

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(What a close fight that was in the caucus of Democratic senators, that fight to choose a Senate leader to succeed Joe Robinson! Thirty-eight to thirty-seven! Literally as close as a contest can be! The victory of Senator Alben Barkley is generally interpreted as a victory for President Roosevelt.) But officially the White House insists that it has been completely neutral in this discussion. Nevertheless, it is obvious that Mr. Barkley, ("Dear Alben", to whom the President sent that much discussed letter last week,) is much more to the presidential taste as a floor leader than his rival, Pat Harrison, from Mississippi, who has been lukewarm on the court bill.

For years ago he was rated as a run-of-the-mill politician, just another senator. But his occasional performances as acting floor leader in the absence of Joe

Robinson, showed him up in different light. Washington is now recalling how the gentleman from Kentucky was the first to squelch Huey Long. In fact he did what no other senator would have dared do. He deliberately provoked the Kingfish to an oratorical fight and then set him down effectively.

Most people will remember Irvin Cobb's picturesque Kentucky character, Judge Priest. Cobb modelled his picture and character upon Judge William Bishop of his home town, Paducah. And - it was under that same Judge Bishop that young Alben Barkley studied law. Evidently, he studied more than law, he also got a shrewd knowledge of politics. He went to Congress in Nineteen Thirteen and was first underestimated as being just one more hillbilly legislator. But after a while he made people revise their opinion. He progressed so far in the Democratic Party that in the National Convention of Nineteen Twenty-Eight at Houston he was mentioned as a candidate for Vice-President; Four years later, he went to Chicago as Kentucky's favorite son and was the first

of the various favorite sons to withdraw in favor of Mr. Roosevelt. A year ago, in 1936, he was the convention keynoter. Now he advances to the position of floor leader of the Democrats after only ten years' service in the Senate.

With him as majority leader, some people believe that the tide will change once again in favor of the court bill. The opposition, however, declares that its defeat is inevitable.

There was a lot of hectic discussion about the measure in Washington today both behind closed doors and in public. The talk continues of another compromise, another concession on the part of the White House, compromise to be arranged by Vice President Garner.

Immediately after his election, the new Democratic Senate leader went to the White House. There he spent ^a considerable part of the afternoon discussing the administration's legislative program. At the end of this conference, one decidedly significant admission was made. In the conversation between the President and the Senator a schedule of bills

to be acted upon was drafted, measures that the administration wants to have passed. In this schedule no definite provision was made for the court bill. Washington wiseacres are wondering whether that means the White House has decided to let discretion be the better part of valor and yield on this vexed question.

KIDNAP

Here's a blood and thunder finale to the crime drama that began on July eighth with the escape of two convicts from the Eastham Prison Farm near Huntsville, Texas. I mean, of course, Pete Traxler and Fred Tindol who kidnapped Baird Markham, son of a wealthy oil man last Thursday. For twelvedays the police, ranger, sheriffs, deputies and a posse of five hundred have been hunting those escaped convicts.

Today the outlaws pulled off another kidnapping. But one of the men they snatched was the wrong fellow. First they seized Fred Trimmer, a young farmer about thirty nine years old. They also grabbed an oil worker, Jim Denton. They stole Trimmer's car and with their two prisoners were driving through Caldo toward Durant, Oklahoma.

Escaped convict Traxler was driving the car. Beside him sat Farmer Trimmer. In the rear seat, sat Convict Tindol and Oil Johnny Denton. Tindol, with gun in hand, was watching both prisoners. As the car lurched around a curve in the road, it threw Denton against Tindol's shoulders. In a flash, Denton had seized Tindol's gun and poured two bullets

bullets into his body. Tindol collapsed, dead. Then the oil man emptied his revolver into Pete Traxler, who slumped over the wheel. Trimmer, the farmer, sitting beside Traxler, grabbed the wheel and brought the car to a stop.

Thus ends the long and harrowing chase that has run its course through two states. It ended with a blast of guns today.

