

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MAY 30th, 1935.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The most exciting item in the news tonight comes from Africa.

It's only about a week ago that I was telling how Prime Minister Hertzog of South Africa made what sounded like a startling suggestion. Upon arriving in England for the King's Jubilee, he proposed that Britain should agree to the German demand for colonies in Africa. He said there were not enough white people in Africa to meet the threat of a possible revolt of the blacks, so it would be a good thing to have German colonies to reinforce the white element. Hertzog's prediction of a black uprising takes on a grim significance today, with word from northern Rhodesia. The south African Prime Minister stressed the small population of African whites as compared with the native negro tribes. In northern Rhodesia there are a million and a half blacks. The whites number eleven thousand. And the British officials are astonished at the revolutionary form the copper mine strike has taken.

It began because of taxation. The poll tax on the native miners was increased from ten shillings to fifteen. So the miners laid down their tools and walked out. But it seems to be less of a strike than a revolutionary movement against the white government. When the fighting began, it became apparent that the natives were organized into exceedingly efficient fighting units. It has become evident, say the British officials, that somebody has been training the blacks. There has been some sort of secret preparation: - arming, drilling. That's the larger aspect of the fighting that has been going on in Rhodesian copper mine district. Thousands of natives on the rampage; police and soldiers called from nearby barracks. A series of clashes, with the swarm of blacks getting more and more out of control. Six natives killed already. British troops from other parts of Africa hurrying to the scene of the trouble on fast trains with machine guns and full war paraphernalia.

I'm in the middle west tonight - or I should say, right in the middle of Ohio. Stopping here to break a jump to Chicago, where I'm due tomorrow. But before I say anything more about where I am, let's plunge into the news. The next item takes me right back to New York -- and it has to do with amystery, jewels, thieves, and detectives.

SCAFFA

One of the most interesting court appearances in a long time was staged in New York today, when Noel Scaffa, the ~~known~~ renowned and mysterious jewel detective, was brought before a judge and arraigned on charges preferred by federal agents. He was held on bail of Ten thousand Dollars, and a hearing in his case was set for June thirteenth. Last night the government men swooped down on Scaffa's office, and arrested him. What have they got on Scaffa? That's a question of beguiling interest. Let's take the narrative from the beginning, - all that is known about the man of mystery.

Noel Scaffa was born in Sicily and brought to this country when he was a baby. His father was a well-to-do contractor. After his death, young Scaffa got a job as an office boy in the Pinkerton Detective Agency. From office boy he graduated to the rank of a Pinkerton private sleuth, but seems to have done no spectacular work in that capacity. Fourteen years ago he left the Pinkertons and opened a private detective agency of his own. Still he was unheard of for several years -- until he got an assignment from an insurance company to look into the case of some stolen jewels. He was

successful in this. He recovered the jewels. More work of this sort came his way, and presently the big insurance companies, financial pillars of the land, were wearing out the Scaffa doorstep, bringing cases to him. He became a legend as a retriever of stolen gems. When the police were helpless, Scaffa was called in, and he always got back the diamonds, pearls and rubies.

Behind the mystery of Noel Scaffa there are several clear and understandable facts. When Scaffa recovered the stolen gems, the insurance company paid a reward. The reward commonly consisted of ten per cent of the amount the insurance company would stand to pay had they lost completely. So the company saved ninety per cent, and was happy. Scaffa has always claimed that he himself never took any part of such rewards, that he merely charged the insurance company a fee plus expenses. The suspicion was that it all worked out something like this: the jewel thief would take the loot to a fence, who in turn would hand it over to a friend. Scaffa's contact would be with that friend, to whom the reward for the recovery would be paid. A convenient way for the robber to dispose of his plunder. He wouldn't get such a big price for it, but it would be safe and ~~ER~~ easy.

