hat is in the ring That headpiece figure of speech was popularized by the mighty Teddy Roosevelt, when he was seeking a there term, and battling against President Taft. Third term is much in the news right now, and today's announcement was made by Senator Robert Taft of Ohio, a son of President Taft, His hat is in the ring.

The Taft candidacy takes the form of a letter written to Ohio Republicans, a letter authorizing them to enter the Senator's name for consideration in the Ohio primaries. It is part of the Ohio election law that delegates to national conventions must be pledged to some one candidate as their first choice. And they must have the written consent of the that candidate to use his name. So today Senator Taft gives the written consent, opening the way for his supporters to campaign for him well in advance.

There are plenty of booms and boomlets in the

Republican party, lots of argument in favor of this possible

candidate or that one. But today's Taft letter is the first formal

and public announcement. hat in the ring.

The hat was followed by a volley of hot shot fired by the Senator. He took a fling at the third term idea, saying President

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Roosevelt would be a weak candidate in nineteen forty - and he cited straw votes and reasoning. ("Polls and logic," declared Senator Taft, "would indicate that President Roosevelt would be the weakest candidate the Democrats could nominate." But he added that he didn't believe there would be any third term. "I've gained the impression in Washington," said he, "that the President's reversals in Congress have knocked the third term out of the window.

Altogether, an early blow in the battle of nineteen forty

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Today's story of the eight hundred million dollar housing bill is about the same as Tuesday's defeat of the giant lending bill.

Just change the names and the Tuesday story might almost be used over again.

The House of Representatives today refused even to consider the housing bill, didn't turn it down, wouldn't even let it come up.

When the motion was made to consider the eight hundred million dollar measure, the Congressmen voted "No." It was the same kind ring of majority that killed the lending bill on Tuesday - a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats. The size of the majority was pretty much the same, a hundred and ninety to a hundred and seventy.

This new defeat for the White House was no surprise to the Administration leaders. They were aware that the bill stood little chance, with Congress entirely out of Presidential control. The Republican and conservative Democratic coalition is riding high, running right over everything President Roosevelt has put up before them. Congress is eager to go home, and is going to have its way. The latest is that the wage-hour amendments will be shoved aside.

The wage hour was in a single highly controversial and would cause a lot of debate in the legislative halls. Congress won't



delay for the debate, so the amendments to the much disputed bill regulating conditions of labor will go on the shelf, will have to wait until the next session.

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The Blue River Canyon insurrection at Green Mountain, Colorado, is over. That's announced this evening by the Commander of the Colorado National Guard. Soldiers moved in today, and the fighting and shooting stopped. No more reign of terror in that colorful section which bears the names of Green Mountain and Blue River Canyon.

The Government has a forty-four million dollar project there, dam and tunnels. Work is let at to private firms, and one concern has a contract to drive a tunnel. A labor dispute; a trike - and it turned to open warfare. On one side several hundred strikers - both A. F. of L. and G. T. O. The two rival labor factions got together on this Green Mountain-Blue River Canyon issue. On the other side several hundred non-striking workers, deputies, and farmer vigilentes. Last night there was violent fighting at the site of the dam - shooting, bridges dynamited. This morning a stretch of canyon between the two factions was No Man's Land. The crackle of rifles echoed, an intermittent fusillade, and bullets whined across No Man's Land.

It was so serious, the Governor proclaimed a state of insurrection in that rugged land of mountain and canyon. So the

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National Guard moved in with machine guns and a military tank - soldiers stalking warily through the valley, where rifle fire was still crackling. And now we have this evening's report, military force has suppressed the green and blue insurrection.

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In New York the Federal authorities announced today that they've got a squeal, a large and most important squeal. A prominent underworld character has talked, and talked plenty about Lepke.

