

P.T. - Sunoco. Monday, Aug. 7, 1939.

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Indictments, criminal indictments, dropped almost like
hailstones in Louisiana today. They were the ^{latest} ~~first~~ outcome of the
federal investigation into the political scandals in the bayou state.
The ^{Lesh} principal indicted man was Richard W. Leche, who resigned as
Governor just as the rumpus broke over Dr. James Monroe Smith,
President of Louisiana State University.

The federal grand jury ^{also} returned ~~another~~ ^{an} indictment
against Seymour Weiss, another big-shot in the organization of the
late Huey Long, in fact its treasurer. And along with them were a
couple of oil men. They are accused in the first place of having
conspired to break the commonly known hot oil act, the federal
statute pro-rating the production of petroleum. Also, of
conspiring to defraud the United States in a commission transaction,
and three of them are accused of a conspiracy to duck ~~from~~ taxes.

This wasn't the first indictment against Seymour Weiss.
Three weeks ago, the grand jury handed down a True Bill against
him, charging him with having used Uncle Sam's mails to defraud.
When Huey Long began his long climb to power, Seymour Weiss was a
fifteen-dollar-a-week shoe salesman. He's now rated as one of the

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richest men in Louisiana.

When Leche gave up his job as governor, he retired to an estate of several hundred acres, with a string of fine horses, a flock of imported Russian caracul sheep, and many head of blooded cattle.

CRIME FOLLOW NEW ORLEANS

~~Almost at the other end of the continent,~~ ^{At} New York City,
another federal grand jury was sworn in ^{today.} ~~it is the~~ special
grand jury ~~that has been~~ impaneled to hear evidence on rackets not
only in New York but all over the country. The Federal Bureau of
Investigation has been at work ^{for} two years getting up evidence and
has compiled a report of five hundred thousand words to explain
the ^{national} racket situation, ~~in this country.~~

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But there's another aspect to the swearing in of that
federal grand jury, ~~and quite an amusing one.~~ It simmers down to
a contest between prosecutors. Political observers are saying
out loud that this federal investigation of the rackets is an
attempt by Attorney General Murphy to dim the star of Republican
Racket Buster, Tom Dewey, of New York County. Actually, it is
admitted that the F.B.I. has been investigating rackets for ten
years; ~~and most~~ intensively for the last two, ~~of them.~~ However,
it is significant that the grand jury hearings begin at this time.
Tom Dewey's achievements have led to his being hailed not only in
his own state, ^{but with equality} ~~but even more~~ enthusiastically ^{in throughout the nation} ~~in other states,~~
as a possible Republican candidate for president. Political

observers say that the Democrats hope by starting ^a~~the~~ grand jury investigation at this time, to win a lot of convictions and so promulgate the claim that Dewey is not the only racket busting pebble on the beach.

The observers are commenting on the fact that the first case to be brought up before that grand jury is that of Louis Lepke Buchalter, who has been a fugitive from Dewey's men for two years. At the moment the grand jury was meeting, Dewey was asking the New York City Board of Estimate to raise the price ~~of Lepke's~~ on Lepke's head from five thousand to thirty thousand

dollars, dead or alive. *And now the question is, who'll get Lepke? The F. B. I. has all the bulge. For it can conduct a nation wide manhunt,*

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HATCH BILL

The first loud public criticism of the Hatch Bill was heard today, the bill forbidding federal employees to be active in politics. It came out of the mouth of the National President of the Young Democrats who are assembling at Pittsburgh for their national convention. The President of the Young Democrats pronounced that law as the "most un-American piece of legislation that has been passed by Congress in the last twenty-five years."

~~The President of the Young Democrats~~ ^{He} is Pitt Tyson Māner of ~~MO~~ntgomery, Alabama, and he commented acidly that it was outrageous that just because a man works for the government his hands should be tied. And he added that he had not yet found one Young Democrat who approved of that Hatch Bill.

In connection with ~~that~~ ^{is} convention of ~~Young Democrats~~ at ~~Pittsburgh~~, the Department of Justice made a ruling, though an ~~information~~ informal one. It notified the National President that employees of the government may attend, ~~that convention~~ but not as delegates. The Department emphasizes that this is an ~~information~~ ^l ~~opinion~~ _λ opinion.

CONGRESS

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Hope springs eternal in the human breast, even in Washington. New Deal leaders at the Capital were talking optimistically today about the ~~scrambled eggs~~ ^{omlet} that Congress in its last week ^{had} made of the President's legislative program. Senator Key Pitman said that when the lawmakers go back to Washington in January, they will reverse themselves on the question of neutrality. And Senator Barkley, the majority leader, is sure they'll change their minds about other parts of the program.

