

ITALY

P.J. - Sunoco. Dues, April 19, 1938.

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(How does the government of the United States regard the Anglo-Italian agreement? That question was answered by President Roosevelt today. It's O.K. -- that pact between London and Rome suits the United States.)

The President made clear that he wasn't putting any seal of American approval on the particular terms ^{of the} ~~and~~ understanding between Prime Minister Chamberlain and Mussolini. He isn't concerned with the rights and wrongs of the various things agreed upon. He merely thinks it ^{was} a good thing for Great Britain and Italy to get together and straighten out their differences. It eases international tension, and tends to avert the danger of war. And that suits the United States -- the settling of international disputes by friendly negotiation.

Meanwhile, the negotiating business goes on at a fast pace in Europe. Anglo-Italian agreement signed, the Franco-Italian agreement comes next. There was a meeting in Rome today between Italian Minister Ciano and the French Charge d' Affaires. and the announcement is that they agreed on a formula for talking things over, a method of procedure for a quick diplomatic parley. Quick is the word. Just a day or so ago Paris said to Rome:

"Let's negotiate a prompt settlement." Mussolini instantly answered -- "Si, si, let's do it." Today the preliminaries began. ^{It} What's the reason for all the haste. Well, Hitler is soon to pay a formal and most ceremonial visit to Italy. Rome keeps insisting that the British and French agreements do not mean any weakening of ties ^{with} ~~to~~ Germany. But the supposition is that Mussolini, ^{when} ~~with~~ Hitler arrives, would like to greet the Fuehrer with signed agreements with Great Britain and France in his pocket. That would be something to impress the Nazi chief. Undoubtedly, the scheme is to get Hitler into the round of negotiations, and form a four power peace pact -- a thing Mussolini has been advocating for a long time.

This is all the more likely, ~~in~~ with the Spanish civil war running a seemingly inevitable course. Today's reports picture the Franco armies pushing on with military logic. They are advancing north and south along the coast, broadening the wedge they ~~is~~ have driven to the Mediterranean shore. ~~And away~~ to the north they are driving along the French frontier. They've reached the little republic of Andorra, trapping a large force

of Barcelona troops. It's that Left Wing battalion ~~which~~ which declared that it would fight to the end ⁱⁿ of the mountains. ~~And now~~ finding itself in a hopeless net that large Left Wing unit ~~is~~ ~~was~~ retreating into France.

It looks as if the other nations were proceeding on the confident assumption that the Spanish Civil war ^{is} is in its last stages, moving toward a close. ~~Yes,~~ ^W With that perilous point of trouble no longer considered, they are negotiating for a swift settlement all around. ~~First Great Britain and Italy,~~ ~~now France and Italy -- maybe it won't be long before Germany~~ ~~is brought in.~~ ^A Since President Roosevelt approves of the peaceful negotiation of ~~the~~ difficulties, he is likely to find increasing ~~XXXX~~ cause for satisfaction.

SPENDING

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The drive against the Spending and Lending Program began in Congress today, with the bill offered by Representative Robert Bacon, New York Republican. He offered a substitute bill, something to take the place of the President's four and a half billion dollars of Pump Priming. The Bacon bill says -- let's take a billion and a quarter and hand it to the States for Public Works -- on a matching basis. -- ~~Matching~~ -- you put up your money and I'll put up my money, the States to put up twenty-five cents for every seventy-five ~~cents~~ put up by the Government. ~~While~~ Well, while that Republican counter-blast was echoing, the President announced that he's pushing right ahead with ~~Meanwhile Congress was going ahead with~~ the Pump Priming -- no delay, action.

~~Meanwhile Congress was going ahead with some preliminaries to the consideration of the four and a half billion dollar program. They didn't tackle that giant subject at once. They began with some minor items, side issues -- if you could call such sums as a hundred and five million and fifty million minor items ~~for~~ and side issues. The Lower House picked up the question of adding one hundred and ~~twenty~~ five~~

One thing the architects' convention is doing will

interest the Sun Oil Company in Philadelphia, for whom I

broadcast. The gold medal is being awarded to Paul Cret. ^{Cray}

He's a Philadelphia architect. Philadelphians like to stick

together -- isn't it the City of Brotherly Love?

PENNSYLVANIA - FOLLOW SPENDING

While on this theme of brotherly love, let's observe that S. Davis Wilson is Mayor of Philadelphia, and George Earle is Governor of Pennsylvania. They're both Democrats. So there should be plenty of brotherly love between them. However, what do we discover to our astonishment and dismay? Those two Pennsylvanians are saying hard things about each other. They are both running for the Democratic Senatorial nomination, and in their eagerness to have a chance to become Senator they are speaking harsh words. Mayor Wilson utters broad hints that there should be an investigation into Governor Earle's private income. He insinuates the aspersion that Governor Earle got thirty thousand dollars from a prominent politician contractor, who thereupon was granted profitable State contracts.

