

LOWELL THOMAS SUNOCO BROADCAST WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1934.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

~~The latest situation in~~ The kidnap racket *has*  
*reached the*  
~~developed today in~~ United States Senate. A bill was  
introduced by Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas <sup>today.</sup> ~~And~~ Here's  
the gist of it:- ~~It provides~~ that, anybody who pays  
ransom to kidnapers shall be punished with not less than  
two years in prison and a fine of five thousand dollars.

And now here's the first actual statement  
made by Adolph Bremer, the father of Edward Bremer who  
was abducted in St. Paul just a week ago. Mr. Bremer, who  
is a rich brewer, says a lot of mis-information has been  
given out concerning himself. He says ~~that~~ it is not  
true that he ~~had~~ issued statements blaming the police,  
and he declared <sup>that</sup>:- "Neither the police nor the agents of  
the Federal Government are in this case at all."

The Department of Justice does not quite agree  
with Mr. Bremer, but Let's continue with his statement.

*The aged father*  
He <sup>says</sup> further:- " All the stories that have been published  
about ransom notes and police interference are bunk." ~~Those~~

KIDNAP

~~were his exact words.~~

And <sup>then</sup> he continued: ~~further.~~ "Actually we haven't  
~~not~~ heard a word since Edward was kidnapped. We have  
received no notes. We are just waiting." ~~to get in touch~~  
~~with the ~~kidnapping~~ kidnappers."~~

Though Mr. Bremer says the Government is not  
in the case, it is a fact that operatives of the Department  
of Justice from Chicago are working on leads. They are  
looking for two men whom they suspect of being mixed up  
in the abduction. ~~of Edward Bremer.~~

## RAIDS

New York's sensation of the day broke when the new Prison Commissioner swooped down on the city penitentiary at Welfare Island, which used to be Blackwells Island.

Early this morning, Commissioner MacCormack and his men made their appearance on the island to the utter amazement of everybody there. The warden was relieved of his duties and the principal keeper was placed under military arrest. The raiders found an astounding supply of contraband -- drugs, knives, revolvers.

Commissioner MacCormack said that in his long experience he had never found any more shocking conditions, some of the details too ghastly to mention.

But that isn't all. The Mayor's new Commissioner of Markets started in with a big broom to clean up the markets and to clean out the racketeers. In this field it looks as though old New York were beginning to show other communities what can be done in the way of rooting out the food racketeers.

His hard-boiled Deputy Mike Fiaschetti, appeared suddenly in the small hours of the morning at one of the biggest markets in New York. He had discovered that a gang was levying tribute of about a hundred and fifty thousand a year on the farmers who had been selling their produce in that market. So he made a clean sweep, revoked seventeen licenses, and threw out a bunch of gangster hangers-on. Mike says the days of food racketeers are over, even if he has to treat 'em rough.

## HOTEL STRIKE

At this moment, Father Knickerbocker is wondering about a possible city wide strike of waiters and cooks.

Six hundred of them at the Waldorf quit abruptly last night, just as a lot of people were sitting down to dinner.

Mr. Lucius Boomer, head of the Waldorf, declares that a chef had been given his walking papers because his skill with Sauce Bearnaise and Supreme of Chicken was not up to Waldorf standards. So at five o'clock yesterday a committee of the union called to see him. The committee told Mr. Boomer the union considered the man competent and didn't want him fired. Mr. Boomer explained to the committee that it was purely a question of the man's ability, but that he would investigate the case. The next thing he knew, just at the dinner hour the chefs turned off the gas on the ranges and folded their arms, and every waiter put down his tray. Mr. Boomer adds, that today the strike was virtually broken, all main dining rooms at the Waldorf are functioning and tomorrow they expect service as usual.

HOTEL STRIKE - 2

The union complains that the chef was discharged because he was a union delegate. This evening they are voting on whether to call a strike, a general hotel and restaurant strike.

NBC

CALIFORNIA STRIKE

In California the cooks and waiters seem peaceful enough. Out there it's the vegetable pickers who are striking, most of them Filipinos. They were getting twenty cents an hour, and they said they wanted a **quarter**. The ranchers said "Nothing doing." So the vegetable pickers walked out. Today a committee of the ranchers notified the strikers to get out of San Mateo County and stay out. Meanwhile, the Californians are not going without their daily artichokes, rutabaga, and broccoli. The ranchers, following the example of the industrious Japanese, put their wives and children to work. And they pitched in themselves.

