

L.J. - Sunoco. Thursday, Dec. 17, 1938.

AUSTRIA

(The latest on Austria is a report that an agreement has ^{definitely} been reached between Vienna and Hitler.) After the Austrian surrender to Berlin, the putting of Nazi leaders into the Vienna Cabinet - Hitler was still not satisfied. He demanded more.

One report declares that he insisted that Nazis should be given ^{the} important cabinet posts of finance and propaganda. That would put Austrian economic life and public opinion on a Hitler basis. Chancellor Schuschnigg balked at this! [!] deadlocked! [!] The chief Nazi leader whom he had taken into his Cabinet, thereupon hurried to Germany, and talked with Hitler. That brings us to the latest report - ~~that~~ an agreement ~~has been~~ reached.

(We are not told what it is, but the Austrians have little doubt - ~~its~~ surrender. Vienna has lost all hope of resisting Hitler's demands. There's no one to protect them.)
Great Britain and France have ducked ^{the} ~~that~~ issue. London will not make a move to foil Hitler's latest stroke of state. That was made clear in the House of Commons today. His Majesty's Ministers feel they can do nothing to save Austria. And Paris is likewise helpless. They won't go to war to keep Nazi

domination away from Vienna.

Italy of course does nothing. London and Paris could hardly expect Mussolini, standing on the border of Austria, to fight their ~~own~~ battle, after the way they've been picking on him. It's perfectly evident today that Hitler's demands on Austria, accompanied by threats, were made with the ~~explicit~~ acquiescence of Rome. So Vienna can see - only surrender.

They say the Nazification of Austria will include four points: Withdraw ^{al} from the League of Nations - because Germany is out of the League; Austria to join the anti-Communist pact formed by Germany, Italy and Japan. These two ^{points} ~~do not~~ seem to amount to so much so far as the internal affairs of the country are concerned.

But the next two are dominant. Austrian cooperation with the German Four-Year Plan, the Nazi economic dictatorship. Then -

the abolition of tarrifs between Austria and Germany. These ^{third and} ^{fourth} measures would make Austria economically subservient to Hitler.

And in an economic sense would unify the two countries. The Nazi term for it is - coordination.

With that kind of coordination, Hitler might well

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afford ^{to}~~the~~ guarantee the political independence of Austria -
that would be hardly more than a figure of speech. ^P There's
anxiety and fear among various elements of the Austrian people,
almost panic. The Monarchists - who are bitter because the
Nazification would remove all hope of reestablishing Archduke
Otto on the throne. Church circles - they're afraid that
Austria, which is ninety per cent Catholic, will suffer from
the anti-Christian policies of the Nazis, pressure on the
clergy. And of course, above all - the Jews in Austria, two
hundred thousand of them, many of them exiles from Anti-Semitic
Germany. They can only look with a sinking heart toward the
coming of Nazidom, with its anti-Semitic hatred. ~~In the~~
~~extremely Catholic peasant districts, and among the labor unions,~~
~~which are of the Christian Socialist Party, there are mutterings~~
~~of armed resistance. But it all seems futile. Vienna believes~~
~~that the only thing is - surrender. Austria is certain that~~
~~such is the agreement between Berlin and Vienna that is~~
~~reported tonight.~~

RUSSIA

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To the American Embassy in Moscow came a couple of friends asking for the embassy interpreter, Rōmān Biské. He wasn't there, hadn't showedⁿ up on the job. His friends thereupon went to his home, an apartment long occupied by this employee in the service of American diplomacy. On the door they found - a seal, the seal of the Soviet secret police. And that instantly revealed what had happened. A secret police seal is always placed on a person's door, when that person has been arrested on a political charge.

The news created a sensation among foreign circles in Moscow - for Rōmān Biské was well known. Formerly he was a British subject, a Russian born in England, a graduate of Oxford, a one-time member of the British bar. He returned to Russia to practice law there, took out citizenship under the Soviets. His post at the American Embassy was that of expert legal interpreter. He did various important jobs of ^{translating}~~interpreting~~ legal and diplomatic documents. At times he lectured to American tourists on the Soviet law.

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The arrest of this personality comes as a climax of a new phase of the Communist purge. The dread hand of terror in the last few days has been striking at employees of foreign establishments. A Russian girl who did translating at the Danish legation, has been arrested. And so have Russians working for diplomatic representatives of other nations. A secretary of the Hearst International News Service, the I.N.S., has disappeared in the dungeons of the secret police. And the same is true of a secretary to Spencer Williams, who represents the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce. Various diplomatic staffs affected, also non-diplomatic American organizations. But now, for the first time, an employee of the embassy of the United States, has vanished - the seal of the Soviet secret police on his door.

