

P.H. - Sunoco. Friday, April 14, 1939.

NEUTRALITY

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As for the war crisis, something of a war has broken out in this country, in Washington - a battle of words. (What the President had to say today in his Pan-American address has set off a verbal highjinks in the national capital.)

The presidential statements certainly were drastic. Pan-American Day being the occasion, President Roosevelt made a statement of policy <sup>that is</sup> a new departure with reference to the republics to the south of us. Declaring that this nation would protect all the countries of this hemisphere against aggression by the dictatorships, he specified economic aggression as well as military. He said that if any of the Latin-American nations found themselves under Nazi or Fascist economic pressure, the United States would protect them against that economic pressure - would respond with an economic counter-attack, giving economic help. We <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ fight totalitarian trade practices with some government trade practices of our own. And the President once more reaffirmed his guarantee to Canada - that we'd never stand by if Canada were attacked.

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✓  
( President Roosevelt propounded a philosophy, according to which the United States has a right to oppose dictatorship in the European countries.) He said that in a time warplanes will be able to raid across the Atlantic and bomb us, just as they can raid across the narrow seas in Europe. I don't know what aviation experts will say about Trans-Atlantic bombing flights, but the President used the idea to make the ~~main~~ point that we would soon be liable to dictatorial sky attacks <sup>--- just</sup> as European countries are right now. (So therefore, said he - we have a right to oppose totalitarianism as a doctrine and a practice in Europe.)

Without naming either Hitler or Mussolini, he denounced the Hitler contention that Great Britain was trying to encircle Germany. And the Mussolini notion about Italy being kept prisoner in the Mediterranean. He said that peaceful nations were neither encircled nor made prisoner.

Perhaps the most striking part of his speech came when he issued an implied invitation to the German and Italian people to get rid of dictatorships. These were the President's words:

"The truest defense of the peace of our hemisphere must always lie

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in the hope that our sister nations across the seas will break the bonds of the ideas which constrain them toward perpetual warfare."

That's the part which roused most of the verbal uprising in Congress. Senator Reynolds of North Carolina called it - meddling, meddling in other people's business. "Any statement," said he, "encouraging the citizens of nations of the world to overthrow their respective forms of government is advising the citizens to revolt and engage in a revolution." Then he asked what would happen if some foreign statesmen were to advise Americans to toss out their government - what would we think of that?

To this Senator Claude Pepper of Florida replied, *said the Senator,* defending the President: "He has made clear," that the American dream of domestic liberty, freedom and peace may furnish the world an inspiration."

*chimed in: -*  
Representative Voryas of Ohio *said,* "The thing that shocked me was the apparent invitation to people abroad to revolution - throw off ~~the~~ your masters - and the implication that

the United States should help.

Representative Hamilton Fish of New York declared himself this way: "President Roosevelt has not only no power to declare war, but he has no power to determine aggressor nations. Congress is still the final arbiter of war or peace - in spite of the war-mongering from the White House," *said he.*

Administration supporters rallied to the defense of the Presidential address, saying that the White House policy was calculated to prevent a war in Europe by letting the dictators ~~know that the United States would be against them. And the~~

*(The* controversy boils down to this:- one side saying "He's keeping us out of war." The other side retorting: "He's getting us into war."*)*

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FOREIGN

The war crisis piped down a good deal today, which is a relief after all the jittery alarms we've been having. In the democratic line-up against the Rome-Berlin Axis, eyes were on Soviet Russia today. (London is <sup>making determined moves to</sup> ~~reported to be negotiating with~~ ~~Stalin's diplomats in an effort to~~ get the U.S.S.R. into the "Stop-Hitler -- Stop-Mussolini" coalition.) Moscow has been mighty coy and wary about joining up, but the report now is that the Soviets are beginning to take the new, stern policies of Chamberlain and Daladier a bit more seriously. So we may find the Red army becoming part of the military force available <sup>Nazi-Fascist</sup> against the dictators.

Another European news focus is - Spain. London and Paris are much concerned about getting Mussolini's troops out of Franco's country. - They've been anxious about that, for quite a ~~while~~ while. There have been recent assurances that the Duce would draw his men out as soon as Franco has staged his victory parade in Madrid, but there has been plenty of skepticism all along about Mussolini's assurances. More skepticism than ever <sup>now</sup> with Great Britain and France presenting such a hostile front to

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Italy. Mussolini might very well say - if they're going to bear down on him, why should he accommodate them by <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ Spanish withdrawal? Diplomatic promises have been broken on less provocation.

One quieting and tranquilizing bit of news comes from London. Prime Minister Chamberlain has gone for his weekend in the country. ~~Those~~ Those British weekends are a sacred institution. It takes a lot to keep the Britisher from weekending. The Chamberlain departure from London is taken as a sign that no dangerous developments are expected within the next few days - else he'd stay on the job.

