

N.R.A.

L. J. - Sunco. Tues., June 4/35.

Wages - Vol. 10.

Chambers  
N.B.C.

Only the merest hints have drifted out of the White House conference today, a decisive get-together of the Cabinet and New Deal leaders - deciding what is to be done about the N.R.A. Full enlightenment is to come in a statement by the President, a statement that promises to be of historic importance in the affairs of economics and politics during the months and perhaps the years to come.

One hint concerns the term: - "interstate commerce." We have heard that expression mentioned significantly here and there for some time. It was prominent in the discussions of the extension of the N.R.A. - in the proposals that the N.R.A. should be limited to interstate industries, industries participating in interstate commerce. It occurred in the Supreme Court decision knocking out the N.R.A. And the President in his portentous declaration concerning the decision, emphasized - interstate commerce. It all harks back to one clause of the Constitution of the United States. In all the arguments about what powers the Constitution does or does not give the President, this is clear, that the Constitution does give the Chief Executive the authority to

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regulate interstate commerce. This is quite natural, when you consider that the first business of the Constitution was to combine the various sovereign states into one government. These sovereign states could not be allowed to erect tariff barriers against each other, and impede the flow of commerce across state boundaries.

So the flow of trade across the nation, interstate commerce, was placed under the control of the national government, with the President having the power to regulate it. Hence, the talk some time ago about limiting the N.R.A. to interstate industries. That tended to base the whole thing on the President's power over interstate commerce. And this same thought is embodied in rumors about what today's White House conference on the N.R.A. has decided. One thing they are supposed to have agreed upon is to salvage the Blue Eagle as much as possible along those interstate lines.

Another hint is that the Wagner Labor Bill will be urged as a means of doing the things that the N.R.A. labor provisions were intended to do. And they say that the President and his advisors are relying on the Guffy Bill, which plans to put

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the coal industries in the class of public utilities. That would give the Administration the power to regulate coal, just as it regulates electricity and gas.

The general tenor of the dope is that the President has decided to salvage the N.R.A. in pieces, save one bit here, <sup>by</sup> one law, save another bit there, by another law. General Johnson today at a ~~luncheon~~ luncheon at the Press Club in Washington declared that the N.R.A. could be rebuilt within the provisions of the Supreme Court decision. The former boss of the Blue Eagle declared that no constitutional amendment was necessary to restore to the sapphire bird a lot of its former <sup>now missing</sup> plumage and tail feathers.

The General has been confabulating with the President about the N.R.A. <sup>crisis.</sup> ~~pieces.~~ Does his statement today mean that the White House has rejected ideas of seeking a constitutional amendment? ~~to restore the codes to their dignity of the day when the N.R.A. was honorary?~~

## WAGES

Great basic industries continue to announce that they will continue former wage standards, of their own accord -- the American Iron and Steel Institute, the textile industry, the Wholesale Drygoods Institute, great hotels, like the Waldorf. Some have gone further and have not only maintained those former wage and work standards, but have bettered them. Oil companies have announced pay increases, and Sunoco is one of them -- a five percent enlargement of the pay envelopes for employees getting twenty-five hundred a year or less.

And today the radio speaks. The radio is always speaking, loud speaking. But this wasn't palaver over the ether waves. It was word given to employees by Davis Sarnoff of the Radio Corporation of America -- that the company and its subsidiaries would stick to their wage and hour scales.



## SUPREME COURT

In the argument about the power of the Supreme Court, so majestically displayed in the N.R.A. decision, there's a good deal of digging into the past. The older boys whose memories go back to the embattled age of Teddy Roosevelt recall how the flaming liberal, the elder Bob LaFollette, argued that the powers of the Court were excessive and should be curtailed. And they say that the Rough Rider himself was a similar opinion.

But the most pertinent delving into the past goes way back to Eighteen three, to the august figure of John Marshall. It was that renowned Chief Justice who in a famous case laid down the principle that the Supreme Court had the right to decide whether any law harmonized or did not harmonize with the Constitution, constitutional or unconstitutional. Many political thinkers hold that the Constitution never intended to give the Supreme Court the power to say yes or no to laws passed by Congress, and that John Marshall had no right to assume that power for the Court. Other political thinkers, on the opposite side of the fence, argue to the contrary - that it was John Marshall's greatness as a Chief Justice that he did maintain the position of the Court as the supreme defender of the Constitution.

## BONUS

The curtain has fallen on the bonus - at least, on the Nineteen thirty-five act of the Patman Bill drama. It became clear right after the President's veto <sup>the other day</sup> that there wasn't likely to be any more bonus action during the present session of Congress; and, that became still clearer as the days wore on. <sup>Now</sup> ~~Today~~ it is completely and absolutely clear.

A conference was held in Washington today between Patman Bill supporters of the House of Representatives and of the Senate. And they came to the agreement that the bonus issue was dead for the rest of this year. They decided not to do anything more about it, not to push any further Nineteen thirty-five bonus plans. Instead, they will concentrate on Nineteen thirty-six. For the remainder of the present session, the friends of the bonus will get set for the fight in the next session. They will lay the lines and prepare the way for the revival of the Patman Bill in the congressional session to come - the Patman Bill or something like it, for next year, presidential year.



MORGAN

I ran across a curious object today, with a singular story attached to it. It was a cane, a walking stick, discolored with dark blotches - old lingering blood-stains. I saw it at the Hotel Gotham, at the headquarters of F. Darius Benham.

"That?", he remarked, "That's the walking stick which played a part in the attempt to kill J. Pierpont Morgan twenty years ago - during wartime."

Then he told me a swift little anecdote - a small epoch in the life of a young newspaperman. He lived at Oyster Bay - the Morgan estate is down there. He was trying to get a newspaper job in New York -- nothing doing. He was standing on the street near the Oyster Bay Court House, when the big Morgan car drove up. Out of it came two Morgan employees leading a man with a battered, bandaged head, who was taken into court. Freddy inquired and was told that J.P.Morgan had been shot, and the prisoner had done it. So he phoned all the New York newspapers. And every editor said, "Morgan shot! Give us the story!"

Meanwhile, the prisoner wouldn't speak to the local police. He said he would talk to nobody - except a newspaperman.

So the young would-be reporter stepped instantly to the front. The prisoner identified himself as a Harvard professor. The World War was on his mind. He blamed Morgan for it. So had shot him. Moreover, he admitted that he had placed the bomb which had exploded in the national capitol at Washington the day before.

The newly created, self-appointed reporter made tracks to the Morgan mansion. There he spied some articles that were just being placed in a car, some blood-stained clothing and a walking stick. He was told that the clothing had been torn from the assailant in the scuffle that followed the shooting and the Morgan butler had beaten the man down with blows of the walking stick. In the confusion - the journalist, never deficient in cheek, calmly carried away the Malacca cane, central object in the celebrated crime.

The youth had everything - the walking stick and the whole story. He filed several thousand dollars' worth of newspaper copy, and got an offer of a job from every paper in New York. He selected the old NEW YORK WORLD. And the cane came to light again today.



FRANCE

Politics in Paris did some dizzy gyrations today. Contrary reports oscillated from left to right, yes and no, back and forth. The government wins, the government loses, but previously the government had won. The series of contradictions boils down to the fact that the government has lost and has resigned.

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Let's review the exciting political day in Paris. It begins with the appearance of the new ministry of Premier Buisson before the Chamber of Deputies, <sup>—</sup> that recently formed cabinet with Joseph Caillaux, the most mysterious of French politicians holding the portfolio of Finance. Premier Buisson asks the Deputies for a vote of confidence -- and gets it, by a substantial majority -- 390 to 192. With that handsome majority, it looked as if the ministry was firmly in the saddle.

The program announced by the Premier in his battle to save the franc was couched in lively terms. He declared war on speculators who were beating down the value of the franc and are draining the gold out of France. He proclaimed that ~~the~~ the hostilities against those speculators would be "Brutal and decisive."

He promised a vigorous attempt to balance the budget and to decrease unemployment. So far so good. Nobody ~~was~~ objected to these pious resolutions. Trouble was stirred by the appearance of that familiar word -- ~~the~~ dictator. The ministry of Premier Flandin, so strong and popular had fallen because of the demand it made -- for dictatorial powers to save the franc, the right to act without the consent of Parliament in the effort to stop the flood of gold pouring out of France. Flandin lost out because of that, but Buisson came promptly to the front with something of the same thing. He wanted dictatorial powers for his own ministry, ~~and~~ a free hand in solving the money crisis.