~~Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas, majority leader of the House, had a long conference with President Roosevelt at the White House. He said he had just paid him a social call, but of course everybody was sure he was really discussing plans to pick up the pieces. Rayburn is going to talk over the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company at half past ten tonight, Eastern Daylight Time, and perhaps tell us about it.~~

PRIMARY

The returns from last Saturday's primary election in Kentucky are quite interesting. The crucial fight is between two candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor. What it amounts to is a test of the relative strength of the ^{A.F. of L.} ~~American~~ Federation of Labor and the ~~Congress of Industrial Organizations~~ ^{and the C.I.O.} ~~Congress of Industrial Organizations~~. Lieutenant-Governor Keen Johnson is backed by the ^{Gov. Happy Chandler and} A.F. of L.

John Young Brown has the support of United States Senator

Alben Barkley and John O. Lewis, President of the C.I.O. So far, the American Federation ~~of Labor~~ candidate is in the lead. Among the Republicans, Judge King Swope of Lexington leads by eight thousand votes over Judge John S. Cooper.

HARVEST

It seems too ironic that in these days fields teeming with rich crops should encourage aggressive nations to go to war. Information has been gathered from all over Europe about the harvest prospects, and the sum total of the report is that the granaries of every country are almost bursting with grain. Every storehouse on the continent is full to the limit. In Germany even dance halls and gymnasiums are being used for grain storage. In the valley of the Danube, along the banks of the Vistula, in the Ukraine, to a lesser extent in Poland, -- the peasants are reaping wheat, rye, barley, oats. The crops of potatoes, sugar beets, and fruits are also abnormally large. All of which tends to encourage the war-makers, assuring them of plentiful supplies not only for their armies but for the people who stay at home.

Formerly it was scarcity and need that sent armies into the field. Now we have the spectacle of abundance inciting the war-minded.

DANZIG

At Danzig, words of acid tone passed back and forth over the weekend. It began when the government of Danzig published the accusation that the Polish government was employing soldiers as customs ~~offi~~ guards. In other words, the Poles were strengthening their patrol on the frontier of East Prussia by passing off trained troops as customs officials. The Danzig government announced that it declined to recognize those men as customs guards. Thereupon the Polish Commissioner in the Free City filed a protest, a demand that the Danzig government quit interfering ~~with those customs~~ ~~guards.~~

Today, the government of the Free City rejected the Polish demand, said it was a provocative ultimatum, and further had no foundation in fact, it was based on mere false rumors.

TROOPS

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The British government has actively started the
reenforcement of its ^{great} war base at Singapore. ^{Today a} squadron of
powerful bombing ~~air~~ planes arrived there at the naval base from
India. Those planes double the air strength at Singapore but
they are only forerunners of more to come. Others are on their
way, which will complete a force of thirty-six bombers, eight
transport bombers, and four flying boats.

TRACK

~~There was a race meet at~~ London today, the national track and field day; ~~it is~~ described as a sort of try-out, a preview to the Olympic Games next year. Only sixteen nations are competing, but they ^{are} ~~were~~ the nations most important in field and track.

When it was all over, ^{the} American colors ^{were} ~~came out~~ ahead, with ninety-nine points. The runner-up was Great Britain, with sixty-nine; Germany, ~~was~~ third, with thirty-seven.

One of the most spectacular events was the three mile run, which was won by Taisto Maeki of Finland, who broke a record by running ~~these~~ three miles in thirteen minutes, fifty-nine and four-tenths seconds. Three miles in less than fourteen minutes! - ~~sounds a trifle fabulous!~~ Fast footing!

ICEBERGS

The news from mid-Atlantic is that the venerable ocean is suffering from a spectacular plague of icebergs. The Coast Guard reports them almost as numerous as Japanese beetles in New Jersey. ~~And in consequence a freighter belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway had a narrow escape this morning.~~

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Icebergs in August are more than unusual. Customarily, the season for those dangerous objects begins in the middle of March and ends about the first of July. More than five hundred of them have been reported near the shipping lanes on the Atlantic this season. The worst of ~~them~~^{it} is that they carry with them a veil, a screen of thick fog.

At half past six this morning, Eastern Daylight Time, ~~the~~ Coast Guard Cutter CHAMPLAIN received a radio message from ~~the~~^a ~~C.P.R.R.~~^{C.P.R.R.} freighter's captain that he had struck an iceberg in a dense fog, off the coast of Newfoundland, but was in no immediate danger. There were several ~~vessels~~^{ships} nearby and two of them were soon at the side of the stricken ~~freighter~~^{vessels}. Later on, however, the master radioed headquarters at Montreal that he was continuing his voyage to London.

