

CONSCRIPTION

P.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, July 30, 1940.

The Conscription Bill was put on the shelf today - temporarily. The Senate Military Affairs Committee was expected to pass the measure along to the floor of the Senate, but decided to delay. The idea is, to deal first with the mobilization of the National Guard. Go to work on the measure that would give the President the power to call the state soldiers for training. The Conscription Bill is in for a heavy fight and hot debate, while the National Guard can be handled a lot more quickly - it faces less opposition.

The mobilization battle came to a crisis today when Republican Senators demanded that President Roosevelt declare himself. Is he or is he not in favor of the bill? It is perfectly well known that the President believes that we should have compulsory military training - he has said so. But Republican Senator Bridges of New Hampshire made this statement:-

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He said that on every other phase of national defense the President has spoken his mind in a special message to Congress - supporting the bill. The Senator thinks the President should do likewise concerning conscription. This Republican demand provoked

quick retort - the charge of playing politics.

The opinion is gaining ground that the present bill might well be revised <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ this is suggested by administration leaders like Senator Barkley of Kentucky and Senator Byrnes of South Carolina. They might eliminate the provision for the military registration of men up to sixty-five. Also - they might cut out the part about putting men as old as forty-five into active army training. Limit the conscription to the young fellows - say between twenty and thirty. After all, what the army wants is efficient soldiers, not the old boys. The army <sup>states that it must have</sup> precisely and definitely ~~wants~~ <sup>wants</sup> four hundred thousand men for training beginning October First and another four hundred thousand next April.

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Today, in testimony before the Military Affairs Committee, General Marshall, Chief of Staff, declared that the conscription bill is a necessity for the army, as it is impossible to build up a sound defense force by means of enlistments. They simply don't enlist fast enough. One contention of Senators opposing the bill is that the army might

get enough recruits if the term of enlistment were cut down from three years to one year. General Marshall declared that in various places the army is already trying the one-year enlistment idea, <sup>he said</sup> and it is not bringing results, ~~said he~~.

ADD CONSCRIPTION

Here's the latest. The President has just repeated his belief in the necessity ~~that~~ of compulsory military training. However, <sup>he does</sup> ~~he did~~ not take <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ position concerning the bill that's now before Congress. Mr. Roosevelt stated <sup>s</sup> ~~d~~ that he <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ not declare himself specifically <sup>on</sup> ~~about~~ that measure - not until it has emerged from the Senate Committee in its final shape.

## JAPAN

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In London today Foreign Secretary, Viscount Halifax, told the House of Lords that the British Government takes a most serious view of the arrest of prominent British citizens in Japan. He stated that ~~eleven~~ certainly had been seized by the Tokyo authorities, and probably two more. The Japanese accuse them of espionage, and this the British deny. Lord Halifax today spoke especially of the death of M. H. Cox, Tokyo's correspondent for ~~the~~ Reuter's News Agency. The Japanese claim that this important British journalist committed suicide by a plunge from a window while he was being held to face spy charges.

Today, the London Foreign Secretary declared that the British Government rejects the Japanese assumption that the correspondent of the Reuter's Agency had been engaged in espionage activities. Lord Halifax told the House of Peers that this morning he called the Japanese Ambassador to London for a conference. "And," said the Foreign Secretary, "I left His Excellency in no doubt regarding the serious view His Majesty's Government took of these arrests."

The British protest was enunciated likewise in Tokyo.

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There the British Ambassador, Sir Robert Craigie, made a declaration to the Mikado's Foreign Minister. The Ambassador said, "News of the arrests would inevitably be regarded as having political implications, quite apart from any technical charges against those arrested." That, in formal language, expresses the British view - that the arrests in Tokyo are <sup>another case of</sup> pushing the British around in the Far East, taking advantage of Britain's war peril in Europe.

London is highly indignant about it. There are public demands that the Burma Road be reopened - call off that concession to Japan, which closes the great route of supplies to China. There are even London suggestions that prominent Japanese in Britain be arrested - this as a reprisal.

Whatever may be the motives of the Japanese seizure of British subjects, it was apparent that the Far Eastern Empire is having a spy scare. In quite up-to-date fashion, the Land of the Rising Sun is buzzing about a fifth column - however you'd say that in Japanese. It is reported that Tokyo is going to dismiss five hundred odd foreign instructors in Japanese schools

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and universities - all foreigners being suspected of espionage.

