

L.J. - Sunoco. Tues., Sept. 28, 1937.

President Roosevelt stood at a giant dam today, and ~~of~~
^{all} the things he said, the word that hits the headlines is --
 budget, the national budget, the in-come and out-go, in the red
 or in the black. Yet of course he spoke mostly about the Dam,
~~as why wouldn't he.~~ His western trip took him to the vast
 Bonneville project. That's one of the greatest public works
 undertaken by the New Deal, the dam 1250 feet long and 170 feet
 high, across the Columbia River. It cost 51 million dollars and
 is to generate 580 thousand horse power of electricity. ~~42~~⁴ miles
 east of the city of Portland, the Bonneville Dam was designed to
 provide lighting and power over ~~the~~ great area of the valley of
 the Columbia. ~~Valley.~~

So the President, ~~quite naturally,~~ spoke with pride
 of the stupendous dam. He raised visions of how great projects
 like this will be a boon to people over wide areas, electric light
 and power for farm houses and ~~buildings~~^{villages.} He foresaw an electrical
 future. That was the tenor of his address which covers a couple
 of newspaper columns. But in all of it was one small phrase which

made the black headlines -- a rather parenthetical promise that the budget will be balanced next year. The President was talking about the amounts of money that can be used for the development of our natural resources, and while explaining this he said: "In our laws the President submits to the Congress an annual budget, a budget which, by the way, we ~~expect~~ are expecting to have definitely balanced by the next fiscal year." That's ~~the~~ parenthetical all right, just tossed in, a clause beginning with "which" a phrase with the incidental "by the way." But, that's what he said, which by the way, takes the foremost place in the news as a promise of a balanced budget next year. The government out of the red and in the black, *says F. D. R.*

POLITICAL BREVITIES

Here's some more talk about that perennial interesting subject - third term possibilities. (Dr. Stanley High, who once belonged to the inner circle of the Brain Trust, declared today that there was a chance that President Roosevelt would run for a third term. How much of a chance? "Fifty-fifty," said Dr. Stanley High.) And if he runs, the one-time Brain Truster went on, he'll probably be elected to that third term. But if he doesn't run? What then? Stanley High's opinion is that

Postmaster James A. Farley is the leading prospect. Sunny Jim

is the next in presidential succession. ^{That's} the idea.

On the other hand there are rumors that the Postmaster General is about to resign in a huff.

Jimmy Walker was fired today, and then immediately rehired. "You're through," said the New York Transit Commission, and then instantly added: "Here's your job back again." This peculiar somersault procedure comes about because of the protest that Jimmy Walker's job on the Transit Commission was what they called a "pension grab." When the one-time Mayor of New York was given the post some weeks ago, it was just in time for him to get in line for a pension. The pension part of it was related

to his service as Mayor and the necessity of getting back on
the City payroll within five years. So Jimmy had a job and
would get a pension. That's what created the ~~uproar~~ "pension
^{uproar.} grab." It grew so ^{loud} ~~serious~~ that the Transit Commission had to
do something about it. Give Jimmy the job but keep him out
of the pension, that was today's solution. By being fired,
he became illegible for the pension. By being rehired, he
has the job.

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LEAGUE - JAPAN

(Japan this evening stands condemned by the fifty-two nations of the League, rebuked for the sky bombings of cities in China.) This was decreed in Geneva today, when in the League spotlight stood no commonplace diplomat, British or French, or even Chinese.

The President of the Assembly presided, as the Advisory Committee brought in a report on air raids in the Far East - and that President is the Aga Khan, leader of a vast sect of Moslems in India. He's famous as an oriental potentate, high in English society, ^{the spiritual monarch} who wins great British racing events with speedy thoroughbreds. ~~xxxx~~ But his greater claim to fame is that he is a descendant of ^{Mohammed} ~~Mohammed~~ through the Prophet's only daughter, Fatima. That puts him in line of the legendary Moslem leaders called the ^{Nine} Imams. It is because of his descent from Mohammed that he is the spiritual chief of millions of Mohammedans in India. ^{And as an} ~~xxxx~~ ~~an~~ Indian representative, ~~that~~ he is now the President of the League of Nations.

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The Aga Khan directed the proceedings, as the report of the sub-committee was read, ^{a report} with phrases like this: "Air

bombardment of open towns in China by the Japanese! - profound distress at the loss of life caused to innocent civilians including a great number of women and children! - there is no excuse for such acts, which have caused a horror and indignation throughout the world!"

