

L. T. - SINOCO - JANUARY 5, 1939 (Thursday)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight we will have a broadcast almost entirely about Government, nearly all Washington ~~in~~ date lines. Because President Roosevelt today stepped out and just about monopolized the front pages. The budget alone would have been news enough, with its ~~huge~~^{vast} matter^s of money, the financial figures for the next year. How many millions upon millions are ~~in~~ to be spent, how vast a deficit, how much in the red, how many billions upon billions of national debt? Yes, that would have been news enough! But on top of ~~that~~^{it} the White House announced two important appointments -- one of them a huge banner headline on any day. Felix Frankfur^{ter} appointed to the Supreme Court. But, ~~Further~~^{first} let's get through with the budget -- the money matters.

BUDGET

We all know what a budget is. Housewives budget their family finances - so much for the rent, so much for groceries, a couple of dollars for some new pillow slips, and if there's anything left over, maybe a new hat. ~~Some housewives balance the budget, and some don't. Some have a disbalance in the black, have a few dollars over and put it in the bank. Others have their budgets in the red, and run into debt.~~ In times gone by, men used to treasure marrying a good housekeeper - maybe they still do. And a good housekeeper was one who'd budget the family allowance without socking hubby with a lot of bills now and then.

All of this is commonplace household economy; but when the budget is an affair of government, you've got to stretch your imagination. So here goes with some news that ought to ring in the ears of the housewives when they make up their family budgets, allocating twenty dollars here and three dollars and a half there. ^{id} I bet many a one will sigh and say to herself - it must be great to be a government!

Today, the Congress of the United States received from

the President an elaborate account of how he proposes to distribute money during the fiscal year of Nineteen Forty.) And the first question is - what's the total to be distributed? The figure is no greater than other similar figures during the past few years, but it's gigantic. (Eight billion, nine hundred and ninety-five million dollars - virtually nine billion! What's it for?

The biggest item is the usual one, relief, recovery, pump priming, spending our way out of the depression.) The sum asked for ^{relief} comes to less than last year but still it tallies up ^{to} two billion, two hundred and sixty-six million.

The next item is defense - and this goes along with the foreign policy the President expressed in his opening message to Congress. Defense of democracy, defiance of the dictators, protection of the Western Hemisphere. So we need a lot of defense.

(We need more than two billion dollars' worth of defense during the next fiscal year.) The budget calls for armament expenditures of more than a billion, six hundred million. In addition to that, the President asks for an extra half a billion. (It's the largest military and naval appropriation since the World War) - to back up

our new policy of peace.

So, the government will pay out nearly nine billion altogether. How much will it take in? The answer is, a little more than five and a half billion. Five and a half from nine leaves a deficit (a deficit approaching the three and a half billion mark.) The exact figure is three billion, three hundred and twenty-six million - that much in the red *for the next fiscal year.*

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Which means - that much piled on the public debt; ~~it~~ ^{ing} will bring the public debt of the United States to the stupendous total of forty-four billion, four hundred and fifty-eight million dollars. And that approaches the ceiling. The ceiling is forty-five billion, the limit allowed by law. Congressional legislation on the books right now prohibits the government from running the public debt any higher than forty-five billion.) ~~THE~~

~~public debt takes us to~~

~~The public debt takes us to another interesting figure. It's an item of expenditure on today's budget, the third largest, right after pump priming and armament. ~~What's~~ What is it? Why, the interest on that public debt. In spite of the fact that the~~

government ~~has~~ has been borrowing money at unusually low rates of interest, the total interest charge on the public debt will come to over a billion dollars. The interest on the debt ^{now} ~~has~~ becomes the third largest item in the budget.

~~Such is the budget, and~~ It sounds like plenty of mathematics. But it isn't all. Along with the budget message Congress got a special message from the White House - which calls for an extra eight hundred and fifty million dollars - that much right away for unemployment relief. ~~It is~~ Not to be marked down for the fiscal year of Nineteen Forty, ^{it's} ~~but~~ for the fiscal year of Nineteen Thirty-Nine, ~~and is designed to add tens of thousands to the federal relief rolls.~~ So the total of money which the Administration today asks Congress to appropriate adds up to nearly ten billion.^s

Such is the budget story which certainly should make enough government headline for one day. But the President was in a headline mood today, and so we have the news of the appointments.

FRANKFURTER

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Today's ^{No. I} ~~headline~~ appointment came as a surprise.

