "I don't like that word 'procured.' You can give a girl a present at a party and not make a bad girl out of her."

"You can use any word you want," Young Roosevelt shouted, "but were they (the girls) for me?"

Roosevelt insisted that Meyer had not answered his question.

"The colonel well knows the girls were present," Meyer insisted.

Meyer said that at the gay parties in New York, Colonel Roosevelt spent most of his time with Miss Faye Emerson, who later became Mrs. Roosevelt.

"Were any of the girls there to entertain me?" Elliott pressed his former party companion and host.

Meyer insisted the "girls" were part of a large party that varied from 20 to 30 persons.

"You mean their scintillating conversation was to entertain me," Roosevelt put in with irony in his voice.

"I resent any implication as to Miss Emerson," Roosevelt said, his voice filled with emotion.

"Oh," Meyer broke in, "that was the last thing on my mind."

"You have said I was getting all the girls," Roosevelt told Meyer. "You have not answered my question about these girls. What was I doing lining them up?"

Roosevelt said also that if the committee found that the Roosevelt name had been used by Meyer "just to get expenses" it ought to state that publicly. Ferguson agreed.

When Roosevelt referred to Meyer as "a rather comedy type of individual," Ferguson broke in with:

"Well, he's your friend, not ours."

"I will explain how he happened to be in my social circle," Roosevelt said.

"You should do that," Ferguson retorted.

Roosevelt said, however, that he believes the "technical side" of the case ought to get first attention.

Saying that the committee will get to that soon, Ferguson added: "You are going to have a full and fair hearing here, if it is within my power as chairman of the subcommittee. It doesn't make any difference whether you criticize the committee in or out of the hearings. That is your right as a citizen and I shall defend that right."

Roosevelt told Ferguson "I am not going to raise a political issue," and added:

"I am interested in getting the facts—the important facts—and that is why I am glad to be here."

Ferguson noted that the war investigating committee was not taken over by the Republican majority until last January.

"Do you think," he asked, "that what is in this (Hughes) file should not be exposed just because your name is in it?"

Elliott said that "most certainly" he did not.

Ferguson explained that the committee had asked Roosevelt to appear to give him an opportunity to tell his side of the story.

"I am glad to hear you say that, sir, because we are fighting for the

# FAYE R. CHECKS PLAY SCRIPT



IN DENNIS, MASS., YESTERDAY—Faye Emerson (right), wife of Elliott Roosevelt, went over the script of a new comedy with Richard Aldrich, owner of the Cape Cod Play House. Elliott testified in Washington, before a Senate war investigating committee, about his connection with a plane contract for Howard Hughes, millionaire designer of aircraft.—A. P. wirephoto.

same cause on the same side of the street," Roosevelt said.

It is "very peculiar," Roosevelt told the committee, that he had been "singled out for the first blare of publicity" when he knew that the committee had collected a vast amount of evidence about gifts by war contractors to other Army officers.

Roosevelt told the senators his promotion to brigadier general during the war was recommended "against my wishes."

Elliott said, too, that Gen. George C. Marshall, war-time Army chief of staff, twice vetoed his nomination to brigadier general because Marshall felt it would be embarrassing to President Roosevelt.

The nomination, Roosevelt said, was originated by his commanding officer, Gen. Carl Spaatz, and approved by Gen. James Doolittle and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Roosevelt said a member of Marshall's staff told him the nomination was twice turned down "for the following reasons:

"It was very unusual for a man to have as rapid a rise in rank as myself, and in view of the fact that I was the son of the President, he felt it would be embarrassing to the President to forward it to the Senate, where it would become a matter of political debate."

Roosevelt demanded the right to obtain affidavits from Doolittle, Spaatz and Eisenhower "to show whether they were anyway influenced by the fact that I was the President's son," in recommending his Army promotion.

Chairman Ferguson retorted: "I have never questioned your status in the Army but I have questioned some of the entries in these (Hughes) books."

Roosevelt said his nomination to brigadier general, finally recommended a third time and eventually approved by the Senate, was "sent through when I was out of the theatre and against my wishes."

He entered the Army as a captain and rose to brigadier general.

Shortly after the exchange, Ferguson threatened to clear the hearing room of spectators as Roosevelt drew a sharp burst of applause when he said:

"Because of the relationship and the affection I bore my father, I will fight to the death to protect his name."

Senator Brewster told Roosevelt: "No question was ever raised as to your courage or bravery, but there are other qualifications for a general."

There are almost a million fewer farms in the United States than there were 20 years ago.

# Subpoena For Ellensburg Hughes Won't Be Canceled Rodeo Party Feted Here

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5.—(UP)—Senator Ferguson, Republican, Michigan, said today he has rejected a request from Howard Hughes' attorney that the Senate war investigating committee cancel a subpoena for the California airplane contractor.

The subpoena was issued last week and directs Hughes to appear "forthwith" at the committee's hearing here on Hughes' war-time plane contracts. The U. S. marshal's office in California has not been able to locate Hughes to serve the subpoena.

BURBANK, Calif., Aug. 5.—(UP)—Howard Hughes' personal plane took off from Lockheed Air Terminal today and landed a few minutes later at the flyer's private air field at Culver City, Calif.

Some bystanders at the airport thought they saw a man resembling Hughes get aboard.

Hughes flew to Las Vegas last night in the ship, a converted B-23 bomber, and spent the evening watching the floor show at the Last Frontier Hotel.

Farragut Credits O. K'd

MOSCOW, Idaho, Aug. 5.—(UP)—J. E. Buchanan, University of Idaho president, announced today college credit would be given for 42 of the 57 academic courses taught at Farragut, Idaho, College and Technical Institute.

