

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's a word that seems like an echo from the storm and strife of months ago, the word - reorganization.

Remember that bitter congressional fight in which the President's plan for government reorganization was tossed out? Well, the idea of overhauling the federal system of administration is in the news again, and the word comes from White House sources. President Roosevelt is said to be preparing plans for a new Reorganization Bill to be placed before Congress.

## BUSINESS

The Congress of the National Association of Manufacturers heard some things today spoken by the Chairman of the Senate Committee Investigating Monopoly. Did they hear a trust-busting harangue? Not at all. Chairman Senator O'Mahoney, the Wyoming Democrat, told the assembled industrialists that business needs freedom. Business thrives best in an atmosphere of liberty, with no excessive amount of government supervision.

The manufacturers also heard a definition of a business man. And they must have been a bit awe stricken when a great commercial magnate gave the definition as follows: "A business man," said he, "must be an economist, an accountant, a moral leader, a social worker." And that's a lot of business for any business man to take care of.

UN-AMERICAN

At the proceedings of the Committee investigating Un-American activities, a lively attack was launched today against the Civil Liberties Union. Colonel <sup>L</sup>~~N~~atham Reed, a retired army officer, made the charge that the Union has been doing a lot of un-American things; ~~He made charges of~~ radicalism; ~~and~~ subversive activities. And he proceeded to give a few names connected with the Civil Liberties League - such as Secretary of the Interior Ickes and Professor Felix Frankfurter, who has been mentioned as a possibility for the Supreme Court.

Earlier in the proceedings, Commander Van Antwerp, *of the* Veteran<sup>s</sup> of Foreign Wars, proposed that all organizations that put out propaganda, be compelled to register with federal and state authorities.

KUHN

There was an interesting meeting in New York today.

Representative Martin Dies of Texas, Chairman of the Un-American Committee, came face to face with Fritz Kuhn, would-be carbon copy of Hitler in America, <sup>Kuhn,</sup> the Fuehrer of the German-American Bund.

It happened at a luncheon given for Dies by the New York State Economic Council.

At one of the tables sat Fritz Kuhn and nine other prominent members of that German-American Bund. The Congressman <sup>not only</sup> made no objection <sup>to</sup> having the Nazi fellow guests at luncheon with him, said he would be glad to tell Kuhn a few things. Kuhn, for his part, said the Dies Committee had listened to the testimony of, as he put it, "a lot of filthy guys."

SPIES

Now the big spy case - not the one in New York about which we heard so much. That's a thing of the past, convictions and all. The new affair of secret agents is being staged down in the Panama Canal Zone. There, four Germans are on trial charged with prying into the secrets of canal defense.

Today, the prosecution put <sup>.</sup>on evidence a set of photographs which army intelligence men seized from the spies. These pictures: ~~were~~ scenes of a coral reef, with a channel through the reef. And that channel leads to hidden guns, batteries of concealed artillery which are of vital importance in defending the Canal. The testimony went on to indicate that the photographs of the channel ~~with~~ <sup>to</sup> the hidden guns might be of great importance to an enemy attacking the Canal, might give a valuable clue to a landing party in a raid upon the Canal defenses.

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With the Pan-American Conference scheduled to open tomorrow, Secretary of State Hull made a ~~last~~ last hour declaration today. At Lima<sup>a</sup>, he declared that any menace to any part of the western hemisphere is what he called "the utter concern of every nation of the western hemisphere." And he outlined a three point program which he will present to the conference for discussion. ~~xxxxxxx~~ First, ways of securing world peace<sup>c</sup>. Second, Economic cooperation<sup>far</sup> the welfare of all American peoples. Third, strengthening of international law.

Later services, however, failed to speak of the new offensive that Franco plans against Barcelona. The Spanish Nationalists have closed the French frontier, and that's a move which in the past has always been a prelude to an aggressive offensive. So, it was indicated that the concentration of Italian troops in Spain was directed not against France, but against the Left Wing line - just in preparation for Franco's new drive. They've gathered about a hundred miles south of the border at a central location where they can be launched equally well at Barcelona or at Madrid. And that fits right in with

## ITALY

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The first flash of news from Europe today brought us another one of those sensational headlines - Italian troops mobilizing on the French border. Well, as the story developed, it turned out that the border was the Pyrenees. Not the Franco-Italian frontier, the Franco-Spanish. But of course there are Italian troops in Spain, notwithstanding Mussolini's symbolical withdrawal of ten thousand. And the massing of Italian troops in Spain along the line of the Pyrenees might seem an alarming thing - the present uproar between Italy and France being what it is.

