

L.T. - SUNOCO - TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Sometimes in the news of the day, we find - the personality of the day. That's the case this evening, in a curious and dramatic way. So, I thought I'd get in touch with him -- the personality of the day. I put in a call to Lincoln, Nebraska, and talked to him -- Senator George Norris. We chatted about his long career, in which he has gained such formidable distinction for insurgency, the irrepressible insurgent.

"Senator Norris," across two thousand miles of wire, I asked "when did you first begin kicking over the traces?"

And he told me of the first time he as a Republican voted with the Democrats. It was in Nineteen Three, twenty-four years ago. The issue was completely unimportant - merely whether or not Congress should

48  
take the day off on Washington's birthday. In the lower House, the Democrats were in favor, saying it was patriotic honor to the Father of his country. The Republicans said "No", voted against it. And right then and there Congressman George Norris ~~became an insurgent for the first time, when he~~ bolted the party mandate, and voted with the Democrats.

"Why," I asked him on <sup>Long distance, "why</sup> ~~the phone,~~ did the Republicans oppose having a holiday on Washington's birthday?"

"Oh," he replied, "because a Democrat had made the motion."

He said he couldn't quite see the statesmanship of <sup>so that day he</sup> that, ~~so he~~ became an insurgent - and <sup>has</sup> ~~has~~ been one <sup>off and on</sup> ever since.

Today, that long insurgency came to a climax with two events in two places, one in Lincoln, Nebraska, the other in Washington.

In Nebraska the new unicameral legislature began its first session, a single legislative house, no upper house and lower house. This political idea is a thing for which Senator Norris battled long and hard, his pet project in Nebraska.

In Washington, our bi-cameral Congress began its first session on the new date, January instead of March -- as decreed in the Norris Lane Duck Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. And that's the veteran Senator's great national triumph.

One man altering government in both his state and the nation! Those two alterations going into effect on the same day! -- that's dramatic!

As for Nebraska, it began a drastic experiment in government today. There has been plenty of argument that upper legislative houses should be abolished - Houses of Lords, Senates, etc. Now Nebraska has gone and done it. Tonight it stands as the only state in the Union that has a unicameral legislature. History made today.

"Uncle George" -- Senator Norris -- himself today opened that single house, which will do all the Nebraska law-making. Its members are chosen by non-partisan election - to avoid party politics. There are only forty-three members now. Nebraska used to have a hundred Representatives and thirty-three state Senators.

The forty-three legislators met today in a room big

enough to seat one hundred. The extra seats had not been taken out. Some members remarked that it wouldn't be wise to take out the extra seats, because the present experiment wouldn't last for more than a couple of years.

When I talked to Senator Norris today, he declared that in the old way of doing things, they had too many law-makers who in addition were under-paid. The salaries of the present legislators have been doubled, but they're only a third as many - so there's a saving of money.

"Do you think," I asked him, "that the unicameral idea that you now have in Nebraska will be applied to the government at Washington?"

"No," he responded, "I don't think so."

He added: that he himself would not be in favor of abolishing the U. S. Senate. So we don't have the phenomenon of a senator wanting to abolish the Senate, abolishing himself so to speak. That would be too much insurgency.

In Washington, Congress meeting for the first time on the new date, did the same old thing, it always does. Organization. Election of officers -- formalities. The President's

address will come tomorrow. And they say it will be a short one.

In the Senate there was a display of the fasces, that ancient Roman bundle of rods from which the word "Fascism" comes. Not that our own Senate is going in for the ideas of Mussolini, it isn't turning Fascist. The Roman symbol was used in Washington before the Duce and his black Shirt movement was ever heard of. It's just a learned and classical way of symbolizing - law and order.

In the lower House, a mace was brandished today. A mace is a ponderous war club, such as the knights of old used to swing. But in this case it's quite decorative, a cudgel

at the end of which is a silver globe with an eagle perched on it.

The mace <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ a medieval symbol of law and order. <sup>But -</sup> There's an old congressional tradition, according to which, if two members get into a fight, the others shout "Produce the mace!" The clerk of the House ~~XXXXXX~~ seizes the mace and comes running.

He puts the symbolical club with <sup>silver globe</sup> ~~spear~~ and eagle between the two battlers, and out of respect for the symbol they're supposed to stop fighting. If they don't, the clerk is required to crack them over the heads with it. But Clerk Trimble of the lower House says he has not yet had any occasion to smack anybody <sup>down</sup> with the <sup>globe</sup> ~~spear~~ and eagle.

