

Good Evening, Everybody:-

This is the first time I've been ^{here at} ~~at the~~ NBC
in a week; ~~sick in bed~~, laid up with the flu. ^{But one is} ~~Luckily for~~
^{able to broadcast into}
~~they were able to put~~ a microphone at a bedside, so I was able
to go on ^{with the show.} ~~broadcasting~~. One thing they can't do is put a
motion picture recording studio at one's bedside, so my place
on the Movietone newsreel was taken by Hugh James ^{here,} who did a
^{bang up} ~~shummy~~ job.

Broadcasting while laid up, with the grippe is no
fun to do -- and ^{not so hot} ~~maybe not~~ -- ^{apparently.} to listen to. Somebody tells me that
somebody said I sounded as if I were talking with all my teeth
out. Well, that's what ^{Old Dame} ~~is~~ Fluenza will do to a voice. Perhaps
some of you had still more scathing remarks to make.

^{Anyhow} Today I'm up and around, and broadcasting here
at Rockefeller Center. So let's see if I can beat the bedside style
of oratory. A little more umpt tonight, L.T.

ROBERTS FOLLOW AMLIE

The Senate today handed President Roosevelt a spectacular defeat. By an overwhelming vote, they hurled back in his face his nomination of Floyd H. Roberts to be a federal judge in Virginia. What makes it spectacular is that it's the first time since he became President that one of his nominations has been flatly turned down.

On the other hand, it could not have been much of a surprise at the White House. The inside gossip is that Mr. Roosevelt knew full well that if he nominated Roberts ~~that~~ both Virginia senators, Carter Glass and Harry Byrd, would rise up in arms. This they did with a vengeance. The consequence was that Roberts' qualifications for the federal bench were not hinted at, were not even considered. He was rejected on the issue of senatorial courtesy, because his appointment would have been personally obnoxious to Carter Glass and Harry Byrd. Also because the senators resented Mr. Roosevelt's using that nomination to punish the Virginia colleagues for their opposition to New Deal measures. It ^{is} ~~was~~ being rumored in Washington that the President would follow this up by making his second nomination in that Virginia district even more objectionable to Glass and Byrd.

AMLIE

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The country at large didn't pay much attention when President Roosevelt nominated Thomas R. Amlie of Wisconsin to the Interstate Commerce Commission. The general public of ~~Uncle Sam's land~~, which includes myself, knew ~~precious~~ little about ~~this Thomas R.~~ Amlie. But soon a tremendous howl rose up in his own state, ^{In} Wisconsin. ~~In~~ politics he's a Progressive, and the Wisconsin Legislature jumped to its feet with the most vociferous protest. Today Amlie appeared before a sub-committee of the Senate to answer ~~to the~~ charges made against him by the ^{Wisconsin} Legislators, ^{one being} ~~of his own state. The most important of them was~~ that Amlie is a Communist.

^{I'm}
That ~~he~~ he denied flatly. "Not a Communist," ~~he~~ he declared, "never have been. On the contrary, I've strongly opposed the Communist aims and program." ~~Then he asserted his, "unshakeable faith in democracy and democratic procedures."~~

As ~~in~~ for the Wisconsin Legislature, he explained: "It is constituted pretty much as it was in Nineteen Thirty-Five.

In that year a committee of the ^{state} ~~Wisconsin~~ Senate charged that Glenn Frank, then President of the University of Wisconsin, now

Chairman of the Program Committee of the Republican Party, had encouraged Communist meetings and ideas." ~~To that Amlie commented: "Charging me with Communism is as absurd as charging Glenn Frank with Communism."~~

Amlie admitted, however, that he had written a book called "The Forgotten Man", a handbook of five hundred questions and answers. In that book he had discussed a new political party called a "Production for Use" Party, and he wrote that "In Nineteen Forty it ^{will} ~~could~~ be possible for the ~~Production for Use~~ Production for Use Party to elect a president in the United States and a two-thirds majority in both Houses of the Congress." To that he added: "The old system, based on scarcity and profit, will be discarded and a new social order will be established upon the idea of planned production and abundance for all."

