

L.T. - Sumner. Tues. Jan. 10, 1939

RELIEF

(The new congressional opposition to the administration struck its first blow today.) After the failure of the New Deal purge in the primaries and the Republican gains in the November election, it was certain that there would be revived hostility to White House policies. And today (the Sub-committee on Deficiency Appropriations of the House of Representatives scaled down the money the President ^{wanted} ~~asked~~ for immediate unemployment relief, chopped it down by quite a sizeable figure.)

The Committee deliberations were dramatized today by an attempt to picket the national capitol. (To Washington came two hundred Pennsylvania members of the Workers Alliance - that's an organization of relief workers. They were there to demand that the White House figure should be scaled, not down, but up. The President asked Congress for an immediate relief appropriation of eight hundred and seventy-five million dollars. The Workers Alliance wanted that to be increased to ^a ~~one~~ billion, ¹ ~~and~~ fifty million.) ~~dollars.~~ So the Pennsylvania relief workers swarmed into the capital and buttonholed the Pennsylvania Congressmen with persuasion and argument. (Then (they tried to

form a picket line on the street outside the capitol. Police hurried to the scene, and kept them moving.)

Meanwhile, the Sub-Committee inside was making up its mind, and it voted to cut the White House eight hundred and seventy-five million. Cut it ^{by} ~~down to seven hundred and twenty five million,~~ a slash of a hundred and fifty million. *down to 725,000,000!*

~~This they are recommending to Congress, and now the relief money question will go to debate on the floor of the House.~~

APPOINTMENTS

There was a sub-committee report today on the appointment of Frank Murphy as Attorney General. A Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee reported to the full committee and the full committee will thereupon report to the Senate. So the Sub-Committee action just sets the ball rolling. It was favorable action; ~~with the~~ recommendation that the appointment of Frank Murphy as Attorney General be confirmed.

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Meanwhile, the full committee was holding a hearing on the appointment of Felix Frankfurter to the Supreme Court. Three witnesses appeared today in opposition. One denounced ~~Felix~~ Frankfurter as a false liberal, ~~saying he violates the liberalism~~

of Thomas Payne, Washington, Jefferson, and all the rest. That's a fairly varied and inclusive list. The witness, named ^{Colbis} ~~Carlo~~ Redd,
- though he's not a red -
identified himself as the National Director of the Constitutional ~~Crusaders~~ Crusaders of America. He said he represented the consumers, the unemployed, and the old-age pensionists. Senator Borah asked whether he had been authorized to represent these groups. "I have taken it upon myself," responded the witness. "I appointed myself a committee of one to represent them."

Another witness was George Sullivan, described as a Washington attorney and author. He objected to the appointment, pointing out that Felix Frankfurter was alien born, a native of Austria. And he said that Frankfurter had - alien affiliations. ~~"Frankfurter is alien-minded", said the witness. And he added that the Harvard Professor was a member of the Civil Liberties Union Committee and as such was associated with William Z. Foster, the Communist leader.~~

And Witness Sullivan touched upon the delicate theme of religion. He said the Frankfurter nomination would, in his words, "wrong our Jewish-Americans." It would, as he expressed it, "promote racial intolerance by making our loyal citizens believe that he (Frankfurter) typifies the Jewish-American." The witness continued on the theme with the words: "he has an international mind, not the mind of the American Jew."

A third witness demanded that Frankfurter be summoned before the Committee to explain his views on the American Constitution.

~~Today's hearing, which will be continued tomorrow, has not changed the general impression in the slightest - that the Senate will confirm the nomination of Felix Frankfurter to the Supreme Court.~~

DEFENSE

National defense was the theme of the day in Washington.

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At a joint session of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate and the House appeared the United States Ambassadors to Great Britain and France. They gave to the Committee an outline of the state of affairs in Europe. And an ~~xx~~ alarming outline it was. Both Ambassadors painted a grave picture of the European war ~~terrors~~ ^{peril,} provoked by the ambitions of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. ~~Europe is drifting into war -- such were the opinions of Joseph P. Kennedy, our Ambassador to London, and William C. Bullitt, our Ambassador to Paris.~~

Later in the day President Roosevelt chimed in with his own bit of defense information. He was asked about a suggestion of the ~~xx~~ Civilian Conservation Corps to be utilized for expanding the army -- train the three hundred thousand CCC boys as soldiers. The President said no. He declared that the Government does not plan to militarize the CCC.

FLIGHTS

There were great scenes of flight in southern
skies today, mighty squadrons of planes winging to the far
distance. Great naval ~~news from~~ ^{maneuvers in} the Caribbean, war ships ^{and} ~~need~~
~~meet the~~ ^{TP} air squadrons. Today the flying fleets from
California started on their way. The Navy is making it
something spectacular -- two magnificent formation flights.
And today eighteen war planes took off from San Diego on a
mass sky ~~px~~ ^{jaunt} formation to Guantanamo, Cuba. And a couple of
hours later forty-eight more took to the sky in another
direction, ~~west~~ to the South -- formation flight to the Canal
Zone. A great air prelude to the maneuvers.