In Korea, a spy hunt was launched today by the Japanese authorities and a number of suspects were arrested.

NEWSREEL

Today is something of a historical marker in this country for one of the important contemporary arts - newsreel. For the first time an important naval battle is shown on the motion picture screen. Also - for the first time we can see a major engagement between German bombers and a British convoy, with two Nazi flyers shot down, in full view.

Going to do my usual job at Movietone Newsreel, I was amazed by the historic quality of those two pictures. The biggest naval battle of the war thus far occurred when the British and Italian fleets had their first clash in the eastern Mediterranean. The news gave us the British report that Royal Navy ships had scored a heavy hit on an Italian battleship with a large calibre shell. And this was admitted by the Italians. <sup>And</sup> now we have a motion picture, sent from Rome - ~~and~~ showing the terrific devastation wrought by that giant British shell on the deck of the ~~ITALIAN BATTLE~~ Italian battleship, GIULIO CESSARE. An important bit of war news comes to vivid life on the screen. The newsreel film shows a startling panorama of warships with blazing guns, bursts of shell fire, sky bombing



and the dodging of the Italian flotilla through smoke screens.

In the British convoy battle, the Movietone picture shows us British vessels with bombs bursting on all sides - with one remarkable scene of a ship making a swift turning course amid the bursts of bombs, dodging them. A Nazi <sup>war plane</sup> ~~bomber~~ shot ~~down~~, and it can be seen plunging into the <sup>sea</sup> ~~water~~ <sup>vanishing.</sup> Another sky casualty, a German pilot bailing out of his stricken plane and fluttering down onto the English Channel. He can be seen landing within a few yards of one of the British ships he set out to bomb.

Thus the screen shows the kind of warfare which has been raging day after day. <sup>The news tonight?</sup> The same thing ~~today~~ - bombing raids by both sides, with disputed claims of the actual damage done.

52 And, there are stories of the Germans massed at the Channel for the invasion of Britain.

## WINDSORS

It is officially announced <sup>now</sup> that the Duke and Duchess <sup>of Windsor</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> start across the ocean on August First, day after tomorrow.

Today the American Export Lines revealed that the Duke and Duchess have booked passage on the United States liner EXCALIBUR. The voyage of that vessel will be from Lisbon to New York, arriving on August Ninth. Consequently, the Windsors will be in New York - though for how much of a stay has not been revealed. There's a report that they will spend some time at least, visiting New York friends. Then they'll proceed to the Bahamas, the Duke to assume his post as Governor.

53 { This announcement of sailing was preceded by a story from Great Britain which stated that the former Edward the Eighth intended to take a trip to London, his former capital. It was pointed out that a newly appointed British governor customarily has an audience with the King before proceeding to his post. The Duke, in going to London, would presumably be accompanied by his Duchess. The story from London made the remark that there was a social angle in this. The success of the former Wallis Warfield as First Lady of the Bahamas would depend largely upon

being socially accepted <sup>by</sup> ~~in~~ the British colony in the West Indies.

Today's news that the Duke and Duchess will sail the day after tomorrow makes the visit to London appear to be unlikely - though of course a swift trip by plane may be possible.

SMITH

Al Smith today came out for Wilkie. <sup>Al</sup> ~~He~~ bitterly denounced the third term nomination and declared it sounded ~~like~~ -- "the deathknell of the Democratic party." The Democratic candidate of Nineteen Twenty-Eight took a walk-out on the New Deal in Nineteen Thirty-Six. This time he declares himself in active support of the Republican candidate. Al Smith was asked whether he would campaign for Wilkie. He replied: -- "I suppose so."

FIRE

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This evening one of the worst fires on record is raging at Camden, New Jersey. So bad that a state of emergency was declared in the City. Fifty buildings destroyed already, with flames sweeping through the residential section of Camden.

It began with a series of explosions in a paint factory. From the building ~~dashing~~<sup>ed</sup> employees who ~~are~~<sup>were</sup> showered with burning oil. The explosions lasted for an hour, the paint factory a raging mass of flames. The day was blistering hot, <sup>as</sup> the firemen ~~super-~~ battled against the <sup>super-</sup> heat waves of burning chemicals. Much of the fire equipment could not get near -- because of the scorching, blistering heat. <sup>And, it</sup> ~~The fire~~ spread from the burning factory to nearby houses, and then the flames leaped on and on. The Camden fire department sent desperate appeals for help. Fire fighting apparatus came rushing from all over Western New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania in an effort to keep Camden from being completely destroyed.