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It is rather amusing to observe that while the Senators zealously questioned Amlie about his politics, they ^{not} ~~were~~ too inquisitive about his knowledge of the railroad business, the business he would have a hand in if he became Interstate Commerce Commissioner. They did elicit the fact that Amlie was not familiar with any of the plans that have been suggested for the reorganization of American railroads.

SOCIAL SECURITY

One of the big rows coming in Washington will be over the Social Security Act. As we heard a couple of weeks ago, President Roosevelt has asked Congress to amend the Act to make it more inclusive, make it cover more people. Several Senators want to amend it on other grounds. ~~THERE~~

There's an article by John T. Flynn in the February HARPER'S ~~MAGAZINE~~, entitled: "The Social Security Reserve Swindle." ~~Senators have been reading it and agreeing heartily with Flynn's criticisms.~~ *And Sen.* Vandenberg of ~~Michigan~~ Michigan *today:-* says, "John Flynn is exactly right." Flynn's article pointed out that the Social Security tax rates are excessive, excessive to both employees and employers. He calls the Reserve Fund a swindle "because in the long run it will mean still heavier taxes. By Nineteen Eighty," he says, "the government will have collected a hundred and eleven billion dollars in Social Security taxes. Of this forty-seven billions will never be spent for old-age pensions at all but for every sort of government expense including perhaps the building of battleships. ~~Moreover,~~ says Flynn, ~~"the government will never return these forty-seven billion dollars~~

~~to the Social Security Board. The Treasury is merely using
the Social Security tax money as a fund to be dipped in at will."~~

Says
Senator Vandenberg: ~~says:~~ "This reserve theory of building
old-age pensions is unsound and indefensible. Worse still, it
exploits the theme of old-age pension for the benefit of the
Treasury's deficit-spending." ~~Still worse," says the Michigan~~
~~Senator, "it threatens needless payroll taxes and needless~~
~~postponement of the payment of legitimate pensions." And he~~
~~adds: "I've been saying precisely this for the last two years."~~

But he says further: "To call the existing Social Security
formula a swindle as Flynn does, is a harsh word. Nevertheless,
it must be promptly reorganized or it will be in the nature of a
swindle."

~~Other senators grew just as caustic as Vandenberg about~~
~~the present form of the Social Security Act.~~

TEACHERS

A biting accusation was made today against the American Federation of Teachers, the teachers' union. To highlight that charge still further, it was made before the Executive Council of the American Federation, ~~of Labor~~. And the man who brought it was Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the A. F. of L. He made that charge in the form of a warning; — ~~intimated it wasn't the first time~~. "If the Teachers Federation does not," as he put it, "clean its house of Communism, the Executive Council of the A.F. of L. will suspend the teachers."

And he added: "The Executive Council has previously warned the teachers' leaders not to traffic with the Communists if they wish to stay in the A.F. of L."

And he said further: "Instead of heeding ^{this} ~~this appeal~~ and ~~warning~~ they have steadily become worse and the Communist leaders in the Teachers' Union have become more bold." That's what a Vice-President of the Labor Federation says.

The subject came up because the New York Central Trades and Labor Council recently suspended two locals of the Teachers Union for what are described as "subversive activities."

Now here's the Teachers' reply to those charges.

It was made through the mouth of the Vice-President of the American Federation of Teachers, who is also President of the New York Local, ^{Says he:-} ~~and he said,~~ "The charges made by Matthew Woll were most reprehensible and unfair. ^{"It looks," says he} ~~The Teachers Union's record is open," he added, "to the inspection of anyone seeking the truth." And said the Teachers' Vice-President further: "It looks~~ "as though the reactionaries in the A.F.L. ~~Executive Council~~ are determined to divide the Union teachers as they divided the rest of the labor movement."

