

C.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Feb. 15, 1940.

PRESIDENT

The great mystery of the presidential cruise is more
mystifying than ever ^{tonight.} ~~today.~~ President Roosevelt boarded the
U.S.S. TUSCALOOSA this afternoon, and the cruiser put out to sea -
steering south for an unknown destination.

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Before sailing, the President at his press conference,
made the ~~mystifying~~ mystification complete - by his silence,
by what he refused to say. He admitted that during the voyage
he would fish ^{occasionally - only} now and then ~~when~~ ^{he} cast ~~out~~ ^{out} a line to catch
a big one. That raised the question - ~~what~~ what would he
be doing most of the time? ~~He refrained from making any~~
^{TP The President} ~~He~~ refused to deny a rather startling report the
newspaper men laid before him - the rumor that while at sea
~~President Roosevelt~~ ^{he} might meet and confer with representatives
of foreign governments, Great Britain, France, Italy. That surmise
has been making the rounds, and today the President replied with
the negative phrase - "no comment."

On the other hand, it ~~was~~ was said that the presidential
commander of the Army and Navy would inspect American defenses in
the Caribbean - Panama Canal protection which is based on
Puerto Rico.

The President ~~Roosevelt~~ himself added still another report, a typical F.D.R. ~~whimsy~~ whimsy which merely crowns the secrecy.

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He said he had heard rumors that he might visit quite a number of islands, the Andamans, Celebes, the South Shetlands or the Cheruble group. Some of these islands, he smiled, won't be found on most maps. They're just joke islands - for whoever heard of the ~~South Shetlands or the~~ Cheruble archipelago.

The President mystified the newspapermen, and is mystifying the nation. Also - his own State Department. Today, officials at the State Department said they hadn't the slightest idea of why the President refused to deny the story that he might confer on the high seas with representatives of foreign governments - mystifying.

JAMES ROOSEVELT

Reports that there would be a James Roosevelt divorce materialized today. In a court at Los Angeles, the President's eldest son entered the suit, and the charge he made was - desertion. The legal language of the complaint ^{reads} ~~looks~~ like this:-
"More than one year before the commencement of this action," it says, "defendant wilfully and without cause deserted and abandoned this defendant - and ever since that time has wilfully continued and still continues to desert and abandon and to live separately and apart from the plaintiff." Later the complaint makes this statement:-
"The date of the separation was on or about November theFirst, Nineteen Thirty-Eight."

James Roosevelt's divorce suit, filed at Hollywood, evokes a statement by his wife, who lives in the east. She says that she too will sue for divorce - on her own account. Her statement goes this way:- "I now confirm that my husband and I have separated, and that he has brought an action against me in California for divorce. In due course," she continues, "I shall answer his complaint and myself seek a decree of divorce."

Mrs. James Roosevelt adds that she will have ^{the} custody of their two

children - Sara Delano, nine years old, and Kate, four years old.

It was back in June, NineteenThirty, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was Governor of New York State, that his son James married Betty Cushman, daughter of a physician of ^{worldwide} note - Dr. Harvey Cushing, the brain specialist. During the ten years that have intervened, the young husband's father has become President of the United States. Son James himself made his mark in the insurance business, then became a secretary to the President, and now is a motion picture ^{executive} ~~producer~~ in Hollywood. For some time it has been known that there was a matrimonial rift, and recently there have been stories that ^{Jimmy} ~~James Roosevelt~~ has found other romantic interests.

This is the third divorce ^{among the five children} ~~in the family of the~~

^{of the} President. ~~His daughter Anna divorced her first husband and is now the wife of a Seattle newspaper publisher. His son Elliott was divorced from his wife. And now, ^{Jimmy} ~~James Roosevelt~~ and the former Betty Cushing come to a severance of matrimony.~~

MORGAN

Here's news of a company applying for incorporation.

That

~~It~~ doesn't sound like much. - ~~But~~ wait! The firm is the House of

Morgan. It was announced today that J.P.Morgan and Company has applied to the New York State Banking authorities to incorporate as a trust company. This means, for one thing, that the House of Morgan is going out of the business of private banking, is changing over to

And

trust company activities. ~~That's~~ an important piece of financial

news. But for general interest, the striking point is - that the

House of Morgan is becoming a corporation. It has always been a

partnership, celebrated for ~~the association of the~~ Morgan partners.

those in the history of

No name is so celebrated ~~with reference to~~ corporations

~~as~~ ~~than~~ that of J.P.Morgan. The firm achieved worldwide fame and power

as a leader in

as a dealer in corporate securities, ~~and~~ the development of the

and

corporation system of American business, ~~in~~ its control over the

destinies of mighty corporations. Yet the House of Morgan always

clung to that old-fashioned system of business - partnership. The

elder J.P.Morgan began the method of associating singularly able

roll

men with himself - as partners. The ~~role~~ of these includes one famous

name after another, names made famous as Morgan partners - H.P.Davison,

Thomas Lamont, Dwight Morrow, and a whole list of others. It wasn't too clear why Morgan Company clung to the archaic system of partnership - but there was something ingratiating and sympathetic about it - the old-fashioned way.

