

L.J. - Sunoco. Thurs., Dec. 15, 1938.

ROPER

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The resignation of Secretary Roper occurred today, with all the polite formalities. The Secretary of Commerce ~~wrote the President,~~ sent a letter of resignation to the President in which he spoke these words of explanation - "It is my desire to return to private life in order to give immediate attention to my personal affairs." The President responded with a letter, accepting the resignation, with these words: "Knowing the impelling reasons which prompt you, I accept your resignation with very sincere regret."

All this is followed by immediate speculation - "Who is to be Dan Roper's successor in the Commerce Department?" And immediately there is a suggestion - Harry Hopkins, the W.P.A. Administrator. In fact, there has^s been talk for some time among the partisans of the left wing of the New Deal that Secretary Roper might retire to make a place in the Cabinet for Harry Hopkins;- this with the supposition that Hopkins might be a possibility for the presidential nomination in Nineteen Forty. ~~This~~^{Such} has been the gossip, - ~~ever on~~^{gossip of} the left.

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The President now has two Cabinet offices to fill - Attorney General Cummings having already resigned, the resignation

to take effect on January First. However, the President will not have three Cabinet offices to fill. Secretary of the Interior Ickes is not going to step out.

ICKES FOLLOW ROPER

For, Secretary Ickes will not run for Mayor of Chicago. This he announced today, after a lot of agitation urging him to go sailing into the breezy politics of the Windy City. The Secretary explained the reason why he declines to run for Mayor of Chicago - he says it is at the request of the President, who asked him to stick to his job in Washington.

Ickes's statement today was fairly long, though the Secretary didn't take ~~so~~ many words to explain the Chicago refusal.

He took ^{most of his} ~~lot of~~ time out to advocate a third term. He said there were a lot of Republicans who one time, long ago, were Bull Mooses, and supported a third term for the previous Roosevelt. ^{while} ~~and they~~

^{they} nowadays denounce the whole third term idea as a menace. Well,

some of us will recall that in Bull Moose days it was a bit

ambiguous whether the mighty T.R. was really running for a third

term. He had been elected only once - ^{and} ~~so he~~ had ^{to} ~~to~~ serve out the

remainder of the term of the assassinated McKinley. The same sort

of thing applied to Calvin Coolidge - when it was suggested that

he might run again. This time, however, the third term idea is

^{cut--} clear - twice elected, with the service of two full terms.

JEFFERSON

President Roosevelt today presided at the ground-breaking ceremony, which begins the building of the three million dollar memorial to Thomas Jefferson. ^{And -} The Jeffersonian theme provided inspiration for some presidential remarks about democracy, autocracy, etc. - all in a lofty vein. ^{TR} ~~And~~ Then the presidential remarks got around to a subject somewhat less serene - the opposition that a lot of Washington society ladies made, because the building of the Jeffersonian shrine necessitates the removal of a ^{number} ~~few~~ of those far renowned cherry trees. The ladies staged a rumpus and threatened to stage ~~some more, rumpuses.~~ However, no such unseemly thing was evident today, no cherry tree insurrection. The President merely touched upon the ladies and the rumpus with these solemn terms: "The Congress of the United States," said he, "through a distinguished commission has after long consideration chosen this site." ^{TR} And that should be a rebuke to the ladies of the cherry tree rebellion, ~~and if not, these words certainly should be.~~ "In the days to come," declaimed the President, "millions of Americans will have a sense of gratitude that at last an adequate,

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permanent memorial ^{to}~~of~~ Thomas Jefferson has been placed on this
beautiful spot."

Now ladies, what do you think of that?

ARMY TRIAL

The Army trial in Washington brought a verdict this afternoon of -- not guilty. So General Alexander Williams, former quartermaster ~~of the army~~ is exonerated of the charges that he conspired to keep a witness from appearing before the House Affairs Military Committee. That was an investigation of army contracts held in 1934. The general is pronounced not guilty and so are two New York dealers in supplies who were on trial with him.

NAZI

A propagandist for Nazis ideas was convicted at New Orleans today and sentenced to fifteen months in prison.

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A man of German origin, he sent postal cards through the mails, postalcards that the court found to be - scurrilous and defamatory. He signed them - "Secretary of the Aryan League."