Thus did the Committee report and condemn Japan before the representatives of fifty-two nations. The Assembly of the League responded with - silence, no answer. Whereupon, the Aga Khan arose - that descendant of Mohammed who is the spiritual lord of millions. "The Assembly approves of the resolution" - was the announcement he made. Whereupon the Assembly burst into cheers, and the rebuke to Japan was adopted without a vote.

After these things had transpired and the word flashed to Washington, Secretary of State Hull gave the opinion of ~~of Washington~~ *the United States.* "The American government," said he, "holds the view that any general bombing of an extensive area wherein resides a large populace engaged in peaceful pursuits is unwarranted and contrary to principles of law and humanity."

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So the United States today endorsed the League of Nations complaint ~~about~~ against Japan.

CHINA

Meanwhile, there's an ominous word of increasing tension between Japan and Soviet Russia. We hear of great masses of troops being mobilized on both sides of the frontier between Siberia and Manchoukuo, ^{the} Japanese war machine on one side, the Red army on the other. In this tension there's a flashing hint of danger in the news ^{today} ~~that~~ the Soviet ambassador to Nanking has left suddenly for Moscow. He has taken a plane on the long trip to the Red capital. This leads to a quick rumor that Ambassador Bogomoloff is consulting with Stalin concerning a treaty of alliance between the Soviets and China, Red Moscow lined up ~~up~~ with Nationalist Nanking. The Japanese already have been accusing the Russian Communists of supplying stocks of war material to China.

ADD CHINA

I was given a bit of insight today into the whys and wherefores of the bitter and determined Japanese drive against China. And I was told that it all goes back to those spectacular events of months ago -- when the Chinese Generalissimo, Chiang Kai-shek, was kidnapped.) At the time, the dramatic focus was on his wife, the brilliant Chinese woman who was educated in America. She it was who flew by plane to intercede for her husband's release, and the headlines told how she had persuaded his captors to set him free.

That was romance and melodrama. But (today Upton Close, writer on the Far East, recalled to me that there was another angle -- a promise Chiang Kai-shek made to the generals who seized him, a promise concerning the army of the Chinese Communists. He pledged himself to stop fighting that Far Eastern Red army, and to come to an understanding with the Communist general and unite with them in opposition to Japan. That, said Upton Close, was the real reason why he was released.)

I recall how the news at the time put on great stress on Chiang Kai-shek's sincerity in promising an understanding and alliance

with the Communist army. But Upton Close says -- it was just to the contrary. The kidnapping made Chiang Kai-shek realize that a line-up with the Communist faction was what the people of China wanted -- unity, a solid front in the face of Japan.

So Tokyo saw the Chinese factions suddenly united. That threatened to block the Japanese. And now they're striking violently to break up that Chinese unity and overthrow the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek in his alliance with the generals of the Red army of China.

MUSSOLINI

The news from Germany brings us a few surprises this evening - oratorical surprises. In Berlin, they staged the culminating and climactic high spot of the big show - Mussolini's visit, ~~to Germany~~. After military reviews, spectacular parades and thunderous cheering - today came the speech-making. With the dazzling spotlight on two such masters of haranguing-the-multitude as Hitler and Mussolini, the oratory was sure to echo to the heavens. So it was no surprise that Hitler made a speech, and no surprise that Mussolini made a speech. Hitler declaimed in German, not surprising. But Mussolini also made his address in German - and that gave the fillip of the unusual.

Of course, the Duce is known to be a good linguist. He's known for example, to fancy his knowledge of English - although when I talked to him in Rome last spring, I found his command of the Anglo-Saxon tongue not so fluent as I had expected. But then Mussolini had a readier chance to learn German than English. In his Socialist days, he was a Red radical exile in Switzerland, and did some studying in a Swiss university. So he had all ^{the} opportunity to pick up ~~some~~ German. Still, one hardly

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expected him, at today's mighty pageant in Berlin, to harangue the hundreds of thousands of Nazis in the language of Goethe and Schiller. It was as surprising as when our own President Roosevelt, ~~thereby~~ talked to a Quebec audience, in French a year or so ago. But how ~~was~~ good was Mussolini's German? The news dispatches are ~~rather~~ complimentary on that point. They say he talked German, guttural consonants and all, correctly and copiously - ^{though with an} ~~no decided~~ Italian accent.

There were surprises in what he said as he faced the immense multitude in the giant bowl where the Olympic Games were held last year. He stood on the same rostrum with Hitler. - the two Dictators. But wait a minute, that brings a surprise - Mussolini ~~might~~ denied that either he or Hitler was a dictator. That's news. What would you call Italy and Germany, if not dictatorships?