Naturally the police were considerably interested in this brilliantly successful detective work. In nineteen twenty-six, Scaffa recovered a quarter of a million dollars' worth of jewels stolen from Mrs. Jesse Woolworth Donahue. It made big headlines. Scaffa was arrested accused of compounding a felony. The Grand Jury considered the question of indicting him on the ground of doing business with thieves.

At various other times when big Scaffa cases broke, there was talk of prosecuting. But the insurance companies always came to his rescue. They defended him saying he was working for them and they found it cheaper to have him negotiate for the return of the stolen goods, rather than be compelled to pay for them in full.

In all the twists and involutions, no law seemed to have been violated.

Things seemed to be about the same as usual in the most recent Scaffa episode. A hundred and eighty-three thousand dollars' worth of jewels were stolen at Miami, Florida, from Mrs. Margaret Bell, a New York society woman. Once more Scaffa recovered the jewelry, This time J. Edgar Hoover's federal agents stepped into the case. They questioned Scaffa. They investigated the part that

certain members of the Miami police had in the jewel recovery. A prominent Miami ~~detective official~~ detective official resigned. There was just one new angle in the Miami affair, and that was -- a new federal law. It is the National Stolen Properties Act, which makes it a federal offense to transport stolen goods valued at five thousand dollars or more from one state to another. J. Edgar Hoover declared that the Miami gem affair and gem recovery came under the provisions of that law. The loot had been transported from one state to another. In fact, the Miami affair was the first important case the government has tackled under the new law.

So there's the explanation of why this latest Scaffa episode is taking a different turn. It explains why the federal men arrested the man of mystery last night and why Noel Scaffa faced the judge in a New York court today.

What will be the outcome of all this mystery? Well, you be the sleuths and figure it out.

N.R.A.

The dispatches from the N.R.A. front begin with the report that the president is exceedingly skeptical about continuing the Blue Eagle Codes on a voluntary basis. He believes that business in general wants fair play and that most industries and industrial leaders are of a mind to abide by fair play regulations. But, a majority is not the whole thing. The White House is afraid of those few here and there who won't follow the rules -- he means those whom General Johnson denounced as chiselers. That of course had been the basic dilemma all along -- with one side saying, that the hand of government in the coordination of industry was bad, and the other side saying that only the hand of government can bring everybody, one and all, into line.

The hardest problem of all is how to do the salvaging. The President doesn't seem to believe in the voluntary code idea. The indications are that Congress is in no mood to consider the project of amending the Constitution for a new N.R.A., as some of the prominent New Dealers are urging. So Administration opinion is considering the possibility of drafting a new N.R.A. law for Congress to pass, one that will get by the drastic Supreme Court ruling concerning what is and isn't permitted under the Constitution.

The objection of the high justices was based on the power given to the president to draft codes, which amounts to making laws. Of course Congress has the full law-making power, and could draft industrial codes. The trouble about that is, trying to imagine what would happen if the drafting of those immensely complicated regulations for scores of industries were tossed into the Congressional maelstrom of wrangle and debate.

EMPLOYEES

The condition of doubt is still nowhere more acute than among the thousands of N.R.A. workers in Washington. The huge staff employed in the elaborate business of the codes - the N.R.A. workers - seem to know only one thing -- that they will be paid until June sixteenth, the date on which the National Recovery Act would have expired. They have been told they can either continue working until then or take their vacations without pay until that time. Since, the amount of N.R.A. work is pretty nearly zero, most of those thousands are taking vacations.

BRAIN TRUST

One lively by-product of the Supreme Court decision is a scrap in administration circles. The contending parties are the Brain Trust and the "I-told-you-so" boys. The Roosevelt camp all along has been divided into two factions. The right wing headed by such conservatives as Secretary of State Cordell Hull, and the left wing with such leading lights as Richberg and Tugwell. The Brain Trusters drew up the N.R.A. legislation, and now that the Supreme Court has demolished their handiwork, the Conservatives are saying: "You fellows didn't do so well, so why not give us a chance? You were thrown for a big loss by the nine lonely old men, so we ought to be put in the game to make a gain or two." The "I-told-you-so" Conservatives are all the more disconcerted because, when the Supreme Court blow fell and there was a hasty gathering of clans at the White House, they were not called into the conference. Instead, the President confabulated with his N.R.A. lieutenants.

