

HINES

L.J. - Sunoco. Tues., Jan. 31, 1939.

6  
In telling about the Hines trial, the obvious phrase ~~this evening~~ <sup>tonight</sup> is - voice from the dead. For the testimony of George Weinberg was read, Weinberg the star witness suicide.

This was a victory scored by Prosecutor Dewey. Defense Attorney Stryker fought against it. He contended that the gangster witness, Weinberg, had shot himself on Sunday, because he was conscious <sup>of the</sup> ~~that he was~~ guilty of perjury in the first trial of Tammany Leader James J. Hines. Also - because he was afraid of facing cross-examination again.

District Attorney Dewey replied that he could produce witnesses who would testify that Weinberg was despondent because he was ill and worried because of his wife and child. He previously had tried to jump out of a window, said Dewey.

Judge Charles C. Nott decided in favor of the prosecution. ~~and he decreed that there must be no speculation about the why and wherefores of the Weinberg suicide.~~

47  
During the argument, the jury was out of the courtroom - the twelve men good and true not being supposed to know anything about the suicide of the star witness, Weinberg. ~~Now~~ They were

called back, and the case went on with some routine humdrum

testimony. Later on in the day, Dewey decided to produce the

Weinberg testimony. *And now the judge informed*  
~~Now the jury would have to know about the~~  
*the jury*  
~~suicide, and the judge told them~~ in these words: "Weinberg,"

he said, "died on Sunday the twenty-ninth, by a bullet wound

inflicted by himself." *afterward*  
 And immediately the court clerk began to  
 read:- the voice of the dead, ~~was~~ testifying.

*in the first trial*  
 It was the same long drawn out evidence given by Weinberg,  
 the one-time henchman of Dutch Schultz in the policy racket,  
 testimony that Tammany Leader Hines was paid as political fixer  
 for the policy mob. This second Hines trial, all in all, is a  
 close repetition of the first trial. The Weinberg testimony is  
 necessarily an identical word-for-word repetition, reading of  
 transcript, voice from the dead.

BURNS

48

The comedian George Burns has figured in many an amusing scene, with his partner Gracie Allen making her Dumb Dora remarks. Today George Burns was the Number One figure in a bit of dramatics that featured suspense rather than laughing wisecracks. Burns, star comedian of stage, screen and radio, faced the court in New York, to be sentenced on a charge of smuggling. He was implicated in the doing<sup>s</sup> of the convicted smuggler, Chaperau, and his plea was - guilty. In the courtroom the droll and humorous ~~George~~ Burns was pale and tense, and no wonder. Under the law the judge could impose on him a fine of forty-five thousand dollars and a prison sentence of eighteen years.

With judicial gravity Federal Judge William Bondy pronounced the sentence. A fine, he decreed, of eight thousand dollars. And this might have been cause for ironic laughter. Eight thousand dollars, ~~less than a week's salary the comedian might earn,~~ more than half again as much as the five thousand dollars' worth of smuggled jewelry <sup>that Burns</sup> ~~he~~ bought, and eight times as much as the one thousand dollars of duty he should have paid. In addition to the fine imposed today, Burns has paid out other penalties amounting

to nearly ten thousand dollars, which brings the total financial blow to nearly eighteen thousand. Yes, cause for ironic laughter, or a dumb crack from Gracie Allen.

That was the fine, but what about a possible prison sentence? Comedian George Burns went paler than ever as the Federal Judge continued: "I sentence you to a year and a day in prison."

*Then the Comedian sighed with*  
~~There was a sigh of~~ relief as the Judge concluded:

"I shall suspend imposition of the sentence during good behavior."

So the verdict is - an eight thousand dollar fine and a suspended sentence. ~~But this isn't the end of trouble for George Burns. Immediately after the sentence~~ *immediately declared* Federal authorities ~~said~~ that Burns will be used as a witness against his fellow comedian, Jack Benny. ~~That won't be any side-splitting~~ *gag* ~~comedy, one comedian~~ ~~is~~ testifying against the other. Jack Benny has pleaded not guilty, and is scheduled to stand trial.

BRULATOUR

Today in New York a multimillionaire went to court to answer a misdemeanor charge concerning a gun. Jules Brulatour's millionaire stateliness was a bit handicapped by a stiff neck -- a condition leftover from the bullet wound that brought him to court. He says he shot himself accidentally while cleaning a pistol.

The magnate of film joked with the detectives and cheerfully posed for pictures.