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reports that Franco's new drive may be aimed at either Barcelona or Madrid. Franco isn't saying so -- the usual military secrecy. Barcelona, however, says in a late dispatch that it know, has found out. Franco's attack will be on the northern front in Catalonia, a drive against Barcelona.

So the concentration of Italian troops in Spain turns out to be nothing much in the present crisis between Italy and France. That crisis, however, is still stewing in a violent way. The latest dispatches tell of more violent anti-Italian demonstrations in Tunis, with protesting parades and shouting crowds. This -- in spite of the fact that the French government has ordered the anti-Italian manifestations to be stopped. Rome, through the Italian Consul in Tunis, is protesting vigorously. But then the Italians in Tunis are having some demonstrations of their own, shouting for Fascism and Italy.



FRANCE

In France, Premier Daladier is faced with a difficult choice. He must decide whether he will turn to either the Right or Left. He has already broken to a considerable extent with the Left, the Socialists and Communists - since he ~~broken~~ <sup>smashed</sup> the general strike of last week. ~~But~~ Shall he call it quits entirely, and join forces with the Right?

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This was put squarely up to him in today's session of the Chamber of Deputies, when the deputies of the Right called for a showdown. The challenge to Daladier went this way, with one Right Deputy shouting: "You must choose between us and the Socialists and Communists!"

So the Premier will have to make his choice. He has no majority of his own and can stay in office only with the support of the Left or the Right.

Courtney.

Dec. 8, 1938.

COURTNEY

Well, that's the news from abroad today, and now let's consider the sort of thing we don't get through the regular news channels -- curious affairs and angles so remote that it's only the far wandering writer who picks them up. For example there's W. B. Courtney of COLLIER'S . He has been in the Far Eastern War area for quite a spell, and has now returned to the United States. In fact he is in the studio right here. And I've asked Bill Courtney to tell us an odd angle or two, something we haven't heard, Bill.

COURTNEY:- Here's something, Lowell, you may not know about. In fact the Japanese don't know about it. You've heard of course that Tokyo has set up puppet governments in China. But the Chinese also maintain governments in the conquered provinces -- under-cover governments. There's one secret capital not two hours march from Peking. I won't mention the name of the town because the Japanese don't know it. I was able to go there, under conditions of the greatest secrecy. And -- I attended a local council meeting of the under-cover Chinese government. A general presided. With him two hundred staff officers. In the secret capital were full sets of

officials, police, tax collectors and courts where traitors were tried, all this under the noses of the Japanese.

L.T.: That does sound like under-cover government in China. But you were in Japan too. What odd angle did you pick up there?

COURTNEY: A strange thing connected with air raids. Tokyo is in constant and terrifying fear of air raids. But it's all quite different from London or Paris. There the people are told to get out of town as quickly as they can if bombers come over. But not in Tokyo. The Japanese police have issued instructions that the people must not leave their homes if and when the bombs begin to drop. Fleeing from an air raid would not be tolerated -- so the Japanese police have declared.

L.T.: Why? It seems mighty strange.

COURTNEY:- The Japanese officials explain it frankly. They say that if the people of Tokyo run away from their homes during an air raid who would be left to put out the fires started by the bombs? Remember, Lowell, that Tokyo is in constant dread of fire, because most of it is still a city of cardboard and paper. In Japan fires

are traditionally known as "Bloosoms of Tokyo."

L.T.:- "Blossoms of Tokyo", that is a sinister name for fires.

Well, Bill, you seem to have picked up quite a bit of the odd and

unusual in your Far Eastern tour for your a rticle in tomorrow's

COLLIERS'.

EARHART

Here's something that is not news. Tragic, but not new.

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It's a statement that reads: "Amelia Earhart died about July second, 1937 in an airplane accident somewhere between British New Guinea and Howland Island in the South Pacific. <sup>» Such</sup> ~~that~~ is the declaration made as the will of Amelia Earhart was filed for probate today in <sup>a</sup> Los Angeles court. ~~was~~ Filed by her husband, George Palmer Putnam, who until now has never given up hope that she would be found. The probating of the will means that even he has given up hope.

TRIAL

There were strange bits of drama in a Seattle court room today. The case on trial is weird enough - a seventy-three year old ~~many Mrs~~ woman, Mrs. Mary Eleanor Smith, charged with the murder of a man ten years ago - her son accused along with her.

