

L.T. - Sunoco. Monday, Dec. 20, 1937.

SPIES

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Spy scares, ~~which are~~ so frequent in Europe, are rather rare here. But the Russians profess to have information that ~~none~~ <sup>any fair</sup> ~~land~~ <sup>land</sup> ~~Sam's country~~ is overrun with Japanese secret agents. <sup>Says Moscow,</sup> They're particularly rife on the Pacific Coast and in the Panama Canal Zone. The authority for that, ~~was~~ ~~himself~~ himself a secret agent, <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ Comrade Frinovsky, Vice-Commissar of the NKVD., ~~that's~~ the Soviet political secret police.

But Uncle Sam is not merely a patient victim in this espionage game, says this Russian <sup>master of espionage,</sup> ~~secret police chief~~. We're in it ourselves. There are plenty of agents of the American Intelligence Service in Japan. In fact, the whole thing is worldwide. England and France are filled with German spies. French and British agents are all over Germany. Even nations that are friendly to each other such as Italy, Germany and Japan, spy upon each other freely.

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So it's quite timely for our President Roosevelt to ask Congress for stricter laws to prevent people, <sup>from</sup> taking photographs of Uncle Sam's military fortifications. ~~And~~ Today Senator Reynolds of North Carolina introduced a bill which, if passed, will mean any aliens found guilty of spying over here will be immediately deported.

CONGRESS

It looks tonight as though the Housing Bill about which President Roosevelt was so anxious would actually become a law at this special session. As a matter of fact it may be the only task the legislators in Washington complete at this session. The Senate Committee okayed it today.

The Administration leaders in the Senate are determined to rush the Housing Bill through even if they have to extend the Session and wait until Thursday to go home.

Meanwhile some fifty Congressmen called at the White House for a conference with the President.. They told him that no matter what happened last week they are in favor of the Wage Hour Bill -- that is, in principle. Later, Healy of Massachusetts said: - "We told the President we are ready to push for the bill at the next session."

## MANIFESTO

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A few days ago we heard of a round robin letter that had been circulated among the Republican senators and the conservative Democrats in the Senate. Today we learned that it's not merely a round robin. It's an address to the American people, a statement of conservative principles.

It came to light when Senator Burke of Nebraska asked permission to put this declaration in the Congressional Record. Several pro-New Deal senators jumped to their feet, bristling with questions, demanding to know who are the authors of the document and were they ashamed of it?

At that, uprose Democratic Senator Bailey of North Carolina, crying: "I wrote part of it, and so far from being ashamed, I'm eager to assume responsibility for it." Thereupon, on the Republican side, Michigan's Senator Vandenberg ~~xx~~ got to his feet saying: "I had a hand in it too and I'm proud of it." Republican Senator Austin of Vermont also boasted that he had taken certain part in it.

The purpose of this manifesto is to form a united

front to put business on a solid foundation and put an end to  
the present recession. Said Senator Bailey, who read the argument  
to the Senate: "This is the policy-making branch of the government.  
What we need is a new united front in Congress."

## SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court today administered a sad blow to detectives and investigators who work for Uncle Sam. If they gather information about criminals by tapping telephone wires, it cannot be used as evidence. That is, not in the federal courts.

It was a seven -to-two vote. The opinion of the seven was written and read by Mr. Justice Owen Roberts. The opinions that disagreed were Justices Sutherland's and McReynold's. Mr. Sutherland's opinion said: "Nobody despises peeping toms and private eavesdroppers more than I do. But," he added, "to put the sworn officers of the law in the same category, when they're engaged in the detection and apprehension of organized gangs of criminals, is to lose all sense of proportion." The cause of this ruling was an appeal by four New York gentlemen who had been convicted of smuggling alcohol. Uncle Sam's agents got the goods on them by tapping their telephone wires. But this opinion sets them free.

Some are saying that the minority opinion sounds like a sensible opinion.

## RACKET

The fair city of Cleveland has followed the example of New York in making a move to rid itself of rackets. Cleveland has a new Safety Director, Eliot Ness, a young man who served his apprenticeship in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This former G-man got busy, gathered a lot of evidence, and obtained information that conditions in Cleveland are almost as flagrant as in New York.

