

L.T. - Sunoco. *Thurs, Sept. 8, 1938*

BUILDING BOOM

Here's a tip from Washington that's encouraging, if true. The U.S.A. is on the threshold of a building boom. That, you may recall, is one of the most important things, if not the most important, that President Roosevelt has been hoping for.

When Great Britain was in the dumps, it was a building boom that pulled the English out. And New Deal officials have been betting that a similar event will do the same for us. When Congress passed the act to give it a shot in the arm, lots of critics said that it wouldn't do the trick. According to official report, those critics were wrong. The statement comes from Nathan Straus, United

States Housing Administrator. And he says that a ^{building} boom is on its way. *And with it a general boom.*

~~way~~ The President has recently approved contracts in eighteen cities to bring the total amount of loans from ~~United States~~ Uncle Sam to builders up to two hundred million dollars. The Act of Congress authorized the lending of eight hundred million for this purpose. Administrator Straus says this is a clear forerunner of that building boom so ~~devotedly~~ devoutly wished.

ICKES

Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, handed down some wisecracks to Washington correspondents today. One reporter asked him: "Would you favor the election of a liberal Republican over a conservative Democrat? Ickes replied: "Of course." Then he added: "What do you think I've been most of my life? Me and John Hamilton?" ^{he said.} Secretary Ickes, as you may remember, was once a Republican, also a Bull Mooser.

And then he explained: "A Democratic standpatter looks much the same to me as a Republican standpatter."

Another reporter then reminded ^{Sec.} ~~Mr.~~ Ickes that the score against President Roosevelt in his purge campaign is six to nothing. The Secretary of the Interior retorted: "That is a superficial observation. The victor today might be the loser tomorrow."

Somebody else then asked ~~Mr.~~ Ickes whether he believed it would be possible to create a third party, a liberal party. To that the Secretary replied: "If you couldn't do it under Theodore Roosevelt at the top of his power, how could you do it now?" And that seemed to be an answer for which the assembled correspondents had no come-back.

GEORGIA

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Senator George of Georgia made a retort to President Roosevelt today. When the President was in ^{his} ~~that~~ state, campaigning to purge Senator George out of the Senate, ^{Mr. Roosevelt} ~~he~~ remarked: "Senator George and I do not speak the same language." And this was Senator George's reply today: "I'm a full time Democrat, I speak the language of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington."

Thereupon the other candidates took up the same topic. The man Mr. Roosevelt is supporting is Lawrence Camp, New Dealer, and he said: "I speak the language of President Roosevelt and that is the true language of the Democrats." Then up spoke Ex-Governor Gene Talmadge, anti-New Dealer, with the words: "I speak only the language of the Georgians, the language of the farmer and the working man."

~~And Zoe Akins, the playwright, might add another bit, with the title of her play - "The Greeks Had A Word For it."~~

CALIFORNIA FOLLOW GEORGIA

In ~~one~~^a sense, the primary election in California, *has*,
so far, ~~has~~ been the most interesting^{primary} of all. People are still
talking about it, not so much because Senator McAdoo was defeated,
as because his rival, Sheridan Downey, the thirty-dollar -a-week
pension candidate, was nominated. Mr. Downey's principal running
mate on the ticket, the Democratic candidate for Governor of
California in the November election, is also running on that
ham-and-eggs platform. ~~And that's the focus of interest among~~
~~politicians all over the country.~~^H Of course conservatives in
California, in fact everybody but extreme visionaries, are
terrified for fear ~~of~~^{that} this thirty-dollar-a-week pension ticket
~~might~~^{may} win, ~~might~~ actually be elected. *And then what?*
~~in the eyes of California~~
~~conservatives, of course, that would be disastrous.~~

In Washington, however, it is said that ~~several~~ big shots
of the New Deal take a different view. Not that they believe in
this thirty-dollar-a-week pension idea; they think it's moonshine.
But they do believe it would be a good idea ^{to try it} ~~for it to be tried~~ out
in some state, quickly, so ~~that~~ the rest of the country may have
proof that it is ^{hair-brained} ~~dangerous and~~ ruinous folly. If the California

citizens vote ^e ~~that~~ ₁ ham-and-eggs idea into law, it will put all business men, particularly merchants, on the spot. They'll have to accept California State scrip for a fifty cents out of every dollar purchase. ^π A nostrum somewhat on this order has just been tried out in the Province of Alberta, Canada. ~~That was~~ the so-called Social Credit Economy, which the citizens of Alberta took up when they voted Prime Minister Aberhart into office. What happened there was that after a few weeks shopkeepers flatly refused to accept scrip, law or no law. Thus the whole thing broke down.

So that's why ~~many~~ prominent New Dealers will be quite satisfied to see the State of California ^{play the role of} ~~police made an~~ experimental guinea pig for the ham-and-eggs plan. They prophesy that it will throw the political economy of California into an unholy mess so quickly that there'll be a speedy referendum and a swing of the political pendulum in the other direction. And that, they say, will provide an object lesson for the rest of the country.

