

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, Aug. 4, 1939

The President at the Press Conference today said one thing which astonished the newspaperman. It concerned the public response to the tossing out of the big money lending bill, response in the form of mail, letters. Hitherto, whenever there has been a row between President Roosevelt and Congress, the White House has got a flood of mail from people ~~xxxx~~ supporting the Presidential stand. What about this last series of defeats which the White House sustained at the hands of Congress? The President was asked, "How much mail ~~xxx~~ had come in?" and he replied - "None at all." No public reaction in the form of letters.

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President Roosevelt ^{also} said something in Latin today, and of course he talked a bit of English too. ^{He said} ~~Said he~~ in well-chosen vernacular ^{that he} won't appeal to the people against the congressional rejection of his huge lending plan. The President is scheduled to do some travelling in the West this fall, and he will make a number of speeches. But he won't use the occasion to attack Congress for the defeat of the Administration Lending bill. In explanation the President referred to the roll call of the lawmakers who voted for and against -- those who voted against the Lending bill were on record, said he, and people could draw their own conclusion. Thereupon he burst into Latin.

"Res ipse loquitur," said F.D.R., ~~with classic~~ ~~elegance. Res ipse loquitur meaning~~ the things ~~xxxxxx~~ speaks for itself.

CONGRESS

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EF

Congress is speeding toward adjournment, polishing off the remaining necessary business with the greatest of haste. The Senate passed the appropriations bill, putting up money for expenses of Government. The Senators added a hundred and nineteen million dollars for farm relief, and it is believed the Lower House will agree to that. ~~farm item~~. A conference of the Senate and the House came to an agreement on amendments of the Social Security Act, amendments to keep payroll taxes as they are, instead of letting them increase, thereby saving tax-payers almost a billion dollars.

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between five and six million dollars for the home owners who

borrowed from the Government.

HOME LOAN

Eight hundred and fifty thousand home owners who borrowed from the Government will have to pay less money to Uncle Sam. Today, the Home Owners Loan Corporation announced a reduction of interest rate. Interest on home loans is cut from five per cent to four and a half per cent. Earlier in the week, the Federal Housing Administration cut the interest on its own loans - from five per cent to four and a half.

~~The Home Owners Loan Corporation has about eight hundred and fifty thousand loans outstanding. This represents a borrowing of more than three billion dollars, of which a good deal has been~~ ~~repaid.~~ Today's reduction of interest represents a saving of between five and six million dollars for the home owners who borrowed from the Government.

GAMBLING

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In its rush to wind up the House of ~~Rep~~ Representatives passed an interesting bill today - a measure aimed at the gambling ships operating beyond the three miles limit along the Pacific coast. Attorney General Murphy asked Congress to pass a law to put an end to the gambling ships, and this the lower house did today. The ~~bill~~ ^{bill was then} ~~was~~ sent to the Senate, and it remains to be seen whether the Senate will pass it in the rush to adjourn - pass the bill to outlaw floating gambling dens on the West Coast.

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Communist party officials five or ten times."

BRIDGES

On the Pacific Coast the trial of Harry Bridges goes on, with the C.I.O. leader testifying in his own defense to keep from being deported back to Australia as an alien. Bridges keeps on denying the charge against him - that he's a Communist. Under questioning today he made an admission concerning one of the things testified against him - that he attended meetings of the executive ~~committe~~ committee of the Communist party. The attorney for the government asked: "Did you attend any meetings, as a member of the party or ~~otherwise~~ otherwise to seek Communist aid?"

To this Bridges replied: "I attended caucuses with Communist party ~~offi~~ officials five or ten times."

DEWEY

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We have a belated echo of the ~~xxxx~~ trial of Tammany Leader Jimmy Hines, an echo in the form of an Eleven Thousand Dollar suit against District Attorney Dewey.

During the long proceedings against Hines, the three convicted racketeers who turned State's evidence were not kept in prison, not in the Tombs. District Attorney Dewey had them under guard in a house in Bronxville, New York - Dixie Davis, George Weinberg, and Harry Schoenhaus. In this house Weinberg shot and killed himself. The place was ~~re~~ rented from a Mrs. Chappell, and now she goes to court, claiming that the presence of the three criminals and particularly the suicide of Weinberg, injured the value of the house. Her complaint speaks of "wide, notorious and harmful publicity". So she's suing the District Attorney and a couple of his assistants.

CRIME

The nationwide drive against crime and criminals is headline news tonight. Attorney General Frank Murphy was busy today, directing a wholesale investigation that covers many states. The Attorney General is urging grand jury proceedings far and wide - the expert prosecutors of the Department of Justice to co-operate with local authorities. The anti-crime drive is on in a score of cities, including Chicago, Boston, New Orleans and New York. These latter ~~ex~~ two cities are the chief centers of Federal agent activity.