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As a manager his record has been equally spectacular. One year after he had been appointed manager of the St. Louis Cardinals he piloted them to a championship, the first pennant ever brought to the banks of the Mississippi.

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BASEBALL

Now for an item about which baseball fans are going to be talking and arguing for days. Rogers Hornsby, the great Rajah has lost his job, again. The St. Louis Browns have fired him as manager. His job goes to Bottomly, popularly known as Sunny Jim.

It's difficult for us fans to understand why this man who is equally brilliant as a player and as a manager is always getting fired. As a player he was acclaimed the most valuable in his league, not once but twice. One year he piled up the astonishing batting average of four hundred and twenty-four. Led the league again and again.

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were rumors that Hornsby had shown himself such a hard driving manager that the players didn't get along with him.

In this connection there's an interesting anecdote. As acting manager of the Giants in later years Hornsby was having an argument with Freddie Lindstrom. In the course of the quarrel Lindy shouted: "Would you like to know that every player on this team hates you?"

To that Hornsby's answer was, "So What! You guys aren't paid to like me. You're paid to play ball, and while I'm running this team you'll play ball."

The late John McGraw said before he died that Rogers Hornsby was the greatest baseball manager in the country. Nevertheless, that greatest baseball manager has had at one time or another four jobs as manager and hasn't held onto any one of them.

EUROPE

One item in the advices from Loncon gives a clear indication of how grave the international situation is, how shaky the fabric of the world's peace. The Right Honorable Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Great Britain, asks his colleagues to cancel their usual summer vacations. When an Englishman gives up his summer holiday you may be sure that something desperate is afoot. With the shooting season and the fishing season approaching, this period so sacred to the British upper classes, to be asked to stay in London during August and September is almost revolutionary. They were in the country for the weekend when the World War broke.

However it becomes clear that there's plenty of reason for the Prime Minister's insisting that his colleagues stay on the job. (Both Mussolini and Hitler absolutely decline even to discuss withdrawing their so-called volunteers from Spain. On the contrary there's a report emanating from Paris that the Duce is preparing to send fifteen division of his crack troops, seventy-five thousand soldiers to help Franco.) Paris

also declares that Mussolini suggested to Hitler that Germany supplement this with five goose-stepping divisions. Hitler however is supposed to have declines for the present. He is waiting to see the result of Friday's session of the non-intervention Committee in London.

It should be added that these Paris reports are unofficial, maybe merely grape-vine. That was the interpretation in Rome where the stories were denied outright by a government spokesman. The great battle for Madrid continues.

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In Washington observers tell us that diplomatic circles are far more aroused over the Far East situation than the Spanish mess. There has been no major engagement between Japanese and Chinese troops in the last day or so. But a squadron of Japanese planes flew threateningly over Peiping That was a warning to China, a warning to yield to the ultimatum from Tokio, or else. It looks tonight as though the answer would be:- "or else what?"

In other words China appears to be in a defiant mood.

In South China anti-Japanese feeling has become so intense that Japanese vessels are unable to discharge their merchandise. They are lying in port idle and helpless. The Chinese longshoremen and stevedores don't dare unload the cargoes. They're afraid the incensed populace might lynch them.

- At Swatow the Japanese consul has demanded military protection for the longshoremen. This was refused by the Chinese government at Canton. Instead of complying, the heads of the army sent another division of Chinese troops to Swatow.

In the north the tension is extreme. British marines are standing by at Tientsin expecting orders at any moment to get to work to protect British lives and property. Chinese troops are withdrawing under a truce agreement. But the Japanese are standing by their guns.

PANGBORN

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There was a good deal of excitement in aviation circles today. Clyde Pangborn, one of the soundest and also the most brilliant of pilots, a pioneer among the round-the-world flyers, was reported to be in trouble in Russia. It turned out that he had entered the land of the Soviets without getting a proper visa on his passport. This he had done at the invitation of Congressman Zirovich of New York. Thereby, incidentally, hangs another tale. At any rate, Pang accepted Dr. Zirovich's invitation, crossed the frontier, and the first thing he knew he was pinched and his passport seized. The Red government is fussy about details like that. In fact, there is no government in the world that is not particular about visas today.

