

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, May 13, 1938.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

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No guns for the Spanish Left Wingers - that was the decision in two separate places today, Washington and Geneva.

No American guns for Barcelona - decreed the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, as it voted on the Nye Resolution to lift the arms embargo and let American war materials be shipped to the Left Wing side in Spain. The Committee acted on the direct initiative of the administration. Secretary Hull conferred with President Roosevelt, and then he sent a communication to the Foreign Relations Committee in which he stated his opposition to any change in our ^{neutrality policy} ~~arms embargo~~ towards Spain. Secretary Hull ~~then~~ pointed out that the Nye Resolution would lift the embargo on Left Wingers, but would keep it clamped on against the Franco armies - decidedly one-sided. He declared, moreover, that he ^{would} ~~be~~ be opposed likewise to a two-sided lifting of the embargo, letting American war materials go to both factions. The Secretary ~~stated~~ said that might involve us ^{the} in dangerous complications that are still inherent in the Spanish situation.

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- The Committee took the cue and voted against the Nye Resolution. The vote was overwhelming - seventeen to one.

If the resolution had by any chance been adopted, it might indeed have put us in opposition to the general policy in Europe - especially after the action of the Council of the League of Nations today. The Council turned down the plea made by the representative of the Barcelona government - the plea that the non-intervention agreement be lifted. The Spaniards argued that the non-intervention embargo was bearing down only on the Left Wing side, while the Italians and Germans were notoriously helping Franco. That's a good deal like the argument for the Nye Resolution over here - that our embargo really affects only the Barcelona side, since Franco is getting all the war supplies he wants.

The Council of the League acted under the guidance of Great Britain and France, ^{who} ~~they~~ opposed the Barcelona plea. Only Spain and Russia voted for it. The Geneva attitude seems to be that the Spanish trouble will soon be settled by a Franco victory, and they refuse to back the loser.

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FOREIGN RELATIONS - 3

Yesterday the League turned down Haile Selassie and Ethiopia. Today - Left Wing Spain. They seem to have no time for losers.

SPAIN

In a late dispatch the Franco forces announce they've sprung a great trap, closing the last door of escape for a ~~group~~^{large} force of Left Wing troops. All this hinges on the fact that in their drive to the sea and their push southward along the coast, the Rebels left a ~~great~~^{huge} bulge in their line. Rugged and difficult mountain country, easy to defend, so they had ~~to fight~~^{to fight} hard to straighten out that salient. They claim now ~~that~~ they've pinched off the bulge, ~~and~~ thereby trapping and surrounding ~~a large force of~~^{the} defenders. The Franco claim tonight is that the Rebels now have a straight line from the battered city of Teruel to the sea -- and ^{are} ready for a fast push against Valencia.

HENLEIN

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The visit of the Czechoslovak Hitler to London has evoked an interesting rumor. Konrad Henlein, chief of the Sudeten Germans, is in the British capital conferring with all sorts of British political leaders and government big-wigs - including *- arch enemy of Nazism.* Winston Churchill, ~~He is~~ trying to get them to see his Sudeten point of view and enlist British help for the three and a half million Germans in Czechoslovakia.

The beguiling rumor states that Henlein's visit to London is not entirely according to Hitler. The Czechoslovak Fuehrer is said to be assuring the British leaders that the Sudeten Germans do not want to be ~~even~~ turned over to Nazi Germany at all. They want autonomy, self-rule and lots of it - but within the framework of the Czechoslovak state. Oddly enough, just yesterday, I heard something along those lines from Ex-President Hoover. He visited Czechoslovakia and talked with many Sudetens and their leaders. And from them he got the impression that they didn't want to come under the stern rule of Nazi Berlin any more than they wanted to be dominated by the Czechoslovakian government. Self-rule, freedom - is what they want.