In New Orleans, they're looking into charges against the local political machine which at one time was controlled by Kingfish Huey Long, charges of alliance between the politicians and the racketeers. Is the New Orleans political machine in with the underworld gangs?

In New York everything centers around the mob chieftain called Lepke, whom District Attorney Dewey calls the most dangerous gangster in the United States. (Federal agents and police are conducting an intensive manhunt for Lepke, who is reported to be in ~~xxx~~ luxurious and well financed concealment, running a million dollar racket from his hideaway.)

Today's report is that the G-men started looking for a

well known Brooklyn gangster named Joe Adonis - who is hardly as beautiful a person as the name of Adonis would imply. They have word that he is supplying a good deal of the money that Lepke is getting, the ~~xxx~~ funds that enable the much sought fugitive to evade the manhunt. Adonis is known to the police as the mobster who took over the fat Brooklyn rackets from that former ~~xxxx~~ underworld boss, called "Little Augie."

That is,
Adonis took over in partnership with another gangster named Gurrah Jake Shapiro.

Shapiro
And Gurrah Jake ^{Shapiro} figures in the news today. The report is that he is ready to squeal on the sinister Lepke. The reason for the surmise is that a police guard has been placed over Gurrah Jake's wife and daughter - police protection twenty-four hours a day. The authorities are said to be afraid Lepke may kidnap the wife and daughter and hold them as hostages to keep Gurrah Jake from squealing. The underworld report is that Jake and Lepke were partners and then split - and Gurrah Jake promptly surrendered to the police to serve a prison term. He was tickled to be in prison, because he had learned he was on Lepke's blacklist - the list of underworld associates who knew too much about Lepke and might squeal

on him and were therefore scheduled to be murdered. Five on the list have already been killed presumably at the direction of the gang lord in his hideaway, and several others are missing.

One of the sensational reports in the Lepke melodrama brings in the name of Scarface Al Capone. They say that a large part of the information which the authorities now have was procured from the former ~~murderer~~ Bootleg King of Chicago now a prisoner at Alcatraz. A couple of months ago, Johnny Torrio, who was Capone's teacher and partner in the Chicago gang wars, was put on trial for income tax evasion. And testimony against Torrio was given by Capone - a written statement made by him at Alcatraz. Torrio pleaded guilty in the middle of the trial, and the written testimony by Scarface Al never came up in the trial. Now the word is that the prisoner at Alcatraz gave the authorities a huge lot of information, not only about Torrio but also about other racketeers - including the fugitive Lepke and his New York gang operations.

BRITAIN

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There's a fine sounding headline in the news - the British Fleet may go to Chinese waters, Japan to be threatened by the King's Navy. However, it was just a matter of Prime Minister Chamberlain making one of those hypothetical statements to the Commons. Here are his words: "At present we have not got a fleet in the ~~the~~ Far East superior to that of the Japanese." ^{Then he added: -} "We have such a fleet here. ^{and} In certain circumstances we might find it necessary to send a fleet out there." ^{TP} Yes, they might, but it doesn't seem very likely - not with Hitler's Germany so menacing right next door. Prime Minister Chamberlain added in fact that much as Great Britain was concerned about the Far East, the state of affairs in Europe was much more important.

These deliberations closed the session of the House of Commons. The London Parliament adjourned and started on its way home, leaving ~~Chamberlain~~ Chamberlain and his cabinet free to deal with the critical situation during the several months to come.

CHINA

The Chinese National Capital of Chungking was savagely bombed today. Eighteen Japanese planes blasted the city. One feature was - damage to foreign consulates, British, French, ^{and} German. ^{also} ~~and~~ the home of an American newspaper correspondent was demolished.

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There was wild terror among refugees, of whom there are tens of thousands in Chungking. In one case it was terror of the most peculiar sort. In the midst of the bombardment a baby giant Panda got loose. ~~That's~~ One of those queer, rare creatures which have been in the news so much, something like a racoon, something like a bear. The large and weird looking creature went dashing among the refugees. The panda is harmless, but it looks scary - and the refugees scattered in a panic. There, while the bombs were crashing, death raining from the sky, what they were ^{mainly} afraid of was a funny looking panda.

LONDON EXPLOSION

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London had a violent explosion today, the blowing up of a building. And of course the first impression was - a bomb. The undercover Irish Republican Army has touched off quite a few bombs in England, in its terroristic campaign for the union of Ulster with Nationalist Ireland. However, there was no question of terrorism today - it was just an accident. Gas was escaping in a building near St. Paul's ~~xxx~~ Cathedral, and they were trying to find out where the leak was. The gas exploded, and the building blew up - the roof ripped off, flames leaping high. Workmen were buried in the wreckage - a dozen injured seriously, ~~enough to be taken to~~
~~hospitals.~~

FARMER

In Alaska they've settled the case of People versus Pipple - that is, the lawsuit against Farmer Walter Pipple. He has a farm in ^{the} Matanuska Valley, ^{up there in the Far North} was one of those midwestern cultivators whom the government placed on fertile Alaskan acres. And Pipple did well. He made five thousand dollars a year out of his Alaskan farm - all because Pipple is one of those independent people.

