

P. T. - Sunoco. Monday, Oct. 18, 1935.

C. J. M. C.

President Roosevelt said this afternoon that he was greatly gratified by the Supreme Court decision on gold.

~~Previous to that~~ ^{And} Democratic leaders in the Senate and the House expressed the highest satisfaction with the decision of the lofty tribunal supporting the President's gold policy.

Chairman Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee made this comment:- "What the Government did might not have been absolutely legal, but it was right."

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And to the chorus of Administration cheers was added the roar of the Stock Market. Traders in stocks put their seal of approval on the Supreme Court decision in the form of a wave of buying. Stocks leaped upward. All along the line the increases ran from one to ten points. On the New York Stock Exchange the ticker tape fell far behind the rush of business. And in the grain markets of Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis the activity was so tremendous that trading had to be stopped to enable the market machinery to ~~catch~~ catch up.

Yes, that long awaited decision came finally today in the course of a stately scene. In Washington the courtroom of

the highest tribunal was jammed. Chief Justice Hughes in his judicial robes announced the decision: -- the President's Gold policy upheld.

Of course the decision was not one hundred per cent -- in theory at least. Let's look at the qualifications made by the Supreme Court and try to figure out what they mean. The highest justices decree that the Government gold policy applies to all types of commercial bonds, but does not apply to government bonds. This is in line with the Constitutional power of Congress to regulate the value of currency, but the decision maintains that the Government itself had no right to ^{diminish} ~~diminish~~ the value of its own bonds. Having agreed to pay, Uncle Sam has no legal right to say, "I'll pay less."

But that's all theoretical, because the Supreme Court, while decreeing that the Government should pay in gold, proceeded to ~~not~~ knock out any chance of ^{anybody} making the Government do so. The Justices specifically declare that the Court of Claims is not competent to consider cases involving the Gold policy. And the Court of Claims is the only tribunal to which such cases can be ^{taken.} taken.

The other courts have no jurisdiction in cases against the Government, and it would take a law passed by Congress to give them ^{any such} ~~the~~ right. ~~to do so~~. And such a law would certainly not be passed.

In simple terms it comes to this: If you have a thousand dollar Federal bond, the Supreme Court says you're entitled to get paid for it in terms of gold. In other words, sixteen hundred and ninety dollars. The only place where you could legally sue the Government for that amount is the Court of Claims, but the Supreme tribunal ~~is~~ specifically forbids the Court of Claims to do anything about it. So, you've got the money coming to you, but you can't get it.

One of the most interesting angles in that enormously important court decision is the way the Justices split on ~~that~~ decision. It was a close, ~~decision,~~ five to four in favor of the Gold policy. Those voting ~~in favor of~~ ^{on} the Government ^{side} were Justices Hughes, Brandeis, Stone, Roberts and Cardozo. And those against were Justices McReynolds, Van Devanter, Sutherland and Butler.

They say that the situation in the court gives almost dictatorial powers to Chief Justice Hughes. The other members ~~are~~^{are} split evenly, four liberals and four conservatives. So ~~that~~ the Chief Justice has the balance of power between them. And political observers say that for the past several years Mr. Justice Hughes has been showing himself to be more and more liberal. That would seem to be indicated today, when the Chief Justice joined with the four Liberal members, Brandeis, Stone, Roberts and Cordozo, and supported the gold policy and the Federal Government.

LONG

We sent the bomb to Huey Long? Who tried to blow up the Kingfish? The square package transmitted through the mails was addressed to the Kingfish at his senatorial office in Washington. Huey is in New York today. It was his secretary in the national capital who got the square box. He didn't think much about it, just opened it. Inside he found a battery, and that battery was wired to a bottle containing a liquid. The bottle had broken. Maybe that was the reason the bomb did not go off. What kind of liquid was in the bottle has not yet been ascertained. Officials of the Post Office Department are trying to find out now.

Huey has stirred up plenty of political antagonism, and some crack pot might really have tried to blow him up. Or again, the infernal machine might be nothing more than a crack pot hoax. Just a little laughing nitro-glycerine.

ELEVATOR

Well, the elevators will continue to run in New York.

The strike crisis passed away this afternoon. ^{And} The story is one of more than mere local New York importance, because an elevator tie-up in the big town would have been a sight to set the whole country gaping. New York is a city of ^{going up and down.} ~~elevators~~. The giant ^{forest} ~~forest~~ of tall buildings on Manhattan Island depends tremendously on elevator operators. It is no fun to climb one hundred and ^{two} ~~no~~ flights of stairs, to the top of the Empire ~~State~~ ^{State} Building, or to the dizzy heights of the offices right here in Rockefeller Center.

