

COMMUNISTS

L. J. - Sunoco. Monday, Aug. 22, 1938.

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Some Astounding statements were made in Washington today, before they were uttered to the Dies Committee, which is looking into un-American activities. ~~and~~ The principal witness, Dr. J. B. Mathews, is a reformed Communist. In fact ~~he~~ used to be a party worker.

Among other things, he said that several objectives of the New Deal are also aimed at by the Communist Party in America. Such, for instance, as the defeat of Representative O'Connor of New York, Chairman of the influential Rules Committee, the man against whom President Roosevelt launched a broadside last week.

Ex-comrade Mathews outlined the strategy of the Reds in America. First and foremost comes the splitting of the Democratic Party, driving a solid wedge between the New Deal wing and the conservative section. Then said ~~he~~ Mathews, once the Democratic Party is destroyed, a farmer-labor party on a national scale will rise from its ashes. And the backbone of that farmer-labor party will be the industrial union. With a farmer-labor party in power, the Communists would use it to sabotage the American system of production, by taxing it to death and crippling it with new laws

and agencies to hold it in check.

The general policy of the Communists, Matthews described as boring from within. There are borers even in the Republican Party, he said.

He also said that several famous screen stars, including Clark Gable and Shirley Temple and Robert Taylor, had been made stooges for the Communist Party on various occasions, though they didn't know it. He ~~also~~ included also James Cagney, Miriam Hopkins, and Bette Davis. Democratic Congressman Starnes of Alabama at this point asked: "How about Charlie McCarthy?" Matthews was annoyed and replied sharply: "They have so many Charlie McCarthy's they don't have to use the wooden one." And he added: "Almost every one in Hollywood has been signed up for some Communist organization except Mickey Mouse and Snow White."

He added that there are preachers in active service who are Communist Party members and that the Methodist Federation of Social Service is entirely in accord with the Communist Party Line.

Matthews also said that sixty congressmen had similarly roped in as stooges. They had sent greetings to the Spanish

Republican Government.

He got a ~~sl~~ laugh when he listed Heywood Broun as a worker for the Communist Party. He said Heywood had told him that he had resigned from the Socialist Party because it would leave him more free to work with the Communists. And the biggest laugh he got was from Heywood himself who was sitting at the press table. Matthews said that Broun had told him this in a private conversation. After the show was over, Broun said: "I didn't tell him either publicly or privately that I was drawing out of the Socialists to work for the Communists. I am not a Communist and never have been. "

SOFTBALL

The White House "Purge" was checked yesterday -- on the baseball diamond anyhow. The soft ball team ^{from the summer} White House,

~~baseball team~~, calling themselves "The White House Purgers,"

came over and played my "Nine Old Men." And Manager George

^{Durno of the Int. News Service}

~~Durno~~ is still roaring with rage -- all because of the way

the "Purgers" lost the game. The score was tied in the last

inning, five to five. One of my "Nine Old Men" hit an easy

grounder, which went straight at "Purger" Dick Flohr of the

Secret Service. ^{Flohr} missed it and the ball rolled straight

to second baseman Felix Belair of the "New York Times." He

missed it. ^{rolling on} The ball was next missed by presidential son

John Roosevelt, and finally by John O'Brien of the "New York

World-Telegram." The measly grounder went through four fielders

for a home run. ^{And} That's how the "Purgers" lost the game -- not

counting an attempt to steal second by Fred Storm of the

~~United~~ Press. Fred is tall, of imposing build, rather

majestic, and slow. He was thrown out by three feet.

These calamitous doings of the White House "Purgers" were

^{And he} had a narrow escape from danger. The President witnessed by the President himself. ^{he} was sitting in his car

^{about ten feet off the first base line} when his son John fielded a fast grounder

in sparkling style, and then made one of the wildest throws to first base ever seen on any diamond. He hurled the ball ten feet wide of the first baseman, and almost beamed his presidential father. You could see Secret Service men grow pale all over the place.

Later John Roosevelt tried to redeem himself by hitting a smashing liner right at the stomach of our rotund third baseman, Colonel Stoopnagle. Stoop caught it and the correspondents and Colonel McIntyre claim they'd have won the game except for the ball getting lost in ~~the~~ the folds of the Stoopnagle stomach.