The Matanuska farmers are required to sell their produce through a cooperative organization, but Pipple wouldn't do it. He sold the stuff he grew directly to the housewives of the town of Anchorage. In that way he made a better profit, -- and run up a total earning of five thousand dollars a year.

Proceedings were taken against him to ~~compel~~ compel him to market his crops through the cooperative. They took him to court in the case of - People versus Pipple. After a year of ~~litigation~~ litigation, there was a settlement today. Pipple sold his farm back to the ~~the~~ Matanuska project, and got Sixty-Eight Hundred Dollars for it. Pipple is one of those

determined people. He's going to buy another Alaskan farm outside of the project and go on selling his produce as he pleases. Pipple says he likes Alaska. For him Alaska

near
Mount
McKinley.

has indeed turned out to be a land of opportunity.

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ESCAPE

A prisoner taking a dive ~~thru~~ through the window of a moving train is a desperate sort of escape. It was tried *again,* in California, last night. ^{at} ~~In~~ Santa Barbara, a desperado named James O'Connell, was on a speeding train in the custody of officers. Suddenly - through the window he went. He took the bruising bump on the ground, and got away.

He was recaptured today. A cordon of police was thrown around the vicinity of the escape, and they closed in - a narrowing circle. They ~~in~~ came to a tree, and high up in the top among leaves and branches, they saw the fugitive. He came down without resistance.

PLANE

Here's a freakish oddity -- a snow-fall inside of an airplane, while the weather outside was bright with sunshine. One of the Navy's giant patrol bombers took off on a routine flight and soared swiftly to nine thousand feet, and then the crew noticed it was snowing inside of the cabin. White snowflakes were swirling. Outside -- no sign of snow, only sunshine. How come? The bomber rose so swiftly from the warm humid air on the ground to the chilly temperature at nine thousand feet that the moist air in the cabin ^{was} chilled suddenly - and the moisture turned to snow.

Sounds like a tall story. But the Navy vouches for it.

RACE

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One of the rarest things in horse-racing occurred today - a double dead heat, two races ending in a tie. At the Thistledown track at Cleveland ~~track~~ Corinne and Blue Play fought it out down the stretch, and ended absolutely even. As the judges saw it, it was a tie. They studied the photographs registering the finish, and it was still a tie.

Then in the third race ~~gi~~ Giggle Lee and Precious Toy did it all over again, produced another head heat. Two on one day - the record books show nothing like it.

IRON MAN

Catcher Joe Sprinz may be an "Iron Man," but he hasn't
~~got~~ an iron face. So he had no business putting his face in the
way of a baseball dropped from a blimp eight hundred feet high.

To be sure, Iron Man ^{Sprinz} ~~Sprinz~~ had his two hands in front of his face
and his big catcher's ^{glove too; and his mask,} ~~net~~ ^{too,} But the ball was coming at such terrific
velocity that it went right through and busted up Iron Man Sprinz's
face something awful.

It's a classic stunt for a baseball catcher, hanging on
to a ball tossed from a great height. It was a history-making
exploit when an old-time catcher of the Washington Senators caught a
ball dropped from the lofty ~~xxxxxx~~ altitude of the Washington
Monument. Iron Man Sprinz of the San Francisco Seals, was ~~xxx~~ out
to break all previous records. At the San Francisco Exposition,
from a blimp eight hundred feet high and cruising at a hundred and
forty five miles an hour, four baseballs were dropped. And ~~xxx~~
Iron Man Sprinz took a sprint and got under one of them. The ball
was coming down at a speed of a hundred and forty-five miles an
hour and it hit with an impact of eight thousand and fifty foot
pounds. Too many foot pounds even for an iron man. Hands, glove
and all, he couldn't hold it, and it crashed right through, right in
his face.

He sustained a compound fracture of the upper jaw, eight shattered teeth, and complicated bruises and lacerations of the mouth. P.S. He dropped the ball, and I suppose they'll charge him with an error.- It was an error. Iron Man Sprinz will be in the hospital for two weeks and he won't be back in the game for a month. ~~ix~~ He's number one player on the San Francisco Seals, and they're driving for the pennant in the Pacific Coast League. The loss of the Iron Man is a heavy blow to the team, but not quite as heavy a blow as when the ^t baseball hit the Iron Man's face.

And s-l-u-t-Monday.

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