

P. J. - Sunoco. Thurs, Nov. 2, 1939.

NEUTRALITY

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(The House of Representatives took its action today on the Neutrality Bill - and voted for the repeal of the Arms Embargo.) There was voting on a lot of amendments, which were turned down one after another. The culminating amendment proposed was one that would have put the Arms Embargo into the bill. ~~the provision forbidding the sale of American war materials to belligerent powers.~~ This was turned down. ~~the Congressmen voting to sustain the administration opinion that the Arms Embargo should be eliminated.~~ The business of amendments out of the way, the bill was sent to conference.

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This means - a conference of Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate and the House have each passed neutrality bills, which in general are pretty much the same. The business of the conference will be to iron out small differences, and produce an identical law - which both houses ^{will} thereupon proceed to pass. And so the Neutrality Bill approaches the end of the rather complicated process needed to pass an American law.

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PANAMA DECLARATION

From Washington we hear that the declaration of Panama may ~~very well~~^{soon} become a dead letter. The ~~XXXX~~ recent Pan-American Conference decreed a safety belt of three hundred miles off the shores of the Americas, a neutrality zone in which the ships of belligerent nations were forbidden to engage in any warlike operations.

It immediately appeared that belligerent nations would refuse to abide by any such declaration. The Germans gave no signs ~~in~~ that they would keep their U-boat campaign out of the safety zone area, and Great Britain took open exception - saying that the declaration of Panama was not according to international law. ~~It was then pointed out that under the neutrality zone regulation, German ships that took refuge in various American ports, would have a perfect right to navigate as they pleased, within the three hundred mile limit, the British Navy forbidden to do anything to capture them. With this, the British would hardly agree.~~

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Tonight, the argument takes practical point with the report of a German tanker in the Caribbean and well within

the three hundred mile limit. Safety belt or no safety belt, a British cruiser tried to seize the ship, and only failed when the German skipper sank his own craft.

It becomes apparent that the nations at war don't intend to pay any attention to the declaration ~~of~~ Panama. They're determined to operate under the old-fashioned rules of the sea. And the word from Washington is that the American nations are not likely to do anything to enforce the neutrality zone that they ^{so optimistically} declared. ~~So it would seem that~~ The declaration of Panama becomes ^{ing} a dead letter, when the ink on it is hardly dry.

COULMORE

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The latest this evening would make it appear that the British steamship COULMORE is safe. All day long, the news was contradictory and uncertain. From Canada came word that all was well with the ship believed to have been attacked by a German submarine - but this Canadian report became involved and doubtful. Late this afternoon, however, the United States Coast Guard announced that it had abandoned the search for the COULMORE - one of the Coast Guard boats at sea received a wireless message from the United States liner, AMERICAN TRADER. In this it stated that the British ship was okay. The AMERICAN TRADER didn't state whether the COULMORE had been sighted or whether ^{a message} ~~it~~ had picked up, ~~message~~. Other ships on the Atlantic reported the same sort of thing - and the Coast Guard announced it had reason to believe that the COULMORE was not in need of any assistance.

FLINT

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The news about the CITY OF FLINT seems reasonably precise tonight. Norway reports that the American vessel seized by the Germans is nearing the southern end of Norway, approaching the Skagerrack, that vital strait which connects the North Sea and the Baltic. Across the Skagerrack, the net of the British blockade is strongly drawn. If the CITY OF FLINT should get through that narrow waterway, she would be relatively safe - in the Baltic, which is controlled by the Germans. (What seemed to be an impossibility, now may be happening - the German prize crew taking the CITY OF FLINT through the British blockade.

It doesn't seem so mysterious any more - not with word from London, repeated again today - that the British may permit the vessel to go unmolested. They don't want to do anything to offend the United States - such as ^{by} endangering the American crew aboard.) And London might be well enough pleased to let the Germans have the American vessel and ^{thereby} get into a controversy with Washington. Which makes it interesting to note one bit of ~~Wash~~ Washington news tonight - that Attorney General Frank Murphy is having the Department of Justice make a study of the case. The Attorney General is preparing arguments for an American demand that the Germans hand the CITY OF FLINT back to the United States.