So the Grand Jury heard that testimony, and examined as many as ninety-seven witnesses. Some of them came from twenty other cities in the Middlewest. Today comes a result from this long investigation. The grand jury returned tru bills aginst four men, indicting them on charges of extortion and blackmail. The four are union leaders, big-shots in the glaziers, painters and other buildingtrades unions. One of the indicted menhas served two terms in the Ohio Reformatory; another, though never convicted, has been arrested several times.

## ESCAPE

An interesting story was made public today by the Warden of Alcatraz, the supposedly escape-proof prison. It reveals a scenario that will be made use of by fiction authors, magazine writers on crime, for years to come. The escape from Alcatraz of Theodore Cole and Ralph Roe deserves to go down in criminal annals as one of the most astonishing. You might rank it with the flight of the Emperor Napoleon the Third; and the celebrated feat of Casanova who broke out of prison in Venice, to say nothing of some of the escapes from Devil's Island.

Warden Johnson's investigations have proved to him that the twomen spent months on their escape plans at Alcatraz. Every day they sawed away at the bars of the machine shop with a sharp file they had stolen. They could only work a few minutes a day. When the time came, when the bars hung by a mere thread, they snapped them off, jumped out, and then with a wrecnh from the shop they jimmed the lock on the gate of the wire fence surrounding the prison. The lock and that gate were the only barrier between them and the cliff overhanging San Francisco Bay.

Once they had dived down into the water they found waiting

for them a fast motorboat with a muffled exhaust that ferried them across the Bay to a point of safety -- just as we surmised the other night. Warden Johnson no longer believes that they perished in the waters of the Bay.

Escape proof? Never. Well, hardly ever!

HEARST

The Mexican government has seized ten thousand acres of land belonging to an American citizen. And that citizen is William Randolph Hearst, publisher, editor, multi-millionaire.

The ten thousand acres come from the famous Babicora Ranch in the state of Chihuahua. <sup>As that ranch</sup> ~~is~~ consists of half a million acres,

or ~~rather~~ did until today, you might think ~~that~~ those ten thousand acres <sup>wouldnt</sup> ~~would~~ be missed much. Still, ten thousand acres

is quite a sizeable slice of land. It <sup>will</sup> ~~is~~ be distributed to

ranchers throughout the state. <sup>It</sup> Most of it is cattle country, seven thousand feet above sea level.

The Communists are on the move in China. They see their big opportunity in the position of the Chinese central government, with its back to the wall. So today the Red leaders advanced upon Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and said:- "Abolish your nondescript government, reorganize and move over to the left." Their slogan was:- "We'll fight Japan to the bitter end."

The Red tycoons demand the reorganization of Chiang Kai-shek's cabinet, and the resignation of several so-called Right Wing ministers. They demand above all the discharge of Minister Chen who is head of the organization department of the Supreme War Council. In his place they want a red field marshal.

At the same time, the Japanese were playing their own devious game over the destruction of the PANAY. It becomes

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clear now that the military chiefs, the real rulers of the situation, treat the Tokyo government, particularly the Foreign Office, as a sort of whipping boy. The officers do the mischief and leave it up to the diplomats to take the blame and do the apologizing. And one thing became more clear today. It was ~~the~~ a fact indicated last week, the fact that the Japanese high command is not as absolute in its own ~~domain~~ domain as people have generally believed. The so-called young officers, the hot-heads who attempted the revolution of February, Nineteen Thirty-Six, are behaving according to their own ~~wee~~ will, and defying their superiors to discipline them. That becomes more than ever manifest in the different <sup>clear</sup> between the Japanese ~~army's~~ army's version of the machine-gunning ~~and~~ of the PANAY and the Tokyo government version. The account given by the military differs not only from the public acknowledgment made by Tokyo, but from eye-witness accounts and from the stories of the survivors from the PANAY tragedy.

~~At Tsingtao, more looting, burning and dynamiting is~~

PALESTINE

John Bull has another ~~great~~ grievance against Mussolini:

~~It's about~~ Italian propaganda in the Holy Land. The issue came up on the floor of the House of Commons today. Foreign Secretary Eden told the House that he had lodged a formal protest with the Italian Ambassador in London. "Unless this propaganda is ended," Captain <sup>informed</sup> ~~told~~ the Italians, "it will be impossible to create an atmosphere for successful conversations designed to improve ~~mutual~~ mutual relations between the two countries." All of which is merely diplomatic verbiage meaning: "How can we be friends if you don't cut this sort of thing out?" A Labor member asked the Foreign Secretary: "Has Italian propaganda ceased since that protest was made?" And Captain Eden replied: "No sir!"

