

*Amman
MBC.*

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

It's the height of repetition to tell a story twice, one time right after another, yet that's just what I'm about to do. Two stories, of course, but so much alike that when you've told one you've told the other, except for a few minor variations. All of this repetitiousness concerns two bank robberies, insolent stick-ups which occurred today.

Business was going on as usual in the bank at Newburgh, New York -- when five hold-up men stepped swiftly in, brandished a machine gun and lined up bank employees and customers, their hands in the air. Not a shot was fired. The robbers scooped up fifteen thousand dollars. With no interference, the audacious rogues walked out to waiting automobiles, and got away. Tonight the police and the government men are searching for them --the

customary manhunt.

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The second story goes this way: Business was going on as usual in the bank at Greendale, near Worcester, Massachusetts-- when three men stepped in, brandished pistols and a sawed-off shotgun, and lined up bank employees and customers, their hands in the air. Not a shot was fired. The robbers scooped up fifteen thousand dollars. (Yes, the amount was just the same. In this case, payroll money had been delivered to the bank a few minutes before by an armoured truck -- a carefully planned robbery.) But now the story goes on just the same: With no interference, the audacious rogues walked out to waiting automobiles, and got away. Tonight the police and the government men are searching for them -- the customary manhunt.

Let's hope that this same repetitiousness continues and that the two stories will have an identical epilogue -- manhunt successful, crooks caught.

Here's a sensational headline -- Maxie Baer shot. Heavyweight Champion of the world victim of a pistol. And it's ~~xxxxxx~~ quite accurate, though not so serious as the impression it gives. No bullets figure in the story. The Champ was the victim of one of the strangest of accidents at his training quarters at Asbury Park, New Jersey, this afternoon. He was rehearsing for a radio broadcast he was scheduled to give, and the act called for the firing of a pistol, firing a blank. The pistol went off accidentally. There was no bullet in that blank, but there was a lot of burning powder. Max was fooling with the gun in such fashion that the streak of flame hit his chest and seared him considerably. He was rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Nothing fatal about it all. The only point is that there is the possibility of the gunpowder burn interfering with Baer's championship fight with Jimmy Braddock, scheduled for June 13th. All kinds of managers are worrying whether Maxie Maxie's manly ~~max~~ ^u bosum will be sufficiently healed to permit him to enter the ring and swap punches with the heavyweight Braddock.

CONSTITUTION

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The affairs of government today might well be prefaced by a bit of a pageant. In the City of Brotherly Love they are staging a ^{nine-day celebration} ~~series of events~~ called "Philadelphia on Parade." And the most solemn ^{thing connected with this} ~~of these~~ was a historical spectacle portraying the drafting and signing of the United States Constitution. The full dignity and ceremony of that momentous event was amply portrayed, with the majestic role of George Washington played by United States Senator George ~~W~~arton Pepper of Pennsylvania.

Yes, that event provides a fitting thought in prelude to the news of government - the battle of the bonus, the social security program, and the launching of a new and startling political plan about which we will hear presently.

BONUS

It's a showdown in the bonus controversy. There was talk of a compromise, suppositions that the Patman Bill supporters in Congress might fix up something new, something not quite so inclusive and complete, something that might be acceptable to the President. That's off. Congress is on record ^{with} ~~that~~ the Patman Bill. And its supporters have decided that it should go to the President just as ~~XXXXXX~~ it is. Meaning that the lines were tightened ^{today} on Capitol Hill. They are also tightened in the White House. President Roosevelt is calling in his advisors, to decide ^{not} what to do ~~and~~ ^{but} how to do it - how to frame the veto, what to say while rejecting the Bonus Bill.

The question that's the biggest of all in Washington right now, is getting an appropriately big play in administration circles, confabulations, legal opinions, conjectures, rumors. The social security legislation of course; ^{ie.} _{in} relation to the Supreme Court decision against the Railroad Pension Act. How will that vigorous "No", spoken by the highest tribunal, affect the social security program? The Supreme Court knocked out that government sponsored pension for railroad employees. And, to be sure, the President's social program is one consisting largely of old age and unemployment pensions.

If the high justices said "No" to one - won't they say "No" to the other? And, to that Attorney General Cummings says:-
"No". The latest from Washington is that the Attorney General has handed the President his formal opinion that the court decision does not stand in the way of the social security legislation. He says that the constitutional grounds that apply to the Railroad Pension Act do not apply to the old age and unemployment pensions.