The main <sup>thing</sup> ~~activity~~ around Congress today was a parade of pets. Nearly every law-maker seems to have a pet this year - a favorite idea, a pet bill, <sup>not bill - bill. 2000 bills have</sup> They vary from taking profits out of war to putting tied up shipping board vessels into use.

One Congressman has a project for training boy scouts. Another wants to have a duty put on bread leavened with yeast.

Congressman Kenney of New Jersey has his perennial project for a national lottery to finance the government and balance the

already been ~~introduced~~ posted.

52

budget by gambling. One bill provides that an American citizen who votes in a political election in a foreign country will lose his citizenship over here. Still another wants to decree that criminals shall be put on penal islands where they'll be forced to live pioneer lives - modern Daniel Boones, giving each other the Indian sign.

The one bill that will come immediately to the front for serious, swift action, is our old friend - Neutrality. Congress won't waste any time in plugging up the loophole which legally permits armament to be shipped to parties at civil war, while it puts an embargo on nations at war with each other.

Senators Robinson and Pitman today made positive declarations about that. (A neutrality amendment will be offered right off the bat tomorrow.)

ADD LEAD

(It's a race of legislation against shipment. Today the State Department issued another ~~permit~~ permit for the <sup>sending</sup> ~~shipment~~ of war material to Left Wing Spain -- because it had no legal power to refuse.) This consignment is scheduled as forty-seven airplanes, seven thousand rifles and machine guns, and quantities of ammunition. Four and a half million dollars' worth. Congress wants to legislate in time to stop that.

The race ~~between~~ is a still more acute affair in the case of the shipment which the State Department authorized some days ago -- the consignment of aircraft that started all the discussion. The ship with the aviation stuff aboard <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ trying to get out of <sup>the N.Y.</sup> harbor before <sup>the</sup> new law can stop it. Washington is acting in an attempt to keep it from getting away.

I had a phone call this afternoon from Douglas Williams, American correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph. He told me how heavily he <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ featuring this American-Spanish angle in his dispatches to his paper -- a sign of how important Europe regards our embargo policy in the present crisis.



EUROPE

Europe tonight gives us an interesting perplexity.

54  
Offhand the row between Hitler's Germany and the Spanish Left Wingers sounds most ominous. Berlin sent a three-day ultimatum saying: "Release the cargo of that ship of ours you seized and release the passenger -- or else." Historically, an ultimatum is a serious thing.

Today, the Spanish Left Wingers definitely turned down the ultimatum, said -- no. <sup>And -</sup> Turning down an ultimatum is a serious thing. <sup>π</sup> But let's look at the Nazi declaration a little more closely. It says that if the Spanish Left Wingers don't release cargo and passenger, why then the Germans will dispose of the two Spanish Left Wing ships that it has seized and turn them over to General Franco's rebels. "If you won't comply with our demand, we won't give you back your two ships." <sup>'s</sup> That about the gist of it -- not such a hot ultimatum if that's all Germany intends to do.

One report is that <sup>it</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>is</sup> is all, just close out the whole affair by disposing of the two ships, <sup>and let it go at that.</sup> They say that the German military chiefs have persuaded Hitler to go easy with the Spanish business, draw in his horns, and draw out of ~~the whole affair~~

Spain,

From London we hear that the British government has asked Germany and Italy to hand in their replies by the end of the week--

replies saying what they intend to do about stopping their fighting-

ing men from going to Spain.

*His Majesty's ministers*  
~~That doesn't seem so drastic either.~~

*ask for haste, saying the question of*  
London doesn't appear to be so highly indignant about the landing

of Italian troops in Spain, just as Mussolini signed that treaty

with England. In fact, the British must have known it all the

time. Last week in this broadcast I told about that self-same

Italian ship <sup>*on its way*</sup> ~~bound~~ with several thousand men. ~~for Spain.~~

*However*

London today announces one piece of drastic action -- war-

ships ordered to Spanish waters to see that nobody fools around

with British merchant vessels. This follows the incident in

which a Spanish rebel craft fired on a British steamer. However,

General Franco has apologized for that, and besides Britain doesn't

seem so desperately hostile to Franco's regime.

Word from Europe isn't so dark and dangerous tonight.