# 2 RESCUED FROM PLANE IN LAKE

Robert K. Dent, operator of the Tye Flying Service at Paine Field, Everett, and his father, Howard A. Dent, Edmonds, were preparing to return home today after a week-end crash in which the land plane they were flying overturned on an isolated Vancouver Island lake. They were rescued by a seaplane from nearby Port Alberni.

According to a Canadian Press story, the plane turned over when young Dent, the pilot, tried to land on Butte Lake, apparently with the wheels down.

Young Dent helped his father make shore. Food parcels were dropped to them from a small airplane before the seaplane arrived to pick them up.

The Dent's plane did not sink and was towed ashore.

# Rotarians to Honor Hawaiian Delegation

Members of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce delegation touring the Pacific Northwest will be guests of the Rotary Club of Seattle at luncheon at noon tomorrow in the Olympic Hotel.

L. Porter Dickinson, a member of the delegation and president of the Honolulu Rotary Club, will speak. Dickinson is assistant general manager of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

# \$325,000 Started Hughes On His Brilliant Career

Howard Hughes, frequently called "America's richest bachelor," and whose fortune is estimated at between \$150,000,000 and \$200,000,000, got his start from a \$325,000 nestegg left him by his father.

This was in the form of an interest in the Hughes Tool Company, of Houston, Tex., which always has been the parent company to Hughes' multiple interests in the aircraft and motion-picture fields.

Hughes persuaded the Texas courts to let him take full control of his inheritance when he was 19 and his success as head of the tool company was almost immediate.

By the time the Second World War broke out he had snow-balled his original stake tremendously and become a figure to be reckoned with in the motion picture and aircraft industries.

Hughes was the discoverer of the



HOWARD HUGHES

late motion-picture sensation, Jean Harlow, with whom his name was romantically linked as he has by with many film beauties including Ginger Rogers, Katharine Hepburn and Jane Russell, star of his controversial film, "The Outlaw." He was married and divorced from Ella Rice, Houston debutante.

In the aviation field he has gone in heavily for experimentation, with the Trans World Airlines his biggest commercial venture.

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# Report Checked

Brewster, having checked meantime, said the document is a report to Congress by Lindsay C. Warren, comptroller general.

Brewster read parts of the report which stated that Warren is convinced "that at least 79 termination settlements involving 107 contracts of 19 war contractors were made by him."

The senator asked Roosevelt to pay attention to this statement by Warren:

"With some high officials of the government the acceptance of entertainment including cocktail parties, hotel bills, and even travel from the contractor, while at the same time drawing travel expenses and per diem from the government was the rule rather than the exception."

On the night Roosevelt said he was at the White House, Meyer had listed a \$76 dinner with Roosevelt, then an Army Air Forces colonel, and a \$50 charge for girls.

These could have been two girls I had dinner with," Meyer said. "Their names aren't here. If their names were here, it would help."

Later he said "it may have been Colonel Eidson" at the hotel with him, referring to Col. Harry Eidson, who was a member of a Roosevelt-headed mission which recommended that the government buy Hughes' photo-reconnaissance plane.

A \$22,000,000 contract for this plane was let after Roosevelt's recommendation. Earlier, Army Air Corps experts had ruled against the plane. No plane was delivered before the war's end.

Meyer said that when making out expense accounts it was his custom to "put down the most important name" and sometimes "the most important person" was not there.

"And the most important person was not there," Roosevelt shouted.

Roosevelt said Hughes was not the only manufacturer who entertained him. He read off a long list of a score or more firms which he said entertained him during the war, including Lockheed, Douglas, Fairchild, Glenn L. Martin, Consolidated, the Aluminum Corp. of America, Reynolds Metals, General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, Victor Emmanuel and others. Coming to Pan American Airways, he said, "Excuse me for bringing that in."

Ferguson wanted to know why. "There have been a lot of efforts to bring them into this case, and I don't think it's relevant," Roosevelt said.

Hughes has charged that Senator Brewster, Republican, Maine, chairman of the full committee, once offered to call off the hearing if

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The higher cost of living hits steel plants as well as individuals. Steelmaking costs have risen sharply since January of this year—and they are still going up.

This average steel price increase adds:

- \$11 to the total cost of all the steel used in a typical automobile.
- 65 cents to the total cost of all the steel in an average domestic refrigerator.
- \$5 to the cost of the steel in a medium-sized farm tractor.
- \$25 for all the steel used in building a 5 or 6 room one-family house.

At the present average price of 3 1/2 cents per pound, steel is the lowest priced of all metals.

**How much have steel plant "living costs" gone up?**

**THE CHIEF** items of cost in steelmaking are wages, raw materials, equipment, fuel and transportation. Since January 1, 1947, these changes have taken place in typical annual cost items of the steel industry:

- Wages have increased \$240,000,000
- Scrap has increased \$160,000,000
- Freight has increased \$75,000,000
- Fuel oil has increased \$30,000,000
- Coal has increased \$90,000,000

These and other items of increase since January 1, 1947, have added more than \$600,000,000 to the annual costs of the steel industry.

That sum is more than the combined earnings of all the steel companies for three years past.

It amounts to nearly \$10.00 a ton on the present record-breaking volume of steel output.

To help meet this higher cost of living in steel plants, steel prices have been increased on the average by less than \$6.00 a ton.

The increase in steel prices since 1939 is only about half as much as the increase in commodity prices generally, and is less than half as much as the increase in weekly earnings of steel wage earners.

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