

L.J. - Sunoco. Tues., April 5, 1938.

T.V.A.

66  
In Washington, ten men were named today - and nine accepted. The lower House named five Representatives, and the Senate named five Senators - and one declined. It all concerns the T.V.A. The ten lawmakers were named to the joint committee, representing both Houses, ~~that is~~ to investigate the great federal project in the Tennessee ~~Valley~~ Valley - the charges and the counter-charges.

But who is the senator that refuses to serve on the joint committee? Who is the individual ~~who is~~ not only out of step but won't join in the step at all? Why, that individualistic perennial, Senator Borah. When the statesman from Idaho learned that he had been named he immediately declined; and he explained it to the reporters this way: "I don't believe in investigations by town meeting," said he. "If it had been a committee of three or five Senators, I'd have been glad to have served. Or, if it had been a committee of three or five members of the House, <sup>it would have been</sup> ~~Then he~~ alright." Then he summarized: "I've never seen any good come out of joint ~~investigations~~ investigations."

7  
So, ~~ax~~ according to Borah of Idaho, senators are all right and Representatives are all right, but they don't mix - something like cats and dogs.

## CONVENTION

Twenty-three years ago, in Nineteen Fifteen, New York State held a constitutional convention. The convention drew up a new Constitution for the state, which, however, was turned down by the voters. So the big doings didn't amount to much. There was one small side angle, however, that did count for a good deal. One of the delegates was a young ~~senator~~ <sup>assemblyman</sup> of no particular renown, rather new at the business of lawmaking. He came from no distinguished family of long political tradition, was an alumnus of no stately university. In fact, he ~~originated~~ <sup>was</sup> from the slums of New York's east side, began life working in a fish market, and had been sent to the legislature by Tammany. He was distinctly from the sidewalks of New York. His name - Alfred E. Smith. The presiding officer of the convention was that most distinguished elder statesman from the Republican Party - Elihu Root. After the complicated proceedings were over, Elihu Root spoke his opinion this way:- "Of all the men at the convention, Alfred E. Smith is the best informed on the business of the State of New York."

So, it was at a Constitutional Convention where Al Smith of the sidewalks of New York first distinguished himself in a big

way as a master of the art of law and government.

We all know how the story continues - four times Governor of the State of New York, a national political figure and a candidate for the presidency of the United States.

Now what happened today? We find the story rounding out with an appropriate touch. Today, a New York Constitutional Convention assembled to draft a new basic charter for the State. And one of the first things it did was to elect as its Honorary President - Alfred E. Smith. So mark it down this way for the man in the brown derby:- He made his mark in the New York Constitutional Convention of Nineteen Fifteen. <sup>He failed to</sup> ~~He was barely~~ elected <sup>at the U.S.C.,</sup> president in Nineteen Twenty-Eight. And in Nineteen Thirty-Eight - he's elected President of the New York Constitutional Convention. That's as neat and round as a brown derby!

SPAIN

49

At three o'clock this afternoon, in Barcelona, a dramatic thing happened - something to make any modern human being stop and wonder. It was - the sudden stoppage of all electricity in a great metropolitan city, the complete failure of light and power. Earlier in the day, there had been a temporary stoppage of electricity in one or two sections. But at three o'clock it was utter and complete. Suddenly - street cars came to a stop on boulevards. Electric trains on suburban lines came to an ~~abrupt~~ halt wherever they happened to be running. The wheels of machines in factories slowed abruptly to a standstill. If it had been night-time, most people would have been made aware by - lights out. As it was, inhabitants of houses and the crowds thronging the cafes came to attention when the radio, right in the middle of programs, snapped into silence. Barcelona plays its radios loudly, and there are plenty of them. So that was the dramatic sign - when music was ~~stopped~~ cut off in the middle of a measure, when speakers broke off in the middle of a sonorous Spanish word.

Why? That was the swift question - and swiftly answered.

50

The government issued a statement explaining that the electricity

had been shut off because of repairs to power stations and transmission lines. The people had their own answer - they didn't have to do much guessing. They knew, <sup>^</sup> what I've just been told in a letter from a radio listener.

Fred Smith, a New York engineer, writes as follows:-

"In Nineteen Twelve an American construction company started an eighty million dollar project in Catalonia, building dams and power houses ~~by which the~~ <sup>with to</sup> supply ~~of~~ Barcelona <sup>with</sup> a million horse-power a day. I joined the Company in Nineteen Thirteen," Engineer <sup>Smith</sup> Fred <sup>^</sup> continues, "and soon was made superintendent of transmission lines in the Province of Lerida. The World War made us close down construction on the huge project, but not until we had three power houses finished and transmission lines completed to Barcelona."