GEROGE

Senator George of Georgia took another crack at President Roosevelt today. He picked on the statement that the President made in Canada, his promise that if Canada were ever invaded, Uncle Sam would rush to the rescue.

Said Senator George: "The President of the United States hasn't the power to make such a statement. He can't declare war, he has to have the consent of Congress."

TREE

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Uncle Sam's forestry service has been spending years on an interesting bit of research. They wanted ~~xxxxx~~ an answer to the question: "Where is the largest tree in the world?" They looked ^{the big banyan in Calcutta; they looked in} all over the earth, Siam; Central America; Brazil, in fact all ^{and in} of South America; Australia, ~~the~~ land of the eucalyptus. Even, so the story goes, Greenland. After searching the globe over, our foresters found that the largest tree in the world is right here at home. In California, of course. It's ^{that grand old} a sequoia called the "General Sherman Tree." This mighty bit of timber is ^{now} thirty-six and a half feet through at the base, and two hundred and seventy-two feet high. If anybody were barbarian enough to fell that ^{forest titan} ~~tree~~ he could build a half a dozen good sized homes out of it. For if it were milled into lumber, it would produce six thousand board feet of ~~the~~ ^{red} fine wood. However, there's fortunately no chance of that. The General Sherman tree is safely protected in the Yosemite National Forest.

Incidentally, it isn't the tallest tree in the world.

That record goes to a eucalyptus in Australia, which rears up in the sky three hundred and twenty-five feet, as high as a skyscraper of thirty stories.

HINES

The trial of Jimmy Hines today. On one side the prosecutor, on the other side, the judge -- arguing heatedly. The prosecutor, District Attorney Dewey. Justice Pecora, being the judge, had rather the better of the argument. Dewey complained openly about the treatment he had had from Pecora, formerly a prosecutor himself. Said Dewey: "Your Honor has rebuked the District Attorney several times but never once has the court rebuked counsel for the defense."

Said the judge: "That's too strong a word to use, the word 'rebuk' I've sever times called your attention perhaps forcibly, to certain acts, statements, conduct, that I thought improper."

And so they went on wrangling.

TEXAS

In the southern part of Texas there's a charming place called New Braunfels. It became today a scene of what may be an international incident. New Braunfels was settled largely by Germans. A monument to German pioneers was unveiled ~~at New Braunfels today~~ ^{there today.} Among ~~ex~~ the distinguished guests present was the German Consul of New Orleans. In the middle of the ceremonies and before the ~~unveiling~~ unveiling could be completed the Nazi Consul took a conspicuous departure. In fact he left in a huff. And it is reported that he lodged a complaint at Washington. The grievance of the German Consul was that those Germans present who had become American citizens declined to fly the Swastika along with the American flag. They also refused to sing the "Horst Wessel" song, the anthem of the Nazi party. That German consul told the embassy in Washington all about it, and in a day or so we may expect to hear of acrid and anti-American editorials ^S in the newspapers of the Fatherland.

EUROPE

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European foreign offices are beginning the week with a large assortment of headaches. And there was plenty of reason. First and foremost, of course, General Franco's flat rejection of the proposals of the Non-Intervention Committee. Of course it's generally believed that the words were put into Franco's mouth by Hitler and Mussolini. That seems curious in a way; we've been hearing that the Duce was anxious for the treaty with England to be put into force in a hurry. Franco's note to John Bull means it will have to be postponed indefinitely.

The Spanish Rebel chief's reply is being resented today in England, ~~that was only to be~~ ^{just as} expected. But the English indignation is mild compared to that of the French. The gallic temper has risen so that it was prophecied today that the French government will relax its watch over the frontier, open the gates to fresh volumes of supplies and recruits for the Spanish government. In short, there's no ~~headache~~ cure in sight for that Spanish problem.

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So much for Europe's Number One headache. Number Two is a fresh cabinet crisis in France; ~~events~~ over the labor imbroglio, Premier Daladier's announcement that the French can't work on a

forty hour week basis if they want to be safe from invasion by Hitler's legions. Two Socialist members of ~~the~~ Daladier's cabinet resigned and today ~~it~~ he was busy filling their places.