But now, that famous House is changing, and it seems strange - strange to talk of J.P.Morgan & Company, Incorporated. In explanation I am told that it's part of the universal trend, that in Europe nearly all the famous partnerships of old have now become incorporated. So hereafter we'll hear no more of Morgan partners. The ~~British~~ present partners will become vice-presidents of the new corporation, the new trust company.

DIES

Chairman Dies announced today that Father Coughlin has asked permission to testify before the Dies Committee investigating Un-American activities. The ~~xxx~~ Detroit radio priest wants to give testimony concerning such matters as the Christian Front.

Will Father Coughlin appear before the Committee?

Chairman Dies said today that the question is one for the Committee itself to decide.

Then he added this statement:- "For myself," said he, "I believe that anyone who preaches racial, religious or class hatred is un-American." And to this he added the opinion that the Committee should confine its investigation to what he called - "organizations which have a foreign tie-up." *So Father Coughlin may or may not appear,*

In Dies Committee affairs, Hollywood takes a headline place today - motion pictures. This comes with the declaration by the Chairman that the movie people, somehow or other, have got hold of a report on Hollywood made by Dies ~~Committee~~ investigators. There has been a lot of talk about Communist influences in the Hollywood flicker industry. The Dies Committee had its investigators

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go to work. The report, Chairman Dies said today, was strictly confidential and secret - a copy being handed to each member of the Committee. Nevertheless, he adds, the report leaked out, and the motion picture people have a copy of it, a copy which has been mimeographed and passed around among ^{movie}~~motion picture~~ big-shots.

^P Chairman Dies makes the statement that his Committee is going right ahead on the Hollywood angle, and will hold hearings on the West Coast case. He continues with the detail that between now and election time, all the Dies Committee hearings will be secret, not public. He explains that public hearings might cause the complaint that they were intended to influence the election. That protest was made about Dies Committee doings before the elections two years ago.

WIENER

There's another conviction in the affairs of Communists
~~in~~ regarding United States passports. Late this afternoon the
jury returned a verdict of guilty in the case of Robert William
Wiener, financial secretary of the American ^{Reds,} ~~Communists~~. He was
accused of taking out a passport by fraud, false statements,
somewhat as in the case of Communist chieftain Earl Browder -
who is under a sentence of four years. The next thing is for
the judge to pass sentence ^{on Wiener.} ^{offense} ~~The ~~offense~~ calls for a maximum~~
~~penalty of five years in prison and a two thousand dollar fine.~~
~~The big Red financial man may get that much or less.~~

FINLAND

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The Finns today report that the Mannerheim Line is holding fast - against continued Soviet attacks. The Finns admit that in the Summa section, terrific Red army assaults in the past few days gained about a mile. The Mannerheim Line has a depth of ten miles. The heaviest pressure of the attack has shifted from that Summa area, says Helsinki, has switched to a couple of other Mannerheim ~~areas~~ *sectors*.

Tonight's communique tells of thrusts repelled here and there. Ferocious and incessant attacks, with the Finns holding their ground, so says Helsinki.

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TURKEY

Russian technicians ordered out of Turkey - that might have an international aspect. But really it's more of a human story than anything else. ^π The Stalin Government has ordered home a group of between forty and fifty Soviet technicians who have been working in Turkey, - "return to Moscow!" , is the command.

But the Soviet technicians refuse to go. ^π To the idea of returning to the Communist Utopia, they firmly shake their heads.

They much prefer Turkey - or any place. ^π They were sent several years ago to run a big textile plant for the Turks, and they've been there ever since, representing the skill of Soviet industry,

a Soviet element within Turkey. (Turkey now leans away from the

Soviets and toward the Allies, and ~~is~~ it's because of this

estrangement that Stalin decided to pull out his textile ^{experts} ~~technicians~~.

But the ~~textile~~ technicians won't be pulled out. ^π

That creates something of a problem, ~~with~~ Moscow ^{is}.

considering the idea of asking the Turks to expel the technicians

and make them go back to Utopia. A sad prospect for the ^{textile}

^{wizards,} ~~technicians~~ The Turks, however, are reported to be saying it's

none of their business - it's an affair between the Soviets and the textile engineers themselves.