ACTORS

~~Even the actors are having a union row.~~ Some time ago, the American Federation of Actors, the vaudeville union, was kicked out by the Associated Actors and Artists^e of America. Thereupon, another union, the International Alliance of Theatrical Employees, that's the stagehand union, gave a charter to the^s vaudeville union which the Associated Actors and Artists^e had expelled.

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So now the actors who are not vaudeville artists are sore. They think the stagehand union is trying to kidnap all the actors. So there's going to be an indignant protest to the American Federation of Labor, which is the parent of them all. The Executive Council of the A.F. of L. began a session at Atlantic City today. Ralph Morgan, President of the Screen Actors Guild on the West Coast, says that there'll be a delegation of actors from Hollywood at Atlantic City. They're going by plane to make their protest. Some of the biggest names in the acting world are represented in that protest. They include Helen Hayes, Katherine Cornell, ^{and} Katherine Hepburn. Among the actors who are flying to Atlantic City are James Cagney, Franchot Tone, Edward Arnold, Ann Sheridan, Dudley Digges, Olivia deHaviland. ^{and} That ought to ~~be the~~ ^{provide} ~~makings of~~ a pretty good show for the union heads!

CAPTURE

A village constable making his rounds at Momence, Illinois, became suspicious about an automobile that was passing through.

He noticed that the license plates in the front were different from those in the rear of the car. The two men in the car were asleep.

The constable called a couple of deputies, and ^{nabbed them.} ~~they grabbed the man.~~

It turned out that the village constable had real reason for his suspicions. The men he grabbed were a couple of fugitive convicts who had escaped from their guards while being taken from Atlanta to the federal prison at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, ^{two} ~~a couple~~ of weeks ago.

But that wasn't all. The prisoners are said to have confessed to having committed six burglaries since they broke away from their guards. And their descriptions coincide with those of a couple of bandits who tried to hold up an Illinois-Central train last week and grab a fifty-six thousand dollar payroll belonging to Uncle Sam.

RESCUE

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Everybody in Kingston, Ontario is talking tonight about a husky young citizen named Harold Gibson. He and Mrs. Gibson and their four children went for an outing Saturday afternoon on the banks of the Rideau River. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson fished while the children were playing in the family car which was parked on a bank high up above the river. The emergency brake slipped and ^{the} ~~that~~ car went rolling down over the brink into ten feet of water ^{in it went} with all four children.

Fortunately Harold Gibson was a strong fellow, an amateur wrestler. The first thing he saw was his youngest child, a boy only ten months old floating on the surface. He dived in brought the child to shore. Then he saw the hands of his four-year old girl stuck up appealingly above the surface of the water. He dived again pulled the girl to the bank. Already he was so tired he could hardly stand, but ^{in he went,} ~~he dived~~ again. This time he swam under water to the car and saw two little legs protruded from under the running board. He pulled them and brought ^{up} another daughter, a two year old, ~~to the surface.~~

~~But~~ ^{By} this time ~~Harold~~ Gibson was exhausted. ^{But} There

was still another child in the water, a seven year old boy.

At that moment the boy's head ~~rose from the water~~ ^{bobbed up} and Gibson

was able to pull him in too. They were all so exhausted

they had to be taken to ^a ~~the~~ ^{l.} ~~hospitable~~ for a while. ~~But~~ Today

they were ~~resting~~ at home; ~~taking congratulations.~~ ^{and I} ~~and says~~

^{says:-}
Harold Gibson, "If I had five children I wouldn't be here to
tell about it."

Sinclair Lewis, the novelist, the Nobel Prize Winner, has been looking at the world through dark glasses again. He says we're about to see a moratorium on all the arts, a moratorium all the world over. In fact, he says we're on the verge of another period of ^{the} Dark Ages. He claims they've already come to pass in Germany, Russia and Italy. And when it happens, "Red Lewis", as his friends call him, says he's going to be a realist and look for another job.

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Friends of his will remember that "Red" has made and richly earned several hundreds of thousands of dollars from his writings and salted quite a good part of them away; ^{and so his} ~~they are~~

^{friends are} inclined to titter about his looking for a job. ^{At any rate} his wife Dorothy Thompson can always support ^{him} ~~him~~. ^{But} another member of his own craft doesn't quite agree

with him. "Red" made those remarks at Ogonquit, Maine. At York, Maine, Dr. A. J. Cronin, a British physician who took to writing novels, says that so far from being on the verge of the Dark Ages, we're on the wave of a big moral uplift. ~~Maybe we'd better let~~

~~the novelists fight it out between them.~~ ^{Red says "No!" The Doc says} "yes", and I say ^{along} until tomorrow.

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