Only a ^{couple of} ~~few~~ days ago, the President ^{stated} ~~intimated~~ that he had not

decided on whom to appoint, ~~to succeed the late Supreme Court Justice~~

~~Gardner~~ ^{He intimated} It was understood that he would not make the Supreme Court

appointment just yet. ^{But he did. And his choice was in} ~~Moreover, the choice he announced was~~

^{some respects} unexpected: -

~~unexpected~~ Felix Frankfurter, the Harvard law professor. ^{The} rumor had been insistent that Frankfurter would

~~True~~ there had been much talk that Frankfurter might be named,

^{But some still thought} ~~but it was believed~~ that the President in the end ^{might} ~~would~~ select a jurist

somebody from the west.

With today's appointment the nine Justices ^{include} ~~are~~

~~eight easterners~~ and only one ~~jurist~~ from the western ^{ern states,} ~~states~~,

He is Mr. Justice Pierce Butler, from Minnesota. The two Justices

who have retired are both westerners, Van Devanter of Wyoming and

Sutherland of Utah. The two Justices whom the President had

appointed before today's choice were Justices Black of Alabama

and Reed of New York, ~~both easterners~~. So a western appointment

seemed to be in the cards. - ^{And} ~~But~~ it wasn't. ^{So} I suppose the slogan

tonight might be - don't go west young man, don't go west, ^{if you} ~~or you~~
^{want to} ~~won't~~ become a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

(Felix Frankfurter had^s been called - the most influential single individual in the United States.) General Hugh Johnson said *it!*
~~that.~~^{TP} Why this great influence? First - because Felix Frankfurter has been an (unofficial advisor to the President and the New Deal.)
Second - because of the pupils he^{has} schooled in law at Harvard, a whole string of Frankfurter graduates who at his recommendation, have become prominent in the New Deal affairs. They're numbered at a hundred and twenty-five, that many who occupy key positions.

the team of
Chief among them - Corcoran and Cohen, who ~~will~~ hold a favorite place in White House ^uconcils. In Washington, the Felix Frankfurter bright young men are called - "the happy hot dogs." Happy - because that's what Felix means in Latin. Hot Dogs - because of the obvious idea suggested by the last name of the new Supreme Court Justice.

And there's an apt story ^{to be} ~~also~~ told about the happy Hot Dogs - it's really the life story of Felix Frankfurter.

He was born in Vienna of an obscure Jewish family.
He came to the United States when he was twelve years old, a small Jewish immigrant. He couldn't speak a word of English. Today he's a

master of the vernacular, though there's still a slight trace of accent - a thickened pronunciation of the letter "s", a sibillance left over from ~~the~~ Germanic ^{inflections.} ~~accents~~ Young Frankfurter had the classic kind of struggle ~~again~~ against poverty, pushing his way upward. He studied law - a legal product of Harvard.

At that time, a vexing problem confronted ^{the} United States District Attorney in New York City - Henry L. Stimson who later became Secretary of War and Governor General of the Philippines. He was bothered by the difficulty of finding competent young lawyers as his assistants, lawyers who would work for the small salaries ~~that~~ the government paid. He appealed to Harvard for bright young law graduates who needed jobs. And he got - Felix Frankfurter. This worked out successfully and Frankfurter passed from one government post to another. During the World War, Stimson had him in the War Department, and that's how Felix Frankfurter met Franklin D. Roosevelt - who was then Assistant Secretary of the navy. Thereafter, Frankfurter went to his professorship at Harvard, and began turning out those bright young men.

He gained the ^{favor} ~~favor~~ of those who style themselves liberals, ^{- -} was on their side in public questions that arose. ^{Yes,}
^z There came to be a regular Frankfurter school of legal thinking -
[^] somewhat over on the Left. And the bright young men were that way too.

When the New Deal came on, President Roosevelt confabulated with Frankfurter on a problem that must have sounded very familiar to ~~the~~ Frankfurter ears. How could the New Deal procure the lawyers it needed at the small salaries the government paid? ~~It was a problem~~ The sort of problem that had given Frankfurter his own start those years before. ^{The} ~~he had~~
[^] ~~the~~ answer? ^{trek} his bright young men. And that started the ^{trip} to Washington, the migration of the happy Hot Dogs - until there were a hundred and twenty-five of them high in the affairs of the New Deal.

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This Frankfurter saga has given rise to varied opinions. Some see a Frankfurter colossus ^{striding} ~~striving for the~~ government and armed with left wing radicalism and destruction. His own partisans regard him as a brilliant, ^{and} ~~and~~ liberal ~~lawyer and~~ professor ^{of law} who turns out brilliant liberal pupils.