FREIGHTER

Today off Honolulu a ship steamed back and forth. The Captain was not on the bridge. He was in the boiler room, with his eye on the steam gauge. How was the coal burning in the ship's furnaces? That was the ~~predominant~~ question, ~~in the skipper's mind.~~

He was Captain Gerasmios Panas of the Greek freighter Cristos Marketos. That same Captain Panas who put into Honolulu bought some coal from the United States Navy Yard there and then let out a loud holler in the most ^{resonant} ~~resistent~~ Greek. The coal cost him twenty-five dollars a ton, which Captain Panas said was an awful price. And then it wouldn't burn. He claimed the coal was so full of sand that it didn't burn well enough to fry an egg.

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That caused some astonishment, and brought retorts from the United States Navy authorities, at Honolulu. They declared they'd been navigating naval ships with that same ^{sand-coal I mean.} ~~coal, which the~~ Greek said wouldn't burn.

To prove their point the Navy authorities sent to the Greek freighter a crew of their own Samoan firemen who are guaranteed to make most anything burn. They went to show the Greek fireman how to make the coal take fire and get up steam. So that's why the

ship was cruising back and forth today. -- The Samoan firemen^{were} showing
Captain ~~Panas~~ ^{Jerasmios Panas of the Cristos Markellos} that he could navigate on the fuel the Navy sold

him -- at twenty-five dollars a ton. The Greek skipper studied
the steam gauges, and when it was all over he conceded -- yes

maybe that coal would carry him to the next port -- ~~which is~~ ⁱⁿ Japan.

MURDERS

Today state police in the mountains of western Pennsylvania, battled their way through snowdrifts to reach a remote farmhouse. They were bringing aid to an injured woman, a woman wounded by shotgun fire. They were also checking up on a fantastic tale of violence and killing, a story of how ^{the} wounded woman had been compelled by a man - to shoot him.

Farmer Ralph Caldwell employed a farmhand named Glenn Plants. Last week, for some reason or other, the farmer discharged the farmhand, who thereupon declared he'd get even. It turned into one of those hill country feuds. Last night, the Caldwells, husband and wife, were in their kitchen. Suddenly, at a kitchen window, appeared the feuding farmhand. He had a shotgun, and was aiming it through the window. The wife sought to shield her husband, tried to throw herself in front of him, as the shotgun blasted. The husband fell to the floor, killed. The wife was wounded in the arms from the spray of shot. Thereupon, the killer forced his way into the house ^{where} and the most fantastic part of it all occurred. The killer forced a sixteen year old boy who worked on the farm, forced him to witness what happened. He forced the widow of the man he had

just slain to shoot him - she with her wounded and bleeding arms. He put the muzzle of the shotgun against his ^{own} chest, holding the gun out, and ~~he~~ told her to pull the trigger. She did, the gun roared, and the killer fell, the life blasted out of him.

Then the woman, suffering from her painful injuries, took her two small children, and with the boy farm worker they started out through the snowy night, bound for the nearest neighbor's house, ~~It was~~ seven miles away. They trudged and toiled through blizzard and deep snow. When they reached the neighbor's house, ^{the neighbor} ~~he~~ got to the telephone and called the state troopers. ^(and) ~~So~~ today they battled their way to the scene, and then began the still harder task of getting the wounded woman to a hospital.)

HORSES

A madcap sort of story was revealed today by an indictment handed down at Los Angeles. It tells of an extortion scheme, with the blackmailer trying to get back money he ^{had} lost on [^] the horses.

At Hollywood, Neil McCarthy, is prominent in racetrack affairs. He's a prosperous lawyer, who races thoroughbreds, has a stable of them. Horse Owner McCarthy got several letters from a man who signed himself as Nixon. This Nixon related that he had been betting on the McCarthy horses, and had lost. The way the McCarthy thoroughbreds had been running, he complained, had ~~caused him to~~ caused him to lose some five thousand dollars. But, he added, he really never lost money on the races. Because, when he did, it was his custom to make the owners of the losing horses reimburse him for the cash he had dropped. If they refused, he ~~simply~~ poisoned their horses. He did it with what he called "poison darts." And he went on to tell of cases in which he had destroyed valuable thoroughbreds with his poison darts.

Having made these explanations, the writer asked

58 1/2 Horse Owner McCarthy ~~ask~~ for the five thousand dollars that betting

on the McCarthy horses had cost him. If the money were not forthcoming, calamity would befall the McCarthy racing stable, thoroughbreds killed by the poison darts.

The Hollywood sportsman took the weird extortion plot to the police, and the usual trap was laid. Horse Owner McCarthy met the blackmailer, and they sat down for a talk. (They were discussing the money the extortionist declared he had lost, the menace of the poison darts, and the payment of five thousand dollars - when) detectives stepped in and made the arrest.

Today a grand jury indicted the horse-better who claimed to have ~~an~~ a new answer for the old question of how not to lose on the races. *Extraordinary!*

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