And the same word comes from the Senate Finance Committee, not from Administration Democrats on the Committee -

but from Senator Borah, the frequently insurgent Republican.

He declares that the decision does not conflict with the social legislation. The Senate Finance Committee is already at work drafting the bills, getting ready to submit them to the Senate as a whole. The dope is that the bills will contain provisions to make good the knocking out of the Railroad Pension Act. Previously, railroad workers were left out of the ^{social} legislative ~~program~~ on the assumption that they were covered by the Special Pension Law for their benefit. Now, however, with the railroad pensions in the discard, the new social security scheme will include the men who work in the railroad transportation industry.

Administration men are urging one idea that we've been hearing about - that President Roosevelt did not favor the original Railroad Bill when he signed it. He liked the idea behind it, but openly criticized the way the law was worded, the form in which it was framed.

Meyers,
May 9, 1935.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR MEYERS

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A new political campaign is being launched, a novel economic doctrine, a brand new theory of statesmanship. This nationwide social program is being agitated by Lieutenant-Governor Victor Aloysius Meyers of the State of Washington. It has its relations to Huey Long's "Share the Wealth" gospel or "Every Man a King." Only the Lieutenant-Governor of Washington outdoes the Senator from Louisiana. He out-kingfishes the Kingfish. He has ^{come} ~~last~~ and opened national headquarters in New York at the Waldorf-Astoria. And he's going to begin his campaign with a message over the radio - right now. The Lieutenant-Governor of Washington is in the studio here to tell us his plan to save the nation.

From time to time I've had occasion to make mention of that politically astonishing phenomenon of the Pacific Coast - Victor Aloysius Meyers. On one occasion ~~he~~ ^{he} told of his entrance into politics, how he was a night club orchestra leader in Seattle, and how the local newspapermen ~~thought up~~ ^{as} a joke ~~and~~ entered him as a candidate on a comic platform. The Lieutenant-Governor tells me ~~that~~ ^{this way.} it was ~~he who thought up the joke.~~ A gang of newspapermen were discussing the ills of the Seattle transit system, when

Orchestra Leader Vic Meyers said he'd put his night club hostesses on the trolley cars as motormen and conductors - "a girl with every fare," was his ringing motto. "That was the way to boost business, and get the street car company out of the red." And he's been climbing higher and higher in politics ever since -- with or without night club hostesses. As Lieutenant-Governor of the sovereign State of Washington he has been a brilliant success. He has just been telling me: "My principal job is presiding over the State Senate, and a dance orchestra leader certainly should be able to do that - the senators are always blowing their own horns and striking sour notes, and there's plenty of discord."

Now comes the launching of the new political campaign. Will you tell us, Lieutenant-Governor Meyers, about your plan - which beats Huey Long's "Share the Wealth Program", or "Every Man a King?"

V.M. I figure it this way: Mighty few people have any wealth, but everybody has debts. So my plan is "Share the Debts".

you share your grocery bill with me and I'll share my overdue rent with you. Everybody will share everybody else's bad checks, poker debts, I.O.U.'s and doctor's bills. So that's my program for dividing up what's on the cuff, the Vic Meyers Share-the-Debt Plan.

L. T.: Sounds like national salvation Lieutenant Governor. In fact it's more than national. It could be international. Uncle Sam could share his debt, share it with other nations. That would be the Vic Meyers theory of foreign affairs. But tell me Lieutenant-Governor what inspired you to this Utopian idea?

V.M.: Well, Lowell, I know a lot about debts. I had a lot of them. Soon after I was elected Lieutenant-Governor I threw a coming-out party, a coming out-of-the-red party. I invited all my creditors to dinner and instead of place cards there were checks for balance-due at each plate. It put an awful dent in my pocketbook, and I thought:- what a philanthropic idea it would have been if I could have shared those debts with somebody.

L.T.: But now about the second plan ^{to} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ the Huey Long platform - "Every Man a king"? I ^{hear} ~~understand~~ you've got that beat also.

V.M. I sure have. You see I'm a musician. And so I think it would be wonderful if every man were a musician - although there aren't enough jobs to go round now. But anyway, I think a musician is greater than a king, so my plan is - "Every man a piccolo player."

L.T.: And there, ladies and gentlemen of the radio audience, is the new political campaign - "Share the Debts" and "Every Man a Piccolo Player." It will conquer the depression, bring back prosperity and save the nation.