Right now Lepke is the headline name in police and underworld news. Lepke is the number one gangster and racketeer of the present day. They say he organized a million dollar a year racket in New York, a monstrous thing of shake-down and murder. Scarface Al Capone, Legs Diamond, and Dutch Schultz had their days as lords of crime. Lepke is the latest lord. He's a fugitive, has been for two years. They say the authorities have spent four hundred thousand dollars looking for him, a nationwide search. But Lepke succeeds in eluding the law. Reports are that he lives in hiding in a most elaborate and expensive way - still running his million dollar a year racket, still ruling over his underworld realm. Though in hiding, he has the money and kept getting the money from a whole network of crooked gangs. And he exerts the power of terror. Underworld killers with pistols do his bidding, remove his enemies. They also remove persons whom Lepke fears might give information about him, might squeal.

District Attorney Dewey claims that Lepke has been

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racketeering associates of his such as might be able to give information against him, possible witnesses who might be tempted to save themselves. Five Lepke victims are said to have been murdered recently - one a mild and harmless employee of a music publishing firm who was killed by mixix mistake. Another former Lepke associate in the underworld was shot, but recovered. Two others have disappeared mysteriously and are believed to be dead. All that puts melodrama in today's news - a large and loud squeal on Lepke.

the king of drug smugglers, He was a racketeering associate of

Lepke a big shot close to Lepke's underworld affairs. A year

ago Cocaine King Katzenberg was convicted on a narcotics charge and

given ten years in prison. Since then King Katzenberg has been

thinking about those ten long years. How could he get them reduced.

There was only one realizate way - by squealing on Lepke. And that's

what the King of Coke has been doing, he and a drug smuggling pal of

his who is likewise under sentence. Today's story relates that they

have told plenty about the underworld system which has enabled Lepke

to defy a manhunt for two years, remain in expensive and sumptuous

campaign of murder. The testimony given is so important that today a special grand jury was summoned to consider it;—a special grand jury that will convene on Monday. The testimony given by King Katzenberg alone fills several volumes - that have copious the squeal. The testimony given by King

Scores of persons are said to be involved, individuals of the underworld and not of the underworld.—accused of helping Lepke.

And the report is that among the first witnesses to be called will be the owners of several sanitariums just outside A New York City.

Lepke, it is understood, is ill with a kidney ailment and has been treated at private hospitals - as a wealthy patient who paix paid well.

Meanwhile, King Katzenberg and his fellow squealer are not maintaining any permanent residence, are not staying in any one jail. The authorities keep moving them from one prison to another.

Deepest of secrecy, so that the long arm of Lepke may not reach in and kill them.

One of the most interesting military questions of the day concerns the actual strength of the mighty fortifications that line the frontier of Germany and France - the Maginot line on one side, the Siegfried line on the other. ) How impregnable to attack are they really, the German Siegfried line in Ex particular? Well, today the Siegfried line was attacked - and fell to the enemy, a large section of it. The enemy was German, something sacred to Germans, famous in Teutonic song and saga - the River Rhine. The Germans sing "Die wacht am Rhine." Right now the Thx Rhine is in flood. And today it rose so high that its waters attacked a section of the nearby Siegfried line. The Rhine conquered the Siegfried line, completely flooded a three mile stretch of the much vaunted fortifications. That's the report from the French frontier city of Metz, a report which adds melodramatic detain detail.

The Metz dispatch declares that when the Rhine flood swept upon the mighty Siegfried line, the pressure of water on the sunken concrete walls caused them to collapse - because the concrete was defective. The concrete walls gave way and the flood rushed through the subterranean stronghold. Faulty construction - sabotage.

And today contractors and engineers who built the fortifications were arrested by the Gestapo, the Nazi Secret Police. They are charged with sabotage. A report adds that the accusation is not - treasonable sabotage, but just plain graft.

The contractors are said to have stolen a part of the cement supplied them by the Hitler Government. They used an insufficient amount in building the forts - and carted away the rest of the concrete to use for their own private construction jobs.

On the German side there's no confirmation of this story, which has really a startling sound. The Nazi Regime prides itself on being sternly free from political corruption and graft. And now we hear that plain sordid graft sabotaged the Siegfried line.