*"So now," as the letter concludes,*  
~~This correspondent tells me that Franco captured one of~~  
*"the capture of those power houses would*  
~~these power houses as he drove near Lerida, which made the other two~~  
~~all-important to Barcelona. "To capture those other two," he writes,~~  
~~"Franco must push on beyond Lerida over some thirty miles. If he~~  
~~can do that, he can rob Barcelona immediately of ninety per cent of~~  
~~its power for ~~XXXX~~ tramways, subways, light, factories and munition~~

plants. " So those American power plants <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ Franco's objective - a battle for a million horsepower a day.

These general facts were in the minds of the people in Barcelona ~~today,~~ when all the electricity in the town suddenly went <sup>today,</sup> off. They knew, moreover, that the Rebels were driving hard against the ~~great~~ power house <sup>S.</sup> ~~at Tremp.~~ And ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> realized ~~it~~ had been captured; the power house ~~there~~ had fallen.

The city was electrically dead until three thirty, and then there was a sudden movement of electrical life. The radios began to emit sounds from loud speakers again, but in a flickering way. It was only a brief flurry, and the electricity was off again. That lasted until ten minutes past four, and then the street cars, electric trains and factories began to run again and the radios began going at full blast. Not throughout the whole city, though. Tonight, one large district of Barcelona is still without light or power.

~~It is believed that~~ the authorities have switched to emergency electrical plants, which ~~are for emergency city~~ serve for emergency city use only, ~~or perhaps Franco has captured only one~~

52  
of the great hydro electric power houses, and he's threatening  
~~to take the other~~. The Rebel seizure of those American built  
plants <sup>will</sup>~~would~~ demoralize the munitions industry ~~of~~ Catalonia,  
and Catalans produce ninety per cent of the munitions of Left Wing  
Spain.

( On top of that, Franco's battalions have cut the lines of  
communication for munitions between Barcelona and Madrid. The latest  
is that the Rebels are battling their way into the City of Tortosa,  
which lies at the head of the delta of the Ebro River. They have  
virtually reached the sea, and thereby split Left Wing Spain in  
two.) One dispatch relates that Franco cannon have opened ~~an~~ a  
bombardment of the highway and railroad, the Left Wing lifeline  
along the coast, and have cut it with shell fire.

There's internal strife in the Barcelona government,  
backed by communists and anarchists  
a cabinet shake-up. Premier Negrin <sup>^</sup> has taken full power, and has  
deposed Minister of War Prieto - who since the beginning of the  
Civil War, has been the power behind the Left Wing throne. In the  
new cabinet that has been formed, the Minister of War is a Communist  
chief, while the post of foreign affairs <sup>goes to a</sup> ~~is expected to go to a~~

representative of former Premier Largo Caballero, who is backed by the Anarchists.

One report tells that a committee of jewelry experts is busy in Barcelona appraising the value of the hoards of jewelry in the possession of the Barcelona government <sup>^</sup> treasure they ~~had~~ seized. It looks as if a sale were intended - and one recalls the jewels of the Czar and Russian nobles seized by the Bolsheviks and sold all over the world.

Left Wing President Azaña has moved his residence from Barcelona - miles to the north, and on the road to France. And the American Embassy has moved, also to the north - on the road to France.

All of these are ~~the~~ elements of the Barcelona picture tonight, which looks like a picture of impending doom. And they say that the word of doom is about to be spoken - that ~~Franc~~ Franco is about to issue an ultimatum to Barcelona. "Surrender - or all the forces of war will be let loose!" The report is that the Left Wing chieftain has a manifesto ready, telling the city that if it does not yield, it will be immediately assailed with an overwhelming



54  
drive of all the weapons of modern war - on the ground, from the sea and from the sky. The threat includes a military drive in full force, a bombardment by warships that are now steaming along the coast. And a cataclysmic bombing by swarms of war planes, a double and redoubled version of those murderous air raids that have made the world protest.

ADD SPAIN

~~XXXXXX~~

And here's the latest. In desperation, the Barcelona Government has <sup>just</sup> sent a note to London and Paris, appealing for help. They ask that the Non-Intervention Agreement be called off so that war supplies can be shipped into Spain and aid <sup>them in</sup> ~~the Left Wingers in~~ staving off that <sup>seemingly</sup> ~~exceedingly~~ inevitable doom.

GERMAN BISHOPS

There's one place in Germany most famous in medieval church history - Fulda, the great monastery of Fulda. It was founded by St. Boniface, apostle of the Germans, and for many a long dark century was the center of learning and ecclesiastical power in the darkness and wilderness. At Fulda walk the shadows of great abbots and Prince-bishops of old, and there in this Year of Grace, <sup>Hundred and</sup> Nineteen Thirty-Eight, the Bishops of Germany gathered to decide their policy toward the Nazi election which is to ratify Hitler's seizure of Austria.

