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LASKER EXPLAINS LEVIATHAN TRIP

ARRANGED BY DEMOCRATS
 Refutes Many Rumors Regarding So-Called Junket; Tells How Big Ship Handled Like All Others

For some time the New York World has been making sensational attacks upon the trial trip of the Leviathan. It has alleged the trip would cost \$1,000,000 and had been arranged by Mr. A. D. Lasker as a junket for his friends. The democratic national committee has been parroting those charges.

Mr. Lasker completely exposes the falsity and mendacity of the world's campaign in the following statement issued recently.

"I have refrained from answering what seemed to me an absurd criticism of the trial trip to be taken by the Leviathan next week, but I feel the recent statement issued by the democratic national committee is such an unfortunate utterance that it should not go unchallenged.

"It will be a matter of great regret to the American people, I am sure, when all the facts are known that a partisan political committee has so far forgotten patriotism as to play politics on a matter which should be obviously non-partisan.

Expected It

"What I feared would happen has happened. I was one of those who advocated a ship subsidy because I believed that was the only way to insure a merchant marine in competition with the private shipping enterprises of foreign countries. I feared that if we had government operation, it would merely mean that our whole shipping problem would be continuously a football in party politics. The democrats played their part in filibustering against ship subsidy, arguing that government operation was the solution to our merchant marine problem. Now, however, at the very first opportunity, when we are launching what we aspire to make the greatest ship in the world, when, indeed, the heart of every true American should beat proudly over the achievement in the reconditioning of the incomparable Leviathan, we are confronted with the spectacle of a political committee picking flaws and endeavoring by gross misrepresentations to muddy the waters.

"What are the facts? It would appear, on reading the statement of the democratic national committee, that the trial trip of the Leviathan was suddenly conceived, and that guests were invited purely as a private junket. If that were true, the criticism would be fully justified, particularly in these days when, as President Harding rightly says, economy in government is the paramount need of America.

Truth of Matter

"The truth of the matter is that this very trial trip was fully provided for by the experts engaged in December 1919, by a shipping board headed by John Barton Payne, under the democratic administration. If the critics had only taken the trouble to look up the records, they would have found that the plans and specifications for the reconditioning of the Leviathan were not hastily made, but that every detail, including the testing of the great ship in the proposed trial trip, even to the last dollar that would be spent.

"It is customary practice the world over to have trial trips for all vessels, but particularly extended trips before passenger ships like the Leviathan are put into regular service. I need only recall the extensive trial trips taken by the Lusitania and the Mauretania.

"The cost of reconditioning the Leviathan was more than \$8,000,000. The cost of the trial trip, as proposed by the experts and authorized by the board fully sixteen months ago, was \$120,000, of which \$107,000 would have had to be spent, irrespective of whether a single guest was carried. It has been the universal custom on the part of shipping companies throughout the world to invite non-paying guests on the trial trips of new vessels, in order that the complex organization and service machinery of the ship might be broken in. For that purpose the experts insisted that 400 to 500 guests be asked on the Leviathan's trial trip. Invariably shipping companies invite as guests the people whose good will it is desirable to win—journalists, legislators, freight and passenger men, exporters and importers, and others who could later be of aid to the ship's business.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT NOTICE No. 270

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that the Council of the City of Highland Park, County of Lake and State of Illinois having ordered the construction of a cast iron water main in Maple Avenue from Sheridan Road to Linden Avenue, the ordinance for the same being on file in the office of the City Clerk of said city and having applied to the

County Court of Lake County for an assessment of the costs of said improvement according to benefits, and an assessment thereof having been made and returned to said court, the final hearing thereon will be had on the 7th day of July A. D. 1923, or as soon thereafter as the business of the court will permit.

Said assessment is payable in Ten (10) installments, with interest at the rate of six (6) per centum per annum on all installments from and after the date of issue of first voucher. All persons desiring may file objections in said court before said day and may appear on the hearing and make their defense.

