

LT in  
White Mts.  
N.H.  
June 5, 1936.

WASHINGTON.

L T Sunoco 5th June 1936  
Chambers  
M.S.E.

There was an impressive moment in Washington today - followed by the usual grind of politics.

Both Houses of Congress met and joined in solemn memorial services for the late Speaker Byrns. The Speaker of the House rates as the third ranking official in the government. The President first - then the Vice-President, who presides over the Senate. Then the Speaker, who runs the parliamentary show in the House. Hence, the stately honors paid the great, "old - timer - from - Tennessee," who was so popular. <sup>TP</sup> The President attended, and so did the diplomatic corps. The eulogy was delivered by Speaker Byrns' friend and successor - the new Speaker, <sup>Mr.</sup> Bankhead. <sup>TP</sup> Tonight the body is on its way to Nashville, Tennessee, accompanied by President Roosevelt, his official staff, and a <sup>e</sup> delgation of sixty congressmen and fourteen senators.

These solemnities began the Congressional day in Washington. They were followed by the inevitable descision to suspend business and declare a recess during next week- while <sup>the</sup> Republican National Convention is being held. The Senate and

the House will meet again on June fifteenth to wind up business for the present session.

The Senate got back to work tonight, at it again in the hope of cleaning up the much disputed tax bill. Both houses will recess on Monday.

Meanwhile, (at Cleveland, cohorts of the G.O.P. have begun to assemble and loud voices are reechoing in the Ohio city. The general tenor of the shout is - "Stop Landon!" The opponents of the Kansas Governor, led by Candidate Senator Borah and Candidate Colonel Frank Knox, charge to the attack - trying to put the brakes on the Landon band-wagon.) The Borah and Knox forces are combined in the old, old political game of - kill off the leader. That should have one happy result - it ought to make the Cleveland convention interesting, and dramatic, not the cut-and-dried, walkover affair that it promised to be a couple of days ago. I'll be in Cleveland next week of course, in all that hubbub. And what a contrast it will be to peaceful Crawford Notch and these glorious White Mts. where I'm tonight.

By the way, wonder how this Rep. state of New Hampshire

feels about Cleveland? The Secretary of State, Enoch Fuller, is sitting beside me. Mr. Secretary, who do New Hampshireites want to vote for?

--o--

E.F.: Colonel Frank Knox is our choice, Mr. Thomas.

--o--

L.T.: That's right, Colonel Knox is from here. I'll let you know from Cleveland next wekk whether Colonel Knox was able to do anything about that "Stop Landon" matter.

COURT.

Court decisions on New Deal projects are every day occurrences. And it's the common thing for them to go against the New Deal. Today <sup>— this time —</sup> it's different - - the New Deal wins a victory.

But The decision, ~~of course,~~ does not emanate from the Supreme Court. That venerable body is not in session. It's the Court of the District of Columbia that speaks. A short while ago that same tribunal ruled against the rural resettlement project in New Jersey. That was part of the four billion dollar work relief program - - moving farmers and industrial workers from less favored to more favored regions. The district court said that was ~~unconstitutional~~ unconstitutional.

Today's decision concerns another phase of work relief - - municipal power projects. Chief Justice Wheat of the court finds that those power projects are okay - - government financing of municipal development of electricity. That's constitutional.

The court made it clear that the knocking out of the resettlement project was not a blow at the whole work relief

COURT.

In Detroit a judge sat as a one-man grand jury proposition. In handing down today's decision the justice remarked ; "It has not been argued, " said he, "That the relief of unemployment is an unconstitutional use of funds".

of the black-hood organization.

Black Legion affair is spiralling upward and involving public officials. In the Highland Park branch of the Black Legion

is charged that a whole series of officials were enrolled beneath the sign of the skull and cross bones. A city commissioner, a former mayor, a county circuit court clerk and a member of the fire and police commission - - all black Legionaries, so they say. These higher-ups are backed by five city employees,

and themselves are members. These little fellows did the big shots were present when their own imitations took place. The officials suit a charge of <sup>they protest</sup> disloyalty - - "No, we never had anything to do with the hooded terror".

The way the higher-up eagle has developed is illustrated by the investigation of the killing of Charles

BLACK LEGION.

In Detroit a judge sat as a one - man grand jury in an investigation of the Black Legion. Assisting the Judge in court was his clerk. Now that court clerk has resigned his job - - because it's claimed that he himself attended a meeting of the Black-hood organization.