And incidentally, it will put the kibosh ~~taxes~~ for some time to come on all similar nostrums such as the lunar proposals of the benevolent Dr. Townsend.

Of course that's all very well, but it seems tough on California.

ARMS SHIPMENTS

President Roosevelt was being criticized today because some American firms are shipping arms and munitions to Germany. The complaint comes from the National Lawyers Guild. A Committee of the Guild issues a report complaining that we are violating not only the Neutrality Act but also the peace treaty that we made with Germany in Nineteen Twenty-One.

MULES FOLLOW ARMS SHIPMENTS

While that report of the Lawyers Guild was being digested,
a shipping item from Philadelphia got on the wires. A freighter
left Philadelphia for Germany with a hundred and twenty Missouri
mules. On the way it will stop at Delaware City and ^{there} take on a
hundred thousand pounds of TNT. ² The question is, does that
shipment of mules come under the head of explosives? ^{Homer} ~~Friends of~~
^{Croy, the famous Missouri novelist and muleologist}
~~mine from Missouri~~ inform me that it would take a powerful lot of
^{effect as}
TNT to have an explosive ~~effect~~ as the heels of a ¹²⁰ ~~good~~ Missouri
mule ⁵ ~~delivered~~ in the right place, ~~say a Missouri mule sixteen~~
~~hands high. How about it, Homer Croy of Missouri?~~

CONSUL

Here's another step in Mussolini's movement against the Jews. The Italian government had recalled its consul general at Boston, Guido Segre. Upon investigation, it turns out that Consul General Segre, is Jewish. He has ^d been at Boston for three years, a popular and effective representative. "But," he said: "The order for my recall came before the edict which banished Jews from the public service in Italy."

So he explains it — still ~~the~~ a diplomat to the finger tips.

CZECH

The statesmen of Europe presented a peculiar spectacle today, though a spectacle not quite unique. They called to mind a picture of squirrels, in a cage, running like mad, and rapidly getting nowhere. It is understood that Hitler, in Nuremberg, ordered the leaders of the Sudeten Germans, to call off their strike and resume negotiations with the Czechoslovaks. But incidents in Czechoslovakia itself seem to indicate that the Sudetens are declining to obey the Fuehrer's order, and won't talk turkey with the Czechoslovak government until the so-called incidents have been settled.

Today, all the^a other minorities in Czechoslovakia announced that they had lined up with the Sudetens. That means the Poles, Roumanians, Hungarians.

In England, the opposition to the government is clamoring loudly that Prime Minister Chamberlain should summon Parliament. ~~It~~ This feeling was voiced by Major Attlee, leader of the Labor Party, after an indignant meeting of the trades union council, which represents a large body of English voters. The British Labor and Liberal Parties are strongly and unanimously

on the side of the Czechs and against Hitler. They resent angrily the notion that the British Prime Minister is being made a tool by the German ~~Fuhrer~~ Fuehrer to bring pressure upon the Czechs to make further concessions to Germany.

Just a few minutes ago, a startling bulletin came over the wire. (Viscount Runciman is about to resign that distasteful job handed to him at Prague. ~~The report~~ It's not because of anything that has happened in Czechoslovakia, but because of events in London connected with his difficult task as unofficial mediator. It was that editorial in the LONDON TIMES, owned by Viscount Astor, ~~the foremost pro-Nazi in England.~~ The indignation of that editorial has not subsided with the time but has grown worse. The British government ~~taught~~ denied vehemently that the article had been inspired from Downing Street. Lord Runciman is said to have informed his government that nevertheless, inspired or not inspired, that editorial has created a terrible impression on the continent.)

And he is believed to have said that unless the government does something to off-set ^{the so-called} Viscount Astor's blunder, Lord Runciman will be obliged to resign.

CHINA

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The Chinese ^{war} drama from time to time has included whispers of a truce, maybe even of peace. English statesmen have repeatedly said that they would be willing to act as mediators in case both the Chinese and Japanese asked for it. ^{And} It's an open secret that the Japanese would gladly discuss peace on the basis that the Mikado's men will hold all the provinces they've conquered.

Today we have China's reply. It can be expressed in two words, "Nothing doing." More elaborately, it's expressed in these words: "The Chinese government, headed by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, never will surrender to Japan, no matter how far Japanese armies may penetrate into China."

Those words were uttered to a United Press correspondent by the Chinese statesman, Dr. Sun Fo, ~~It becomes more significant when we learn that Dr. Sun has just returned from Moscow where he has been on a ~~particular~~ diplomatic mission to Stalin. He made it in reply to a statement by the Mikado's Prime Minister, Prince Konojo.~~

Dr. Sun says ~~specifically~~ that the gossip of Chiang Kai-shek being on the outs with the Red generals is nothing but

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nonsense. "You can tell the world" he added, "that China will continue fighting until Japan's armies are expelled or withdrawn from this country." And he declared also that the economy and finance of China were in a strong position.