THOMAS MORTON
 Officer appointed to make said Assessment.
 Dated at Highland Park, Ill., June 28, A. D. 1923.

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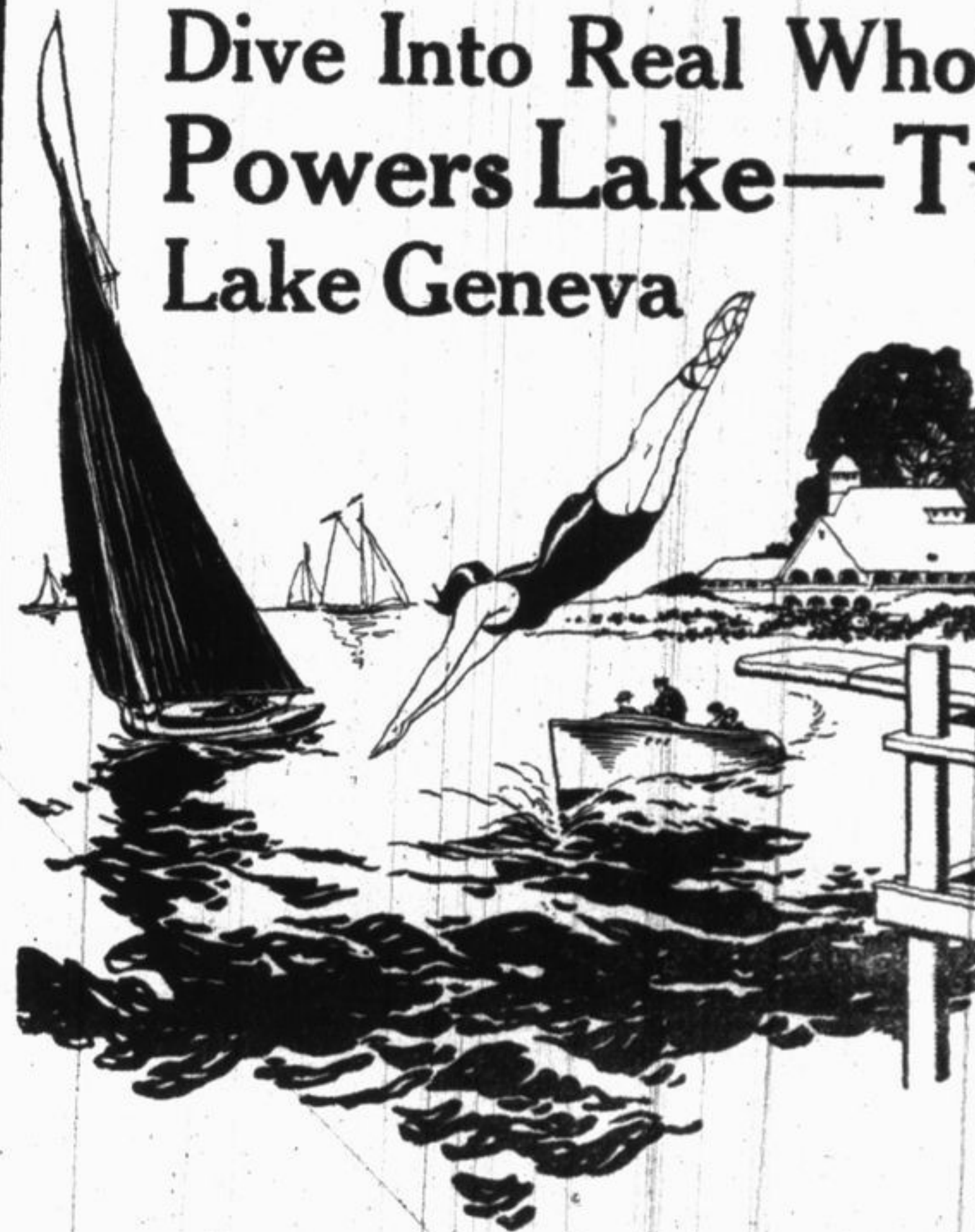
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