

R.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1940.

BRITAIN

Advices from London are that Great Britain is going to reject the latest American protest. This is the Washington complaint about the length of time various American ships had been detained at Gibraltar, while the British naval authorities searched for possible contraband bound for Germany. Our State Department protests that American vessels are being held up much longer than Italian ships are.

Tonight's word is that the British government will reject this contention, and earlier in the day there was an unofficial statement made by a spokesman for the London Foreign Office. He argued that



SHIPS

In London there was quick response to the Washington protest about the way American ships are being held up at Gibraltar, one complaint being that the British in searching American vessels, detain them longer than they do Italian ships. London makes haste to explain, ~~and~~ today's reply is unofficial - made by a spokesman for the British government.

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~~The contention is that~~ American vessels are being held up longer at Gibraltar than Italian, because of reasons which are described in these words - transitory and technical. The London spokesman declares that Mussolini's ships are detained only briefly, because of the way they cooperate with the British naval authorities, cooperate by giving assurances. Without going into technicalities, the Italians promise the British ~~the~~ to hold up anything that might seem to be contraband destined for Germany. So say the British, and they add that the Americans had ~~not~~ not been giving such cooperation and therefore the ships have been held up at Gibraltar and searched thoroughly.

There's a further angle - that Italian ships are normally carrying simple cargoes of a few things in large bulk, while the American vessels carry much more varied and miscellaneous

Topping it all, London claims there's an organized attempt in the U.S.A. to get contraband thru to Germany.

PURCHASES

A committee has been appointed to deal with Allied purchases of war materials in the United States. It's headed by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. Through this Committee, the government will study the amount of orders placed by Great Britain and France for armament - especially war planes.

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This comes after plenty of discussion of the fact that Great Britain is drastically cutting down the merchandise she is buying from the United States, tobacco especially. Britain has decided to buy no more tobacco over here, but get it from her ally, Turkey. And British cotton purchases are being curtailed, and the same with other commodities like foodstuffs.

All of this - because what the Allies want from us chiefly, is war material, especially military aircraft. This business is now to be supervised by the new committee, and one of its purposes will be to see that Allied war orders over here do not conflict with the needs of our own Army and Navy. For example, the Allied buying of military aircraft must not deprive our own ~~ARMY AND NAVY~~ armed forces of airplanes which they may need.

There may be another cut in the money to be appropriated for the Navy. This was stated today by Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee, <sup>which</sup> ~~The Committee~~ has already made a cut of five hundred million dollars, <sup>and</sup> the Chairman <sup>declared there</sup> ~~said today~~ ~~that it~~ <sup>another</sup> ~~may be slashed still further.~~ <sup>It</sup> The original figure named in the President's budget was one billion, three hundred million dollars. ~~xxxxxxpresent figures~~ Five hundred million taken from that, leaves eight hundred million ~~dollars~~ - the present figure. This is calculated to pay for a three-year building program by the Navy.

The further possible cut would be for the purpose of bringing the money down to the amount needed for a two-year building program. ~~The Chairman said the Committee had instructed~~ Admiral Robinson, Chief of Naval Engineering, to ~~submit estimates~~ of how much new construction the Navy could do in a period of two years.

BUDGET

The idea of balancing the budget was sponsored today by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. He appeared before a House sub-committee on appropriations, and was asked, "Do you think a balanced budget would be a good thing for the country?"

"Yes, sir, I certainly do," replied the Secretary.

"I think it would be very healthy." Asked how it could be done, he gave a reply which was not at all surprising - "cut down expenses and raise taxes."

What about the public debt? Secretary Morgenthau advocated the raising of the present public debt limit. Congressional law at present forbids the debt to be more than forty-five billion dollars. The Secretary thought it should be raised to fifty billion. That, in his opinion, would not cause any danger of inflation. But if the public debt went above fifty billion - that was something else. The Secretary said he would not venture an opinion.

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DIES

The Dies Committee is going to continue its investigation of Un-American activities. This was voted in Congress today.

The Legislators of the lower House decreed the Committee should continue its work for another year.

This was preceded by a lot of angry debate, with several Congressmen denouncing the Dies Committee in bitter terms - saying ~~the Committee~~<sup>it</sup> had been out to smear sundry public figures as Communists. Other legislators rallied to the defense, just as warmly. The gist of their contention was that they liked the Dies Committee for the enemies it had made - the radicals who have been denouncing the doing<sup>s</sup> of Dies.

BROWDER

Earl Browder today filed his notice of appeal and his contention is that the four year sentence imposed upon him was:-  
"Excessive and illegal." He cites eleven points in the trial in which he was found guilty of passport frauds, and each point, says he, is sufficient reason for a new trial.

Meanwhile there's indignation in Washington because of what Browder said last night. The convicted Chief of the Communist Party addressed a New York mass meeting staged in honor of <sup>Lenin,</sup> ~~Bannon~~ the Communist Saint. Browder denounced President Roosevelt's New Deal which he said accepted ~~the~~ Communist support and now is using him as a whipping <sup>boy.</sup> ~~board.~~ That statement by the Number One Bolshevik ~~wi~~ has evoked plenty of angry comment in government circles.