As for the Palestine scene itself, <sup>right now it's</sup> ~~it's worse today~~ <sup>worse than ever.</sup> ~~than it ever was.~~ Webb Miller, European news manager of <sup>the</sup> United Press, <sup>has</sup> just flow<sup>n</sup> from London to Jerusalem. And he <sup>says:</sup> ~~says:~~ "At a season when the Christian world pays reverence to Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Land ~~today~~ is again undergoing a reign of blood, tears and terror."

It is even doubtful whether the usual Christmas

ceremonies at Bethlehem, ~~Christ's birthplace~~, will take place.

The Arab Mayor of Bethlehem has announced that he will take no part in those ceremonies because there have been three attempts on his life. And in today's news there's a bulletin that the Arabian police inspector at Haifa was assassinated.

At the same time, a police post near Acre was attacked and captured by an armed band of fifteen men <sup>who</sup> ~~which~~ got away with six rifles and two hundred rounds of ammunition. The Arab newspaper at Jaffa, says: "The Government's forceful measures and suppression-methods are useless and are now reaping their fruits in the form of explosions, firings and assassinations."

CONFERENCE

~~Italy's Premier~~ Mussolini sees no use in an international economic conference at this time. That's the message ~~that~~

Paul Van Zeeland, Ex-Premier of Belgium, brings back from Rome. *Van*

*Zeeland*  
He <sup>^</sup>went to Italy in the hope of getting the support of the ~~various~~

Fascist state *for his plan to have* ~~the idea that~~ the heads of the nations ~~should~~

get together at Brussels and work out some agreement on world trade.

But he had no luck at Rome. Mussolini wouldn't even see him.

LUDENDORFF

The death of General Erich Ludendorff is reviving another war-time controversy that has been raging for years. From Nineteen Fifteen to Nineteen Eighteen, Ludendorff was considered without dispute the biggest man in Germany. He was rated high above his chief, the old President <sup>Paul</sup> von Hindenburg, ~~because~~ People said it was Ludendorff who had the brains.

57 { But since the War, critics got in their deadly work on Germany's great man just as they did on the generals of all the other armies. Our own Black-jack Pershing, by the way, seems to be the only one who has escaped their probing scalpels.

58 { Thereupon , the great national hero, the man who once ruled Germany's mighty armies, descended sadly in ~~the~~ public esteem. The military critics even denied him credit for the victories over the Russians at Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes. The real brains of that campaign, said the disrespectful historians, were not in the head of either Hindenburg or Ludendorff but of a mere Lieutenant-Colonel on the staff.

{ However, that derogatory opinion was not shared by his

enemies.) A Russian general <sup>says -</sup> ~~said~~ "Ludendorff was regarded by us ~~Russians~~ as something akin to a master musician." General Niessel of the French Army remarked today he had "an extraordinary capacity for work and an unusual determination, a rare military <sup>genius,</sup> ~~science,~~ but also he was presumptuous, arrogant and hard."

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In his own land, it was his political and religious antics that <sup>tipped</sup> ~~made~~ Ludendorff <sup>from</sup> ~~totter upon~~ his pedestal. His public conversion to the worship of Wotan and the ancient Nordic gods, the part he played in two abortive revolutions, the reports of his extremely eccentric conduct on his private estate, made even his warmest partisans shake their heads.

( Toward the end, however, he had regained his position as a popular idol.) It's worthy of not<sup>ing</sup> ~~ing~~ that among the wires of condolence received by his widow, two were prominent: - One, ~~of course~~ came from Chancellor Hitler. The other, ~~was sent~~ from Doorn, from the white-haired, aging ex-Kaiser, his one-time sovereign.

LEVINE

A small but pathetic item comes from the Federal Court in N New York City. It concerns Charles A. Levine, a pioneer in aviation, the first passenger to cross the Atlantic in the air in Nineteen Twenty-Seven. Last week he was convicted of having smuggled tungsten into the United States from Canada. Today the judge sentenced him:- three years in prison and a fine of twenty-five hundred dollars. Tungsten is valuable because it's used to make the filler for electric light bulbs. So valuable that the duty is one dollar a pound. Charles A. Levine who flew the Atlantic when he couldn't fly -- as baggage with Chamberlain. Then flew from Paris to London, himself, when he couldn't fly. And now his wings are clipped.