KENT - DAVEY.

Governor Davey of Ohio, who was having a rumpus with the Washington administration a couple of months ago, now says the U.S. Supreme Court decision will not be detrimental to President Roosevelt. But will help Mr. Roosevelt to be re-elected.

On the other hand, Frank Kent, the political sage of Baltimore, in his widely read column, says: "The foundations have been removed from the whole giddy alphabetical structure." The entire national-planning philosophy stands condemned. And, "we are back to fundamentals." He says the A.A.A. and T.V.A. will go the way of the N.R.A.

LT in
Mt. Vernon,
Ohio
May 30⁷
, 1935.

MT. VERNON

Well, let's see how things are going around the country at present - now that the N.R.A. blue goose has been cooked:-

Mt. Vernon, where I am at this moment, is a typical American small city. Founded back in 1805. City of homes and fine schools. Home also of the Mt. Vernon Bridge Company now building the great Mark Twain Memorial Bridge to be thrown across the Missouri River. Home of a big plant of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company; and of the Cooper-Bessemer Corporation, builders of those Diesel Oil Engines that, so I'm told here, enable Sunoco tankers to sail the seven seas. Ancient, ivy-clad Kenyon College, famed for its high standing is just next door. At Kenyon they have ultra-modern courses in aviation for those who want it. In fact I came out part way by night train on the Pennsylvania and part way in the Kenyon aviation-professor's puddle-jumper- an instruction plane.

Oh yes, and I did an interesting thing here in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, today - here in the heart of the country where so many of the Union soldiers, the lads in blue, came from to fight in that war of the States seventy years ago. I visited the grave of Daniel Decatur Emmett. Who the - who was he? Why, he was the man who

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wrote "Away down south in Dixie", the southern national anthem,
was from Mt. Vernon, Ohio, born here and buried here.

But how are things here in the heart of America? Well,
there has been plenty of rain and the crops look great. Here in
Mt. Vernon -- but here's George Latham, President of the Chamber of
Commerce. How are things here, George?

GEORGE LATHAM: N.R.A. or no N.R.A. we are going strong and every-
thing's fine.

RACE

Apparently no Memorial Day would be complete without the Indianapolis Auto Race. Perhaps you've heard all about it. But for those who haven't here's how it came out:- Wild Bill Cummings who smashed the record years ago, came in third today. Wilbur Shaw 2nd, and Kelly Petillo of Los Angeles was the winner. And he had to break the 500 mile record to do it. His average was 106 $\frac{1}{5}$ miles per hour for the entire 500 miles.

One casualty. Clay Wetherly of Cincinnati, shot off the track - over the wall - and into eternity. Another thrill for the vast throng, another thrill for the newsreels. Another auto speed demand pays the price.

CHACO

Yes, it's memorial day here, but not in South America. So it is merely a coincidence, but almost appropriate coincidence, that an armistice in the Gran Chaco was signed today.

For nearly three years now Bolivia and Paraguay have been fighting one of the most savage of wars in the tropical wilderness, fighting for oil lands, Bolivia fighting for a river port, a roadway to the sea. Thousands of lives have been lost, both countries at an economic standstill, colleges and schools closed. The population at home left without medical care, because every available doctor was at the front. Today, Memorial Day for us, the quiet of peace suddenly descended on the Gran Chaco, the fighting stopped as the word flashed that a thirty day truce had been declared. That word emanated from Buenos Aires in Argentina where committees representing the rival nations have been negotiating -- negotiating successfully. The war is declared off for a month, during which time Bolivia and Paraguay will try to come to a permanent agreement.

And that's a nice peaceful note on which to end a news broadcast on Memorial Day. So let's coo like the Dove of Peace and wish peace to all men, and say

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.