The millionaire who gets an income on all film used, explained it this way: "I like to pose for you fellows," said he. "Consuming film is good for my business."

The result of today's court affair is that Jules Brulatour is ordered to stand trial at some future date, for - misdemeanor.

MANTON

President Roosevelt this afternoon accepted the resignation of Circuit Court Judge Martin T. Manton. Earlier in the day, the Manton letter of resignation arrived at the White House. The President fixed the day for the Judge to step out, as February Seventh. In Congress the House Judiciary Committee will take no further action in the Manton case. The resignation of the Judge removes all reason for any impeachment proceedings.

Meanwhile, there's talk of political angles in the case of that high Judge who ranks only below the Supreme Court and who was appointed by President Woodrow <sup>Wilson.</sup> ~~Wilson.~~ There's democratic gossip that Republican District Attorney Dewey of New York stepped ~~needlessly~~ <sup>They claim it</sup> into the affair, ~~which~~ <sup>^</sup> was already being investigated by federal authorities - the affair of the tenth ranking United States Judge who is accused of grave financial offenses.

DEFENSE

51  
The Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives heard an authoritative declaration today concerning the Island of Guam. The talk of fortifying Guam and making it a great naval air base has provoked plenty of discussion, not only here but also away across the Pacific. It's a ticklish point at issue between the United States and Japan. There's a bill in Congress now authorizing the fortification of Guam. Does or does not the Navy intend to build a sea base there? The House Naval Affairs Committee, wanting an answer, summoned Assistant Secretary of the Navy Charles Edison. Today he appeared and made an official statement.

The fortification of Guam, said he, depends upon the way things go in the Pacific. He didn't mention Japan, but the island empire was vividly implied in his declaration. These were his words:-  
"It is impossible to look at the future and see whether or not there will be need for further development of Guam as an airplane base. But we hope that the future international situation will make it unnecessary."

So the idea is Guam will be fortified should our relations with Japan grow worse. Leaving it pretty much up to Tokyo.

PLANES FOLLOW DEFENSE

52

At noon today in Washington, the Military Affairs Committee of the United States Senate tramped over to the White House, and went into secret session with President Roosevelt. The conference concerned ~~these~~ those French purchases of war planes in the United States, with the French military mission getting help from the United States government. ~~President Roosevelt is said to have sent a letter to various government departments, recommending that official help be given to the mission from Paris in placing orders with American aviation factories.~~ The Committee has been investigating this and wants to know how far the plane purchase business links the United States with France, how far it entangles us with Europe and the peril of war. ~~They want to know about the presidential letter to various departments recommending help be given to the French in the purchase of planes. They'd like to see a copy of the letter.~~

Today's discourse at the White House was strictly secret, but we hear that the President told the Committee that the French purchase of military planes over here was okay - open and aboveboard. For the most part, the presidential discourse



concerned the grave state of affairs in Europe. The peril to world peace. One member of the Committee tells how the discussion seemed to him. "I got the impression," says he, "that the President was anxious to fill us up on what he considers the seriousness of the world situation; to tell us not in so many words, that we should apply ourselves to the work of strengthening our national defense - and cease inquiring into petty affairs."

The Committee has been interested in a ~~xi~~ letter the President is said to have sent to government departments recommending that they help the French in buying planes, a letter that does not seem to have been explained in today's presidential discourse. A Committee member said he had derived the impression that there was no official letter -- but merely an informal note sent from the White House. Another member declared that the President's statement gave a pretty good idea of what was in the letter - or the note. Here's the latest - the President announces that he told the Committee that no American military secrets have been disclosed to the French mission. All of this ties in with a declaration made in Paris today, a declaration concerning French plane purchases and presidential help. The Paris Air Minister told the Chamber of Deputies that the American sale of military planes to France is proof of American

friendship. The Air Minister summarized it in these words:-

"In helping France the United States is helping peace."

And he added: "We shall have good planes soon, thanks to

President Roosevelt."

54

RUSSIA

A possible alliance between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, <sup>T</sup> that's <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ headline ~~which is~~ derived from an article in a Moscow newspaper. The article is merely a reprint from a British publication yet it's considered mighty significant, <sup>It's</sup> ~~when~~ printed in the official Bolshevik Journal - PRAVDA.

The <sup>important</sup> ~~significant~~ passages are these: "The Soviet government intends to achieve agreement with all its neighbors, provided it is left alone. Soviet-German trade negotiations may possibly be concluded. It would be extraordinarily unreasonable to suppose that the present disagreement between Germany and the Soviet Union will remain an unalterable factor in international policy."

