

L.J. - Sunoco. Wed, Nov. 3, 1937.

Some political enthusiasts were predicting today that Fiorello La Guardia may be a presidential nominee three years hence. On a third party ticket, or even on the Republican Party. This latter would be a curious spectacle. It has been frequently observed that La Guardia's promises and ideas are vastly similar to those of the New Deal. Though ^{he} is a rather skittish Republican, no Democratic Mayor has had more sympathetic attention from the White House, even if his Tammany opponent was supported by F.D.R.'s Postmaster General, Jim Farley. It is interesting to note that the first important telephone message to go through to the La Guardia home last night, after the returns were in, was from Hyde Park. It was the President on the wire -- congratulating his friend, Fiorello.

So there's something for the soothsayers to ponder about. A political writer in the New York WORLD TELEGRAM expresses it neatly with the sentence: "The morning after the night before finds a lot of political prophets sadly in need of a new assortment of crystal balls."

The elction was such a dazzling triumph there is no wonder

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eager prophets are ~~xx~~ seeing visions of La Guardia as a presidential possibility. But the more reserved of the prognosticators see his more likely future in the United ~~xxx~~ States Senate. They say he would be a cinch to run on the Republican ticket and beat Senator Copeland who comes up for re-election in 1940.

Second only to La Guardia, a close second at that -- is Thomas E. Dewey, ^{a new} ~~new~~ figure on the political horizon. Running for District Attorney in New York County he actually ran up a bigger majority than La Guardia himself. He received the greatest vote ever given an anti-Tammany candidate for the District Attorney's office.) He carried assembly districts that had been iron-clad Tammany strongholds for generations. He even carried the district dominated for so long by Jimmy Hines, renowned as one of the most powerful of Tammany leaders. ^{And} the Gas House District.

Everybody is saying that Dewey can easily go to Albany as governor, after making a record as District Attorney. And there are horizons beyond this -- for (Thomas Dewey stands a national figure in the Republican Party this evening.)

There's quite a paradox in a comparison between the New York returns and those in Detroit. (It's beyond dispute that the La Guardia landslide was indirectly due to the racket busting of Dewey, and directly due to the votes of the newly organized American Labor Party.) Like the C.I.O., it's a John Lewis organization, owing its members to the Lewis influence and backed by the funds at his disposal. In Detroit, on the other hand, the defeated candidate was an out-and-out C.I.O. nominee. Patrick H. O'Brien represented an avowed effort of the Committee for Industrial Organization to gain control of the municipal government of Detroit. Mr. O'Brien had promised among other things that one of the first things he'd do after he took office would be to fire the present chief of police and replace him with one more friendly to labor. The victory of his opponent, Richard Reading, was not quite such a landslide as that of Mr. LaGuardia of New York. The final count in Detroit is Reading two hundred and sixty thousand, nine hundred and fifty-seven; O'Brien, the C.I.O. man, only a hundred and fifty-four thousand. Although Reading was supported by the American Federation of Labor, that support for him was declared

only at the eleventh hour, too late to make much difference.

And, by the way, C.I.O. candidates were defeated also in Jackson, Michigan; Akron, Ohio; and Canton, Ohio.

In several places, the results are cheering to the Republicans. For the G.O.P. is now in undisputed control of the New York Legislature, which will make things interesting for Democratic Governor Lehman. They will also have the upper hand in New York's Constitutional Convention next year.

And New Jersey now has not only a Republican Senate but also an effective Republican majority in the lower House. Several times it was rumored that he had been defeated by his opponent, Dr. Clee, a Presbyterian clergyman.

But the final complete returns are Moore seven hundred and forty-four thousand, odd; Klee, about six hundred and ninety-eight thousand. After a few months of bucking a hostile legislature, Harry Moore may-be he wishes he were back in the Senate!

The closest finish was in Buffalo where the Democratic Holling beat the Republican Jaeckle by only fourteen hundred and ten votes.

Here's one from Beaver, Pennsylvania:- There were two candidates for the job of Tax Collector in Franklin Township. The present Collector is a lady named Mrs. Daniel Stamm, A Democrat. Her Republican opponent was Mr. Daniel Stamm. Yes, the lady's husband -- nothing like keeping a job in the family. But when it comes to collecting those taxes, Mrs. Stamm will continue to wear the pants. She trimmed hubby -- three to one!