WAR

seems on the way to quick decision
Though the Spanish War ~~is practically over~~ there's still

fighting on three fronts. ~~It's obviously a futile business for~~
~~the Republican government armies. British and French diplomats~~
~~have been trying to mediate and stop the unnecessary bloodshed,~~
~~but so far without any luck. The position of the Republican army~~
~~today was weird and anomalous. It was on foreign soil.~~

of Republican Spain
(Premier Negrin [^]crossed the French frontier this morning.

~~The President of the Basque government was already in Paris,~~
and ~~the President of Catalonia had taken flight from Spain~~
Agaña fled across
[^]

) They were ~~all~~ warned by the French government that
while they would be protected as political refugees, they could
not be allowed to function as a government. ~~In spite of that,~~
~~they offered terms of peace to General Franco, terms which were~~
~~contemptuously rejected. They offered to make peace on condition,~~
~~first, that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Spain; second,~~
~~that a general election be held in Spain to select another~~
~~government; and third, that there should be no reprisals on~~
~~either side.~~

says
Franco's [^]reply ~~was~~ exactly what he ~~had~~ said months ago.

"The Republicans must surrender unconditionally."

One Spanish leader ~~was~~^{is} in favor of complying, President Azana, ~~of Spain. He~~^{who} flew to Paris to ~~make his position emphatic,~~^{lay} to urge the British and French ~~governments~~ to bring pressure on Negrin. At latest reports Negrin and his Foreign Minister, del Vayo, are obdurate. They treated the French and British offers of mediation with indifference and are apparently holding out for continued resistance. But by nightfall their northern army had virtually ~~seized~~ ceased to exist. It had taken refuge across the French frontier where of course all combatants had to lay down their arms and be interned. Squadrons of planes flew over the border to be interned in French airports. Long lines of cannon, tanks and ammunition trains streamed over the roads from ~~at~~ Spain.

The French Foreign Office issued a statement that the Republican government of Spain was temporarily non-existent. It also announced that French troops had seized eight hundred freight cars loaded with munitions of war, which the Loyalists were trying to ~~move to Catalonia through~~^{send from} French territory to the Madrid and Valencia front. It is estimated that by tonight

two hundred thousand Republican soldiers will be interned in France.

A newspaper in Madrid announced that Franco had had fifty thousand people arrested in Barcelona, and hundreds of thousands throughout Catalonia. Most of these, said the newspaper, were workers, humble members of the Left Wing parties. It said further that the number condemned to death was so large that the firing squads couldn't keep up with them. It must be added, however, that this statement was published in a Communist newspaper.

A ^{declaration}~~statement~~ on this point was made in the English House of Commons. It came from the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs ^{who}~~He~~ said that His Majesty's government had been informed by ~~General~~ Franco that revenge in conquered territory would be contrary to his policy.

ITALY

~~Premier~~ Mussolini of ~~Italy~~ had been making a surprise tour of inspection of the Italian military airports around Naples. He returned suddenly and quickly to Rome tonight and immediately called a secret session of the Fascist Supreme Defense Council. No announcement was made of the purpose of the meeting, but the obvious inference was that it was to discuss the overwhelming collapse of the Republican armies in Catalonia.

A semi-official statement, ~~however~~, was made. It came as usual from Mussolini's editor, Virginio Gayda. Italian troops will not get out of Spain until ~~General~~ Franco has won a political as well as a military victory. ~~That means, of course,~~ ^{Meaning that} Franco's Nationalist government must be recognized by the British and French ~~governments~~ before Mussolini withdraws any of his soldiers.

~~That~~ Sounds a bit awkward for Prime Minister Chamberlain, ^{For}
The British-Italian pact calls for the withdrawal of troops as soon as hostilities are over.

PLOT

In London twelve men were arraigned at the bar of historic Bow Street Police Court today. And the charge ~~is~~ - conspiracy, the now notorious S plot. ~~It is~~ Called that because of a secret document which the British authorities claim to have laid hands upon. A secret document ascribed to the Irish Republican Army.