So there was consternation in the thought of the walk-out of the building Service Union, meaning the elevator operators. There have been all sorts of wranglings, offers, and demands, with Mayor La Guardia trying to straighten things out between the building owners and the elevator men. It seems ^{ed} ~~s~~ as if the big elevator strike ^{was} ~~is~~ sure to come, in fact it began today. There was a walk-out ^{from} ~~of~~ a couple of hundred of the tall buildings. But now word has come from City Hall that Mayor La Guardia has succeeded in bringing the Union and the building men together for an arbitration of their differences. And the strike was called off

and the men who had walked out went back to the job of riding up and down. And in the nick of time, just before the five o'clock homeward rush had started.

AIRPLANE

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The Grand Canyon of ^{the} Colorado will soon lie right along a route of coast-to-coast transportation. No, it won't be any railroad bridging of that mighty gulch. Planes will fly over. The Transcontinental and Western Air Lines announce the beginning of a new service between New York and Los Angeles, and ^{at the} ~~between~~ breakfast and supper ~~service will be a delightful~~ scenic flight ~~by the~~ Two hundred miles an hour Douglas airliners ~~They~~ will clip forty minutes off the regular schedule and ^{on their way} will wing right across the Grand Canyon. For the first time coast-to-coast travelers will have a glimpse en route, of that famous scenic wonder.

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SPY

The spy drama in Germany has been played out to a dreadful and bitter end, with the execution of two German women by the axe. The unhappy victims were Baroness Benita von Berg and Frau Renati von Natzmer, both of the highest social circles.

Eleven days ago I told of that amazing affair of espionage, which was surrounded by the most intense secrecy. I related how word came, by grapevine information, of a trial begun in Berlin behind closely guarded doors - the prosecution of a Polish officer and a whole group of German women accused of being his dupes in a gigantic spy game. The Polish officer, Captain Baron George von Sosnowsky, had been a ~~dx~~ dazzling social figure in the gay life of Berlin - a glittering host to whose champagne suppers came the highest dignitaries in Germany. He was surrounded by beautiful women, wives and daughters of the rich and the noble. And the accusation was that this combined master-spy-and-

high-life-Prince Charming had used this circle of beauties to gather German military secrets, which he then sold to France - technical secrets about German military airplanes. The story ~~was~~ as we had it then, was lighted with a ^{glow}~~flame~~ of romantic hope. The German authorities were willing to turn the Baron over to Poland, and exchange him for prominent German spies in prison in Warsaw, but the Baron refused. He insisted on standly loyalty by the German women accused with him, and of sharing their fate.

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Permission was being asked ^{of}~~by~~ the German government for him to marry ^{Baroness}~~Princess~~ Benita von Berg, with whom he was connected by ties of long romance. This marriage would have made the woman a Polish subject and thereby rendered her immune from the death penalty. Because nations in times of peace do not execute spies of foreign nationality. # But now we see that this romantic salvation did not happen. The German authorities would not sanction the marriage. So the trial before the harsh and relentless Peoples' Court in Berlin went through to the bitter end. The Polish Baron was sentenced to life imprisonment. They say the way is still open for him to be sent back to Poland in exchange for German spies held at Warsaw. # For the women, who they say were his dupes, the

story is black. For they were of German nationality and were subject not merely to charges of espionage, but also of high treason. Two of the lesser figures among them ~~are~~^{were} sentenced to prison, the two most prominent sentenced to death. There was an appeal to Hitler himself, asking him to ameliorate the ~~Supreme Court~~ penalty in those two tragic cases. But Hitler took no action.

So now a terrible scene has been enacted in a Berlin prison courtyard, as the two executions were carried out in Medieval fashion with an executioner's battleaxe wielded by a headsman in a frock coat and silk hat.

Why has the Berlin government been so ruthless and relentless in this punishment ~~toward~~^{of} women? A hint of this is seen in the intimate military angles that appear ~~constantly~~ in the case. We are told that the first tip leading to the exposé of the spy plot came in the worry of the mother of the girl employed as secretary in the offices of the Reichswehr, Germany's official army. The mother was bothered by the way her daughter had to work every night, all sorts of hours. Also, the daughter had a rather unexpected fur coat. So the mother inquired at the Reichswehr

office about why the girl had to work so unmercifully late every night. This led to the discovery, that instead of working, the girl ^{secretary} ~~employee~~ in the Reichswehr offices was spending her nights at the parties of the social lion, Baron Sosnowsky. That girl ^{is} ~~was~~ one of the women ^{now} sent to prison.