Japan is entering a military alliance with Germany and
Italy, - that's a dispatch from Italy. Japan is at last joining
Nazi-Fascist axis in a formal military way. The Mikado's
ambassadors to Berlin and Rome are having a conference at Lake
Como. They're both militarists, and in favor of the alliance.
They are said to be arranging it.

Meanwhile in Tayka Tokyo the three number one men of the Japanese Army gathered in conference, - the militaristic big three, they're called. And in Tokyo this is taken as a sign of a decisive turn of Japanese policy, - presumably the formation of a Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis, a military alliance.

In all this the element of timing is stressed - it happens just as British and French military missions go to Moscow to have military conversations with the chiefs of the Red Army. Check and counter-check.

Spain reports the assassination of an important police official of the Franco Civil Guard. This is another vivid sign of the under-cover disturbance that still goes on in Spain. Major Gabaldon of the Civil Guard was investigating anti-Franco conspiracies -- terrorism by adherents of the fallen republic. There is said to be an extensive organization of what Franco people call "espionage", secret republican groups - and Major Gabaldon was in EGAMMENT'S command of the investigation to hunt them out, their nemesis.

Today he was driving along in a car, when three men asked for a ride, men dressed it as Falangists, members of the Spanish Fascist party. The Major took them into his car and drove on. Suddenly they pulled pistols and shot him. They were Republican secret society members, disguised as Fascists.

As a result of today's assassination, the Franco
gove nment announces that it is going to form a military counterespionage service under control of the Army.

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I was interested in a recent bit of adventure that

certainly takes the fancy of anybody who loves voyaging on the sea.

Three hardy Vikings from Sweden crossed the Atlantic in a Thirty

thirty-three foot motorboat. And only one of them was a sailor,
the other two landlubbers, if a descendant of the Vikings to the vikings the sailed truly a landlubber.

In their tiny craft they navigated from Stockholm to the New York World's Fair, and on the ocean captured three large sea turtles, one of which they towed all the way to port, to present to the New York Aquarium. One thing those Vikings are talking about is - lubricating oil. One might be inclined to remark, their Swedish twerter lubricating oil must have been first class indeed for so long and hazardous a voyage. Swedish oil? say they. Nothing of the sort ax - it was American lubrication. At Stockholm they loaded up with the Sun Oil Company's lubricating oil Solnus - which is for Deisel engines. So right away on landing in America, the three Vikings communicated with the Sun Oil Company at Philadelphia. What they had to say was that and said the lubrication was okay.

In a Chicago court today, the biography of a young woman was read, and an eventful biography it was. When the damsel was she fifteen, turned in a series of false fire alarms. Did she love to see the fire engines go clattering along? No, what she loved was a fireman. She wanted to keep him so busy answering fire alarms that he wouldn't have time to keep dates with other girls.

When she was sixteen she set fire to a vacant house. This time it wasn't for love of a fireman, it was because of the thrill she got watching the fire.

At seventeen she celebrated Halloween rather more than was necessary. She snipped a lot of telephone wires and sawed down a telephone pole. Later, she robbed the locked boxes at a post office, and afterwards she tried a hotel robbery.

Rather a varied career, but her latest exploit passes the spice of wariety. She's up for extortion again.

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The courts of haw law are called upon to decide another vital question - has or has not a baseball fan the right to razz the pitcher? Has the critic in the grandstand, the privilege of yelling, "Take him out." Of hollering: - "Oh you deed arms" Send him to the showers."

the home town pitcher, when into the grandstand charged the manager of the Baltimore Orioles. He's Rogers Market Hornsby, famed in song and also famed as a and story as a mighty hitter, and belligerent ball player. Baseball Fan Catterton declares that Baseball Manager Hornsby socked him in the face. So now the fan is suing the manager for a thousand dollars. In his suit filed today he maintains the legal doctrine that it's the constitutional right of a fan to razz the pitcher, and it's unconstitutional to deprive him of that right and smack him in the nose.