One of the witnesses against her ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> a middle-aged woman ~~who~~ herself ~~had been~~ convicted of grand larceny. Yet she's described as having been ~~herself~~ socially prominent. In court today she was most concerned about her Pekinese dog. She has been keeping it in the county jail with her. ~~and~~ It won't eat unless she feeds it. So she always has it with her. She declares the Pekinese was given to her in her days of social glory by Barbara Hutton, the Five-and-Ten heiress who became first a princess and then a countess. Yet it was this same much cherished pup that led to the arrest of the society woman - because it was always with her. They traced the dog.

Today in court she testified that the aged Mrs. Smith confessed to her ~~that~~<sup>8</sup> ten year old murder - this while they were both in the same cell in the jail at Walla Walla, <sup>Washington,</sup> She declared the old woman told the whole story of how she and her son, back in

Nineteen Twenty-Eight, killed a man named Bassett for his money.

Another witness was a policeman, but the judge would not allow him to testify. The cop got a confession from the seventy-three year old woman, but it is asserted that he did so by posing as a Catholic priest. That confession, the judge would not allow in the case.

riding either the bumpers of the brake train.

Of course the train stopped suddenly, the conductor and the brakemen had the immediate job of checking seventy-one cars, to find the break in the air hose. While the train crew was thus at work, the thieves only opened one of the seventy-one cars and, with lightning speed, emptied the contents of that car in the truck they had waiting at that crossing.

By the time the brakemen found where the nose had been cut, the truck was all loaded up and was being driven away with the loot. *Sheer nerve.*



CAR THIEVES

and have this for sheer nerve  
For sheer nerve, a band of thieves in New Jersey established what ~~was almost~~ <sup>sound like</sup> an all-time record in police annals.

A freight train on the Pennsylvania Railroad, a train almost a mile long, was on its way through New Jersey to New York. At a level crossing in Metuchen, New Jersey, this gang cut an air hose of ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> train. ~~seventy-one cars long.~~ They had evidently been riding either the bumpers or the brake rods.

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Of course the train stopped suddenly, the conductor and the brakemen had the immediate job of ransacking seventy-one cars, to find the break in the air hose. While the train crew was thus at work, the thieves coolly opened one of the seventy-one cars and, with lightning speed, emptied the contents of that car in the truck they had waiting at ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> crossing.

walked out  
By the time the brakemen found where the hose had been cut, the truck was all loaded up and was being driven away with the loot. *Sheer nerve.*

812  
Ten minutes later he was under arrest. No, the blind men couldn't see, but he could hear. Working right. His ears were all the more acute. And in that morning "Merry Christmas!"

THIEF

And how's this for sheer meanness?

A couple of weeks ago, a young thief was released from prison at Wheeling, West Virginia. ~~While in jail,~~ <sup>Out of charity</sup> he was given a temporary job, sweeping out the corridor of the city-county building at Wheeling. There he noticed a confectionery stand and the man who ran it - a blind man. They talked together, the released convict and the blind man, the latter a sympathetic soul.

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Today the young crook sauntered into the corridor of the city county building, and had his eye on a great big jar of pennies - Christmas contributions for poor children. There was nobody for the moment in the corridor, except the man behind the confectionery stand, and the crook knew he was blind, couldn't see a thing. So boldly he picked up the jar of pennies, and walked out with it. ~~And he was despicable enough to shout a~~ <sup>And he shouted a</sup>

parting call to the blind man, a jeering - "Merry Christmas!"

<sup>surely</sup>  
And that should qualify him as - the meanest crook.

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Ten minutes later he was under arrest. No, the blind man couldn't see, but he could hear. Lacking sight, his ears were all the more acute. And in that mocking "Merry Christmas!"

he recognized the voice of the released convict who had been employed sweeping out the corridor a week before. A few minutes after the arrest, the judge said - "Thirty days in jail."

collected? See just a possible point.

A judge had to find a way to get the papers in those times.

"I'm not married," he writes, "and I feel if I am secured a

distinctive license plate of change for an early matrimonial

papers will be needed."

something to keep  
the girls from saying to him  
a-b-u-t-m.

LICENSE

Big shots like small numbers on their automobile license plates. And in Michigan the Secretary of State received an appeal for a small license number. From some wealthy magnate or famous celebrity? No, just a romantic soul.

A young man of Flint phrases his appeal in these words:

"I'm not married," he writes, "and I feel if I am awarded a distinctive license plate my chances for an early matrimonial

venture will be assisted." *Something to keep*

*the girls from saying to him: -*  
*e-l-u-t-m.*

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