Take that story as a vivid background for today's revelation about Theodore Butenko, the Soviet diplomat who has been the central figure of an international incident. He was Stalin's Charge d'Affaires in Roumania, and then he vanished. Moscow made stern representations to Bucharest,

claiming that Diplomat Butenko had been kidnapped by the Fascists.

Then Butenko turned up in Italy. He had fled to the Fascists.

In Rome today he spoke with a desperate outcry:- "I know I will

never see my wife and child again." That was the emotional

of the story
keynote ¹ he told of Soviet terror.

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Butenko relates that he was a writer in Russia, and found life so unbearable that his only desire was to get away from the Communist Utopia with his wife and child. He knew that as a writer he could never get permission. Only officials in the diplomatic service were allowed to leave Russia. So he entered the Moscow School of Diplomacy three years ago, made a good record in Soviet statecraft, and was assigned to duty abroad, where he believed he would be allowed to take his wife and child. First he was given a temporary mission to the Paris Exposition - he was stationed in the Soviet Pavillion. From there he was sent to Bucharest, and in the absence of a Red ambassador, was given command as Charge d'Affaires. All the while he was asking Moscow to send his wife and child to join him, ~~the usual thing in the case of somebody as important as a Charge d'Affaires.~~

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Today he related that when his wife and child were never sent, he knew what had happened. They were being held as hostages - that's Communist technique, holding relatives as hostages. Butenko says he realized that Moscow had learned something about his past, a dark past according to the standards of the Communists. In pre-Communist days, when he was fourteen years old, he had joined a nationalist movement - a patriotic organization. (In Bucharest, he goes on to relate, several mysterious Russians came to the Soviet legation, and insisted that he take an automobile ride with them. He says he knew they ~~xxx~~ were Stalin's agents and believed they intended to kidnap him back to Russia, or to kill him. He refused to go with them, and right after ^{ward he} fled secretly - to the security of Fascist Rome.)

That's the story he tells, with the constant refrain - "I know I'll never see my wife and child again." Hostages to the Soviets!

~~MEAN~~
In Moscow, meanwhile, Red diplomacy is keeping the incident of the vanished diplomat alive, still making demands on

Bucharest. Foreign Commissar Maxim Litvinov today made a statement, claiming that the man telling the story in Rome is not Butenko at all, but somebody else -- a ringer.

As a tall piece to all this, let's take a dispatch from Esthonia. Yesterday, two Soviet aviators landed in Esthonia. They were arrested and questioned. Today they explained that they had taken the sky route as a way of escape, because of conditions in Sovietland, which they described as -- unbearable.

SOVIET PLANES

The story about the Soviet scientists on the ice floe off Greenland is about the same tonight. The plane that landed near them brought food supplies, ~~to them~~, including oranges and bottles of beer. The oranges, tropical fruit after their nine months on the ice, must have been enthusiastically welcomed - not to mention the beer.

There's ^{reference to} ~~no mention of~~ the plane taking them off to the icebreaker. They're insisting that all their bulky scientific records be taken, ^{But they may stay for 3 more months,} ~~too~~. The Icebreaker TAIMIR pushed ahead through the ice toward them, drove on ten miles ^{three} to a rift between floes. But ~~it's~~ still five miles away from the ice ~~cake~~ on which the expedition is ^{camped,} ~~waiting~~. And it doesn't seem likely that the ship will be able to advance any further. ^{So} It sent a wireless to Moscow that the ice is exceedingly thick and virtually impenetrable.

FLYING FORTRESSES

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All day long, bulletins kept flashing over the wire telling of high adventure today, at successive stages - a running story about flying. The planes sighted one place, then another, always further and further to the south.

At midnight they took off from Miami. At seven A.M. they flew over ~~Rx~~ the Panama Canal. Hour after hour they were reported further south, Columbia, then the northern border of Peru. Then the final flash, reading like this:- "Lima, Peru. Six United States army flying fortresses landed here late today!"

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Miami to Lima - the greatest non-stop formation flight in the history of ~~the army~~ *our Army Air Service* a twenty-seven hundred mile hop, made in a little more than fifteen hours."