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To this the Governor replies with words of emphasis, but not exactly words of denial. He got the thirty thousand, but it was a loan. Moreover, the cash was borrowed at a time when the contractor did not expect to get any State contracts.

Furthermore, the money has been repaid, except for the sum of six thousand dollars, which is guaranteed by ample security.

In addition to this emphatic explanation, the Governor's rejoinder includes some words of most potent emphasis. These are the words, and they ^{are applied} ~~replied~~ to Mayor Wilson:--

"He's a political turncoat, and opportunist brought into this campaign as a hatchet man."

Oh brotherly love, where art thou?

WHITNEY

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The relations of the fallen Richard Whitney and the house of Morgan were aired in Washington today. The imprisoned one-time Wall Street millionaire was a Morgan broker, and his brother George Whitney is a partner in that greatest of Wall Street firms. At a hearing by the Securities and Exchange Commission it was shown that Richard was helped by George for years with great sums of money. Today's figures for the borrowings of brother from brother total two million, six hundred thousand dollars, of which only three hundred thousand ~~dollars~~ was ever repaid.

George Whitney himself testified today, and contributed ~~the latest~~² sensational fact in the ~~staggering~~ calamitous story of his brother who was three times President of the New York Stock Exchange. He told the S.E.C. Committee that he ^{himself} had borrowed a million ~~and~~ eighty-two thousand ~~dollars~~ from Thomas Lamont to lend to Richard Whitney. Thomas Lamont is the most renowned of the Morgan partners, and the loan was made to enable ^{the entangled} Richard Whitney to put back money and securities which he had taken

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from the Stock Exchange Gratuity Fund -- a fund dedicated to Stock Exchange employees, into which he had dipped. He ~~George~~ had pledged three-quarters of a million dollars worth of bonds belonging to the Gratuity Fund, to secure ^{his own} bank loans. And he had taken two hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars of the Fund's ~~cash~~ for his own use. Since that time George Whitney has repaid the more than a million dollar loan he got from Thomas Lamont *for his ruined brother.*

George Whitney told likewise how Richard Whitney borrowed a half million dollars from the house of Morgan, without George Whitney ever being told about it. It was ~~xxx~~ an unsecured loan, made to pay off another loan. So, not only did George help Richard with huge sums, but Morgan made a large loan to Richard, without informing George.

Today's testimony gives authoritative information about Richard Whitney's attempt to get another loan from the house of Morgan a couple of months before his brokerage house collapsed in a crash of scandal. The loan was considered, but was rejected. The verdict was that the money could not be

advanced until the Richard Whitney books had been ~~audited~~ audited.

Well, auditing was the one thing those books could not stand --
not
with that Richard Whitney shortage of a couple of million.

STRIKE

54
General Motors announces tonight that it will keep its plants closed until the unions come to terms. The company asserts that the picketing activities are clearly a breach

The trouble is of contract. [^]all on account of union dues. Some workers are behind in their dues, union men started a campaign of forcing them to pay up or get off the job. This happened at Fisher Body plant Number One, where a picket line was established. The company responds by closing Fisher Body plant Number Two and the Buick plant -- until the picketing and the coercion about dues ~~being~~ paying is stopped. ~~Union chiefs right now are negotiating with company officials trying to straighten things~~

~~is out.~~ The latest: Homer Martin, union president, has ordered the union men to stop the ^{picket} drive to force the payment of dues. That may settle the trouble.

HOLD-UP

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Well sir, the state police of Michigan sure are lucky. They get all the breaks. Just look what happened to them today. They were all set to show their skill in catching robbers fleeing in an automobile. They were ready for a try-out to demonstrate how they could establish a highway blockade, and catch the crooks. For this purpose they planned to stage a fake hold-up at Bloomingdale, Michigan - just a make-believe bank robbery with the supposed-to-be bandits fleeing, the alarm given, a highway blockade established, and the hold-up men quickly caught.

But they were saved a lot of trouble, those lucky state police. They didn't have to stage the fake hold-up at all, because a real one occurred. They were all set to respond to the pre-arranged alarm, from Bloomingdale, when a real alarm flashed from another town, Homer, Michigan. A bank robbery there, with the crooks snatching two thousand dollars.

So instantly the practice highway blockade turned into the real thing. The state police went into action in earnest.

P.S. At last reports they had^{not}~~nt~~ caught the robbers.
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LEVINE

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If there's anything more despicable than kidnapping,
it's trying to horn in on ^a~~the~~ kidnap case and collect money ~~and~~
without having ^{had} anything to do with the crime at all. So, it's
rather discouraging to observe ~~that~~ in the Levine case in New
York ~~they bring~~ the number of would-be extortionists of that ^{type}
^{is now} ~~made~~ up to seven. Seven ^{frauds} ~~individuals~~ have been arrested for
trying to get money from the sorrowing father, Murray Levine.