A Republican view of yesterday's proceedings is expressed by Congressman Bertram Snell of New York, party leader in the House of Representatives. Said he:- "The Republican gains achieved yesterday indicate that a militant organization is at work to check the assault of the New Deal upon orderly representative government." And he said further: "The results show clearly that the people now are fully alive to the Roosevelt-Farley threat of a crushing centralized bureaucracy of political spoilsmen."

On the actual count, the G.O.P. gained one vote in Congress. Three Republican representatives were elected from New York. Two of them merely won seats that were Republican before. The famous Bruce Barton, however, was elected in the also famous Seventeenth

"silk stocking" district of New York City, a district that in the last session of Congress was represented by a Democrat.

BLACK

Another attack upon Mr. Justice Hugo Black of the Supreme Court and a still more vehement one! In fact it's the sharpest and most pointed challenge that has yet been aimed at him.

It's authors are the counsel for four stockbrokers in Florida who made an appeal which the high bench threw out. Today, they asked the Court to think again, reconsider. "That ruling against us was not valid," they claim, "because Mr. Justice Black took part in it." And, they contend, Mr. Black is not legally a member of the Court. In the first place, they say, there was no vacancy because Justice Van Devanter who retired is still by rights a member of that tribunal. Also, those lawyers claim, ^{Mr. Black} ~~he~~ could not properly be appointed according to the Constitution because he was a member of the Congress that passed a law affecting the Supreme Court.

Now of course those contentions are not new. They were made to the Court by Ex-Judge Levit on the first day that Mr. Black took his seat on ^{the} ~~that~~ Supreme bench. But, you may recall, Chief Justice Hughes and the rest of Mr. Black's colleagues threw Judge Levit's petition out because he had not shown that he

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was an interested party likely to suffer through Mr. Balck's presence on the bench. Some lawyers at the time remarked that the Supreme Court actually had dodged the issue on a technicality.

So the lawyers for those Florida brokers now come before the court claiming that they have suffered.

CRASH

In the air over Boeing Field, near Seattle, two of Uncle Sam's navy planes were manoeuvring. To the horror of the observers on the ground, there was what seemed to be a misunderstanding between the pilots. One of those air warships, a two-motored patrol plane, crashed into the naval pursuit plane. The larger plane turned over five times, then hurtled nose first into a clump of trees. Her crew of five -- killed. From the smaller, pursuit plane, two of the crew contrived to bail out. One parachute opened at once. But, while the on-lookers stared aloft aghast the other did not open until the man was a bare couple of hundred feet from the ground -- just enough! The two survived.

The cause of the tragedy was a sudden blanket of fog which obscured the vision of the pilot in the heavy two-motored plane.

WAR ADMIRAL

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Once again that amazing horse, "War Admiral", came down the stretch ahead of the field. That makes the eighth big race he has won this season and the most exciting of all. For a part of the distance in the Pimlico Special he was running in third place and the people who had backed him began to get shivers up and down their spines. But during the home stretch he rushed to the front and came in an easy winner. He has now brought his owner, Samuel D. Riddle, a total of a hundred and sixty-six thousand, five hundred Dollars in prize money. Eight times to the post and still undefeated, running against the finest thoroughbreds in all America! What a horse!

CHINA

(The loudly heralded Nine Power Conference at Brussels opened today.) It opened to the accompaniment of cheers in London and Paris, and faint jeers in Rome and Berlin. Italian and German newspapers predicted freely and with no pretense of tears that it would be, in the words of Macbeth, "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." The proceedings opened with various eloquent pleas for peace, among others ^{one} from Norman H. Davis, who represents Uncle Sam. Commissar Litvinoff, from the Land of the Soviet, called for "unity ~~and~~ of all peace-loving countries."

To them replied the argute (Dr. Wellington Koo of China:

"If anybody thinks of peace at any price, let him forget it.

China will fight to the bitter end until Japan ceases her aggression."

While all this eloquence filled the air at Brussels, bombs and high explosive shells filled the air in China. The forces of the Mikado have won a signal victory in the mountains of Shansi.) They

drove the Chinese defenders back with a loss of thirty thousand.