5  
reign  
enters  
urgent,

POPE

*Also,*  
~~tonight~~

the reports are rather more optimistic about Pope Pius. They describe him as somewhat better. The earlier tydings were more gloomy, saying that the Pontiff <sup>had</sup> passed a bad night, a night of pain, and was developing signs of asthma. In his illness, the Pope continues his activities as best he can. Today, sitting up in bed, he held audiences - one with Cardinal Pacelli, the Papal Secretary of State.

56

We know by this time that a royal romance can have a lot of political meaning. The proud British Empire proved that. Now little Holland <sup>turns up</sup> ~~picks up~~ with some more of the same.

We hear today that the government of the Netherlands is willing to ease off ~~the latest~~ <sup>its</sup> international ~~disturbance~~ <sup>complication</sup> by playing a tune. "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

That's a concession to the indignation of the German Nazis, who didn't like the program for the wedding of the Princess Juliana to her German fiance. According to plans no Hitler swastikas were to be displayed, no Nazi music was to make melody.

The Netherlanders didn't want to antagonize people opposed to the Nazis. To this the Hitlerites shouted that it was an insult to Germany since the bridegroom was a German. The Netherlanders <sup>also</sup> didn't want to offend their powerful next-door neighbour, <sup>the realm</sup> ~~Germany~~ <sup>of the Reichsfuehrer.</sup>

~~Germany~~ <sup>A</sup> So they were left in a pickle. ~~So~~ They explained to Germany that the Nazi features were left out, because it was a modest sort of wedding, no grand affair of state. <sup>P</sup> Now they've gone further and agreed to play a couple of Hitlerite tunes.

One -- "Deutschland Uber Alles" the German National Anthem. The other -- <sup>The</sup> ~~Das~~ Horst Wessel <sup>Song</sup> ~~is~~ the anthem of the Nazis.

57

When they strike up the band at Julian's wedding by the windmills,  
these Swastika tunes will be played -- no loud and prolonged blaring --  
just a few mollifying Nazi notes

STRIKE

*Here at home —*

The auto strike is dragging on slowly. The union leaders are continuing their activities in getting more and more men to join the walkout. They say they're closing more General Motors plants. And <sup>they</sup> declare they'll tie up the giant auto corporation completely, a hundred percent strike.

The Federal Government becomes increasingly prominent in the trouble. Homer Martin, President of the Automobile Workers of America, announced today that it would cooperate with all Federal efforts to ~~an~~ arbitrate the dispute. Leaders of the auto workers believe it a sure thing that the government will have to arbitrate. Secretary of Labor, Miss Perkins, was at the White House today for a conference about the auto strike. She says she did not ask the President to take a personal hand in the situation, but added that ~~she thinks~~ if things got worse she'd make another trip to the White House.

58

HEADDRESS

Right now I'm conscious of two things in particular - the hair on my head and the comb in my pocket. I'm thinking how fortunate we men are, when we can just take a few licks with a comb through the hair. - and a bald headed man doesn't even have to do that. Suppose we were decorated with the surrealist type of hairdress. It seems that the ladies may be in for that sort of thing before long. That newer and crazier kind of art called surrealism is going places - it's going to the head.

58 1/2

For now we hear of surrealist headdresses for fashionable ladies. The idea is being sponsored by a New York department store. In the beauty parlor there, ladies get their hair fixed according to the art which goes in for fur lined tea cups. The headdresses consist apparently of flowers and symbols. The general idea seems to be romance. That's an eternal theme, which this year takes a special form of royal romance. We find the British constitutional crisis represented by a headdress named - "Woman of Love", recalling

59

~~Another surrealist headdress consists of a box of~~

the famous broadcast from Windsor Castle. The hair is fluffed up with a mass of gardenias, and a radio dial is set in the center. Another is designed to represent the Waldorf-Towers. <sup>with a picture of Oscar.</sup> Another to look like Rockefeller Center with a skating rink somewhere on m'lady's head I presume.

Another surrealist Marcel consists of a lot of flowers on the lady's head; in the middle of the flowers the face of a clock with the hands pointing to midnight. Projecting from this is a six inch spring. At the end of the spring is a heart, which waves above the lady's head in a kind of surrealist yoo hoo! This style of having your hair done is called "Love Springs at Midnight." -- 12 o'clock.

And this broadcast ends at 7 o'clock so,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.