ROME

In Rome last night there were warlike precautions, and today the Duce's police haled a lot of people <sup>in</sup> to court - where they were properly punished.

Last evening at seven o'clock the Eternal City was suddenly and unexpectedly plunged into total darkness - a black-out, for practice of measures to be taken against air raids. The culprits who faced the Roman judge today were mostly young people, couples. What was their offense against Fascismo? When the lights went out in the air raid practice, and everything was in darkness, many couples in the streets took advantage of the darkness to ~~hug and kiss~~ and do a bit of spooning. Instead of doing their stern duty in the air raid precautions as Mussolini commanded - they grew sentimental in the warlike shadows. The Rome dispatch says that they were  <sup>spooning</sup> ~~making~~ love in doorways, taxicabs and buses. ~~A lot of them were noticed and arrested, and~~ today <sup>so many couples</sup> ~~they all~~ were fined each eleven Lire apiece - about fifty cents. <sup>It must have been worth that!</sup> ~~But it was probably worth it~~ - using the air raid black-out for romance!

They're ~~having~~ having another black-out in Rome tonight, the Eternal City in darkness right now - but this time I'll bet there's less  ~~spooning and~~ billing and cooing.

SENATOR

Illinois today appointed a Senator to succeed the late Senator J. Hamilton Lewis - with the Governor naming James Slattery, who has been Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission. He's a sixty year old Chicago Democrat, who has been in politics and political campaigns for years. However, he has never run for office, hasn't campaigned for his own election, hasn't declared himself publicly - so his political attitude is not generally known. As a Democrat, how does he stand toward the New Deal? We're told today that newly appointed Senator Slattery is - sympathetic. ~~It isn't said he's~~ <sup>Not</sup> an out-and-out New Dealer - just sympathetic.



FAIR

<sup>we</sup> They settled a bit of labor trouble at the New York World's Fair - trouble which threatened to tie up all work in the Hall of Nations. To the Netherlands exhibit the Dutch government shipped a highly complicated postal machine, with all sorts of elaborate mechanism. They shipped it in parts to be put together over here. They also sent half a dozen Holland mechanics to <sup>assemble</sup> ~~put~~ the contraption ~~together~~ - it <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ that intricate.

Whereupon the Millwright and Machinery Erectors Union objected, saying that foreign labor should not be employed at the Fair. American working men should set up the machine - there were full instructions for doing it. However, the instructions were in Dutch, and none of the Americans could read them. So that seemed to bring things to an insoluble dilemma.

Today, however, a compromise was reached, according to which members of the Millwright and Machinery Erectors Union are setting up the mechanism - while the imported Dutch women <sup>to stand</sup> ~~to~~

<sup>around and tell them how.</sup> ~~them how.~~ But those Netherlanders can't talk English. They're

saying it in Dutch, and an interpreter is provided to relay the instructions to those staunch American unionists.

## RANCH

There was a battle today on William Randolph Hearst's property down in Mexico. The newspaper magnate owns a huge ranch in the State of Chihuahua - nearly a milllion acres. There has been a lot of cattle stealing going on in those parts - bandits raiding the herds. Today the Chihuahua State police cornered a band of brigands on the Hearst ranch, and there was a battle with pistols and rifles. Two police officials are reported to have been killed - and two bandits. At last reports skirmishing was still going on among the hills.

FIRE

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New York had a fantastic sort of fire today - in one of those numerous tunnels that dive under the Big Town rivers. In the Long Island ~~St~~ Railroad tube under the East River, a work train caught fire about half a mile from the nearest entrance. Three cars blazed with clouds of acrid<sup>i</sup> smoke. The smoke filled the tunnel, so dense that the fumes seeped up into the Pennsylvania Railroad station. The firemen had to fight through it with gas masks on their faces, ~~and~~ and had to drag their hose lines for half a mile - which should be some sort of ~~unlike~~ record for a length of fire hose. Trains had to be rerouted to other tubes, while they put out the fire in the tunnel.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

There's to be a gay party in New York tonight, but nobody knows when it will start. It's the New York Press Photographer's annual ball, and it's scheduled to begin at seven o'clock this evening. But lo and behold -- along comes Lindberg. The Lone Eagle is returning home aboard a liner which docks at seven o'clock. And you can imagine <sup>that has</sup> what ~~is~~ done to the Press Photographer's Ball -- the coming of the one person whom the press desires most to photograph, and not always with so much success. So the men with the cameras will be flashing pictures as long as they can. Then on ~~in~~ with the dance.

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Hidden Wealth -  
~~FORGERY~~

Today, at Battle Creek, Michigan, a set of heirs decided they'd recommend an administrator to look after the estate of a shabbily dressed old lady who seemed beset by poverty.

Two weeks ago Mrs. Ethel Kaufman, seventy-three years old, rented

<sup>one of</sup>  
the most inexpensive of the rooms at the Battle Creek Sanitarium.