FINLAND

In Finland, <sup>the</sup> war is blasting against the Mannerheim Line, with the Soviet army making heavy and repeated assaults. The Finns claim they're beating back all attacks - in what is described as a Red army attempt to storm the Finnish stronghold <sup>by</sup> ~~of~~ overwhelming assaults.

The Finns charge that Soviet Planes today attacked parties of civilian refugees. Wanton killing.

## KILTS

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There has been a report in the news that the Scottish regiments in the war are not wearing kilts. They're in ordinary uniform - good-bye to the picturesque plaid kilts of the Highlanders. In Great Britain, where those skirts the Scots wear are a national tradition, the question has been raised - Why have kilts been banned at the warfront?

Today the answer was given by the Right Honorable Oliver Stanley, Secretary of War. I will quote his words telling why the kilts were abolished:- "For technical reasons," says he, "largely connected with the possible use of gas by the enemy." Yes, the Highlanders' knees might get gased.

MINERS

Declarations about the presidential campaign were made today at the Golden Jubilee Convention of the United Mine Workers of America. That's a powerful C.I.O. union, of which John L. Lewis is President. Meeting at Columbus, Ohio, the mine workers took a fling at two Democratic possibilities. It's not surprising that one of them is Vice-President Garner - C.I.O. John Lewis has previously attacked the Vice-President in bitter terms. <sup>Raid</sup> ~~So~~ there was an <sup>other</sup> anti-Garner blast today.

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The other Democratic possibility under fire was the Federal Security Administrator, Paul V. McNutt. Earlier in the day, John L. Lewis denounced McNutt, calling him a political adventurer, who had opposed the cause of labor in an Indiana strike situation some years back, when McNutt was the Indiana Governor. ~~And later on other C.I.O. speakers attacked McNutt.~~  
~~So the C.I.O. is on record with reference to two possible Democratic candidates.~~

## SUICIDE

Here's one of those stories that sound like the biggest lies in the world. But it comes in the news - in full detail. In New York, Salvatore Morrione was tired of it all and decided to end it. He went down into the basement of the building where he lived, put a pistol to his head and pulled the trigger. The shot rang out, but Morrione didn't feel anything. He thought that was odd, and pulled the trigger again - the same thing happened. He examined the gun to see what was wrong. Nothing, apparently. So for a third time he put the pistol to his head, and fired. Once more he heard the shot, <sup>but</sup> ~~he~~ didn't feel a thing. He threw away the gun in disgust and walked up the stairs to his second floor flat. There his family saw that he was bleeding and called an ambulance.

The hospital report shows that all three bullets penetrated Morrione's skull and brain. One was lodged at the base of the brain, the other two - back of the right eye. Hemorrhage, concussion and a fracture of the skull. Morrione kept on insisting to the doctors that he felt nothing. The amazed surgeons started to get ready for a complicated operation,

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while the equally astonished police put Morrione under arrest for the illegal possession of a gun.

Sounds like a fantastic whopper, but it's in the news - hospital report and all.

WEATHER

The misplaced Arctic Circle <sup>as we called it</sup> ~~that we heard about~~, the other evening released its full white intensity today. The North Pole weather in the south has come to a white climax, with heavy snowstorms throughout Dixieland, blizzards in the Gulf states from Texas to Florida. And that produced a strange sight of frosty palm trees, the southern palms a glistening white with snow and ice - like the <sup>pine, the</sup> spruce and the <sup>birch</sup> ~~poplar~~ of the Canadian <sup>north.</sup> ~~side.~~ Baton Rouge, capital of Louisiana, is proud of its

groves of tropical palm trees. They were a frigid icy sight today.

Typical of the misplaced Arctic Circle is Atlanta, Georgia, which this evening is tied up with snow. There are deep drifts, the streets banked high, ~~with snow.~~ And that's particularly tough on Atlanta, which has no equipment for digging out of the snow - such as northern cities have. Atlanta had never dreamed it would need snow plows to clear the streets; ~~nor <sup>are</sup> ~~any~~ individual motorists~~ ~~down there equipped for Arctic weather. Few have chains for their cars - to keep the cars from sliding on the ice. They say that Atlanta will be tied up by snow for several days at least.~~

<sup>far</sup>  
Just how south of the normal path the cold wave has swept,

is graphically indicated by the answer to the familiar question,

"What was the coldest city in the United States today?"

The answer is - "St. Joseph, Missouri." St. Joseph is about

half way between the Canadian border and the Gulf. And today *it had*

~~a~~ a temperature of eighteen below zero - the coldest spot

*in* ~~at~~ this ~~nation~~ *country.*

In the northeast, the frigid weather is still making

the people shiver. New England is asking the Navy for help.

Harbors are so badly locked by ice, that ships can't navigate

with supplies of fuel. And a good deal of New England depends

upon the fuel ships for warmth.

