

L.J. - Lunoco. Friday, April 1, 1988.

PANDA

It was nationwide news when an animal died <sup>today</sup> in a Chicago zoo! -

~~today~~, Su-Lin, the baby giant panda. It was a rare story of

adventure two years ago, when Mrs. William H. Harkness, Jr., <sup>took</sup> ~~command of her dead husband's expedition and~~ in the wilds of southern China, caught a baby of that little known

species - the giant panda, <sup>a strange</sup> kind of bear. She brought it back to

America and put it in the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago. Christened,

Su-Lin, the animal was the only one of its kind in <sup>captivity.</sup> ~~America.~~ It

flourished mightily, increasing in weight from thirty pounds to

a hundred and thirty. The weight of a full grown giant panda is

about three hundred pounds.

Su-Lin was a girl panda so Mrs. Harkness went back to southern China to fetch a mate for her. She caught another baby panda, and brought it back - but it was another female. I don't know whether the disappointment had anything to do with Su-Lin's untimely demise. The zoo officials say it was a case of sore throat, something like ~~quincy~~. But maybe it was just a broken heart. Or do pandas ever have broken hearts?

Anyway, there's sadness at the zoo, because Su-Lin was a popular favorite that attracted streams of visitors - a comical panda, a funny sight to see. And she died on April Fool's Day.

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Even on April Fool's Day, a distinction should be made between a swanky New York apartment hotel and the tropical jungles of the Amazon. Even <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ mad-cap jokster should realize that it's going altogether too far when a jovial cocktail party is invaded by a boa constrictor. That's what millionaire Robert L. Hague, ~~Vice-President of the Standard Oil Company of New York~~ is saying today.

Somebody, as a wild and woolly gag, gave him a present which turned out to be an eight foot boa, ~~constrictor~~. There was excitement in the palatial Hague apartment in the Ritz Towers, as the long slithery critter went squirming and sliding all over the place. But that wasn't the half of it. The constrictor got out of the apartment and wandered into another and equally palatial suite, where a cocktail party was being staged with gay talk and laughter. The laughter changed into howls and shrieks as the great snake wove its way among the trowser legs and skirts.

The uproar was so great that the hotel manager was really urgent in his representations to <sup>his</sup>~~the~~ multi-millionaire tenant <sup>who</sup>~~who~~. ~~The Standard Oil Vice-President~~ was ~~a~~ equally urgent as he called up



the zoo and asked them if they wanted a boa constrictor. Yes, they could use one.

So now, on this April Fool evening, the constrictor is in a cage in the zoo and all is quiet in the swanky apartment tower,

that same Ritz Tower which W<sup>m</sup> Randolph Hearst gave up today - letting it go to the bond holders.

## REORGANIZATION

The Reorganization debate kept on and on in Washington today, and of course there had to be a timely reference like this: "Today is April Fool's Day," declaimed Representative Michael Stack, a Pennsylvania Democrat, "and I don't want the Congress of the United States made a fool of by passing the government Reorganization Bill."

The administration leaders are still not able to shut off the argument, stop the talk, and force a vote. And so the oratory flows on and on. In fact, the administration leaders are revising their optimism about when they think they'll put the bill through. They <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ expecting to win the battle and do the cheering by the end of this week. Today, Speaker Bankhead admitted the fight might go on into next week. The reason for the decline in Reorganization optimism can be expressed in one word - telegrams. The Congressmen were deluged with telegrams today. Fifty thousand of them clogged the wires, as is stated by the telegraph companies.

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Father Coughlin's burning attack on Reorganization accounted for <sup>part</sup> ~~a whole~~ <sup>of the</sup> deluge. There's an exceedingly vocal and well organized opposition, mostly in the northern and eastern states. A few



days ago President Roosevelt created a stir with an angry reference to a previous inundation of telegrams denouncing his plan for Reorganization. <sup>But the Presidential blast</sup> ~~that~~ doesn't seem to have deterred telegraphic opposition, which burned the wires hotter than ever today.

Mr. Roosevelt suffered a severe Congressional thumping tonight when the House voted to delay an administration move to limit debate on the government Reorganization Bill and speed it to a final vote.