5  
They had to take in mind the action of their colleagues, (the bishops of Austria. ~~They, headed by~~ These, headed by Cardinal Innitzer of Vienna, <sup>advised Austrian Catholics to</sup> vote Nazi in the forthcoming plebiscite. And that was the cause of something of a stir in Rome, with the statement that the pro-Nazi action of the Austrian bishops was taken without consultation with the Vatican. <sup>Tonight Cardinal Innitzer is in Rome conferring</sup> ~~So sharp attention focused on the~~ <sup>with the Pope:</sup> <sup>All this focuses sharp attention on the</sup> question - "What <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ the German bishops do, confronted by the same question in their meeting at monastic Fulda?"

Today we are told. The German bishops, headed by Cardinal Faulhaber of Munich, decided - No. They voted - not to issue

a pastoral letter, as the Austrian bishops did. They'll not advise German Catholics to vote Nazi in the election. Their policy is - silence.)

This they ~~are~~<sup>decided</sup> on the advice of Cardinal Faulhaber, who expressed his opinion that if the bishops were to declare themselves for or against in the election, it would constitute - "political action". They are keeping out of politics - that's the ~~action~~<sup>attitude</sup> of the German bishops as they decree - silence.

JAPAN

The Far East provides us with a neat little danger angle this evening. Quite an Asiatic twister in the most recent row between Japan and Soviet Russia - with Japan protesting to Moscow that the Soviets are aiding the Chinese against Japan. Today a spokesman for the Mikado's Foreign Office declared himself thusly:- ~~“The Soviet”~~ “The Soviet's mere apology to the Japanese Government will not avail.” <sup>#</sup> No, Tokyo will not be content with an apology from Moscow.

But ~~he~~ who said Moscow is apologizing? That's the tricky twist. The Soviet's <sup>reply</sup> ~~replied~~ to the Japanese protest is an outright rejection - a refusal with a jeer and a jibe. Moscow points out that it has a perfect right to sell war munitions to the Chinese. Why not? Where is the war? That's a neat thrust <sup>at</sup> ~~due to~~ the fact that Japan is waging an undeclared war. Moscow concedes nothing, no apology or anything else.

So there seems to be some sinister kind of logic or illogic in today's Tokyo statement:- an apology from the Soviets will not suffice. <sup>Libae</sup> ~~By~~ one man saying "I will not apologize", and the other replying, "I will not be content with your apology."

The Japanese give us another sinister bit today, most

darkly sinister for the Chinese, if true. We hear about a revolt in western China, with the Mohammedans there on the rampage against the Chinese Communists. Those central Asian Moslems have a terrific history of ferocious revolt. Their fanatic religion puts them frequently at odds with what they no doubt would call - the heathen Chinese. And when those warlike sons of the Prophet get tangled up with Chinese Communism - that might cause a wild explosion. The Japanese claim it has - a Mohammedan revolt in western China!

At a Red Book Magazine 35-year birthday party at the Waldorf I heard Pearl Buck say the Chinese do not think they are going to lose this war with Japan, and that the Chinese are never beaten because they refuse to admit defeat.

SIT DOWN

58  
At Reading, Pennsylvania the City Hall <sup>S</sup>it down strike ended today, after lasting since March 26. The Machemer family, Poppa, Momma and nine kids, moved out after holding the fort in the City Hall for eleven days. The family on relief <sup>had</sup> moved in, because they expected to be evicted from their home. They <sup>had</sup> experienced that sort of thing several times before, and were tired of being evicted. So they just moved in <sup>to</sup> the City Hall, and made their home there. The officials, nonplussed, but not knowing what to do ~~xx~~ let them stay there.

8/2  
59  
Today the sit-down family picked up and moved out -- to a hotel, an abandoned hotel where another family on relief is holding the fort. They explained it all -- this way: They found that their relief check was cut from twenty dollars to fifteen dollars and eighty cents, because while living in the City Hall they paid no rent or light and fuel bills. That was a fast one pulled by the relief authorities. Secondly the school board ordered the children back to the class-rooms -- and the school was twenty-five blocks away from the City Hall. That made it rather a long trip. The abandoned hotel is only twelve blocks away -- much easier.

Old Reading town has had a curious example of the rather

slipshod, good-natured way that democracy sometimes works.--

*confusion!*

~~complusion~~

But with a smile.

And now Hugh,

have you anything to say? And  
say it with a smile.

a/4