

LENDING

P.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Aug. 1, 1939.

Common.

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(The President's lending program was completely and utterly beaten today in the lower House of Congress.) The House didn't vote on it and reject it. The House wouldn't even do that. It refused to consider the bill, voted against the proposal to declare the bill in order. The majority was sizeable, a hundred and ninety-three to a hundred and sixty-six.

This comes as a final collapse after a whole series of tumbles for the bill. (The President asked Congress to appropriate three billion and sixty million dollars for a pump-priming program of lending. And right away the Senate started chopping down the figure.) The Senate Banking Committee lopped off three hundred and ten million and brought the ~~President's~~ President's original figure ~~xxx~~ down to something like two billion ~~and~~ seven hundred million. When that got to the floor of the Senate, there was a further slash, the figure reduced to one billion, six hundred and fifteen million dollars. That's the way the Senate left the bill.

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(The action of the lower House began in the Banking and Currency Committee, and there the President's figure of three billion and sixty million was scaled down to one billion nine hundred and fifty million. At that figure the bill was sent to the

floor of the House. And today the House voted - ^{and} ~~it~~ refused even to consider the bill.)

That puts it off until the next session, for Congress is in a rushing drive to go home - get away from the Washington heat. The leaders say ^{there's} ~~there's~~ not a chance that today's vote will be reconsidered. Other bills will be flung on the shelf - in the rush homeward. Some expect Congress to adjourn by Saturday.

Today's defeat was one of the greatest the administration has sustained. Congress has voted against the White House along other lines, but (this is the first time that one of the huge spending and lending and pump-priming bills has been turned down - and in such peremptory fashion.)

AUTO UNION

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The National Labor Relations Board today handed down a verdict concerning one sector of the automobile union dispute. Like other members of the United Automobile Workers Union, Chrysler employees are split between the two battling factions - one affiliated with the A. F. of L., the other with the C. I. O. Each faction of the U. A. W. claims control, and the company doesn't know which one to bargain with. So today the Labor Relations Board ordered an election. This decree was in such form that it represents a victory for the A. F. of L.

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The C. I. O. wanted the election to be held with all the workers of the various Chrysler plants voting as a unit. The A. F. of L. party contended that the employees of each plant should vote for themselves, each factory a unit. And this view prevailed in today's N. L. R. B. decision. The workers of each Chrysler plant will vote all by themselves to see which faction they prefer.

This question of battling union factions is the same as has caused so much violence and rioting at the Fisher Body plant in Cleveland. The fury there quieted down today, with fighting and slugging turned into a war of words. But the picket line is still standing, and the situation is tense.

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ADMIRAL

The United States Navy has a new chief of Naval operations, Admiral Harold R. Stark, who took the oath today. He succeeds Admiral William D. Leahy, who becomes Governor of Puerto Rico. Admiral Stark has been renowned for one thing in the Navy. In the past, warships under his command have led the entire fleet in gunnery, accurate shooting, hitting the target, ^{an} ~~and~~ item of some importance in any navy.

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Taking office today, the new Chief of Naval Operations declined to make any statement about the policies he'll pursue. But it is safe to say that one of his policies will be -- accurate gunnery.

... after a record flight. - 9 hours and a quarter - almost half the time it took ~~to~~ to fly those 3000 miles from California to N.Y. yesterday in an air-liner.

FLYING FORTRESS

An Army flying fortress made a great non-stop sky dash from California to ~~xxxx~~ New York today. Winging at high altitudes, the giant bomber flew it in nine hours and a quarter, averaged two hundred and fifty-four miles an hour, and ended its flight with a moment of fear and suspense.

Out of the west came the sky monster, winging over Floyd Bennett Field. But instead of landing, the flying fortress at six hundred feet circled the field, and radioed a message - the retractable landing gear was not working-right. It seemed as if the ponderous sky ship would have to land without wheels. Rather a desperate necessity for a flying fortress. Then the suspense was abruptly snapped. Another message by radio telephone came from the pilot - they had got the landing gear working properly. Automatic mechanism out of gear, but they pushed it by hand. So down on to the field slipped the flying ~~xxxx~~ fortress in a normal, orthodox way after a record flight. - 9 hours and a quarter -

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RETAKE

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EUROPE

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the World War brings us nothing new or startling in the European crisis. Things are drifting ~~it~~ in their same bad way, with another World War threatening -- just as it has been threatening for months. Things neither better nor worse today.

News comes from Moscow, an official statement about the slow and dragging progress of the proposed British-French alliance with the Soviets. Its news only because the Moscow foreign office so seldom has anything to say about the ~~negotiations~~ negotiations -- just silence and mystery. The official Soviet News Agency publishes a statement of the one chief point of difference between London and Moscow. The explanation isn't very explanatory. It states that Moscow considers that the British proposals leave - a loophole for indirect aggression, And, This concerns the Baltic States, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia. The Soviet statement uses these words:- "The question is that no loophole should be left for indirect aggressions against the Baltic states."

We have a little more illumination when we find that this cryptic Soviet declaration is in response to something said in the House of Commons yesterday. The British Foreign Under-Secretary spoke of the delay in the London-Moscow negotiations and described the main question in these words: "Whether we should encroach on the independence of the Baltic states."