The London rumor, however, gives us quite a Sudeten twister. They say that Henlein is wondering - if Nazi Germany took over the Sudeten Germans, what would become of him? Where would he land - the Czechoslovak Hitler? Wouldn't he be completely eclipsed by the big Hitler? Henlein is reported to have in mind the case of Dr. Seyss-Inquart who was the Austrian Hitler and in fact turned Austria over to his enlarged German counterpart. With the result - that Seyss-Inquart was promptly relegated to the decorative but quite unimportant post of Governor-General of Austria - where he's an ornamental nobody. Instead of being a big frog in a little pond, he's a mere tadpole in the ocean. Henlein doesn't want to be tadpoled in that fashion. So he's telling the statesmen in London that the Sudeten Germans don't want to bring about the downfall of the Czechoslovak state, *— they're against being turned into another* ~~don't want to be seized by Nazi Germany.~~ *Austria.* They just want autonomy and self-government - with Henlein as their Hitler.

~~I don't know how much truth there is in this, but it may be one of those illuminating glimpses behind the scenes, inside the facade.~~

REFUGEES

Today on one ship alone three hundred Jewish refugees arrived from Germany. The United States liner MANHATTAN brought them. They are lawyers, doctors and business men - refugees from anti-Semitic pressure in Hitlerland.

And so the stream of Jewish refugees comes to our shores. About a thousand have arrived in the past three weeks - a prompt result of the Roosevelt plan to give welcome to oppressed minorities.

Today, the President asked Congress to appropriate seventy-two thousand five hundred dollars, to be spent in the move to bring ^{more} ~~the~~ refugees - the money to be used during the remainder of the Nineteen Thirty-Eight fiscal year.

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Congress having passed the billion dollar spending and lending bill last night -- the Senate passed the big Navy Bill today. Now it goes to the White House for the Presidential signature. The last move of the opposition in the Senate was to start an attack on one provision of the bill -- a clause that puts it up to the President to decide whether or not the Navy should build those forty-five thousand ton super-giants. The opposition lost out on that final point. So, the bill the President will sign leaves it for him to say whether or not we shall have the forty-five thousand ton monsters.

MANEUVRES

Well, the enemy has been bombing Hartford, Bridgeport
and New Haven, Connecticut, ^{New York and} and the Newark-airport^s ^{today.} The hostile
black fleet ~~has~~ landed forces at Norfolk and Newport News,
Virginia, and established an air base at Kitty Hawk, North
Carolina. Nice of those ^{fictitious} enemies of ours to pick out Kitty Hawk -
where the Wright brothers flew the first airplane.

All of that sounds pretty ominous, but I'm just giving
you the bad news first, and the good news last - for ^{there is} a happy
ending. The Army Air Corps is winning the battle. The sky
defense of our Atlantic coast is successful, in spite of a few
places getting hit here and there, ^{a few bombs on our heads.} Our sky fighters have shot
down five hundred enemy planes, and destroyed two aircraft
carriers - as the great flying fortresses struck the black fleet
with disastrous blows. On our side we've lost only a hundred and
seventeen planes, less than one-fourth of our sky forces in
the fight.

I don't quite know how the technicians of the Air Corps
arrive at these complicated ~~xxx~~ strategies and conclusions,
but they have it down to a science - an esoteric science, and

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today they gave out the account of the mammoth air battle

that I've just related. America is safe!

New York
banged up. But is N-Y. America?

ROOSEVELT

The President today took a whack at - the inventories. Well, any harassed bookkeeper can tell you that the taking of inventory can be a burden and a trial for the bookkeeping soul. But the President meant inventories in the sense of stocks of goods on hand, an over-supply of goods which ought to be sold. He said some way should be found to prevent the piling up of inventories, accumulation of merchandise ^{they can't sell -} ~~that can't be sold~~ and he's looking for ways of doing it.

The President attacked the inventories as a prime cause of the present slump, and he placed a share of the blame on the price level. Prices should be lower, he thinks. All of which makes one wonder about the old law of supply and demand, according to which - when there's more than can be sold, prices go down.

Inventories
~~The inventory~~ should correct the price level.

What can be done about it? The President said he didn't quite know. The N.R.A. was mentioned and there were a few presidential words, kind and fondly for that one-time paragon of the New Deal. Anti-trust - seems to be the latest possibility.

The President said he thought the congressional study and investigation of the monopoly situation which he recommended to Congress might bring out useful information - might develop an idea which could be used to sweeten the discord between the inventories and the price level.

SURPLUS

Today the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation began an investigation of a state of surplus at Orangetown, New York -- super-surplus, surplus plus. People on relief getting so much of it they're begging for relief. The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation buys up surplus farm produce to keep farm prices from slipping too badly, and then it distributes the surplus as relief for the needy. The distribution, they say, happened to get concentrated on Orangetown, New York, and see what happened!