TRADE

There's a bit of light tonight on the war boom idea -
the expectation of a huge boost of American trade with Europe at
war. The United Press conducted a survey in England, and found
of course that as soon as the Embargo over here is repealed,
we'll get a flock of orders for war materials. But this, the
survey ascertains, will be balanced to a considerable degree by
trade in other fields. The British, buying so much military
merchandise, will have to cut down on imports of other American
goods. War trade will boom, but business ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ more peaceful products
will slump - as much, it is estimated, as a hundred and fifty
million dollars a year. Already Britain at war has heavily cut
down purchases of what it calls - non-essentials.

Loss of
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All of this results from the recent Turkish action
in signing a pact with Great Britain, and turning down, at the
same time, an agreement with Soviet Russia. Since then the
Axis and Soviet parties have both been saying - that Turkey's
attitude was unneutral.

TURKEY

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There's an ominous focus of interest on Turkey tonight - that nation which controls the all-important Dardanelles. The word from Istanbul is that German diplomatic officials there have ordered All Germans in Turkey to be ready to leave the country as soon as possible. That of course has only one interpretation - that Nazi Germany anticipates trouble with Turkey. And tonight the German Ambassador is hurrying back to his post, after conferences with Hitler. Berlin states that the Ambassador has orders from the Fuehrer to demand that Turkey make clear its attitude. Where does Turkey stand in the present war?

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ITALY

(Italy today came to terms with Greece -- on a nonaggression pact. Actually, it was a reaffirmation of a treaty that Italy and Greece made some years ago. The two nations agree not to make any hostile moves against each other.) The announcement contains these words "The friendly relations between the two countries," it said, "constitute a factor for peace in the Eastern Mediterranean." The meaning of it all lies in the importance of the Eastern Mediterranean, where the British control ~~was~~ Suez Canal is the key point. During the troubles between Great Britian and Fascist Italy, London lined up Greece and Turkey on the British side. The new agreement that London recently concluded with Turkey, at the expense of Soviet Russia, strengthened the British position in the Eastern Mediterranean. Now Italy lines up with Greece, and the combination is interpreted as meaning that Italy is drawing toward Great Britian -- Mussolini ~~is~~ pulling still further away from Hitler.

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DIES

The Dies Committee today heard some more sensational testimony about the Reds. It was testified that Communist elements in our maritime unions are ~~parry~~ prepared to sabotage American ships if this country should get into war with Soviet Russia. Two witnesses said this, one a former leader of the Communist party, the other a Union official. They said that the rank and file of American sailors and waterfront workers are not Communists. But they added that there are enough Reds in key positions to conduct a sabotage campaign. They're ready for war sabotage, damaging and sinking American ships, in behalf of the Soviets.

LONGSHOREMEN

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A big waterfront strike has been called for midnight tonight. In New York five thousand dock workers have been ordered out. This follows the breakdown of negotiations between the Union and the employers. Union officials stated that the strike was scheduled to spread to other ports, and that soon fifteen thousand longshoremen in various cities would be ~~on strike~~ ^{out.}

political turmoil. Six candidates were out battling for the highest office in the state. One - the present Governor, Earl Long, brother of the late Kingfish, Huey P. Long. Another was Robert W. Roche. He was in the thick of the electioneering battle, when night before last he died suddenly. The attending physician has put in a report that he succumbed to what is described as "possible drug poisoning and mal-nutrition." The physician states that the patient seemed to be under the influence of some drug.

Today, the death of the candidate assumes a sinister aspect, if the Baton Rouge District Attorney announces that there will be an investigation. He refuses to state what grounds he has for this - whether there was any suspicion of foul play.

LOUISIANA

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Louisiana political scandals took a new and melodramatic turn today, with the announcement that there would be an investigation of the death of a candidate for Governor. In January, Louisiana is to have an election. The campaign is on right now, and it's a hot one, featuring all those charges of corruption and misdoing that have had the bayou state in a political turmoil. Six candidates were out battling for the highest office in the state. One - the present Governor, Earl Long, brother of the late Kingfish, Huey, ~~Long~~. Another was Robert R. Rochester. He was in the thick of the electioneering battle, when night before last - he died suddenly. The attending physician has put in a report that he succumbed to what ^{is} ~~the report~~ described as - "possible drug ~~poison~~ poisoning and mal-nutrition." The physician states that the patient seemed to be under the influence of some drug.