Another of the prison sentences was inflicted on the daughter of a former German general. [#] And the military tie-up is still stronger in the case of the two women who were executed. Frau von Natzmer had married into the family of the German General von Nazmer, who was killed in the World War. And as for Baroness von Berg, who was the Polish Baron's chief partner in the spy plot - why her first husband was a nephew of General von Falkenhayn, who was the German Chief-of-Staff ^{and} Commander of the Kaiser's army in the early part of the World War. She was ~~ix~~ divorced. She became infatuated with Sosnowsky. Trying to break the fascination he exerted over her, she contracted another marriage - with Baron von Berg, who was an engineer, an expert on aviation ~~motors~~ at the great Sieman ~~s~~ Motor Manufacturing plant. ^{and} and this connects intimately with the story that the spy ring sold German aviation

motor secrets to France. For the unfortunate Baroness could not keep away from Sosnowski. Her ~~was~~ second husband was devotedly attached to her. But she was soon again in the power of the master spy. And ~~then~~^{then} disaster and tragic Nemesis followed swiftly.

~~and~~ Thus ends that story of ~~spy plot~~ a spy plot, aristocratic society and gaudy romance, which drifted to us through shroudings of secrecy eleven days ago.

INDIA

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And there was another astounding story we had some time ago - which now comes to a climax, and close. Remember that weird oriental tale I told ^{a few} ~~some time~~ months ^{back} ~~ago~~ about a plague-germ poisoning in India? - ~~It related the~~ fiendish attempts on the life of a Hindu landowner, whose stepbrother wanted to inherit the property. The criminals didn't resort to those fantastic oriental poisons. They were too modern for that. They used ultra modern germs, bacilli, which they procured from the experimental laboratory of a hospital. In the court proceedings it was revealed how cunningly they had gone about ~~the~~ injecting the germs into the victim. Once they smeared plague germs on the spectacles he wore. They succeeded finally, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ when one day the victim, while walking along a street, felt a sharp jab in his arm, as if he were pricked by an ordinary needle, but it was a hyperdermic needle injecting bacilli. He fell ill of, septic ~~per~~ pneumonia and died.

The weekend news dispatches tell us that the court at Alipore has turned in a verdict of guilty and handed down two death sentences - one for the stepbrother and one for the Hindu

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INDIA

physician who procured the deadly germs. The germ ~~infectious~~^{murder} was described in the court as "unparalleled in the ~~annals~~^{annals} of crime in India." And that's a superlative of superlatives.

TUNG

At a girls' college in Mississippi they're growing tung trees. I don't mean that tongues grow on trees down there where the young ladies get their higher education. It's something more ~~than~~ philanthropic and scientific. The story comes to me in a wire from Professor G. W. Winfield, President of Whitworth College for Women in Mississippi. He tells me how ^a Colonel ^{of Picayune, Miss.,} Crosby [^] decided to endow the college and he has done it, not with money, but with a thousand acres of tung trees. *And there's nothing Picayune about that.*

~~MESSAGE~~ ^{which} ~~And that~~ [^] takes us way over to China, where for ages ^{the} ~~these~~ [^] tung tree has been a peculiar kind of vegetation found nowhere else. It produces the heaviest oil known to man, tung oil, which weighs eight pounds per gallon. The importance of this concerns that familiar Chinese art, Lacquer work. The ancient Chinese secrets for making laquer are based on ^{that} ~~a~~ heavy fluid, tung oil. Recently, American horticulturists have discovered that the tung tree can be grown in one small peculiar section of this country, in the basin of the Pearl River, in Mississippi. This is in the district of Whitworth College for Women. ~~So~~ Colonel Crosby, in making his collegiate endowment, ^t decided to give it the form of a thousand

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acres planted with tung trees, which he brought expressly from China. So the girls' college will be the great producer of tung oil - as well as tongue lashing - in this country. And the Governor of Mississippi has designated tomorrow as "Tung Oil Education Day."

There does seem to be a logical relation between college girls and tung oil. They might use it to oil their tongues, although maybe that's not needed.

This reminds me that the ladies have been celebrating the One hundred and Fifteenth Anniversary of the birth of the great feminine Emancipator, Susan B. Anthony, the belligerent pioneer of women's rights. The ladies, having enslaved us men for all these thousands of years, simply had to be emancipated. There were plenty of speeches at the Susan B. Anthony celebration, which sounded like an extensive use of tongue oil.

Well, if anybody has been using tongue oil I have! -

so --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.