The first report that came over was that Pang had been deported by the Soviets and that Congressman Zirovich, in high dungeon, had also left Moscow, shaking the dust of the land from off his feet, with most uncomplimentary remarks about Russian bureaucracy. Later, it turned out that the anxiety of Pang's friends was uncalled for. Also, Dr. Zirovich did not leave Stalin's

empire in high dungeon or in anything else. He simply telephoned the Moscow foreign office, who immediately straightened the whole matter out and accorded Pangborn the unusual privilege of entering the country without a visa. So everybody is happy and the goose ~~flies~~ ^{flies} high around the Kremlin.

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It turns out that the reason for Congressman Zirovich's presence in Moscow is quite interesting. The New York representative who used to be a doctor, has also written plays. They never were produced, but ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~rate~~ were written. On the strength of this fact, Dr. Zirovich has seized the position of Congressional protector of the arts and artists. He wants to establish a portfolio of fine arts in the American Cabinet. To this end he has been visiting all the capitals in Europe, finding out how the various fine arts departments are administered and how they work.

Hence this visit to Moscow. And Pangborn was traveling with him.

TREASURE

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And Here ~~is~~ is a news story to arouse the envy of every writer of adventure. ~~stories~~. Actually, it out-does almost any that I have ever read. Three adventurers, an American, a Frenchman and a German, were prospecting in the Republic of Panama, looking for gold in the province of Chiriqui. The district where they were prospecting is ~~was~~ the one most remote from Panama City in the densest and wildest part of the land. The names of these men are Arring Thorpe, the American; Johannes Van Steck, the Frenchman; and Antonio Hill, the German. They had found a stretch of ground which seemed to be worth staking out, ~~at least~~. So the Frenchman was driving a stake to mark one corner of the claim. As he pounded ^{it} ~~the~~ stake, the earth suddenly gave way, and he fell several feet into a dark, black tunnel.

Naturally, curiosity and excitement were at fever pitch. All three men lowered themselves ~~down~~ into the tunnel. — Spanish gold — And there they found bar upon bar of pure gold, marked with the ancient seal of the Spanish crown, the seal of Castile and Aragon. There were a hundred and twenty bars of that gold altogether, each of them weighing fifty pounds.

News of this discovery promptly reached the ears of the provincial police, who hurried to the spot. And it is ostensibly from police headquarters that the story comes. It's the police who declare that this gold, six thousand pounds of it, is worth somewhere in the ⁺neighborhood of three million dollars.

Naturally, everybody wondered how that gold got there. Then ancient memories of that district were recalled. The treasure was found at the foot of the Santa Maria Mountains. There, in the days of the Conquistadores of Davila and later of the buccaneer, Sir Henry Morgan, was a famous mine called the Estrella. ~~Whether~~

~~it is said of how~~ Tradition has it that the conquerors from Europe treated the natives cruelly. One day they rebelled, ambushed a treasure train, and massacred all the white men. They then buried the treasure where it has just been found. ~~+~~

~~certain~~ Color ~~the~~ given to this theory by the fact that ^{with} one of the bars of gold were found weapons, rusted and bloodstained, also the tools that were used by the miners of three centuries ago.

The Estrella was one of the numerous last mines in America, mines with a wealth of legend around them, that have been

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sought by prospectors for years, such as the lost Peg-leg mine in Texas, the Gun Sight Mine in Death Valley, and so on.

The find was reported to the Panamanian authorities and claimed by the three prospectors as treasure-trove. According to Panama law, they are entitled to fifty per cent. The police promptly sent a machine gun detachment by air to protect the gold, since there was huge excitement throughout the country over this fabulous find -- this Spanish Gold. A golden note on which to say SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.