And they've occupied Hsinkow and they are only a few miles east of Taiyuan, the capital of the province. The authority for this is a

Japanese news agency.

LONDON

There was a great to-do throughout England several months ago when it became known that Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain had got into personal correspondence with Premier Mussolini urging a better understanding. It was considered irregular, to say the least, for the Premier to go over the head of his Foreign Minister. The fact that there is no love lost between Captain Eden and the Duce made the episode all the more awkward.

Today Mr. Chamberlain told the House all about it. It was in answer to a question from one of the members. "The correspondence was personal," said England's Premier, "but I have no objection to telling the House its purport. Then he explained that it was Mussolini who had actually taken the first step, had sent ~~the~~ Chamberlain a friendly message through his Ambassador in London. "I took advantage of that opportunity," said ~~the~~ *Prime Minister* Chamberlain, "to send Signor Mussolini a personal letter expressing my regret over the state of ~~the~~ relations between Great Britain and Italy." Then he went on to say: "I was glad to have received from Signor Mussolini an immediate reply in which he expressed his own sincere wish to restore good relations."

Then up spoke a captious Laborite member, asking: "Has the Prime Minister observed whether these friendly references have been transferred to the Italian press and to an article supposed to have been written by Mussolini himself?"

Mr. Chamberlain's answer to that was an eloquent silence.

Then another Laborite queried him, saying: "Is the Prime Minister satisfied that the letter has had any effect regarding the relations between this country and Italy?"

"Yes, sir!" replied ~~Mr.~~ Chamberlain, and the House cheered!

GERMANY

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It doesn't matter how highly placed you are in Nazi Germany, you can't quit your job if the Fuehrer says "Nein". Europe was astonished last week when Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's Minister of Economics, announces^d his resignation, to take effect as soon as ~~it was~~ accepted. (It has^d been said by outsiders that Dr. Schacht, the former head of the National Bank, had done wonders in keeping the Reich from a financial crash through all these ticklish years. Newspaper men, reading between the lines of ~~Dr.~~ Schacht's announcement, gathered decisively that he was quitting because he had suffered too much interference)

Later, another surprise was spr^ung when it became known that Schacht had announced his resignation without even consulting the Fuehrer. And today word comes from Berlin that Chancellor Hitler has positively and finally, and as Charlie Mc Carthy would say, "Oh, definitely", refused to accept that resignation. "Stay on the job, or else," is the slogan.

RUSSIA

Another of those sensational mass trials is reported from Russia. To be more precise from the Georgian Republic of Abkazia. Thirteen prisoners are on trial for their lives. And the charge? Two attempts to assassinate Dictator Stalin.

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It seems to have taken the Soviet authorities a long time to bring thos^e alleged assassins to book. Their first attempt is said to have been made in 1933. That was while Stalin was taking a vacation ride on a cutter over the Black Sea. The conspirators fired on the cutter but missed because they had not dared ~~to~~ come close enough. They tried again in 1935. This time, it is said, they bribed an officer of the O.G.P.U., the Soviet secret police. And this policeman hired riflemen of the border-guard to lie in ambush and shoot the dictator. That attempt failed because the would-be-assassins got on the job too late.

~~It's interesting to learn that the trial is being held in the state theatre in one of the larger towns of Georgia.~~

FONTANGES

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The Duke and Duchess of Windsor will ^{not} be the only actors in a famous romance to visit American this month. We are going to have the opportunity and privilege of seeing the lady who told a French courtroom that she was the sweetheart of Premier Mussolini. Madame Madeleine de Fontanges who ~~was~~ shot Count de Chambrun in a railway station, ~~today~~ embarked *today* on the Normandie bound for New York. You'll remember that she said she shot the Count, once French ambassador to Rome, because, in her own words he :- "shattered my unforgettable hours of love with Mussolini." The French jury convicted her, but the Court acted more according to the principles of some American juries; ~~he~~ gave the lady a suspended sentence. So now she's on her way to us. Isn't that just ducky? The legend is that she will appear on the boards of some theatre in these sentimental states. The line forms on the left. *And s-l-u-t-m.*

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