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RACING

Today, a company that manufactures betting equipment used at race-tracks, shelled out eighteen hundred and ninety dollars, paid without a murmur. ~~There wasn't much to be said, not much argument to be made, after the weird trick played by the mechanism which the company manufactured. It's a howling farce of horse racing.~~

At the ~~San Mateo, California~~ Bay Meadows Track, San Mateo, California, the favorite in the first race was - Stroud. ~~The horse figured to win, everybody knew that. And he~~
~~did.~~ ^{on him} The odds should have been short, not more than four to one. Yet Stroud paid off at the long shot rate of twenty dollars and forty cents. ^{to one. It} ~~The horse betters who put their money on the hot favorite got that much for every dollar they laid down. It~~
~~sounds cockeyed, and it was. All because the betting mechanism, which they call a "tote board," went haywire. That - and human nature. In fact, it's the human nature part of it which provides the drama.~~

In the race was a horse named Green Tea, a mere nag, a rank outsider. ~~Green Tea didn't figure to have a chance,~~

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The odds on the plug quite properly were - thirty to one. Very few people were putting any bets on Green Tea. Then suddenly, an amazing thing happened. The betting mechanism, the tote board, began registering a rapid string of bets, ~~on that thirty to one long shot. To the startled amazement of the race track crowd, the board quickly registered~~ eighteen hundred and fifty dollars' worth ~~of bets on Green Tea.~~ of bets on Green Tea.

What had really happened, was that there was a short circuit in the tote board, and it was the haywire electricity that was placing the flooded ^{of} bets on the nag. But the crowd didn't know that. The race track mob, as we are all aware, is exceedingly wise, always suspicious of tricks and twisters. If there's a sudden rush on any horse, the surmise always is - the wise money is being put on that horse. Maybe the race is fixed and the gamblers know it and are plunging. Or maybe the insiders just figure that horse to win - the smart money. So when the race track crowd at San Mateo saw the board registering the flood of bets on Green Tea, they drew their own conclusions. They rushed to join the wise money. The crush at the window was tremendous, everybody

putting down two dollar bets.

One result of this furious waging^{er} on Green Tea was to lengthen the odds on the favorite - the horse named Stroud.

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At the time the race was run, Stroud figured to pay twenty dollars and forty cents for every dollar.

Of course the surprise twist would have been for Green Tea to have galloped down the stretch a winner - with all that frantic and misguided money placed on him. But nothing of the sort happened. Green Tea finished nowhere, just where he figured to ~~finish~~ finish. The favorite galloped on ahead for an easy and expected win - and paid off the money of a long shot.

What could be done about it? Well, really nothing. The short circuited board had rung up eighteen hundred and fifty dollars' worth of non-existent bets on Green Tea and the Company that manufactured the board was required to pay that amount; - which it did. It was stuck, having to take up the mythical bets on the horse that ~~had~~ already lost.

MOVIES

I don't imagine that Hollywood thinks so much of the motion picture industry in Italy, but Hollywood loves realism, and may be impressed by this.

In an Italian studio they were filming a fight scene, a lot of extras enacting a lively battle. They enacted it with such vim and vigor that the fight became a real one. The mob of extras slugged it out all over the place. So they had to call in the police, who tried in vain to quell the fracas. And, they had to call in the firemen, who turned the hose on the riotous mob.

It certainly was a realistic fight scene, the only trouble from the motion picture point of view being - that between the riot and the fire hose, the cameras were put out of

commission. *And they got no pictures of it.*

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QUEEN

Today Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain borrowed a penny - she wanted to find out something about herself. She was visiting Queen Charlotte's Hospital in London, and was attracted by one of those fortune telling machines - which will reveal to you secrets of your life and career. It cost a penny, and Her Majesty didn't have one. British sovereigns don't carry pennies around with them. So she borrowed a coin, put it in the slot, pulled the lever, and watched what the indicator would say. It stopped at the words - "Happy Marriage." Well, Her Majesty couldn't dispute that, for it was indeed a happy marriage that made the little Scottish girl Queen of England.

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And what happy thought have you, Hugh?

S-L-U-T-M,