This is a sample of what the official Soviet <sup>+</sup> newspaper reprints from a British article - thereby raising rumors of a possible line-up of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

BELGIUM

There's political trouble in Belgium, popular demonstrations against a government nomination. It's merely a nomination to the Flemish Academy, merely learned and scholastic. But the candidate appointed is a man who was sentenced to death after the World War. He was a member of what was called the "Flanders Council", a group which wanted the World War Germans to divide Belgium. The nomination <sup>has</sup> provoked ~~z~~ stormy demonstrations by Belgian war veterans, and tonight a couple of thousand military police are guarding the parliamentary buildings in Brussels. The latest is that the Belgian Premier, defending the much-attacked appointment, got a vote of confidence in the Brussels Parliament.

CHAMBERLAIN

The business of statecraft by an exchange of speeches keeps going on. A few days ago Prime Minister Chamberlain made an address, ~~and~~ pointed in the direction of Germany. Yesterday, Hitler delivered an oration on international<sup>al</sup> affairs, and today once more Prime Minister Chamberlain speaks up with several declarations. These were made in the course of the House of Commons debate today, with Chamberlain replying to bitter criticisms ~~of~~ by

56  
the opposition. *The Prime Minister virtually offers Hitler a deal. He proposes,*

~~The highlight was a call for~~ disarmament and a world conference. ~~The Prime Minister said the nations should~~

~~get together and~~ stop the madcap armament race, everybody trying

to pile up more weapons than everybody else. ~~He thought it might~~

*and call)*

~~be time for~~ a general conference of the great powers to work out

~~some~~ some agreement for peace.

*If this is done sincerely then Britain will consider Germany's colonial demands.*

Chamberlain seemed much inclined to take Hitler's

speech of yesterday as definitely encouraging. He told the

Commons that he regards it as an indication of peace. "I very

definitely got the impression," said he, "that it was not the

speech of a man who is preparing to throw Europe into another

crisis. There are many passages in the speech," he continued, "which indicated the necessity of peace for Germany."

Then Chamberlain passed <sup>from</sup> ~~to~~ Hitler <sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ Mussolini, telling about the result of his conference with the Duce in Rome. And there again he found cause for encouragement. "Signor Mussolini," said he, "made it clear that the policy of Italy is one of peace, and he will gladly use his influence in favor of it any time the necessity arises."

Chamberlain confirmed what we've been hearing that Mussolini said there would be no Italian settlement with France until the Spanish Civil War is over. And the Prime Minister repeated that he had Mussolini's word that Italy wanted nothing territorial in Spain. He said that Italian Foreign Minister Ciano assured British Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax in these words:- "Italy has no territorial ambition regarding any portion of Spanish territory." <sup>So</sup> said Ciano to Halifax.

AUTO UNION

Here's a fine touch of melodrama - a conspiracy for Henry Ford to get control of the Auto Workers' Union. Such was the charge placed today before the National Labor Relations Board at Detroit. It's all a part of the split in the U.A.W., with the faction opposed to President Homer Martin making a whole series of accusations. They charge that Martin has been secretly negotiating with officials of the Ford Motor Company, - keeping these negotiations hidden from the Auto Union. Ford to accept and support the Union - the Ford <sup>motor</sup> Company ~~also~~ to dominate the Auto Workers' Union. Such was the purpose of the secret negotiations, so says the <sup>anti-Martin faction,</sup> ~~accusation.~~

DANCER

58 1/2

Today at Detroit, the majesty of the law undertook to answer the following question:- "What is the difference between a nudist and a milk-bath dancer?" The majesty of the law got into that perplexity because of a suit entered by Zorine, who is professionally a nudist. Zorine had a contract with her manager which provided that he promote no nudist but Zorine. Soon after, the manager undertook to sponsor Miss Dorothy Henry, a milk-bath dancer, whereupon Zorine sued, claiming that a milk-bath dancer was nothing but a nudist.

59

<sup>What</sup>  
~~But what~~ is a milk-bath dancer? That question today was answered by the majesty of the law. Judge Charles Rubiner handed down this judicial opinion:- "Miss Henry's dance," said he, "consists chiefly of posing on a platform while a circle of jets emit streams of liquid on her, giving the effect of a milk shower-bath. During the bath garments are shed." It sounds something like the milky way tangled up with the Planet Venus.

59 1/4

So today the majesty of the law gave this decision - there's no difference between a nudist and a milk-bath-dancer.