The latest ~~arrests~~ are announced by the G-men today, two men
who went about it with a brazen boldness. In other instances
the attempts of extortion have been made by mail -- the miscreants
writing with the pretense that they were the kidnapers, ^{and} giving
instructions for the payment of money.

But in this last affair, one of the two ~~men~~ walked
right into the office of the grief-stricken father, and slapped
a note on his desk -- a note saying that the thirty thousand dollars
of ransom should be paid to the bearer for the return of ~~the~~
twelve-year-old boy. Murray Levine, a lawyer, instantly perceived
the fraud, and the faker was arrested. He implicated another man,

who was likewise nabbed -- bringing the number of arrests

up to seven for as despicable a crime as criminals can devise.

CHESS

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There's a championship event going on, not far from the studio from which I am broadcasting - in this very same building, here in Rockefeller Center. It's being fought out in deep silence and with heavy concentrations of thought. Yes, ~~it's~~ the ancient and intellectual game of chess, a big tournament to decide the American championship. Samuel Reshevsky, the one-time boy wonder, is battling with bishops, knights and pawns to defend his crown. ~~His most~~ dangerous rival is ~~Reuben Fine, a New York youth who has played so~~ brilliantly ~~in the great tournaments abroad, and, Isaac Kasbdan, the~~ New York chessical expert ~~right up there at the top. The three are~~ almost tied for leadership, Reshevsky a little ahead.

Well, ~~it's~~ it's a mighty profound game those masters play, so profound sometimes a little ^{it's} ~~discouraging~~ ^(discouraging) to those chess fanciers who just like to push the pieces around once in a while. So let's have something a little encouraging for them, something to show that even in a tournament of the masters things could happen just about the same as in anybody's game of chess. Let's observe ^[a bit of news today -] that George Treysman, of considerable renown, lost his last game in eleven moves. Most any pawn pusher could last that long. And how did he do it?

He just forgot to observe that his queen was attacked by a knight.

No, this is not medieval romance - it's chess. So a master in

the tournament made a plain blind oversight, lost his queen,

resigned - even as you and I, if ^{we}~~you~~ play ^{ed} chess. If we didn't,

we'd never lose our queen - let's hope not.

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MARATHON

The Boston Marathon was run and won today. (Among those who did not do any ^{winning} ~~running~~ were four Athletic Association officials and a newspaper man. They were driving to the race in a beachwagon, when they ran head on into another car. The beachwagon was knocked over, the five of them injured -- not seriously, it seems. ~~Re~~

The winning was done by Leslie Pawson of Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Leslie is a Park Foreman. I suppose he trains for marathons by running around the ~~park~~ parks over which he supervises. He's thirty-three years old, still another proof that the most gruelling of all races is not necessarily a young man's game. Although, of course, Leslie, I don't mean that thirty-three is exactly old. It's just a shade more than nineteen or twenty.

BASEBALL

58 1/2

Out in San Francisco reporters interviewed Joe DiMaggio today, and you can guess ^{one thing} ~~what was~~ brought up during the conversation -- the fact that the Yanks lost their opening game yesterday. Some people have been saying -- can Joe McCarthy's team win without the mighty outfielding and home-run slugging ^{of} ~~of Home Run~~ Joe? So, DiMaggio was asked what he thought about it. And this is the way he replied:-

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"The Yanks are great ball players," he said, "they'll win the pennant ~~with~~ whether I'm playing with them or not. They have class to spare."

59 1/4

Afterthought -- the Yanks divided a double-header today: the Boston Red Sox shut 'em out 6 to 0 in the 2nd. The Giants beating the Boston Bees 13 to 1.

million dollars for highway construction, while the Senate talked about the fifty million dollars the President wants for CCC camps. Both of these are ^{amendments} ~~a menace~~ to other bills -- just a starter for the big four and a half billion dollar rumpus.

One important angle of spending and lending is prominent ~~in~~ before a convention in New Orleans, ~~In all the building projects that are planned an important place is taken today by architects. And the New Orleans affair is a gathering of the American Institute of Architects, at their seventieth Annual Convention.~~ How are architects to be picked for the innumerable building projects? That's one question under discussion. I was talking today to Ralph Reinhold, publisher of the Architectural magazine, PENCIL POINTS. He told me that there are three groups among the men who design and plan -- architects with political pull, large established firms who feel that they are entitled to the big construction jobs, and young men who are eager to break in and show their prowess. It's this younger group who advocate that architectural government building projects shall be selected by competition -- open competition; And may the best man win!