Today, the judge asked him about the - Aryan League, and the Nazi described it in these words: "A strictly one-man affair, a dream, a vision." So that Nazi was signing the defamatory post cards as secretary of a dream, a vision - for which he gets

fifteen months to do more dreaming - in Louisiana - in jail.
lovely, dreamy New Orleans - in jail.

JEWS

Another American protest to Germany, insisting that the
American
rights of Jews in Naziland must be respected. The note expresses -
disappointment over the failure of the German government to give a
satisfactory reply to previous American protests. So we're
complaining again.

At Lima, the Pan-American proposal to be made by the American delegation has been drawn up, the final draft completed. It had to be altered somewhat to meet the objections of the Argentine. The points that Buenos Aires insisted upon were:- that there should be no sort of alliance or treaty, just an understanding and a declaration of principle. And - that the declaration shall not contain any statement that would be an outright affront to any foreign government.

The conference had its eyes on ~~Ecuador~~ Ecuador today, with the government at Quito announcing the suppression of an army revolt. The military mutiny is said to have been ^{of} a Left Wing character, with discontented army units seizing a hill dominating the capital. But an agreement was reached between opposing leaders, and the insurgent soldiers returned to their barracks without fighting.

BURLESQUE

Here's something the Pan-American Congress at Lima had better look into. Today a campaign abroad was launched demanding territory not merely in the Americas, but right here in our own country. "We demand the Atlantic coast of the United States," rang out the cry in Europe.

After Hitler getting the Sudetens, and Italy demanding Corsica, Nice, Savoy, Tunis, Djibouti -- a lot of British students decided to keep up the good work, and today they asserted a "historic right." In London, students parades, voicing the demand -- Give us back our American colonies! And that would be quite an anschluss, -- the line of states from Maine to and including Georgia, those original Thirteen Colonies.

Today's London student demonstration went so far as to include a demand on France. The boys must have been reading their history books, because they shouted, "Give us back Calais!" Reminding us -- that for long centuries that French port of Calais was in the possession of the English. They took it during the Hundred Years War.

Typical of English school boys that they should burlesque international affairs - with the anschluss demonstration in London.

FRANCE

The Franco-Italian crisis is stiffening. Today in Paris Premier Daladier took a stronger tone than he has in some time. He has informed Poland, Roumania and Soviet Russia that France will stand by its treaties with those nations, protect them against aggression. This is particularly significant in the case of Soviet Russia, with Hitler so bitterly opposed to the Franco-Soviet Treaty.

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This development coincided with proceedings in the Chamber of Deputies, whereby France is dedicating more than a billion dollars to new armaments.

In Rome, the first report today was that Mussolini is determined to push the Italian demand that France hand over some territory to Italy. But later the word came that the Duce is holding up, waiting until he can get assurances from Hitler. He wants to know how far the German Nazis will go in supporting Fascist Italy against France.

SPAIN

For the first time there's an indication that the Franco regime in Spain might be willing to compromise the Civil War. An insurgent radio declaration names a new political figure in Barcelona, names him with approval. Senor Besteiro, who is reported to be a possible candidate for the leadership of the Barcelona government. Besteiro has hitherto taken no part in Left Wing ~~government~~ affairs and therefore is not considered responsible for acts and policies about which the Franco people are *so bitter.* ~~complain~~ They might regard him as a suitable Left Wing chieftain with whom to compromise -- that's the tenor of the Franco radio declaration.

It is supposed that the possibility of mediation might be what's holding up the expected drive, which is known to be all ready to go. The Franco generals announce that the drive will start according to schedule.

TP Barcelona announces the smashing of a vast Franco conspiracy — a 5th - Col. to help the Rebels.

McKESSON

There were indictments today in the New York case of the famous drug house of McKesson and Robbins. A federal grand jury handed down charges against F. Donald Coster, ^{the} President of the firm, and George Dietrich, the assistant treasurer. An agent, named George Vernard, was named in the indictment, as was the corporation itself. All this in connection with ^{that} a shortage of eighteen million dollars.

A new angle ^{appeared in} ~~was drawn into~~ the case today when the police reported that they were ~~still~~ checking the fingerprints of F. Donald Coster, President of McKesson & Robbins, this in the belief that he may really have ^{had} ~~been concealing~~ another identity. It was explained that he might have been connected with the smuggling of alcohol or of illicit war materials, in violation of the United States Neutrality Act.