Presently she died - and then the hospital people began to find things. In the bedclothes they discovered bundles of cash, banknotes of large denomination. Under the bed there was more money hidden away - and quantities of valuable securities. When they counted up the cash it amounted to a hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars and the securities are expected to bring the total up to half a million.

Such is the estate left by the shabby old lady who hired the most inexpensive room - and seemed so poor. That sort of thing has happened again and again, but the hospital angle is something new.

MUMMY

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I read somewhere of a <sup>moody</sup> ~~moving~~ custom of the ancient Egyptians. When they made merry at a banquet table, a moment of hush would come. <sup>Q</sup> ~~when~~ a miniature ~~of a~~ mummy would be passed around from one to the other - reminding the revellers of time and mortality, <sup>—</sup> ~~sombre~~ reflection amid ~~the~~ gaiety. We were not Egyptians at the last luncheon of the New York Advertising Club, but just the same, a mummy was there. We were shown an exhibit <sup>that</sup> the General Electric Company is placing on display at the New York World's Fair - <sup>attended the luncheon,</sup> ~~it was~~ an Egyptian mummy <sup>which could be seen</sup> ~~in the ordinary way or by~~ <sup>and with it</sup> the special revelation of a fluoroscope machine. Turn on the fluoroscope ~~machine~~ and you <sup>can</sup> ~~could~~ look right through the mummy case and see what's inside. <sup>See right through</sup> ~~an~~ Egyptian gentleman named ~~Harwa~~ <sup>Lord Harwa.</sup> <sup>Egyptian Nobleman -</sup> The inscriptions show that this <sup>Harwa</sup> lived twenty-eight hundred years ago, nine hundred B.C., in the time of the ~~twenty-second~~ twenty-second dynasty. Those were <sup>days</sup> ~~the times~~ when Egypt was old and failing, coming to the end of its greatness. Harwa was the overseer of the grain ~~and the~~ storage buildings on an estate

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belonging to a temple - a temple of the god <sup>Ammon</sup> ~~Amendy~~ chief divinity  
of Egypt. Harwa <sup>was a secretary of Agriculture</sup> ~~looked after the grain~~ those twenty-eight hundred  
years ago, and <sup>then</sup> ~~his~~ spirit departed to the land of Isis and Osiris.-

~~and~~ Today he's a scientific wonder, revealed in his mummy case by  
the magic of ~~fluoroscope~~ the fluoroscope, Lord Harwa,  
2800 yrs. old, who died nearly a  
thousand years before Christ, and  
who sat with us at luncheon - and  
didn't dine - a reminder of time  
and mortality.

SWALLOWER

At San Diego, California, there has been a one-man protest against the current collegiate craze for swallowing all sorts of things, from goldfish to white mice. The rebuke itself has been collegiate - staged by Student Joseph Pranis. ~~He~~ <sup>he,</sup> Said <sup>^</sup> all that goldfish and mouse gulping was silly and dumb, if not goofy - not in the academic spirit of higher education. ~~So he protested~~  
~~against the current collegiate craze for swallowing all sorts of things~~ So he protested <sup>^</sup> by going on a hunger strike. They put funny things in their stomachs, so, he left everything out of his - which presumably was sage and s̄apient, entirely in accord with higher education. He thought by starving himself he could demonstrate to the student gulpers the folly of their ways.

His hunger strike lasted for three days - until today. He called it off because the gulpers went on gulping - all his starving didn't make any impression. Today he ate a square meal, and uttered <sup>e following</sup> ~~this~~ rebuke to college students:- "Their intellectual <sup>^</sup> horizon is draped in a decadent culture."

At Champaign, Illinois, the protest against the gulping

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craze took <sup>a</sup> more effective form than hunger striking. Yesterday  
~~at the University of Illinois,~~ <sup>Champaign,</sup> the fraternity brothers of  
Pi Kappa Phi had an exhibition of swallowing white mice. Today,  
the University President described the stunt as - disgusting and  
- <sup>surely</sup> revolting, - an accurate description. The Assistant Dean said it  
showed "an utter lack of good taste" - still more accurate.

Precise right down to the final words - good taste. And with that  
the Student Disciplinary Committee administered a severe reprimand  
to the mouse eater, and <sup>told</sup> ~~ordered~~ the fraternity-house-President to  
resign for permitting the <sup>mouse</sup> exhibition. And the faculty suspended  
all the special privileges enjoyed by Pi Kappa Phi. Fie, fie!  
Phi did they do it? <sup>and s-l-u-Monday.</sup>

I think we all agree with these various protests  
against the gulping goofiness. Yet we can't be too arbitrary.  
Even gulping can be sensible and wise. At Rockland, Maine, today  
a fisherman caught a five and a half inch trout, just half an inch  
below the legal limit. He was just putting it in his fish basket,  
when the game warden came along. "Caught with the goods, caught with  
the undersized trout!" The guilty fisherman must have heard about