The Boston Chamber of Commerce declares - the need is vital. But officials of the Boston Navy Yard shake their heads dubiously. They doubt if they have any ships which would be of use in opening the ship lanes. That's because the ice is so thick, the

*freeze* ~~mass~~ in the harbors are so heavy.

All this shivery cold weather news, would seem to call for a contrast -- something about warm winds and balmy breezes. I couldn't find any such story in the news dispatches, so I brought someone along to the studio to tell us a tale of southern seas, waving palms and coral reefs. He's Sheridan Fahnestock, one of two brothers who do exploring and scientific investigation in the Equatorial island world of the Pacific.

Sheridan and Bruce Fahnestock are now ready to set sail on another voyage. Sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History, they're to make phonographic studies of the vanishing native music in the Melanesian archipelago. The last time they were out that way, they made observations recorded in a recently published book called "Stars to Windward." And now I've asked Sheridan Fahnestock to tell us something about warm blue skies and happy isles. So make it happy, Sheridan Fahnestock.

S.F.: All right, Lowell -- I'll tell you about the happiest man in the world. At least, Bruce and I thought he was. He sat on shore watching us as we dropped anchor in his lagoon at the Island of Malo Killi Killi in Melanesia. He was the only white man within



many a mile, and we were the only white men he had seen in months. He welcomed us ashore, and entertained us at dinner in his house -- which had no roof. The week before a hurricane had taken the roof right off, and he wasn't bothering to replace it. He was a cocoanut planter. The big wind had knocked all of his forth thousand cocoanut trees flat on the ground. His labor boys had run away and deserted him; cannibals lurked in the jungle not a mile distant. All he had left was a thin strip of beach, a couple of mongrel dogs, and some smoked pork and home-made beer -- with which to entertain us at dinner.

L.T.:      What did he have to be so happy about?

S.F.:      We asked him that. He grinned and said:- "You know, I've always spent every shilling on tickets in the Melbourne Sweepstakes. I've got some money left," he added, "and so I can go on buying sweepstake tickets. Some day -- I'll win."

D.T.      So that's what makes the happiest man in the world. Well, I hope that when you boys get back to that Melanesian island, of Malo Killi Killi you will find that the happy man has drawn a winning ticket in the Melbourne Sweeps.

They are having dynastic troubles in the principality of Sarawak, and the latest is the next Rajah of ~~the~~ Sarawak may be a woman.

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Sarawak is that utterly romantic realm in Borneo where for generations a Kingdom of Malays has been ruled by a royal line of British Rajahs -- a ruling family, founded by an English sailor named Brooke back in the past century. ~~And~~ He became the first Rajah Brooke. Since then his descendents always marrying in England have governed Sarawak.

~~The~~ present Rajah Brooke has no son to succeed him and his nephew has been the Crown Prince, the Rajah Muda, as they say in ~~Sarawak~~ Sarawak. But, now <sup>there</sup> has been a royal row. Rajah Brooke has disinherited his nephew, deposed him from the dignity of Rajah Muda. ~~It would appear that the nephew, is not quite the type to become the ruler of Sarawak. This was indicated today by the~~ <sup>Brooke</sup> Rajah's wife, who is called Ranee Brooke, ~~She~~ happens to be in the United States on a visit and she explained <sup>S</sup> as follows:-

"The three Rajahs that Sarawak has had in the last one hundred years ~~has~~ have been tough, hard fighting, hard drinking men," *says she.* Apparently, according to the Ranee you need to

be hard drinking to reign as Lord of Sarawak. Well, nearly

any Britisher in the Far East is required to ~~know~~ know how

*stinger and his chota peg.* to take his ~~today~~ <sup>^</sup> The Ranee has this to say about her nephew

whose name is Anthony. "Anthony ~~was~~ was not like that at all.

He has a thin voice and is effeminate." And not only that, ~~he~~

complains the Ranee, Anthony's marriage last November was

very ~~was~~ unsuitable", ~~says~~ she. The trouble, we are informed,

was that Rajah Muda Anthony wedded ~~an~~ an English girl

of not the proper social status. "His wife" says the Ranee

"could never be tolerated. She is just a nobody". No, for

a lady to be royal in Sarawak she must be <sup>a</sup> <sub>^</sub> somebody.

So whose to be the new Rajah Muda, who will succeed

as Rajah Brooke? The present Rajah has <sup>two</sup> a daughter, <sup>But one is</sup> ~~and she~~ <sup>nobody.</sup> married to a wrestler. <sup>Another</sup> <sup>^</sup> The <sup>other</sup> is the Countess of Inchcape. <sup>and</sup> She has a five year old son.

But, he is too young to become the Rajah Muda. So, maybe his

mother will take his place, until he grows up. If the present

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Rajah should die she might rule over Sarawak during her son's minority. ~~And, that principality in Borneo might have~~

~~for its sovereign~~ The Countess of Inchcape, <sup>is by no</sup> ~~She's by no~~

<sup>She is one of the premier somebodies of England;</sup>  
means a nobody, ~~but is quite up to Sarawak standards of~~

aristocracy.

And now for a premier  
somebody on the subject of  
motor fuel.

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