The big bombers arrived in time to be part of the presidential inauguration, as President Roberto Ortiz is installed as chief of the government of Peru.

PRESIDENT

President Roosevelt had a couple of important conferences today. A little after three o'clock this afternoon he sat down with economic experts of the Administration, and talked over -- the price structure. The President thinks that commodity prices

are too low ~~and today raised~~ ^{— build up} the Structure ~~Bill up~~ a bit. There's to be a [^] systematic [^] White House study of

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the phenomenon of prices.

At the conference was Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. He was asked one question that inevitably suggests itself -- inflation, cutting down the value of the dollar.

The Secretary said: "I really don't think it's necessary."

The President conferred likewise with Congressional authorities on finance:-- Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi for the Senate and Representative Doughton of North Carolina for the Lower House. Vice-President ~~Garner~~ Garner sat in, as did Secretary of State Hull. It is supposed that the subject of the discussion was taxation -- although the presence of the Secretary of State raised the supposition that they might have talked about ^{American} ~~MEXICAN~~ financial relations with Mexico.

The recent raising of Mexican tariffs for example.

^{Speaking of}
~~Talking about~~ presidents, here's something that has nothing

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to do with government -- but concerns education. Tufts College has a new prexy. ~~He is~~ Elected today, Dr. Leonard Carmichael. He graduated from Tufts in twenty-one, has had a distinguished academic career and now becomes prexy. of Tufts. Dr. ~~Leonard~~ Carmichael takes command of an educational institution ~~xx~~ that has created an honored place for itself in the academic world.

MINE

~~The~~^{Ten} men today were working in a coal mine at Jeanesville, Pennsylvania. They were digging coal in a shaft five hundred feet below the surface. Above them was a reservoir, used in mine operations. The bottom of that reservoir gave way. Tons of earth crashed down, followed by a deluge of water - all the water in the reservoir. Two men had miraculous escapes. The water caught them and swirled them head over heels, flung them to safety. They were able to crawl to a higher level and get out.

What happened to the other eight? That's the tragic question at Jeanesville tonight. The two survivors say those other eight were caught directly below the torrent of earth^{and} water. But ^{there is} ~~they~~ still hope that they may have been able to get clear and have taken refuge in the more remote parts of the mine. So there's desperate rescue work tonight.

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TIJUANA

On Tuesday, just forty-eight hours ago, we had a wild story from Tijuana - the one-time drinking and gambling resort in Mexico, just across the California border. Tijuana in flames - ~~the~~ jail, ~~the~~ city hall, ~~the~~ police station, burned by an infuriated mob. A battle between the mob and soldiers. All that violence was an attempted lynching. The people were enraged because they couldn't get their hands on a soldier guilty of a brutish murder of a little girl. The military governor of Tijuana, faced by mob violence, had telephoned Mexico City for instructions - should he turn the fiendish killer over to the maddened crowd to be torn to pieces? Or - should he have the prisoner executed within forty-eight hours? I told the other night how the governor of Mexico City replied - prescribing the forty-eight hour way.

Well, today those forty-eight hours elapsed. And what do we hear? ~~The~~ killer of the little girl escaped. ~~Right~~ ^F Right at the deadline - he fled. The scene as pictured is typically Mexican in its grim, swift drama. Escape - it was the ley fuga. ^{Fuga} Fuga - as in fugitive, flight. The sinister Latin-American law of flight.

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They took the prisoner from the army jail in a van, transported him to the military cemetery. There the guards dragged him out. And there a file of soldiers with ready rifles was waiting. They dragged him out to set him free, turn him loose. Go on - clear out! Yes, the killer knew he was free, but he knew what that meant - ley fuga. If he had stayed right there, it would have meant the same thing - he was a fugitive. So all he could do was run - in some wild, mad hope that perchance he might get away. So he leaped forward for a dash across the military cemetery. The file of soldiers levelled their rifles and fired, and brought him down. But he was up again running. Another volley, and again he fell - but arose and staggered on. Then a third volley brought him down forever.

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That was how grim Mexican justice in the prescribed time of forty-eight hours avenged the murder of a little girl, and satisfied the ^{rage} ~~rage~~ of the people, who two days ago just about burned down the town, trying to take their ~~YEMG~~ own vengeance.

END

Oh yes, by the way -- Lawrence Tibbett. He was to
have been here with us tonight, but he hasn't turned up .

Well, well, -- AND SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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