

~~RELIXX~~

R.I. - Sumner, Friday, Jan. 13, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(The House of Representatives has just taken action on the Deficiency Relief Bill, the President's demand for immediate money to be spent by the W.P.A. The Congressmen voted. ~~the vote~~ *is just in. And the* Administration lost out. The House adopted ~~x~~ the slash recommended by the Appropriations Committee.) The President wanted eight hundred and seventy-five million dollars. The Committee cut that to seven hundred and twenty-five million -- a hundred and fifty million dollars less than the White House figure. And, ~~that~~ *that* ~~is~~ *1* ~~xxxx~~ what Congress has just okayed.

The debate went on all day, with administration warning ^s that the hundred and fifty million dollar cut would throw over a million people off the relief rolls. This was iterated and reiterated by the administration Democrats. But it was opposed by a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats. ~~xxxx~~ They won out. The bill with the smaller figure, ~~of~~ ~~xxxx~~ seven hundred and twenty-five million, ~~xxxx~~ was passed.

HOPKINS

The hearing on the appointment of Harry Hopkins as Secretary of Commerce was concluded today - after a bit of hot conversation. The former W.P.A. Administrator admitted that the W.P.A. did play politics - particularly in Pennsylvania. He declared ~~that~~[†] local Democratic politicians in that state put pressure on the local W.P.A., using it for political purposes.

~~"There was no single thing," Harry Hopkins declared today, "that disturbed me as much as petty political activities. And there was nothing I resisted more."~~

"Did you go into Pennsylvania?" demanded Senator Hiram Johnson.

The former Administrator said he had sent investigators into the state - because he himself had a great many things to do. Whereupon Hiram Johnson insistently pointed out that ^{at} the time of the Pennsylvania affair, Hopkins went to California and made a political speech there. He was also with the President in Georgia at the time of the attempt to purge Senator George of that state.

~~The con~~
~~The conversation~~ was decidedly warm, and soon thereafter

MURPHY

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A couple of days ago, a sub-Committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee put its okay on the nomination of Frank Murphy as Attorney General. Nevertheless, Murphy appeared before that same sub-committee today, and defended his handling of the sit-down strikes when he was Governor of Michigan. He said -
"I never condoned the sit-down strike." ^{Then he} ~~he~~ added ; "Of course the sit-down strikers were guilty of violating the law."

Then why did he not suppress the law violation he did not ~~condone~~? ^{Replied} The new Attorney General: ~~said today~~ "I faced a condition, not a theory." He explained that when he became Governor of Michigan there was, in his words, "no operating legal machinery for settling labor battles." ~~He said the Wagner Act at that time was being disputed in the courts and was virtually not operating.~~ And he had to improvise ways of handling a dangerous situation.

To the committee he presented letters praising the way he handled those automobile labor troubles - letters from President Roosevelt, Newton D. Baker, Professor Felix Frankfurter, now nominated to the Supreme Court, and - the ~~director~~ director of

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personnel of the Ford Company. ^{The Henry} ~~The~~ Ford personnel director commended the Murphy strike policy.

"I do feel," declared Frank Murphy, ^{today:-} "that the sit-down strike has now been thoroughly discredited. And I believe we have seen the end of it." With that, the sub-committee took a vote and once more okayed the appointment of the new Attorney General - reaffirmed its previous decision.

The revolt of Vermont has turned into a revolt of New England. Yesterday Governor Aiken and the Legislature of the Green Mountain State took measures to oppose the seizure of Vermont lands by the Federal Government -- lands wanted for flood control projects. Today the Vermont Governor lined up the other Governors of the New England States to support the

Vermont contention. The Governors ^{were meeting in} ~~will meet in~~ Boston to

^{TP} They also conferred on government further a drive against infantile paralysis. ~~And Governor Aiken~~ ^{land seizures and Governor Aiken} of Vermont was joined by Governors Murphy of New Hampshire,

Vanderbilt of Rhode Island, Barrows of Maine, Baldwin of

Connecticut, and Saltonstall of Massachusetts, in sending the

following Resolution to President Roosevelt and Secretary of

War Woodring:-

^{reads the Resolution,}
"We urge the Federal Government ^{to} ~~to~~ cooperate

immediately with the New England States to accomplish flood control

~~control~~ without demanding the complete surrender to the Federal

Government of basic rights which belong to the people in the

States." A sort of New England declaration of flood control independence.

ALCATRAZ

Today at San Francisco, a dense fog covered the city and the Golden Gate. The white mist was so thick that automobile traffic in places had to be suspended. In San Francisco Bay, the fog blindingly enveloped Alcatraz Island, that dread prison called The Rock. It was there at Alcatraz that the weather was observed with the keenest interest - by five men, five convicts.