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NBC

C.W.A.

Now something about that C.W.A. problem. The President is about to ask Congress for the three hundred and fifty million dollars needed to keep people employed on C.W.A. jobs until May 1st. After that, the White House hopes most of those folks will be absorbed by public works projects, by the farms and by the revival of manufacturing which is expected as soon as winter is over.

They say the President also wants five hundred million dollars additional for direct relief, that is, money to be distributed outright to people in need.

Meanwhile, Washington has a message for people trying to get C.W.A. jobs. The message is: "Don't try to get 'em by political influence". Miss Perkins, the Secretary of Labor, declares that many have been going at it in that way -- by getting politician friends to speak a word for them with the employment offices of the Department of Labor. Several officials of the Department have been discharged for just this reason. However, the Secretary adds this kind of graft is not widespread.



NAVY

Big Navy news --- that is, news about our bigger navy. The House of Representatives today passed that bill appropriating two hundred and eighty-four million dollars for the Admirals and the Gobs, to keep the ships afloat and the decks swabbed, and for the construction of four new cruisers.

NBC

## POST OFFICE

The plight of substitutes in Uncle Sam's postal service has been getting a bit of attention lately. It has been shown that men with wives and families, are struggling along on pitifully small wages. A committee representing the national association of these substitutes called at the White House today, and asked the President for help. They want him to abolish the fifteen per cent cut in pay which they had to take last year. They also hinted that Uncle Sam might practice what he preaches and give his employees a thirty hour week.

NBC

BOBSLED

(6)

I don't know how much general, widespread coast-to-coast interest there is in this next bit of news, but it certainly is of interest to the guests in the studio here tonight. They are a group of gentlemen from Lake Placid, the winter sports capital of America, where they jump on skis and go bobbing in sleds.

A new great bobsled run has just been completed over in Germany, deep in the Bavarian Alps. They say it's a wonder and it's being tried out this week, and a Lake Placid team jumped the run and some of the boys were hurt. It has been constructed for the Winter Olympics, which will be held in Germany next year. I'll bet these Lake Placidites here in the studio wish they could take a whirl at that Bavarian bobsled run.

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CHORUS:- You bet!

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L.T. : - By the way Judge Leahy, do you know any of the Lake Placid boys who got banged up?

LEAHY:- Sure, we know them. But our Adirondack bob-sledders don't mind little things like that.

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L.T. Well, it certainly is a sport that takes cool courage as well as cold weather, and you have both up at Lake Placid.

## GAME

Right now I wish that like St. Francis of Assisi, I could talk to the birds. I wish the ducks and wild geese and graceful swans could listen in tonight. I'd tell them all about the new plan for the conservation of wild life. The Twentieth American Game Conference is in session, and Thomas Beck, Chairman of President Roosevelt's special committee on Wild Life Restoration, has presented a new program which is said to be of histroy-making importance. It includes a vast plan to restore the nesting areas of wild fowl, those places where the birds sojourn yearly to make their nests. All over the country such areas have been ruined.

Mr. Tom Beck proposes that the Government should buy huge tracts of land, that are useful for profitable agriculture, and give these places back to the birds.

Well, I could tell a lot more about that if the birds were listening in tonight. But the wild ducks and the wild geese they have no radio sets. So I'll let it go at that.

Prosper.

It looks as if they've put the hooks into the Kingfish! That mayoralty election in New Orleans has gone against him. The first real licking; that is, political licking, that Senator Long has taken in six years. There are two hundred and sixty-two precincts in New Orleans, and returns are in from two hundred and forty-seven of them. They indicate that, although Mayor Walmsley has not succeeded in hanging one on the Kingfish's jaw, he has had better luck in sinking one into Huey's political solar plexis. According to the returns, Mayor E. Semmes Walmsley has a plurality of sixteen thousand, considered plenty to assure him of the Democratic nomination, which means election. And that, say Senator Long's opponents, leaves the Kingfish as fishy as ever, but not quite so kingly.

## YACHT

Do you remember the heroic story of the tanker and the yacht, the tanker I called a "Golden Argosy" and made the Captain mad? The yacht was abandoned and believed to be sinking. But today Coast Guard headquarters in New York learned that she did nothing of the sort. The steamer Ruth Kellogg flashed a radiogram stating that the yacht is drifting about, a hundred miles or so off Barnegat. So a Coast Guard cutter is on her way to try and bring her in.

NBC

CUBA

One by one the other countries of the world are following the example of Uncle Sam in recognizing Cuba. This was done today by John Bull, and Spain followed suit, <sup>a few hours later,</sup> ~~soon thereafter.~~

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## SPAIN

In Spain, conspiracy, mystery airplane, threatened revolt, secret police, and an escape.

The information was kept secret and has only leaked out. Recently an agent of Ex-King Alfonso was in Madrid for several weeks, plotting a revolution. The plans were for a huge rebellion in all parts of the peninsula, rebellion against the new republican government.

This Royalist agent was formerly a captain in the Spanish army. He was flown across the frontier in a plane during a dense fog. In the fog the captain made his escape while the police were arresting the pilot of the plane. That pilot was kept in prison for some time but eventually was released because there was no evidence against him.

Meanwhile, the would-be plotter was rushed to Madrid in a motor car.

There he was organizing the rebellion but apparently he didn't get to first base. The secret police of the

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Republican government got wind of his activities and was just about to arrest him. However, he ~~made his~~ escape<sup>d</sup> at the eleventh hour and made his ~~way~~ way across the frontier to <sup>rejoin exiled</sup> King Alfonso in Paris. A mysterious thriller of plot and counterplot.

NBC

BERLIN

Here are two scraps of news from Germany which <sup>sound</sup> ~~seem~~ curious when you <sup>put</sup> ~~read~~ them together. First of all, Bishop Mueller, ~~the~~ head of the Nazi state Protestant Church, has ordered a special thanksgiving service. This will take place in all ~~the~~ Protestant Churches throughout Prussia on January 30th. The purpose of the celebration is to give thanks for the accession of Chancellor Hitler.

<sup>And</sup> ~~Here's the~~ second, ~~item from the Fatherland.~~ Three Catholic priests in Bavaria have been sentenced to prison. ~~The offense with which~~ They are ~~charged~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~in~~ circulating stories of Nazi atrocities.

NBC

INSULL

Samuel Insull's luck seems to be running out. Hitherto he's escaped the clutches of American Law with remarkable success. Then the government of Greece notified him that he had overstayed his welcome. This was quite a blow, but his lawyers didn't give up the fight. They appealed to the State Council, the highest tribunal in Athens. The former King of Chicago utilities told the Council replied: "No. The order stands." And now Insull must leave Greek territory by the end of this month.

NBC

## PAY-ROLL

An interesting experiment is being made in Freeport, Illinois. In fact it's throwing Freeport into confusion. The owner of a factory wanted to find out where the money he pays his employees finally goes. So he decided the easiest way to do it was to earmark the cash he paid out so it could be traced. This he did by paying the wages of all five hundred of his employees in silver dollars, old fashioned cartwheels.

One of the first results was that lots of people in Freeport were carrying their money in suitcases and even wheelbarrows when they went downtown to pay their bills. The experiment also caused quite a bit of confusion because although silver dollars are still fairly common in the far west, shopkeepers in Illinois had never seen one. Many of them at first refused to accept the silver in payment of bills.

It'll take several weeks for the experiment to work out and for the curvey to be completed, but a good deal of curious information is expected when the merchants out there get through cussing.

## TAIL COAT

A touching little tale about a tail coat in the stately aisles of Congress. The hero, Representative Everett Birksen of Illinois. Mr. Birksen was due to attend an important function so he took all of one afternoon trying to hire himself a dress suit, the good old soup and fish. He went from one store in Washington to another but in each case he found his colleagues had beat him to it. Claw hammers suddenly came so much in demand that there wasn't a single one left for the gentleman from Illinois.

Some waggish reporter must have wired this news to Illinois, because the folks back home heard about it. So what did they do but start a fund to buy a dress suit for the Honorable Congressman Birken. This was too much for Mr. Birksen who represents a good old farm district. Said he: "What business has a dirt farmer with a dress suit? I want all my friends back home to know that I have a Tuxedo, and that's plenty good enough for me. Then he added: " I am asking all my good friends in and around Peoria to turn over the proceeds of the Birksen Tail Coat Fund to charity." That's the tale of the tail coat and the tail-end of my tale of the news and  
SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.