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Tonight on a train speeding southward toward the Alps and Italy is Prime Minister Chamberlain of Great Britain.

Tomorrow in Rome will begin momentous conferences with

Mussolini. [^] When Chamberlain left London ^{this morning} he was hooted by

crowds of rioting unemployed who shouted that they needed

apeasement, not Mussolini, [^] ^{who needed it. Chamberlain} [^] [^] he stopped off at Paris, and had a

quick talk with the heads of the ~~Fr~~ French Government. As a

result of this Paris comes out with an announcement that

Chamberlain will back up France in opposing all Italian demands.

The statement issued by the French Government represents the

British Prime Minister as going to Rome with a full set of

refusals for Mussolini. This might indicate nothing but a

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deadlock when Chamberlain and the Duce confer -- but that

remains to be seen.

FRENCH SPY

A melodramatic story has just come in from France, just enough of it on the wire for a mention. A spy trial, a verdict by a secret naval tribunal, a verdict of death. The man thus sentenced is a naval officer who was commander of a French destroyer -- Lieutenant Jean Aubert. He was convicted of selling French navy secrets to a foreign power during the war crisis in September, that time when the world was about to flame into conflict. The foreign power is not named. But the woman is named, the traditional blonde girl spy ~~of espionage~~ romance. *SD* *She gets* ~~She was sentenced to three years of imprisonment.~~

GERMANY - Refugees.

Today's news from Berlin reports a deadlock. No agreement in sight concerning the refugee problem. American Chairman Rublee of the Inter-Governmental Refugee Commission is in the Berlin capital trying to ~~not~~ get the Nazis to permit German Jews to emigrate with a reasonable portion of their wealth. That's what has deadlock negotiation -- the theme of wealth.

And furthermore, ^{are} the American Chairman and the Hitler government ~~are~~ at odds about the fate of those Polish Jews expelled from Germany yet not admitted into Poland. So the discussions have got nowhere, -- are at a halt.

GERMANY

Germany's big treason trial sprung a surprise today - the Number One defendant was sentenced, but not to death. He is Ernst Niekisch, accused of all sorts of acts against the Hitler government, anti-Nazi propaganda, mention of a secret anti-Hitler wireless station, and even charged with conspiring to assassinate high Nazi officials, ^{including} ~~even~~ Hitler himself. Those charges created the belief that the Nazi court would certainly send him to the headsman's axe. Today he was found guilty, and the red-robed court said - life imprisonment.

Other defendants, tried along with Niekisch, get other prison sentences - so many years each.

FORD

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There has been word of a possible understanding between the Auto Workers Union and Henry Ford - for the unionization of the Ford Motor Company. This has been denied by Ford officials, but it was asserted once more today by Homer Martin, President of the Auto Workers. He appeared before the union board, ~~today~~ and a hostile board it was. He was there explaining, called upon to tell about the Ford situation. And he did in these words:-

"conferences have been held moving in the direction of an understanding between the Ford Motor Company and the U.A.W."

But he said that no agreement had been arrived at - no deal had been made.

STRIKE

The first killing in the Boston trucking strike occurred today, and the Governor immediately took action. The strikers attacked a truck, and beat the two men driving it so severely that one of them died. Whereupon Governor Saltonstall gave prompt orders for mobilization of the Boston and state police and he issued the order - give full protection against violence on the highways.

The latest is that the violence has increased so much the governor may decree a state of emergency.

DODGE

Today at Pontiac, Michigan, a settlement was signed whereby the sum of eight million dollars goes to a girl who just a year ago was a fifteen-dollar-a-week telephone operator. This ends the romantic and tragic story of Daniel Dodge, heir to a great automobile fortune. Last summer, while in Canada, he married Annie Laurine MacDonald, the local girl telephone operator at Gore Bay, Ontario. They were honeymooning in a woodland cottage, when there was a garage explosion. The young ^{multimillionaire} ~~automobile~~ heir was so badly injured that he was maddened with pain and threw himself overboard from a boat - as they were taking him across the lake for medical care. That was much in the news at the time, and was followed by ^a ~~the~~ dispute between the telephone ~~girl~~ girl-widow and the automobile heir's mother, ~~about the fortune he left.~~ After some court proceedings an agreement was reached today. The twenty-one year old widow gets ~~three million dollars right away,~~ and she will receive ~~two million more from a forty million dollar trust fund -~~ ^{dollars,} eight million ~~in all.~~

GAMBLING

~~Today~~ ^{came} at Peoria, Illinois, death ~~came~~ to the locksmith who hated gambling. He was shot down last night, and before he succumbed today, he said it was the doing of the gamblers who wanted to get ride of him and his crusading.

There was something singularly effective in the anti-gambling crusade waged by Anton Miller, the locksmith. It was not that ^{le} the complaints and charges ~~that~~ made to the police ~~that~~ ever got him anywhere.

^{For} He accused the police of being in connivance with the gamblers.