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Later in the day, in Washington the Assistant Attorney General gave partial confirmation of this. He said the G-men had found ~~the~~ evidence that Coster had been ~~involved~~ in a conspiracy to export guns and ammunition to a country which is not named - this in violation of the Neutrality Act. The detail is added that the illicit war materials were shipped in packing cases labelled "milk of Magnesia."

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Later still,^a sensational bulletin. The police declare that F. Donald Coster, president of McKesson & Robbins, has been identified as the central figure in a famous swindle of twenty-five years ago. They say they have him quote "definitely identified" end quote as Philip Musica, who was convicted in 1913 in a two-million dollar fraudulent game connected with a huge concern called the United States Hair Company. Musica son of an Italian immigrant was a young promoter who engineered a scheme that has curious resemblances to the eighteen million dollar shortage in the McKesson Robbins Company. Just as a bit of reminiscence, newspapers have noticed the similarity between the present case and that crooked financial sensation of twenty-five years ago. And now they police announce that they have identified the McKesson Robbins president as ²that same ₁ Philip Musica who hit the headlines in 1913.

In Hollywood's big trial Colonel Martin Snyder told his ~~xx~~ story today -- torch-singer Ruth Etting ^{having} related hers on the witness stand yesterday. The Colonel told of the events that preceded the shooting -- how his wife's love grew ~~xx~~ cold.

He had tears in his eyes as he related how Ruth Etting a year or so ago asked him for a divorce and he replied: "Mummy what have I done? Here I am just back from seeing my sick mother and you're hitting me between the eyes." *This from "Moe the Gimp."*

~~xx~~ Yes that's how love grew cold or as the Colonel told it on the witness stand today. "The next day," ~~he~~ ^{he,} said, "everything was ~~ginger~~ ginger ale and soda pop -- cold." ^{TR} And so they were divorced.

Snyder
~~The Colonel whose nickname is "Moe the Gimp"~~ swore today that he shot Myrl Alderman in ~~xx~~ self-defense. He told how he went to the Los Angeles radio station where Alderman had a program, and said to him: "You broke up my home. Let's talk it over." The Colonel said he reminded Alderman how one time he hired him as a piano player and he charged him with showing pictures of Ruth Etting to waitresses, pictures of her in a bathing suit -- and described ^{ing} her as a "hot mama." After some conversation like

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that the two men went out to talk it over, went to the apartment where Ruth Etting and Snyder's daughter were preparing dinner.

On the witness stand the Colonel repeated the conversation that occurred in the apartment -- reproaches and recriminations. And right here the United Press description falls us somewhat.

In a number of places in the reproduction of the testimony there are blank spaces -- dashes instead of words, ^{— the unprintable.} So a good deal of raciness is absent, as the conversation led up to the shooting.

"He was at the piano bench," Snyder testified today, "and he pulled a gun on me. The light flickered ~~out~~," he continued, "And I shot twice."

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"I heard him say, 'Honey get that blankety-blank!'" Here the transcript of the testimony goes into quite a few Blanks and dashes. And on the witness stand the Colonel quoted Ruth Etting as screaming:- "You blank, blank, -- what did you do to my baby?."

It leaves us all a little blank, but the emphasis of the Colonel's testimony was -- self-defense.

AUTO

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Now let's give three loud cheers, shouting "Hurrah for Patent Number One million, eight hundred and eighty-four thousand, six hundred and four!" And let's sit in the back seat when we roar that lusty acclaim, the back seat of a car. For Patent Number One million, eight hundred and eighty-four thousand, six hundred and four is heaven's gift to the back seat driver.

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Today, the United States Patent Office announces the filing of an epoch-making invention that will enable the back seat driver to control the speed of the car, even stop it. If the guy out there in the front seat is going too fast or not driving the way you like, and you're getting nervous, you won't have to make useless remarks or ~~just~~ grit your teeth and suffer in silence. You just sit there in the back seat and pull the lever and slow the speed or stop the car. ^RAn ingenious inventor has rigged up a contraption whereby the back seat lever governs the gasoline feed control. With it you can regulate the flow of Blue Sunoco to the motor. ~~And without its proper~~ ~~ration of Blue Sunoco, you know what the motor will do~~ ^M much to the chagrin of the fellow in the front seat. *And e-l-u-t-m.*

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