They were long term desperadoes - their leader one of the most formidable outlaws this country has ^{ever} known: - Arthur Barker, nicknamed "Doc". One of the Barker brothers of the notorious Barker-Karpis mob, robbers, kidnappers, murderers. The Barker-Karpis mob was the last and one of the most dangerous of the public enemy gangs destroyed by J. Edgar Hoover's G-men. Their end was signalized by a blaze of gunfire at a remote Florida cottage, when the G-men trapped Ma Barker, mother of desperadoes, and with her was one of her sons. Outlaw mother and son fought it out to the death. The other brother, Doc Barker, was not there - he had already been captured. Eventually he was sent to Alcatraz, The Rock. And there today he was the head of the party of five that observed the weather.

They were prepared to escape. Somehow they had got a
saw - nobody seems to know how. ^{They could} ~~They had~~ filed their way out
of their cells, and they had found how they could get to the
rocky shore of the prison island. Then they'd have to swim, ^{for it.}
and a perilous undertaking that would be. Only two prisoners
have ever escaped from Alcatraz, and they have utterly vanished.

^{So it}
~~It~~ is believed ~~that~~ they were drowned while attempting the mile
and a quarter swim through treacherous currents to the nearest
shore.

But Doc Barker and his pals were ready to take the
chance. What they needed was fog. They would ~~xxx~~ risk a dash
down the rocky slope to the water, take a chance with the guards
on the wall above - guards and guns. But they'd need a heavy fog
to cover them for the swim, hide them from the marksman guards
and the accurate guns, as they beat their way through the water.

Today was the day. The white mist on the bay was so
blinding that you couldn't see more than a few yards off shore.
Once they got swimming out into that fog, no guard on the wall
could ever spot them.

So this morning they saw^{ed} through bars, and somehow got to the rocks leading down to the water.- ^hand they made the dash. The guards were alert - spotted the escapers. And instantly a fusillade rang out. The five convicts scamper^{ed} down the rocks under a hail of bullets. One was hit, then another. They couldn't make it, couldn't get away from the bullets, couldn't get to the water and out into the fog. They knew it, but so desperate were they that they wouldn't give up until one of them, a kidnapper serving a life sentence, dropped by a shot in the leg. Yes, ^{and} until Doc Barker himself was hit, bullets in the leg and head, critically wounded. Then they gave up.

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~~Meanwhile, there was a general alarm, with the Alcatraz authorities calling upon the San Francisco police and Coast Guard to hunt for ~~fix~~ fugitives. The state of alarm continued, until ^a ~~the~~ ~~check-up~~ check-up revealed that only five were in the prison break - the five who were recaptured.~~

SPAIN

Today the war in Spain was at its wildest, the Franco push in Catalonia driving savagely on. The Left Wing offensive in distant Estremadura battling desperately. ~~Then~~ Its purpose ~~is~~ to make Franco relieve the pressure on the Barcelona front.

And today still another Government attack is announced -- in the Madrid area. This ~~new~~ second Left Wing assault in still another region is likewise designed to relieve the desperate peril of Barcelona. ~~They are striking out wildly to draw off the Franco power that is thrusting into the heart of Catalonia.~~

It appears that the Barcelona forces are ² hastily evacuating the long Southern strip which the Insurgents are threatening to cut ^{off.} ~~That fifty mile stretch along the coast~~ ~~is~~ ² ~~become a new virtual death trap.~~ Today Franco announces the capture of the city of Tortosa, ~~That's~~ the stronghold at the extreme Southern end of the imperilled strip. ~~The Franco~~ ~~drive today~~ ^{date} ~~has captured a large section of Catalonia, and it~~ ~~only remains to be seen whether it can be continued on to Barcelona.~~

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There's a report that the Left Wing Government today ordered a transfer from Barcelona to Valencia, all the Governmental bureaus to leave at once -- except two: the War Ministry and the Foreign Ministry. This in the face of the menacing Insurgent advance.

ROME CONFERENCE

There are official German denials of the report that Hitler has advised Mussolini to take it easy for a year and not push his demands on France for that length of time . This -- in the interest of peace.

From Rome we hear anew that the Chamberlain-Mussolini conference ended in a deadlock, with the Prime Minister assuring the Duce that Britain stands by France.

Chamberlain had another conference today -- this one concerning no ~~any~~ dangerous subject. The Prime Minister ~~paid a~~ ^{paid a} formal visit ~~to~~ ^{/to} the Vatican, and had a talk with Pope Pius the Eleventh. The Pontiff urged the British Statesman to continue his work for peace, and expressed his gratification over the position of the Catholic Church in England. Chamberlain on his part thanked the Pope ^{for} ~~and~~ the recent creation of an Apostolic delegate to ~~England~~ ^{London.}

HUNGARY

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(Hungary today officially swung into the orbit of
the Rome-Berlin axis. The Budapest Government formally
joined the German-Italian-Japanese alliance against Communism.
There ~~has~~ been no doubt all along ^{where} ~~was~~ Hungary stood, but now
it is definite.)