*Which*  
~~That~~ puts a sharp pointer on the fact that the Black Legion affair is spiralling upward and involving public officials. In the Highland Park branch of the Black Legion , *one* ~~branch~~ of Detroit's great automobile centers, it ~~is~~ is charged that a whole series of officials were enrolled beneath the sign of the skull and cross bones. A city commissioner, a former mayor, a county circuit court clerk and a member of the fire and police commission - - all black legionaires, so they say. These higher - ups are accused by five city employees, who themselves are members. These little fellows claim the big shots were present when their own initiations took place. The officials emit a chorus of denials. - - *they protest,* "No," we never had anything to do with the hooded terror".

The way the higher-up angle has developed is illustrated by the investigation of the killing of Charles

Poole, the W P A worker, whom the Black Legionnaires accused of beating his wife. The official conducting the presecution is Duncan McCrea, and even his assistant prosecutor is accused of being a member of the terrorists. However - McCrea says he has no proof of this, so , he is taking no action.

More and more weird details about the Black Hoods are coming to light. A truck driver in a public service department told how he was initiated. They made him keel in a circle of other initiates and all these, at the points of pistols, had to swear the grisly, melodramatic oath. Then they were ordered to get guns for themselves.

Up to tonight the Detroit police are holding thirty of the Black Knights on charges of murder and violence, and ~~are~~ ~~in~~ are looking for six more.



## JUNE

There seems to be a South Pole boom these days. Harold June, who was chief pilot of Byrd's second expedition, was in my office with some interesting news. He's going back. But this time he'll be the leader of the adventure. And - June the flyer is not going to rely solely on his specialty, the airplane.

He's going to make a vast, detailed survey with not only planes, but tractors. He proposes to use three of them, forty feet long and twenty feet wide - big enough not to fall down those crevases that have swalled other South Pole going tractors, with huge Diesel engines driving caterpillar treads. But it isn't at Little America that June will survey. He'll start on the opposite side of the South Pole at a point called "Martha Land." The expedition will take two years - and plenty of icicles - cold cash.

Meanwhile, his former chief, Admiral Byrd, is not resting on his laurels. He's hatching a new plan of exploration, a plant of worldwide importance. So far he hasn't announced what part of the world he'll investigate next time he leaves civilization. He's to do the announcing at a huge x banquet tonight at the Waldorf,

JUNE - 2

attended by all his former backers from Thomas Watson and Edsel Ford to Jake Ruppert.

MT. WASH. SKIING.

Thought I'd have a weird, curious rather unbelievable yarn to tell you tonight about how I had spent the day tearing down a mountain side on skis, sliding over snow fifty feet deep, on a hot June day. Dressed in bathing trunks. Body covered with grease to keep from getting burned while playing around on snow and ice. Blotches of black - burnt cork under my eyes to keep from going snow blind - in June. At least that's the way I am told they do it up here, and I was curious to try the novel experience.

But it just didn't happen. What was to blame? Why, one of these White Mountain trout - a rainbow, 21 inches long, weighing four and a half pounds. I had never seen one like that, even in Colorado, where we used to think we had the finest rainbow on Earth.

Went fishing shortly after dawn this morning. And there were so many rainbow trout in the River, just up the road a few miles from Crawford House, that I forgot all about my plans to going skiing in a bathing suit. A four and a half pound rainbow will make you almost forget home and mother. Isn't that right Colonel?

Mt. Wash. Skiing -- 2.

Col. Barron:- Absolutely, and what I'd like to add is -----

L.T. Thanks a lot for backing me up Colonel. (When I interrupted him, the Colonel - I could tell it from the glint in his eye, was on the verge of inviting all of you to come and try forgetting home and mother.)

To get back to this June skiing phenomenon - officials of the N.H. State Forestry service told me today that they don't much like having people sliding down Mt. Washington in June. They think it's too dangerous - that is on skis in Tuckerman's Ravine, in hot weather. On very hot days the sun loosens the snow and ice near the summit, at the head wall, and starts avalanches. A crowd of skiers was up there just a few days ago. There was a roar. On the floor of the ravine were quite a few skiers, in bathing suits. They looked up and saw an avalanche coming. It was far enough away so they could easily dash to the side of the ravine and get out of the way of the on-coming, roaring mass of ice and snow. All did so, except two young women. They staid on the floor of the ravine - perhaps fascinating, hypnotised by the avalance. A moment

Mt. Wash. Skiing - 3.

later it was upon them. One of the two, Grace Sturgis, a librarian from Williams College, Massachusetts, was killed. Still alive when they carried her down the Mountain. But she died in the ambulance.