## HOOVER

Secretary of State Cordell Hull is not a man to be daunted. Say something against ~~ix~~ his policy, and he'll quote your own words to prove that he is right. Last night in a nationwide address, Ex-President Hoover gave a summary of the observations he ~~made~~ during his European tour -- when he conferred with statesmen of some fourteen nations. Mr. Hoover declared against Fascism and Fascist ideas for this country. But he also declared against any more by the United States to join with other nations in a war against Fascism abroad. Let's keep out of war, said Herbert Hoover. And he backed up his arguments by pointing to conditions of disorganization and chaos in Europe. In fact he praised Secretary Hull's recent speech on international affairs. But ~~the~~ he talked of the Trade Treaties Secretary of State Hull has been making with one nation after another. He gave warning about them; felt they would injure American industry and employment.

Did that daunt the Secretary of State? Not at all. Today he comes forward with the statement that the Hoover arguments were really in favor of the trade treaties. Because -- did not the Ex-President talk about disorganized and chaotic conditions abroad?



And wasn't a policy of international trade and economic exchange the best way to cure those conditions? Said he: "Mr. Hoover's statement on the international difficulties and general ~~chaotic~~ chaotic conditions abroad emphasizes the profound need for the program of economic appeasement now being carried forward by this government."

*Nothing like a Democrat quoting a Republican*  
~~Yes sir, there's nothing like courting your opponent~~

to prove <sup>he's</sup> ~~you're~~ right.

Every American should read Mr. H's speech. It probably was the most unusual ever delivered by an Ex. Pres.

OIL

Tonight the affair of Mexican oil takes us back to another spectacular story which broke some two years ago. That was when Mussolini was just beginning his conquest of Ethiopia, with accounts of oil deposits in that country. The story broke suddenly of how an English promoter had stepped in and got a concession to Ethiopian petroleum from Haile Selassie. And that seemed as if it might be a neat move to block the Duce's oil ambitions, signing up the concessions before he had a chance to grab the country. The promoter in the case was Francis W. Rickett, who was in the forefront of the news for a brief while - until the whole deal fell through.

Tonight, that same Francis W. Rickett is in the spotlight of the Mexican oil dispute. They say that he, in partnership with a New York broker, is negotiating with President Cardenas to purchase the petroleum from the oil properties seized by the Mexican government. Cardenas finds himself in the oil business, and must <sup>get</sup> ~~find~~ customers. There has been talk of Japan and Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany as prospective purchasers. And now we hear that a giant oil deal has been placed before Cardenas

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by Rickett, in partnership with the New York broker. The two men are in Mexico City conferring with the government there. They are keeping it silent -- mum's the word. But reports from Mexico City declare that Rickett and his American partner have made Cardenas an offer for twenty-five million barrels of oil, at a figure low enough to give Rickett and Company a fat margin of profit.

What are the Mexicans saying? They're demanding money on the line, millions on the line. They ask a cash deposit of five million dollars, and then they'll close the deal -- so says the story from Mexico City.

The latest is that the two promoters are on their way to New York with a skeleton contract.

SPAIN

The recent Rebel success in the Spanish Civil War has suggested the question -- that if Franco should win ~~the~~ out what would become of the international brigades on the Barcelona side? Suppose they were captured, what would the Rebels do with them? That question comes to the front tonight with the report that the Nationalists on the Aragon front have captured three hundred Britishers of one of the international brigades. We are told these British prisoners have been taken to Saragossa, and there they are making a demand of the Franco high command. They're asking -- to be repatriated -- sent back to England. What will Franco do about it? Send them home to England? That focusses attention on the whole problem of the Left Wing international brigade<sup>s</sup> -- should Franco win. *But where would he send the Left Wing Italians and Germans of whom there are some* The French ~~xxx~~ problem of the Left Wing army fugitives streaming across its border continues to grow. More and more defeated soldiers of Barcelona are crossing the border. One of them today was a general -- commander of a division that was driven in flight by the Rebel advance.

Now that general demands that he and his refugee soldiers,



*be* return<sup>*ed*</sup> to Barcelona -- to go into battle again. The Left Wing *Spanish*  
Ambassador to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ France makes the same demand. ~~And~~ *all*  
of which puts Paris in a predicament. The French are hardly  
enthusiastic about keeping and supporting all those thousands.  
But if the French send them back to their army, they would be  
in the position of allowing French territory to be used as a mere  
way-station through which the Barcelona troops could move,  
fleeing from battle and going back into battle.

The Left Wing ambassador to France asked a pointed question  
of the fugitive general. Why did he run away? Why did he flee  
across the border? The general said ~~they~~ *he* had to. After the *way*  
*his troops* ~~way they~~ were defeated it was -- either massacre or flight, as  
he explained it.