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And this brings ^{still} another surprise. Mussolini declared that both Italy and Germany were democracies. And that's the most unexpected sort of news. But here's what the Duce said. "The biggest, most genuine, democracies known in the world today,"

he shouted, "are the German and Italian democracies." Thus spake
the non-dictatorial Mussolini, ^{oh so non-dictatorial - in democratic, oh so} ~~in~~ democratic Germany.

He also declared for peace. He said that his visit to Germany, strengthening the Rome-Berlin axis, had no hostile intention. He called for union and peace of what he terms nations of good-will. The good-will seemed to exclude Soviet Russia and Left Wing Spain. In a typical flash of Mussolini oratory, he brought the vast Berlin crowd to a roar - as he is accustomed to do with the Romans in the shadow of the Colosseum. But this time he did it in German, which makes it all the more an exploit of oratorical acrobatics. "If we were asked," he declaimed, "whether the result of this visit will be peace or war, I and the Fuehrer can answer with a loud voice - peace!" And it was in an exceedingly loud voice that he shouted the word "peace" or its equivalent in German. And that electrified the vast throng to a thundering cheer.

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Mussolini also declared that the whole world will ~~become Fascist~~ ^{his brand of democracy -} not because of propaganda, but by the logic of events. He spoke openly of Italian volunteers fighting in Spain, and defended his intervention in the Spanish Civil War. He raised

the familiar cry against Communism; - "Down with the Reds!" But in general his tone was reassuring, with the promise of peace.

He talked up his favorite idea - an understanding with England and France in a system of peaceful agreements among ^{four} the powers of western Europe, with the exclusion of Soviet Russia.

BALLOONS

A priest, Roman collar and all, ~~was~~ raised a rifle today and blazed away -- taking aim at a man floating high in the air. That is, he almost took aim at the man. Actually, he shot some balloons, and saved the man's life.

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It happened at Old Orchard Beach, Maine, where a news-reel cameraman was ^{to take} ~~taking~~ some picture^s from the air. How did he get up in the air? By means of an assemblage of balloons. He rose with a whole cluster of small inflated spheres taking him up. These were attached to a rope held on the ground. So, it was ^{all} on the order of a captive balloon. But a stiff wind was blowing and the rope broke, and the balloons and the cameraman drifted away. The wind was breezing out from land to sea. It was blowing the cameraman and his balloons out into the ocean. He couldn't descend, couldn't possibly get to earth. [¶] That was what was observed by Father James J. Mullen, ~~whereupon~~ whereupon the Father went and got his rifle. To keep the photographer from being blown out to sea he shot the photographer down. With one rifle shot after another he punctured the ^{all} balloons. He had to take careful aim, or he would have punctured the cameraman.

Careful aim he took, and with a fusillade of shots he burst
enough of the balloons so that the cameraman drifted ^{gently} to earth,
right on the beach. ~~Oh, not so gently.~~

REMINISCENCE

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Now here are a couple of news bits that bring
reminiscent recollections. Remember the Chicago gang *days of*
~~when~~ Scarface Al Capone, *? was king?* Today, a suit was entered
in Chicago against the one-time king of gangland. A suit for
what? Why, for unpaid income taxes - two hundred and seventy
thousand dollars' worth. It sounds odd, because Scarface Al is
right now in Alcatraz, serving a ten year sentence for 'income tax
evasion. I wonder whether he has anything like the two hundred
and seventy thousand dollars he's being sued for.

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And you recall the famous Tennessee monkey trial,
Teacher Scopes being tried for teaching evolution, prosecuted by
William Jennings Bryan and defended by Clarence Darrow? At
Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Laura Elms Morris, a country
school teacher, was charged today with teaching that the earliest
man was - "something like an ape." The country school teacher
is suing to get back her job, after being dismissed on charges
of being incompetent and cruel. Now she's charged ~~with~~ *with* also being
Darwinian, ~~and~~ *and* the judge responded with the legal opinion that -

"man was always a man." He doesn't believe "When you were a tadpole and I was a fish, in the Paleozoic Age." Here is the declaration of **juridicial anthropology**. "The Court," said His Honor, "would regard it as reprehensible to teach that men were once monkeys, but not that they were once lowly creatures mayve fifty thousand years ago, possible with hair on their bodies. And they may have lived in caves in the ground. But man was always a man," so pronounces his Anthropological honor!

And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW