

P.T. Sunoco. Thurs., May 5, 1938.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Hugh,
All of that, so kindly expressed, [^] is quite true, although I always pictured a chevalier as a dashing figure with a sword and a cape and an air of great gallantry. A chevalier with a microphone seems to be something new - and a bit incongruous, ~~I can't help feeling~~ I'm most grateful to the French government and the French Ambassador for the honor granted me - for an impartial and unbiased handling of foreign news. I've tried to make that my attitude with all news, no partiality, no bias. ~~It~~ ^{also} I must [^] thank the Ambassador for a shrewd hint or two he gave us today.

tlc
For example, he warned us news men not to take too seriously the reports of disturbances in Paris - riot and revolution. He pointed out that trouble on the boulevards always ends before the last subway train has run. And he paid America a neat tribute when he said: "We in France are convinced of the

deep truth of the proverb, 'Help thyself and heaven will help thee.' And," he continued, "may heaven then help us by letting us retain the friendship of America!"

Conversation at the N.Y. Ad Club luncheon of course was about the devaluation of the French franc, with author Gelett Burgess remarking "now Americans can go to France and live for nothing!"

FRANC

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Today's news about the ~~French~~ Franc comes from London, a statement by Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Paris has given London a definite declaration about the Franc - official assurance. Assurance of what? The Chancellor of the Exchequer told the House of Commons that QUOTE The present downward movement of the Franc will be the last. UNQUOTE. That's the assurance from London to Paris - the Franc to stay at from thirty-five to thirty-seven to the dollar, something less than three cents.

ITALY

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Today the big show in Italy came around to a phase rather more pertinent than most of the carnival and hullabaloo that has greeted Hitler. Mussolini treated his formidable guest to a display of the Italian fleet in the Bay of Naples. A few poetic adjectives might seem to be in order - Bay of Naples, southern skies, fiery Vesuvius, the blue Mediterranean! But it was raining, and that world famous view was obscure. However, Hitler was probably more interested in the technical side of ~~the~~ sea power than in the beautiful scenery. (There were battleships and battle cruisers galore, but Mussolini's naval show today concentrated on one phase, especially to the point.)

During the Ethiopian war, ~~when there was talk of~~ and talk of a possible battle between the British and Italian fleets, we heard much about the way Mussolini had developed Italian sea power with a special view to action in narrow waters - the Mediterranean. Speed, stealthiness, sudden dashing attacks, oceanic ambushes, -- that's what Hitler saw today.

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He saw ninety submarines in mass formation on the surface of the sea, and at a signal they executed a formation dive, under the

^{water}
~~surface~~ for ten minutes, and then came up in a mass reappearance -
and fired a simultaneous salute, all ninety.

Hitler saw a manoeuvre staged by ~~these~~ torpedoing speed
boats ^{that we also} heard about during the Ethiopian crisis, craft consisting
mostly of motor ~~power~~ power and high explosive, designed to be effective
by sheer speed. The two Dictators stood on the deck of the Italian
dreadnought, COUNT CAVOUR, while twenty-four of those torpedo
speed boats staged an attack on a vessel. They appeared suddenly,
came dashing at forty miles an hour, fired each a dummy torpedo,
and were gone! It was a spectacularly successful manoeuvre, though
one wonders what would happen in actual battle, with cannon picking
off the speed boats. ^{Would} the great battleships ^{shoot the} ~~were all~~ twenty-four
out of the water before they could get within torpedoing range?

{ (That's the question which must have occurred to Hitler as he
watched - with Mussolini wondering too.)

As for what's going on behind the scenes, we're still where
we were when we asked that question the last time - nothing but
rumors, the same rumors, with the supposition that the two Dictators
are not drawing together any closer in their alliance. ~~One~~

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significant factor - the Vatican. When Hitler arrived in Rome,
the official papal newspaper ignored the big show altogether.

Today, the magnificent museum of the Vatican was closed to
visitors, by order of Pope Pius. German visitors - that was the
point. The explanation is that there's a multitude of German
Nazis in Rome to ^{see} review the show. With their Fuehrer in Naples
today, those Nazis would take the interval to see the sights.

And the museum of the Vatican is one of the greatest of sights.

They say the Pope thought it not quite dignified to have German

Nazis thronging to see the papal art treasures - just because

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Hitler was away from Rome for the day. The Vatican - second

choice! ^{No! No!}
^ So the museum was closed.

CHAMBER

The Chamber of the United States, speaking for American business, proposed a sixteen point program, ^{It was} ~~today. This program,~~ ^{adopted by full membership today,} ~~adopted by the conference in Washington, is to be submitted to the~~
~~full membership of the Chamber of Commerce, a membership of~~
~~twenty five hundred business representatives.~~

Among the sixteen points are demands for a congressional
f Commerce, ~~a membership of~~
investigation of the Wagner Labor Law; Opposition to the federal
regulation of wages and hours, as proposed in the Wage-Hour Bill;
Cooperation of capital and labor without appeal to the government;
Approval of a reciprocal trade treaty policy when it does not cause
destructive competition for American industry; No trust-busting,
save where interstate commerce is affected; Industries to formulate
their own rules of fair play, with government approval; No federal
competition with private enterprise.

Those are mere samples of the many phases of business
affected by the Chamber of Commerce resolution. The Chamber
then voted cooperation with the President
provided there are modifications of
the New Deal.

MONOPOLY

In the Senate today a move ^{has just been} ~~was~~ made to put the presidential message about monopoly into practice. The message called for both investigation and legislation, and today Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming proposed a resolution for a joint investigation by the Senate and the House. The resolution proposes three lines of inquiry. Why does economic power in industry tend to become concentrated, and what's the effect of industrial concentration of power? ^{What's} ~~What~~ the effect ^{of} ~~on~~ the price system and ~~the~~ price-policies ^{and} ~~on~~ an industry ^{on} trade, ^{or} employment, profits, ^{and} consumption? ^{And} What ~~is~~ effect have government policies - taxation and ~~prices~~ patents?

The O'Mahoney resolution proposes an investigating committee with full power for the calling of witnesses and the elucidation of national economics.

MOONEY

There was a congressional request for Tom Mooney to come to Washington to testify. A Congressional Committee is to investigate the long debated case of the prisoner of San Quentin, convicted of the Preparedness Day bombing in Nineteen Sixteen. Today Representative Emmanuel Celler, Chairman of the Investigating Committee, sent a telegram to Governor Merriam of California - asking the Governor to permit Mooney to come to Washington and testify at a hearing on May Eleventh, ¹ next Wednesday.

This is a request, not an order, subpoena^h, or anything like that. Mooney has asked the Committee to subpoena him and force his appearance before the Committee. But today Chairman Celler replied - No, it couldn't be done. ^{So he} ~~He~~ telegraphed to Mooney, saying - ~~that the Congressional Committee could not issue a subpoena and compel his appearance.~~

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PARSONS

There's new activity in the mysterious Long Island kidnapping of Mrs. Alice Parsons. Police and the G-men are busy with ~~the~~^a renewed investigation - this in conjunction with a report from California.

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It was one day last June that Mrs. Parsons vanished from her Long Island estate, and hasn't been seen since. She went away in a car with some strangers, and there was a mention of Russians. One personality in the Parsons household was a Russian woman called the Countess - a Madame Anna Kupryanova; ~~She~~ described as a housekeeper. ^H Today's word from California is ~~the~~ this. William H. Parsons, husband of the missing woman, is living at a ranch house near Salinas and with him is Madame Kupryanova, and her twelve year old son. And the report is - intended marriage. They say that Parsons and the woman who is called ^{the} ~~a~~ countess, plan to get married.

In New York, the Parsons lawyer explains that Mr. Parsons is certain that Mrs. Parsons is dead, and that therefore he has a perfect right to remarry.

LIQUOR

It's great to be smart - simply wonderful. But it's tough to run up against somebody still smarter. That's what a man said in Cleveland today, as he paid a hundred dollar fine.

Sure he was smart, when the cops raided his place looking for illicit liquor. He saw them coming, and he did a smart thing. He grabbed the illegal hooch, jumped to a window which was on an upper floor - and poured it out. Right below that window was a policeman, and he had a wash basin. Expecting such a manoeuvre, he had provided himself with a basin and was waiting. So when the deluge of lawless whiskey came pouring, the cop may have been drenched a bit, but he caught enough for evidence. The man with the hooch was smart, but the cop with the wash basin was smarter.

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DERBY

The epidemic of scratching is still besetting the Kentucky Derby, though they say it's still possible that STAGE HAND, the favorite, may run after all.

Today, the thoroughbred so greatly preferred to win Saturday's classic, was taken out for a trial run, a bit of test competition with several of his stable mates. STAGE HAND finished a bad third, and then it was noticed that the horse was sick, fever. Thereupon - scratch, and STAGE HAND was withdrawn from the race.

However, the latest flash from Churchill Downs is that ^{the} thoroughbred ~~might~~ ^{may} be well enough to run on Saturday - the fever has gone down. Such is the word from owner Colonel Matt Winn and trainer Earle ~~Sand~~ Sande. This year, ^{one of} the shortest list^s the Kentucky Derby has ever seen, after all the scratching, ^{scratching} ~~worst~~ ^{worse} than a dozen dogs with a million fleas.

WOOLWORTH

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Today, some legal formalities bring back memories of a romance that made the headlines several years ago. Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress - her marriage to Prince Alexis Mdivani, one of the three marrying Mdivani brothers. Her divorce from him, and her subsequent marriage to the Danish Count von Haugwitz Reventlow. Later, Prince Alexis was killed in an auto accident, and after that his brother Serge was killed in a polo accident - tragic fatalities of the three marrying Mdivanis, who achieved fame and golden romance and money weddings.

Today's legal formality is a transfer-tax-appraisal of the will of Prince Alexis Midvani, a tax appraisal which gives the figures for the money he got from the heiress of the Five and Ten. She bestowed on him a total of three million dollars. Within six months of their marriage he got two million and a quarter, and three months later he received an additional six hundred and twenty-five thousand.

When they speak of romance as being golden, sometimes it certainly is!

FIRE

Townshend, Vermont. The American Legion did not hold its meeting at the home of Mrs. Alma Kidder, to discuss fire prevention. Several hours before the scheduled meeting, Mrs. Kidder's house caught fire and burned down. The fire-preventing-legionnaires will have to pick some other place, and put some fire prevention into practice before they start talking about it.

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GOMEZ

In baseball Senor Lefty Gomez, the Castilian cavalier of the pitching mound, is frequently called - "El Goofey."

~~Sometimes that's varied affectionately, and they say - Goofey~~

~~Gomez, but mostly it's - El Goofey.~~ Why that racy epithet referring to a certain mental flightiness, if not fantasticity?

Well, ~~you~~ just ask Mrs. Gomez.

The former June O'Dea, who several years ago wedded the capricious caballero, is now suing him for a divorce. She relates that El Goofey gave her a black eye, kicked her and also strangled her. And one time he tossed her mother across the room - when they tried to stop him from going out and getting some refreshments. Now what would you call that - blackening wifie's eye, kicking and strangling her, and tossing the mother-in-law around? Wouldn't you call that goofey, even for a left-handed pitcher?

If not, consider this:- Mrs. Gomez declares that three times in one night she stopped El Goofey from committing suicide, pulled him back when he tried to jump out of a hotel window. Does that prove that he was goofey or that she was?

The climax of it all came one evening when the

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scintillating southpaw came home from an exhibition game in Brooklyn. Maybe an exhibition game in Brooklyn is enough to make anybody goofy. Lefty informed his wife that he was going to commit the perfect crime. Losing a ball game to Brooklyn might seem to be the perfect crime for a pitcher but El Goofey had a different idea. *His conception was* ~~His contemplated "perfect crime" was~~ based on the idea that according to all appearance he was a loving husband, affectionate and even ~~infatuated~~ an infatuated spouse. El Goofey told his wife that everybody thought he loved her deeply, fondly, devotedly. Therefore he would kill her, and nobody would dream of suspecting he had done it. That would be the perfect crime. Somehow or other she seemed to have talked him out of that one - and the perfect crime was never committed.

Now Mrs. Gomez is suing for a divorce ^{on} ~~for~~ a series of charges that might seem to explain why the Senor is called "El Goofey."

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MOVIES

The blast the moving picture exhibitors filed against the stars in Hollywood was scheduled to provoke a counter-blast. The high priced stars whom the exhibitors called "poison to the box office," were due to make some public retort. And today we have the first of them. Who steps forward? Why, Mae West, whose screen personality you could hardly call backward.

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Mae, who has been making a personal appearance at a theatre in Boston, ^{gives} ~~said~~ a scathing reply. She, box office poison? Why, she's a mortgage lifter.

"Every time business is bad," she declared, "they get out one of my pictures for a rerun. They call me the 'mortgage lifter.'"

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And then she gave an explanation for the squawk made by the exhibitors, saying it was merely a case of business being bad during the present slump. "The box office business in the entire industry," said she, "has dropped off thirty per cent in the past four months. The only picture to make money was 'Snow White' - and that might have made more money if I'd played the lead," *said Mae.*

Well, I should say so. Mae West as the shy and
shrinking little princess! Mae West as Snow White, getting the
first kiss of love. They certainly would pay money to see that!

And s-l-u-tomorrow.

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