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Meanwhile the Aragon battle rages with changeless fury.  
The key city of Lerida is besieged by the Nationalists. The  
Barcelona defenders claim they sprang a destructive trap --  
pretended they had abandoned the city. ~~So~~ when a detachment  
of Franco's troops marched in, ~~and~~ *they* were all but annihilated: ~~xxxxxx~~  
~~town~~ ~~by the~~ ~~Defenders~~ ~~who were~~ ambuscaded in the town, hidden

in ~~the~~ houses from which they rushed in sudden ~~attack~~.

Barcelona is counter-attacking on another front to relieve the terrific pressure in Aragon and stop the relentless Franco push. It's a Left Wing drive in <sup>the</sup> Guadalajara section near Madrid. And that's a thrust which they hope to turn into a flanking movement -- cutting in behind the Franco forces as they advance toward the sea.

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Tonight we hear a name that was headlined in the Spanish war news months ago -- Miaja. He was the commander of the defense at Madrid, hailed as a fighter and a strategist. The Left Wing commander on the Aragon front had been removed, General Pozas -- ousted. His army has been badly beaten, so there's a change in command. The new leader, just named is Colonel Juan Perea. And it is pointed out that he is no trained soldier. He joined the war as a volunteer in the militia, and won promotion for bravery. They say he doesn't know enough about the technique of the military art to command an army. The supposition is that he is just a front man. The real commander, the power behind <sup>the throne</sup> ~~lines~~ is -- Miaja, who defended Madrid.



## AUSTRIA

There's one thing that we<sup>d</sup> hardly expect to hear - discord, any sort of split, in the ranks of the Catholic clergy. Yet something like that flashes in the news tonight - disharmony between the clergy of Austria and the Vatican.

It all concerns the announcement issued by the Austrian clergy, advising the Catholics to vote for Hitler in the Austrian plebiscite to be held on April Tenth. In a letter published today, Cardinal Innitzer of Vienna backs up the action of the Austrian clergy in supporting the Nazis, saying that it "may usher in an era of greatest inner pacification and reconciliation between the Church, State and Party." Those are the Cardinal's words and he ends his letter with the Nazi salutation, "Heil Hitler!"

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But what do we hear from Rome today? A formal declaration in the official Vatican newspaper states that when the Austrian Cardinal and bishops advised Austrian Catholics to vote Nazi, they did so without consulting the Vatican. More than that - there was a radio broadcast from the Vatican station just a few hours ago, night time in Rome. And the broadcaster, speaking in German, reproved the Austrian Cardinal and bishops for coming out in

support of the Nazis. It was not their business to take a stand in political affairs, said the Vatican radio speaker. Anyway, they should have consulted the Pope before doing so. And in the broadcast were spoken these severe words; - ~~that~~ they have betrayed their trust.

There's one angle that will occur to everyone, and tonight's radio declaration made reference to that angle. It mentions - "an apparent break in the ranks." Yes, that thought does occur. The action of the Austrian clergy and today's attitude of the Vatican does suggest an apparent break in the exceedingly disciplined ranks of the Catholic hierarchy. If Hitler could engineer something like that, it <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ seem something like a miracle.



CZECH JOKE

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April Fool's Day in the realm of international affairs brings us a sad spectacle of a joke bouncing back on the heads of the joksters. This occurs in the case of that Czechoslovakian prank, played by ~~frivolous~~ frolicsome students at Washington and Jefferson College. A day or two ago they sent a telegram to the Czechoslovakian Legation in Washington, and offered to raise an international brigade to fight for Czechoslovakian independence - something like the international brigades fighting for Left Wing Spain.

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To that they got a reply from Washington, a telegram saying that the Czechoslovakian Minister accepted their offer. "Come at once and form that unit of heroes to fight for Czechoslovakia against Hitler."

This impressive diplomatic response scared the joksters - and they made the whole thing public, confessed.

Today it turns out that it was merely a ~~xxxxx~~ case of a humorous trick backfiring right in their faces. The Czechoslovakian Legation received their telegram and paid no attention to it - chucked it in the wastebasket. The reply they got was sent by a

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fellow student, who thought he'd have some fun by bouncing the joke  
back at them. What the students failed to notice was that while the  
telegram of reply was sent from Washington, it was Washington,  
Pennsylvania, - and not Washington, D.C. So today the yell of  
"April Fool" was on them!

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*and a-l-u - Monday,*