When those twelve prisoners were arraigned, the prosecutor read parts of that document describing the S plot. It outlined a plan to blow up and wreck electric power stations, subway

stations, airplane factories, munitions works, and ~~also~~ newspaper offices. ~~As we've heard in the last few days, some steps in~~

The British ascribe the recent bombings
to that plan. And at
~~this plan were carried out and by~~ the present moment there's a

heavy guard around all public buildings in England, all public

utility plants and communication offices, also the royal family

and ~~the big wig~~ *high* officials of the government. Shortly before the

proceedings started there was a threat to blow up ~~that~~ *even* ~~the~~ *the Bow St.* police

court. Scotland Yard sent for extra guards and there was an

inspection every half hour.

Most of the twelve arrested gave ~~the~~ names that sounded Irish, though they lived in London. ~~The prosecutor charged that~~

KIDNAP

A band of kidnapers have been trying to snatch the fifteen year old son of a well-to-do family in New York. And the story goes that it's all because of a strike at the apartment house on Central Park West where they live. The boy's mother, Mrs. Harry Bijur, sympathized with the strikers, and tried to help them. For this she received threats over the telephone. A man called her up and said: "Get that picket line off the street or you and your little kid will be in the apartment house furnace."

They sent a telegram to her fifteen year old son who was at a prep school in Connecticut. The telegram told him to come home at once. It was ~~of course~~ a fake telegram. The headmaster of the school communicated with the Connecticut state police. The boy took the train for home but he was escorted by four state troopers and four policemen in civilian clothes. And he was met in New York by four New York detectives. The boy has now been removed to a safe place where he is heavily guarded by police.

And ~~now~~ ^{the G-men} the F.B.I. are looking for the would-be kidnapers.

TORRIO

In all the books that were written about Chicago in Prohibition Time, one name loomed large, ~~That was~~ the name of Johnny Torrio; described as having been a Brooklyn wharf rat. In the ^{early days} ~~heyday~~ of the Eighteenth Amendment, Torrio was one of the uncrowned bootleg kings of the windy city. It was he who helped organize the prohibition racket. And it was he who was pushed into the discard by a young man whom he had brought to Chicago from Brooklyn as his chief assistant. ^Q ~~That~~ young man ~~was~~ named Scarface Al Capone.

Johnny Torrio was one of the casualties in the Chicago bootleg wars, carried several bullet wounds in his body. ~~at one time~~ When Capone grabbed the throne, Torrio didn't stay to fight it out with his former assistant. He took it on the lam, ~~as they say in his own world~~, went back east, settled down to a quiet life in White Plains, New York. There, under the name of John McCarthy, he passed as a retired and respectable business man. There he chuckled when he read of what happened to Capone, the mobster, who had ~~dethroned~~ him. Decidedly, he thought, he had got out while the getting was good, got out with a good

share of the spoils while Capone went to Alcatraz^z for chiseling Uncle Sam out of his income tax.

Today it's Capone's turn to laugh; ~~if he can laugh.~~
~~He's a broken man under treatment for paresis at the federal institution on Terminal Island near San Pedro, California.~~

~~F~~or today the long arm of Uncle Sam reached out for Johnny Torrio.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ He too is accused of having chiseled on his income tax. A federal indictment ^{is} ~~was~~ made public ~~today~~ and the authorities say Johnny ^{Torrio} will be tried in New York next month.

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WINCHELL

Today people have been showing me a brief paragraph in Walter Winchell's column. It goes this way: "Aside to Lowell Thomas: Remember how you devoted two minutes of your broadcast recently, helping Tom Mooney deny our exclusive story about his ~~his~~ divorce?"

Yes
~~Walter~~ Walter, I remember. I played up that denial, which has now been followed by plenty of open admission. I even said it warmed one's faith in human nature to hear that there was no rift, ^{no} ~~as~~ separation between the man who was in prison for twenty-two years and the wife that ~~was~~ stuck by him all that time.

So tonight I suppose I can only say -- in an aside to Walter Winchell: "I ~~played~~ placed my faith in human nature -- wrong again." *And s-l-u-t-m.*