Then he made a statement hinting at support from Moscow for China.

Before trying to drown himself, the man had apparently given himself a skinful of Dutch courage. When the policeman said: "That's your name?" he made a reply that could hardly be understood. Then, ironically enough, the cop searched the would-be suicide and in his pocket found a Social Security card. It was by that Social Security card that he was identified. He turned out to be an ex-convict who had been paroled from the Joliet Penitentiary. Subsequent ^{to} ~~from~~ ^{the} ~~fact~~ ^{fact} that the Chicago ^{police} ~~police~~ had been looking for him. They wanted to ask him why the body of a night club hostess had been found in his room at a hotel, with a cord around her neck.

The cop called the Black Maria and took the ex-convict to the police station. In the course of the ride the cop said: "Do you know Mrs. Lassoff", meaning that dead night club hostess.

STRANGLER

The high gods of irony staged a peculiar drama in Chicago today. A park policeman on his rounds saw a man using one of the lagoons for an unlawful purpose. He was trying to drown himself in the water. The cop grabbed the would-be suicide by the nape of the neck, dragged him out, and said: "Here, here, you can't do that!."

Before trying to drown himself, the man had apparently given himself a skinful of Dutch courage. When the policeman said: "What's your name?" he mumbled a reply that could hardly be understood. Then, ironically enough, the cop searched the would-be suicide and in his pocket found a Social Security card. It was by that Social Security card that he was identified. He turned out to be an ex-convict who had been parolled from the Joliet Penitentiary. ~~But quite~~ aside from that, the Chicago ^{police} ~~cops~~ had been looking for him. They wanted to ask him why the body of a night club hostess had been found in his room at a hotel, with a cord around her neck.

The cop called the Black Maria and took the ex-convict to the police station. In the course of the ride the cop said: "Do you know Mrs. Lamont?", meaning that dead night club hostess.

Then the policeman added: "You'll see her at the police station."

At that the prisoner, coming out of his ^{alcoholic} stupor, exclaimed: "What!

Is she still alive?" At any rate, that's what the police say.

COLONEL STOOPNAGLE

In three more weeks I will have been on the air for eight years, without a break. That is, I haven't had a vacation, except for a night or two. Tomorrow evening will be another one of those nights, and in my absence something unusual is going to happen -- at this hour -- on the air. Taking my place here at the mike will be one of the best known of all radio stars. But, it will be his first experience as a news commentator.

In the days before I became associated with radio my work ~~was~~ took me up and down the world, to far countries, and I was much interested in exploration. I don't seem to have time for any exploration these days, but I haven't lost my enthusiasm for it. And in a few minutes I am leaving for Maine, for Boothbay, Wiscasset and Christmas Cove, to welcome my friend Commander Donald MacMillan as he arrives home from his seventeenth voyage to the Arctic.

And who will be here at this microphone tomorrow evening? As I mentioned, he's a radio star. And he is also a star on my notorious ball team, the NINE OLD MEN. You know

him on the air as Colonel Lemuel Q. Stoopnagle. His real name of course is F. Chase Taylor.

Well, the Colonel ~~x~~ happens to be one of my favorite people. I admire him on the air because he is one comedian who prepares his own material, and he doesn't get it out of old joke books. It is original. I like him off the air because he's a great guy, absolutely regular.

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Like all humorists he is a philosopher, a man of wisdom. The world's news is usually serious, frequently ~~xxxx~~ much too serious and grim. Colonel Stoopnagle has his serious side. And, it will be interesting to get his slant on the day's news. I haven't any idea what he'll do. But, with war in the Far East, war in Spain, world war threatening in Central Europe, the Hines trial taking the spotlight in New York, troubles in Mexico, trouble in the ranks of labor, stories of political purge in our own country, well, it ought to be a welcome relief to have Colonel Lemuel Q. Stoopnagle handling the day's news for once.

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I have no doubt but what we will do it seriously. But, he's a

natural humorist, and it's possible he'll find something funny,
or at least something screwy in tomorrow's news.

As for me - tomorrow night, at this hour, I'll be
sitting in the cabin of Commander MacMillan's famous schooner,

as they sail
The Bowdoin, sitting with MacMillan and his crew, ~~just a few~~
in on the home stretch - coming in
~~hours after their arrival,~~ from the Far North. And, I'll be

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wondering what will come out of the ~~loud~~ loud speaker when
my friend F. Chase Taylor, Colonel Stoopnagle, tells us the

day's news. Personally I can hardly wait for 6:45 tomorrow
evening to arrive. So, ~~si~~ so long until we hear ~~tomorrow's~~

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- minus the false whiskers -
news from Colonel Stoopnagle, ~~disguised as himself,~~ tomorrow
night,

Taylor

"Stoornagle"

Sept. 97

1938.