But, being a locksmith, Anton Miller had a way of his own. The thing he hated most was the slot machine gamble. So, with his professional skill he made keys that fit in ~~xxx~~ slot machines, ^{and} passed these keys around. With one of Anton Miller's keys anyone could open a slot machine and empty it of the coins inside. Yes, that was a way of hitting at the gambling mobs who ran the slot machine racket.

The crusading locksmith was shot once before, three years ago.

A city detective blazed away at him and wounded him. The detective said it was because of a refusal to obey a command to halt. But

Anton Miller went to court charging that he had been shot because higher-ups in the Police Department had ordered it.

Last night he put his car in his garage, and ~~got out~~ ^{came out.} and

Just then another car drove in. The men in it blazed away with shotguns, and drove off. "Well, the gamblers finally got me!"

was the victim's exclamation! - ~~got him and~~ ^S stopped the keys being made ^{for} the slot machines.

MUSICA

In the amazing story of Philip Musica, the swindler, alias F. Donald Coster, President of the great drug firm of McKesson and Robbins, this point was emphasized:- In his crooked past, Philip Musica always protected the members of his family - he took the rap. But now there is no Philip Musica to protect ~~his family, and take the~~ *anything - take any* rap - he lies in a suicide's grave.

Today in court his three brothers entered a plea of - guilty. Charged with aiding their brother in his crookeries as the President of McKesson and Robbins, they admit the accusation. ~~pleading guilty~~ The judge will pronounced sentence on Februarh the Sixth.

A second point in the nefarious past of Philip Musica is this:- In the human hair swindle twenty-five years ago, he was turned loose because of the help he gave the District Attorney in clearing up the financial confusions of the case.

And today, as the three brothers of Philip Musica pleaded guilty, their bail was reduced - this at the request of the United States Attorney. Why? Because the three Musicas have been helping the prosecution to straighten things out. ~~They've been helping the~~ *assisting* ~~prosecution in straightening out the McKesson and Robbins tangle,~~ doing what they can to assist the government lawyers in unraveling the financial tangle of the ~~financial~~ swindle.

SMUGGLING

Another indictment in New York's big smuggling case. ~~and it's~~ Jack Benny, the radio and film comedian. This is the affair in which George Burns, the comedian, has already pleaded guilty, and so has the wife of Supreme Court Justice Lauer. ~~Later the man called~~ The Master Mind, Albert Chapereau, ^{recently} was convicted, and is liable to a sentence of eight years and a twenty thousand dollar fine. The Master Mind didn't like that, and the word was that he was sore because his big-time friends had abandoned him, had let him fend for himself. So he was spilling everything. That was the report.

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Today film comedian Jack Benny appeared before the Grand Jury, and a nervous comic he was. He testified that he knew ~~Chapereau~~ Chapereau, the Master Mind, but not at all intimately -- just a slight acquaintance. He said he didn't know anything concerning the smuggling affair. Nevertheless, ~~at~~ the Grand Jury went ahead and indicted him. And Jack Benny now will have to face a smuggling charge.

RESCUE

In blood and thunder thrillers, there's one familiar hair-raising scene - two people struggling at the brink of a precipice. Today, something like that was witnessed in New York, with a policeman and a woman struggling and tottering at the brink of a tall pier.

It all came about when a young woman went into a waterfront bar, had a couple of drinks, and asked for pencil and paper. She wrote a note, left it on the bar, and then walked out. In a minute the bartender saw that it was a suicide note, she was going to jump off the dock. He phoned the police. And sooner after came the dramatics. A cop chasing the woman along the pier, ~~and he~~ ^{He} caught up with her just as she was about to plunge into the river. She gave him a wild battle. And there they struggled at the brink, tottering, and even teetering. It was a hair-raiser all right, but not for long, ^{for} there were a half a dozen other cops right behind, and they grabbed the tottering, teetering pair.

FINES FOLLOW SCHOOLS

At Siskiyou County, California, there's a crisis of the law, the administration of justice, the integrity of the legal system. A Siskiyou County grand jury has been investigating the mode of law enforcement in the local mountain communities - the way the local justices try cases and impose punishment. Today, the grand jury issues its report, and it is necessary to quote only one sentence to indicate what a grave legal situation exists.

"It has been charged," states the grand jury, ~~report~~
"that fines have been levied in the form of a bottle of whiskey, the judge and defendants then drinking the whiskey." ^{TP} ~~Now~~ Picture the scene. ¹ - The criminals before the bar of justice. "Bar" seems to be the right word. They are found guilty of their crimes, ~~and~~ The stern judge decrees: - ~~the~~ court imposes ^a ~~the~~ fine of one bottle of whiskey, and bring ^{us} ~~as~~ a couple of glasses! "I'll take mine straight boys," ^{His Honor} ~~he~~ says to the criminals, "how will you take yours?" And they, ~~respond~~ ^{respond} repenting their misdeeds, ¹ that they'll have a little chaser on the side.

So it's a pleasure to be found guilty in ~~ax~~ Siskiyou County.

Or maybe they ought to call it Whiskeyou County. And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.