Headache Number Three, the visit of Admiral Horthy, Hungary's Regent, to Hitler. ~~A~~ A declaration to the world that the Hungarians have become pals of the Nazis. And Hungary, sprawling along the southeastern border of Czechoslovakia, will be in a fine position to stick a knife into the Czechoslovak back.

Headache Number Four, (the Slovak power ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ Czechoslovakia emerges as a menace. The Slovaks threaten to line up with the Sudeten Germans. That would leave the Czecks in a peculiarly woeful situation.) Externally, Czechoslovakia is surrounded by a

hostile Germany plus what used to be Austria, unfriendly Poland, threatening Hungary, and the none too amiable Roumania. And now the Czechs ^{are} ~~are~~ menaced with ~~encirclement~~ ^{ment} encirclement even in their own country, Sudeten Germans on one side, Slovaks on the other, Poles on the third. It looks today as though that ~~the~~ ^e Czechoslovak republic,

erected at Versailles largely through the pressure of President Wilson, ^{is in for great changes.} ~~will before long have ceased to exist.~~ On October Eighteenth it will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its declaration of independence. Foreign observers are wondering whether that celebration will ever take place.

CHINA

The Sino-Japanese war came to life again today. The Japanese invaders started a powerful attack on the Chinese line at lower Hankow. The assault was the most vigorous in two weeks, with warships, airplanes, artillery and infantry. Japanese headquarters reports that they inflicted huge casualties. The Chinese press department says: "The Japanese didn't get to first base and lost a lot of men not getting there." However, the Japanese definitely captured two more cities west of Kiukiang, and seriously interfered with traffic on the railroad, which is the life-line of the armies defending Hankow.

EARTHQUAKE

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An earthquake in Maine! That sounds extraordinary and indeed it ^{is} unusual, to say the least. It was in the historic City of Bangor that the folks got a fright early this morning. It wasn't one shock, but several. Houses shook, windows broke, cups, plates, saucers and glasses fell off the shelves. For a time even the telephone service was interrupted. Outside of that, no serious consequences, no casualties.

PRISON STRIKE

For ~~about~~ five days there has been a hunger strike at the county prison in Philadelphia. Six hundred and fifty inmates staged a protest against the menu. They were tired, they say, of eating nothing but fried egg plant, hamburger and macaroni. Six hundred and fifty of them started it, but five hundred and ninety-nine of them could not hold out. At the beginning of the fifth day they weakened, ^{and} ate the bread and water, strike fare offered them by the warden of the prison.

But fifty-one of them kept the strike going. That had a tragic end today. Four of those fifty-one were found dead in their cells. It isn't known yet whether they were dead of starvation. ^{of} There ~~is~~ ^{will} going to be a coroner's investigation, for the coroner describes it all as extremely suspicious. ~~Tonight there were only a dozen prisoners still on strike.~~

~~For five days they hadn't touched a drop of water or so much as a crumb of bread. The death of these four men is being talked about in Philadelphia tonight as a mystery. ^{And -} The whole business is going to be investigated by the State Welfare Department, also crack detectives of the Philadelphia police force.~~

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ROBBER

A sympathetic bandit made his appearance today in Brooklyn, the city of churches. The first thing this morning the robber walked into a hat store. The store had only just opened. He stuck the manager up with a gun, tied his hands and feet, then went to the cash register. There he found six dollars. Said the robber:

"Is this all you've got?" The manager replied: "Yes, it is."

Whereupon the robber said: "That's a ^{blatantly blatant} ~~heck of a~~ way to start a week", ~~— only he didn't say "heck"~~. Whereupon he threw the money

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And
back into the cash register, untied the manager and walked out with a cap. He even paid a dollar for the cap.

FEET

Here's a new topic for us to quarrel about in the hot weather,
the size of women's feet. The National Association of Chiropractors^k
is holding a convention at Pittsburgh. One of the foot doctors
read a paper concerning the dimensions of the little woman's dogs.
— taking on an English accent,
They're growing larger. A specialist has been studying up the
records, comparing the size of shoes today with what they were
twenty years ago. And he says: "Women's feet have become two sizes
larger in two decades."

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If they go on at that pace, what will they be in say
Nineteen Seventy? ~~Won't it be tough for papa when mamma's able to~~

~~wear his shoes!~~ *Maybe the day will come*
when Mamma will be
able to wear Papa's shoes.

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