JAPAN

From the Pacific Ocean come flashes of contrast:- a mighty fleet of war planes winging over the immense watery solitudes of that greatest of oceans; Stately formality of friendship glowing with color in Tokyo; and a bit of spy business which makes it look tough for us Kentucky colonels. Yes, flashes of gaudy contrast, with a background meaning, that reaches away into the dimness of speculation. That background is - the problems and strategies of the Pacific. And the possibilities of American-Japanese rivalry. Now, let's sketch the figures in the foreground.

The war planes:- Shortly after noon today they took off from their ~~island~~ naval base ~~at~~ Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii. And the take-off was surrounded by all sorts of secrecy. Navy shore patrols, heavily armed, guarded all approaches to the flying fields. They say the caution was not because of any fear of spies, but because the flight is being made just as it would be in war time, when all that secrecy would be part of the regulations. Naval air manoeuvres on a flight between Honolulu and that tiny speck of land ^{hundred} thirteen miles to the northeast, Midway Island. Hawaii's entire air defense, forty-two navy planes in the biggest mass flight ever

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attempted anywhere. ~~We're~~ not told anything about the strategic problems to be solved, but it is apparent that the sky fleet will operate in conjunction with the sea fleet, the armada of American war vessels now staging battle practice somewhere on the vast expanse of the Mid-Pacific - where all the navies in the world combined might be lost to ~~the~~ sight, like a peanut floating in the middle of ^a ~~the~~ lake.

Now about the big gala doings in Tokyo: That's the visit to Japan of Rear Admiral Frank B. Upham, Commander-in-Chief of the American Asiatic fleet. This is in connection with the fleet manoeuvres. ^Q good-will voyage of the Admiral's flagship, the cruiser ^A Augusta, a gesture of friendship while the manoeuvres are going on. Tonight there are rituals of glowing majestic courtesy in the ~~land~~ of the Rising Sun. The good-will sojourn of the Admiral is being received with the loftiest ceremonies of Nipponese hospitality. There was a reception by the Mikado today, the American guest welcomed profusely at the imperial court.

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Lastly - about the spy business, or rough for Kentucky colonels:- Let's look into the story of the arrest of M.A. Pierce, formerly a member of the California Legislature and later Police

Commissioner of Los Angeles. It is to be noted that as a California Legislator Mr. Pierce was a friend of the Japanese; ~~He was~~ one of the lawmakers opposed to the California anti-Japanese legislation. However, he's a Kentucky Colonel, is Mr. Pierce, I mean Colonel Pierce.

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Having retired as Los Angeles Police Commissioner, he and his wife took a trip to the Orient. As the ship was entering the harbor of Kobe, he took some movies of tennis players on the deck. And those movies caused all the trouble, because when they were developed they showed a lighthouse of military importance in the background. Arrests followed, and a searching of baggage, and in the baggage the Nipponese secret service men found a fatal document, a majestic commission signed by Governor Ruby Lafoon of Kentucky, appointing M. A. Pierce a Kentucky Colonel. To the Nipponese, the incriminating paper meant one sinister thing, a high military officer, a colonel, taking those pictures.

They flung the colonel in jail and he had a rough time of it. ^{Not a mint jewel in sight.} They kept him under arrest as a ^{military} spy for ten days, and then made him pay a fine of Ten Dollars. Today he made a speech before the Tokyo Rotary Club, telling of his unfortunate experience.

8 1/2 It only goes to show ~~something~~ ^{one thing} about Kentucky colonels.

They take ~~them~~ ^{it} seriously - in Japan.

MacFADDEN

In the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania there are a lot of feet without shoes plodding along. It's Bernarr MacFadden's three hundred and twenty-five ^{mile} barefoot derby on cracked wheat. ~~not~~ *cracked feet.*

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The idea is to show the merits of cracked wheat as something to eat and the demerits of shoes as something to wear. The barefoot marchers have been on their way since Saturday. And ~~these~~ thus far neither corns, nor bunions, nor blisters, nor thorns, have deterred them. They include the young and the old, several ~~grandmothers~~ grandmothers for example. And one chap is marching with a fifty pound pack on his back, just to make it tougher on his bare feet.

The barefoot marathon, nudism for feet. Without shoes they go trudging and with shoes I go trudging, and

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SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.