Joe Dodge, of Appalachian Hut, at the foot of the mountain assures me it's a great sight to watch the avalanches in June, and that it's easy to dodge them - if you don't wait too long as Grace Sturgis did. So we'll pack out skis up there and try it tomorrow -- unless another we are distracted by another four and a half pound rainbow trout.

Now let's look out over the world from Mt. Wash. and see if all is as quiet and peaceful elsewhere as it is here.

## FRANCE

It isn't. Here's more stormy news from Paris. The new Premier of France, just before he took office today ~~xx~~ was greeted with the news that two hundred and fifty new strikes had broken out in the past twenty-four hours. Then, he went on the air with a radio appeal to the half million workers who are taking part in the nationwide French walkout - the walkout that has all France half paralyzed. Speaking into the microphone, the Left Wing Socialist Premier Leon Blum - asked the workers to remain quiet and patient. He promised that their demands would be met. He told them he would keep the Chamber of Deputies in session and have the ~~l~~awmakers enact legislation that would put an end to labor troubles. He promised the passage of a law providing a forty-hour week for the workers, with paid vacations, and the right to collective bargaining - unionization. These are the conditions the strikers are demanding.

Thus - Premier Blum supports the strikers and backs up their demands with the power of his government. In his radio talk, he put the blame on the employers, and denounced what he called their stubborn tactics.

At the actual moment the Premier was speaking on the air -- the employees of the big stores in Paris went on strike. They followed the familiar tactics of locking themselves in. They chased the customers out, closed the doors, and proceeded to hold the fort.

In some respects, though, the tension of the strike situation has eased. The truck drivers in Paris have won their battle. Their demands have been met. So they're back at work, handling food supplies. That relieves the danger of a food shortage in the City of Light and Gayety on the banks of the Seine.

## CHINA

It may be that the news we hear from the Far East tonight signals the beginning of that long expected, long feared, Asiatic explosion. (After days of rumors, the word is definite - the armies of southern China are on the march. And the Canton government, which rules south China, has declared war on Japan. For weeks there has been flaming agitation in the southern capital, in Nanking - popular demonstrations, calling upon China to stop the ambitious engulfing aggressions of Japan.) As usual, the Chinese students have been leading the anti-Japanese campaign.

We of the West have so often remarked:- what a fateful thing it would be if the Chinese giant were to lose patience, bestir himself, and launch a real war against Japan--get in earnest about it. Tonight's news gives us just half of that ominous picture--the southern part of China moving north to attack the Japanese and drive them out.

The leaders of the march are Li Chungjen and Chen Chia - Tang, war lords of the Kwangsi and Kwangtung provinces.



CHINA 2

Kwangsi province is reported to have already started a hundred thousand troops northward to Hunan - A great army equipped with five hundred motor trucks.

And, the cities of Canton, Nanking and Shanghai are buzzing with rumors of other war moves. One province after another demanding a nationwide defense against Japan. Right now, officials of the southern Chinese government are on their way to Nanking, having declared war on Japan. They are going to demand that the central government at Nanking join in a nationwide drive to break the Japanese stranglehold on northern China. Tonights word is that Nanking may do just that, in which case - - look out ! That would explode the Far Eastern boiler !

As a mere matter of numbers, the Chinese war power looks formidable. North and South China combined are estimated to have a total of a million and a quarter troops now under arms.

*Cut* { Added to that is a Communist Army of a hundred thousand, which might join in the struggle for national liberation. And then there are bandit gangs too numerous to count. As against those teaming legions - - Japan has a standing army of only a quarter of a million men.

CHINA 3

*cut* { But they are highly trained; and, armed with the latest technology of war. The Chinese armies are not nearly so well equipped or so well organized. In China every war lord has his own province, and his own army which takes orders from him alone. There are only a few divisions under the command of the central military staff of Nanking.

Black eastern war clouds gathering over Asia !

But up here in New England all the world seems at peace.

And, SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY