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BIG SHOTS

America touches a new high in the national passion for bigness. The mammoth wing of Howard Hughes' experimental flying boat creeps along a 2 miles an hour towards its ocean testing ground. Assembling the parts gave haulage men an oversize headache. The 28-mile trip cost 58,000 dollars - but what's that when the plane's total cost runs to 20 millions. They want 'em bigger and better. Why? We don't know - but it sounds good.

Italy's top-line crowd-gatherer is still the celebration of the new Republic. Milan bursts out in a rash of banners, and the crowd greets the occasion with a Garibaldi demonstration as excitably as they used to holler for Mussolini. And, in Rome, Premier de Gasperi announces that the exile of King Umberto means that a Kingdom is dead and a Republic born.

Fiesta day in Buenos Aires as the crowds pack in to see the inauguration of General Juan Domingo Peron as President of Argentina. For long the mystery man behind the scenes, ambitious, militaristic Peron comes out into the open. From former President Farrell, Peron gets the usual embrace. It all looks nice and friendly - but take a look at this. These are Peron's troops. They are one of many signs that there is truth in the charge that behind Peron's smile and swagger lurks a sinister new Dictator. Surprise success of Peron's new diplomacy was to find favour with Generalissimo Stalin.

In the castle-chapel at Stockholm the Swedish Royal family gather for the christening ceremony of their new baby, Karl Gustav, hereditary prince of Sweden. A spectacle memorable for its regal magnificence.