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How many lives have been lost? It is impossible to say. <sup>But</sup> It is known that many employess ~~who~~ were in the factory when the explosions began. ~~There were reports of loss~~

~~of life as high as fifty.~~ But there is nothing certain --  
because of the disruption of communications and general  
confusion. ~~It is even possible that there are no~~  
~~casualties,~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~only four or five.~~

The latest: - an estimate  
that 200 people have been  
injured — 40 of them firemen,  
<sup>many</sup> overcome by <sup>the</sup> smoke of burning  
chemicals. A thousand are  
homeless in Camden tonight.

## ROBBERY

They're having a manhunt in Jew Jersey tonight. Or rather - it's mostly a woman-hunt. Every agency of the law is seeking - "the woman in white." She, they say, was the mastermind, of the biggest hold-up at Asbury Park today. A hundred and eight thousand dollars was taken by robbers near the post office, money that was being shipped by the Asbury Park National Bank and Trust Company to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

During the past week, folks in Asbury noticed a handsome and stylish woman, dressed in white. White hat, white dress; she was seen repeatedly strolling near the entrance of the post office. She was there this morning. Nobody paid any particular attention to her, or thought of her particularly until the startling event occurred. Messengers carrying the hundred and eight thousand dollars of bank money were just approaching the post office, when two nattily dressed men stepped up swiftly - pistol in hand. They held up the messengers, seized the satchel of cash, and dashed to a nearby automobile. In it sat the woman in white, and she was seen to be giving them directions as the car jerked into swift motion and sway. Obviously, she it was who had scouted the post office for the robbery, and it would seem as if she were the mastermind who planned the whole affair -- the woman in white.

## EGGS

Here's a hot weather narrative about a grocer in Ohio.

57  
He took a basket of eggs from his store, and happened to leave them in the sun. A short time later, there were signs of life, and fifteen chicks hatched. They certainly must have been fresh eggs!



## GHOST

In a Los Angeles court room today, all was mysterious - Sho-Sha. They were waiting for a ghost to appear - Sho-Sha.

That's the name of the ghost. Or is it really a spook, a spectre, mere ectoplasm? The husband in the case says - No.

The story relates that wifie was highly spiritual, interested in occult subjects. She went to a medium, who proceeded to materialize a disembodied spirit, a ghost whose name was - Sho-Sha. The spook became the mystic teacher of the wife. It was denied in court today that ~~fixmen~~ disembodied Sho-Sha became wifie's ~~an~~ soul mate. No, not at all. But the husband claims that wifie did have Sho-Sha for a soul mate, and moreover that Sho-Sha was no ghost at all.

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This metaphysical complication caused a court summons to be issued, for the ghost, to the soul mate. ~~or what have you~~. Two deputy sheriffs went out looking for Sho-Sha, but couldn't find him. At last reports that mysterious entity, the disembodiment of a ghost, or the very embodiment of a soul mate, had failed to show up. It's all very mysterious - Sho-Sha.

~~But now let's go on to something with impressive syllables - Nu Blue.~~

## MARRIAGE

58 1/2

Every wife knows that a husband now and then can be just too mean and spiteful - anything to annoy and irritate the long suffering wife. Take the case of the married life ~~and of~~ Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vandermark of Rochester, New York. Mrs. Vandermark was granted an annulment today, after telling the things that hubby did - "just to get her nervous." He'd sit down and eat a piece of glass - and that made her nervous. He chewed up ~~XXXX~~ safety razor blades - which also made her nervous. And when he started sewing on buttons - no, not on his shirt, on his skin; When he stitched a few buttons right on his own epidermis - that's when wifie's nerves were just worn to a frazzle. She explained to the court that hubby was in the automobile agency business, which didn't explain anything very much. But she added that he used to be a circus freak - and that explained a lot.

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Now fancy, ladies - marrying one of those circus prodigies and then having him eat glass, chew razor blades and sew buttons on his skin - just to make you nervous! Tell me, ladies, do your husbands ever equal that! Can you, Hugh?

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Hugh:- Sure - listen to this:-