JEWS

Berlin has replied to the representations made by Washington concerning the rights of American Jews in Germany. The reply is not at all specific -- doesn't really come to the point. ~~at all. We hear from Germany that~~ the Hitler Government has assured the American State Department that Germany will respect all American rights as affirmed by treaties. ~~in force.~~ But it does not promise anything with reference to Jewish-American citizens.

SCARLETT

Today at Hollywood the incredible occurred. (They've finally selected Scarlett, ^{O'Hara} True, ^{O'Hara} Scarlett has been selected any number of times before. ^{Again and again} ~~Time after time~~ the reports were most positive that a heroine for "Gone With The Wind" had been found. Once it was Norma Shearer, more recently it was Paulette Goddard. The search for Scarlett for a year and a half has been an epic in motion pictures and something of a joke. It's the theme of a highly successful play, "Kiss The Boys Good-Bye," in which our feminine newsreel voice at Movietone, Helen Clair^e, scored a sensational hit. Helen too was acclaimed as a candidate for the role of that provocative girl of the old South - the more plausibly so as Helen herself is from Alabama.

^{At last} ~~After the previous selections reported~~ today's announcement seems to be unquestionably the real thing - authentic. (The word comes officially from David Selznick, ^{the man} who will produce "Gone With The Wind." Who's the lucky lady? Why, Vivian Leigh, the English movie actress.) English? Yes indeed. It is explained that Vivian, chosen from among hundreds of candidates, was the only one who had the luxurious ~~dark~~ tresses, the green eyes, and the

slender seventeen inch waist needed for the portrayal of Scarlett of the ante-bellum South. Yes - but English.

Producer Selznick instantly stepped to the front with some philosophy on the subject. He explains that the southern aristocracy of Civil War Days took great pride in their British ancestry. I suppose David means that they won't object.

But what about the accent? ^{There has been} ~~as an~~ objection to a

Northern girl playing Scarlett, because of the assumption that her Southern accent wouldn't be right? Hollywood responds that

~~Mr~~ Vivian Leigh has already acquired a southern accent, and

Hollywood adds the astonishing comment that the Southern accent

is not so different from the native manner of speech of the

^{That sounds like a Hollywood alibi.}
English girl. [^] Do they mean that people talk about the same in

South Carolina as in London? And what will Scarlett say.

^{"well, rawther!"}
"Why, honey chile!" or ~~"I say there"~~

^{O'Hara}
It looks as if the finding of Scarlett [^] may lead to as

much argument as the search for Scarlett.

RUPPERT

Last night ^a~~the~~ big fellow with ^a~~the~~ well known face made a telephone call - "I want to see the Colonel," ^{he said.} And the word was taken to the sick-bed of Colonel Jacob Ruppert, the millionaire brewer and owner of the New York Yankees. They told him - "Colonel, the Babe is coming to see you." Yes, Babe Ruth paying a sick call to his old boss.

^{When}~~When~~ the big fellow with the well known face stood at the bedside, the sick man stirred restlessly and asked:

"Where's the Babe?" Then he smiled and reached out for a

handshake. Colonel Jake Ruppert was too ill to say a word ~~to~~

^{and}~~the Babe~~ the big fellow could only blurt ⁺~~+~~ in a shaking voice:

"Colonel, you're going to snap out of it. You and I are going

to see the opening game of the season together." The last words ^{of}

baseball's mightiest man to his old boss. ~~But~~ The Babe was wrong.

58 1/2 He'll never see an opening game with Colonel Ruppert again.

^{Jake}~~the~~ Colonel died.

FOOTBALL

~~The friendly good feeling created by sports has a new~~
~~illustration today in a blast~~ ^{TF} From the University of Southern
^{comes} California - a blast against Duke. You'd think that the Trojan
team of U.S.C. had blasted Duke aplenty in the last minutes of that
Rose Bowl game, but now comes another forward pass - which does
seem rather forward. ^{An} ~~The~~ accusation of poor sportsmanship flung
at Duke: ~~The charge is made today~~ by the U.S.C. "Alumni Review".

~~The gist of it seems to be that Duke didn't enjoy losing~~
~~that game, snatched out of their hands in a series of last minute~~
~~plays, the old cup-and-lip tragedy.~~ The "Alumni Review" declares
~~that players and the Duke coach wouldn't talk after that. I~~
~~suppose they were knocked speechless.~~

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The bitterest allegation relates how Wallace Wade,
~~the coach for~~ ^{coach} Duke ^A was walking right by Doyle Nane, the Trojan
hero who threw the final pass that beat Duke. And somebody said
to ~~Coach~~ Wade - wouldn't he like to meet the boy ^{who} ~~that~~ threw that
pass? And Wade was quoted as having replied profanely - "Blankety-
blank No, I've already seen enough of him!" ^{And s-f-u-mad} ~~He probably had.~~

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This simple declaration of fact, which may have been too
factual to be polite - is now excoriated as bad sportsmanship. It
wasn't quite in that spirit of character building and idealism which