First of all -- oranges to Orangetown. The place-name derives from the Royal House of Orange and not the tropical citrus fruit, which doesn't grow in upstate New York. So the needy could have used a few oranges - but not so many. In a space of three weeks Orangetown received seventeen thousand five hundred pounds of the golden citrus fruit. That should figure more than fifty thousand oranges. The needy on relief ate oranges until they hated the name of their town. Boys started playing baseball with oranges, hitting squashy home runs.

The abundant fruit crop in New York State is apples. I know, because I'm a Dutchess County farmer, with an orchard

that produces tons of useless apples. So, Orangetown needed

no apples - but got them. Great shipments of ^{the over-produced} ~~apples arrived,~~

^{local- fruit arrived -}
for an up-to-date variation of coals to Newcastle.

One week Orangetown received nine thousand, four hundred pounds of beans, sent as a one month supply. Local Relief

Director Poole says he has been giving families on relief three times as much beans as they've been consuming. And ~~me~~ still he

^{Everybody playing bean-bag,}
has seventy-four ~~xx~~ bags in storage. [^] The relief families ~~are~~

howling for relief from beans.

The overabundance sent local farm prices into a severe slump - to the indignation of the local farmers. One week two thousand three hundred and ten dozen eggs arrived, and the local price of eggs dropped as much as twelve cents a dozen, -- to the chagrin of the local chicken farmers. Yet the main idea of the surplus buying was to keep farm prices from slipping.

All this draws a counter-blast from relief authorities in Albany, who deny that too much was sent and suggest the over-abundance was caused by a lack of storage facilities. Anyway, the surplus corporation in ~~xxxx~~ Washington is investing, and will find much chance to study its favorite subject of surpluses.

DEAN

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There's a mountain of meaning in the report from Lawrenceville, Georgia, that Frank S. Leavitt today qualified as a candidate for the state legislature - a man mountain of meaning. For Candidate Leavitt is mighty of paunch and haunch, weighing over three hundred pounds. He has a long beard, a most luxuriant crop of spinach. And he's a wrestler, In other words, Man Mountain Dean. ~~He's~~ ~~is~~ renowned as a ponderous comic in those grunting, groaning, slugging, bone busting bouts they politely call wrestling. (When Man Mountain Dean is in the ring, his corpulent tummy is an outstanding mark for an opponent to charge head on, butting like a goat. But) you should see him leap with both feet on a prostrate antagonist, descending on him like a mountain and jumping up and down.

The Man Mountain in Georgia politics - well, by George^{ia} Candidate for the legislature, Candidate Leavitt, a lot of Leavitt - a lot of levity.

MAYOR

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It seems that the bellicose affair of Sprague and Hague has fizzled out. It was a sensation indeed when across the wire came flashing the news that Mayor Sprague of Dallas, Texas, declared he would hand a punch in the nose to Mayor Hague of Jersey City, ~~New Jersey~~. Sprague punching Hague in the nose! - ~~that would give the public a fever, if not the ague.~~ It all had something to do with the Hague dictatorship in New Jersey, the suppression of free speech and especially the suppression of the two western congressmen who were going to make a Jersey City speech denouncing the Hague dictatorship but didn't. That seemed to offend the Sprague democracy at Dallas, Texas. Wherefore the story about nose-punching - Sprague ^{to} punches Hague.

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The immediate repercussions were from Jersey City, which idyllic community is not unfamiliar with the phenomenon called - a punch in the nose. The Jersey City dictator, who has sometimes been described as a hard-boiled egg, was reported ready for the fray, willing to slug it out, fist for fist, nose for nose. So the alternative suggested itself - that Hague might punch Sprague, in the nose.

Now, however, it's all denied, with the publication in Jersey of a telegram that Sprague sent to Hague. The telegram as quoted says: "The story regarding statements made by me was wholly unauthorized and far from the truth." Signed Sprague.

And in Dallas a Sprague statement is issued as follows:

"Of course I had no intention of taking a poke at him!"

~~So the Sprague fist will not make contact with the Hague nose or vice versa.~~

Love and kisses says Sprague
to Hague. & s-l-u-Monday.

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