Today's appointment went to the Senate for confirmation and was immediately referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. That had to be because Republican Leader Senator McNarry had already given out the word that the Republicans would insist that all of the major presidential appointments be scrutinized by the Committee. ~~The general~~

The general opinion around the capitol seems to be that the Senate will confirm the Frankfurter appointment - though many lawmakers refuse to make any comment and some of them speak up in sharp criticism. Republican Leader Senator McNarry spoke highly of the abilities of Professor Frankfurter but said that he was sorry the President was neglecting the west. Republican Representative Parnell Thomas of New Jersey said: "The President might as well have selected Harry Bridges or Earl Browder."

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But what does Professor Frankfurter himself have to say? Nothing much. He refuses to comment, merely remarking - "There is no certainty that the appointment will be confirmed," ~~says he~~

T.V.A.

This was appointment day all right, with the President also appointing former Senator Pope of Idaho. This bears out reports we've had that Senator Pope would be ~~appointed~~^{named} to the three-man governing board of the T.V.A. As a senator he was a staunch proponent of the New Deal. Defeated for reⁿomination, he gets the appointment to the Tennessee Valley Authority, and succeeds Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, whom the President deposed for - "contumacy." Remember that T.V.A. squabble, which was contumacious indeed!

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MURPHY

~~Extra~~

They're making a Senate investigation of the sit down strikes. The Senate Committee may stage an inquiry before the nomination of the new Attorney General goes to a vote in the upper House. This in response to all the controversy about the ~~way the new Attorney General~~ ^{way} Frank Murphy, as governor of Michigan, handled the automobile strikes in Nineteen Thirty-Seven.

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The new Attorney General held his first press conference today, and immediately the question was raised - sit down strikes. The newspaper men asked Frank Murphy what he thought of the idea of a Senate Committee investigation before the upper House acted on his appointment. And Murphy spoke up and said: "I'd like the idea of an investigation."

So maybe they'll have one - as a bit of extra fireworks in the lively legislative business of confirming the presidential nominations.

FOREIGN

Even today's foreign news has a Washington angle. In Germany the Nazi press has been bitterly attacking the presidential message of yesterday, and you can imagine how their late editions this afternoon hopped on today's presidential appointment. No, not Senator Pope. The Nazis are spitting gall because of the naming of Felix Frankfurter to the Supreme Court. You can just about guess what they're saying.

As for yesterday's presidential message to Congress with its attack on ^{the} dictators, there's a report in Berlin that Hitler may reply to it himself. Hitler is to address the German Reichstag on January Thirtieth, and his harangue may turn the whole business into an across-the-ocean debate between heads of governments.

In England, where yesterday's presidential message has been received with high favor, there's a report that the British government will confabulate with the United States on the Roosevelt foreign policy, so vividly expressed. London is particularly interested in the part of it which concerns American neutrality legislation, suggesting a change in our Neutrality Law. That might mean - lifting the arms embargo against Left Wing Spain.

Prime Minister Chamberlain wants particularly to get the inside facts about this, because he's soon going to Rome for his much announced conference with Mussolini. And the American Neutrality Law angle may strengthen the Chamberlain hand in dealing with the Duce concerning the Spanish Civil War.

In Spain even the Barcelona government admits that Franco is pushing ahead, and the insurgents themselves are claiming smashing victories. ~~But the government says the ~~next~~ Left Wing armies are attacking on the other side of Spain.~~

FIRE

5-8

New York today produces one of the most vicious and ghastly pieces of news in years. A tenement house fire early this morning - and four people perished. ~~Now~~ The police announce that it was arson, a fire deliberately set. They've made an arrest, and say they have a confession ^{— a confession} that seems hard to believe. A man set the tenement house afire merely so that he could inform a newspaper and get five dollars for reporting the story. He started the blaze by touching a cigarette to a dried out inflammable Christmas tree in a hallway. Then when it flamed up, he telephoned the newspaper and pretended that he was just a passerby who had noticed the fire. Hoping to earn five dollars, he created a tragedy of horror.

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CROSLY

In Cincinnati, ~~they had~~ a celebration of - reado. That new word is a combination of "read" and "radio", the new way of transmitting printed matter by wireless.

Powel Crosley, the Cincinnati radio ^{and baseball} magnate, ~~threw~~ ~~party~~ ^{ing the} ~~that~~ demonstration latest marvel which raps out a newspaper right in your home - printed matter, photographs, maps, cartoons. The guests were representatives of the national press associations and the publishers of three Cincinnati newspapers. The idea propounded was that this new radio home ~~news~~ paper will not compete with the regular newspapers, but will supplement ^{them--} ~~to~~ increase popular interest in the news.

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So reado, rights and solving
until tomorrow!