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The first ructions <sup>for him</sup> came in the refusal of the powerful Radical-Socialist party. Edouard Herriot the party leader was in favor of granting the arbitrary power the ministry wanted but the party was not behind Herriot. The Radical-Socialist deputies, in caucus, refused to say "yes", decided to vote against those full powers for the cabinet. Herriot resigned as leader. Later he withdrew his resignation. <sup>All in the turmoil today.</sup> ~~The reaction of the Radical Socialist~~

~~promised xxx to my xxx time when the Breake xxx rose to xxx xxx~~



The Radical-Socialists were all the more hostile to Premier Buisson because he used to be the leader of their party. He was in the fore-front of their ranks for more than a quarter of a century. But last year he quit the party, saying he was tired of all the useless controversy.

It all promised a stormy time when the new Premier - the latest premier - arose to ask for dictatorial authority. Even though he had won a smashing victory in the morning, it was apparent that the issue was in the balance, so much in the balance that it kept balancing up and down.

The vote? -- the deputies cast their ballots. The count -- the contradiction. The government wins, the word is announced:-- by a close vote, a vote so close that the government did not win. A check-up of the ballots showed that the first report was wrong. The Buisson ministry had lost out by the narrowest of margins -- a margin of two. 254 to 252. If just one vote had switched it would have been a tie.

The cabinet immediately resigned. Another French cabinet fallen. It had been formed just three days ago. Three

days! -- that's a short life for a government, even in France where ministries must have high blood-pressure and a heavy sugar content, they're life span is so short. Former Premier Pierre Laval was called to the Presidential palace. Presumably he'll be asked to form a government.

I've told of these political sky-rocketings in Paris in some detail, because of flaring liveliness of today's proceedings are a vivid hint of the gravity of the French financial crisis, the flood of gold from France and the danger of a dizzy nose-dive for the franc.



## ITALY

A flare-up on the Italina-Abyssinian border, and Mussolini gets a black eye! The two things, however, are not connected, unless the Duce was thinking of the Abyssinian situation as he rode into the branch of a tree. In fact, he might have been meditating on just that theme - those most recent raids of Abyssinian tribesmen into Italian colonial territory in Africa. The latest word today reaffirms the Italian contention of Abyssinian aggression - a war party of the fierce Danakil tribe raiding into Italian Somaliland, killing native Italian subjects and driving off cattle. However, that newest ugly looking incident has quieted down into talk about protests to the League of Nations and all the rest of that familiar kind of conversation.

Maybe Mussolini had ~~to~~ <sup>this</sup> all in mind, and that's why he forgot to duck. ~~The~~ <sup>#</sup> The Duce goes riding every morning. That's his favorite exercise. He was cantering along when he collided with a branch hanging low from the tree. The branch hit him right in the eye, and knocked him off his horse. His aides rushed to him but he jumped up and said he was all right - all right except for a black ~~eye~~ <sup>to match his black shirt. Today the</sup> ~~Today the black-shirted autocrat,~~ successor to the Roman Caesars, is sporting a ~~red~~ vivid shiner. More like the Bowery than like the ~~Apponia~~ way.

## TALL STORY

A great wrong has been righted at Milton, Pennsylvania. Milton is in the heart of the Pennsylvania whopper country. In fact it produces such a high, wide and handsome crop of free and untrammelled lies, fish stories, hunting fibs, and those Blue Sunoco whoppers, that we of the Tall Story Club pronounced the town to be the Tall Story Capital of America.

The Tall Story Capital had one shocking deficiency. In Milton, Pennsylvania, there was no Blue Sunoco gas station. And that was a blot on the fair name of the city, a blot that has now been wiped clean. Several months ago a committee of those Miltonian liars told me they felt mortified and ashamed and were planning not only to bring a Sunoco station to Milton, but assured me that they would give it the best location in town. They said they were going to tear down the Town Hall right on the main street to make place for the Blue and Gold pumps. Now, I am informed, it has been done. The streamline fountain opened today.

The result has been sensational. With their tanks full of blue-streak power the hitherto feeble automobiles in Milton,



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are tonight displaying such vim and vigor that the pedestrians  
have had to take to the tree tops and are swinging from limb  
to limb. And that leaves me out on a limb - so,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.