It is agreed between London and Moscow that the independence of the Baltic states shall be guaranteed; ^{for instance} Hitler not to be permitted to invade them and use them as a route by which to attack Soviet Russia, ^{— if that is his aim.} That covers direct aggression, but what does Moscow mean by -- indirect aggression? Probably the possibility that ^{Nazi} ~~Nazi~~ agitation might bring those Baltic states over on the German side. Maybe that's what's meant by indirect aggression, maybe.

We may note by ~~xxx~~ way of a P.S. -- that those Baltic states don't want any guaranty at all.

JUGOSLAVIA

~~was~~ ^{has just come through} report that in Yugoslavia there has been a complete settlement of the difficulties between the Serbs and the Croats. This information a French newspaper has received from its correspondent at Belgrade. If true, it's of the utmost consequence.

Previous reports ^{were} ~~stating that~~ that Prince Paul, the regent of Yugoslavia, was intervening personally to bring about a settlement with the Croats. Prince Paul ^{was} ~~is~~ said to have been urged by London; ~~since~~ ~~great~~ Great Britain ~~was~~ worried about Yugoslavia - ~~which is~~ ^{as it is} sandwiched ~~is~~ between the power of ~~the~~ Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany.

Still earlier word told of a Croat appeal to Hitler. Dr. Machek, the Croat leader, was quoted as saying that his people would ask Hitler to step into Yugoslavia and see that the Croats got their rights. The arm of Hitler extended into the South Slav Kingdom; ^{that} ~~which~~ would ~~certainly~~ be something to make the statesmen of London and Paris turn hand-springs.

In Yugoslavia, the Croats number about one-third of the population. They were formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and were handed over to the government of the Serbs at the end of the World War. ^{There} ~~They~~ [—] ~~have~~ been ~~discontented~~ ever since. They differ

from the Serbs in culture and religion. The Serbs are orthodox — of the Eastern Church, while the Croats are Roman Catholics. The Croats have been demanding ~~union~~ autonomy, local self-government for themselves. ^{They've} ~~have~~ been agitating for it; fighting for it. ^{and} There has been plenty of bloodshed, of which the most sensational case was the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia at Marseilles. His murder was plotted by a secret society of Croatian terrorists.

Hitler's seizure of Austria put Nazi Germany next door to Yugoslavia on the north. And Mussolini's seizure of Albania put the power of Fascist Italy next door on the south. So you can see the importance of one-third of the Yugoslav population, ^{being} in virtual revolt against the Yugoslav Government with the leader of that one-third today declaring that his people would ask the intervention of Hitler. No wonder the Regent, Prince Paul, was reported to be intervening to satisfy the demands of the Croats.

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So now comes a report that an agreement has been reached, which can only mean that the Yugoslav Government has ~~consented to~~ ^{given in to} the demands of the Croats, the demands which call for Croatian autonomy, virtually a federated state in Yugoslavia.

INDIA

In our own country prohibition was an exciting sort of affair, with bootlegging, beer mobs, and liquor ~~racketeer~~ racketeering. Today over in India, at Bombay and adjacent territory, they had their first day of prohibition, and it turned out to be far more obstreperous than anything the American dry era ever had to offer.

Last night was riotous with drinking in Bombay, the bars jammed with uproarious crowds - especially mill hands. Getting their last drinks before the zero hour, lapping up European

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beverages, and native toddy [^] which they make from the juice of ~~a~~ *the* tree. Nothing extraordinary about an uproar on any last night before prohibition. What was surprising was the savage rioting that broke out today.

Huge crowds of Hindus staged prohibition parades. The Bombay dry law is a Hindu affair, sponsored by Mahatma Gandhi. That weazened little leader of worldwide renown, won perhaps the greatest victory of his life, when his agitation against drinking led to Bombay prohibition. So his followers, huge processions of them, paraded today with Hindu slogans against demon rum and the curse of drink. The Hindu ~~Anti-Saloon League~~ Anti-Saloon League in a victorious demonstration.

At the same time, the Mohammedans, those old enemies of

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the Hindus, were having a big parade of their own on the first day of Bombay prohibition. They weren't celebrating the dry law, neither were they attacking it directly. What bothered the Moslems was the old trouble of taxes. The abolition of the liquor traffic also abolishes the taxes on liquor - and that's an old story. To take the place of liquor levies, new taxes have been decreed, and the Mohammedans don't want to pay ~~that~~ them. They themselves are non-drinkers, according to their religion, the law of the Koran. At the same time, they don't care whether the Hindus drink or not - they haven't enough regard for the Hindus to care. So prohibition is of no consequence to them. The only thing that counts is the fact that taxes are being raised. So they were parading in a demonstration against the rise of taxes caused by prohibition.

The Hindu parade and the Mohammedan parade clashed, and immediately the battle was on between the old enemies. Far and wide the ~~Mohammedans~~ Mohammedans attacked the Hindus - and the police too. Raging disorders all over Bombay, and the latest figures give a total of fifty-eight seriously injured on the first day of prohibition.

NUNS

At Quebec today, there were eyes that gazed on the outside world for the first time in thirty-one years - the eyes of cloister ~~nuns~~ nuns. Sisters of the Ursuline Order who are bound by vows of perpetual ~~XXXX~~ seclusion, never leaving their convent walls, spending their lives teaching.

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Thirty-one years ago, in nineteen eight, the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Quebec was celebrated, and the Ursulines were granted a special dispensation to pass through the streets in the procession of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ commemoration.

Today, was the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Order of the Ursulines, and once more the dispensation was granted. The cloister nuns emerged from their convent walls and in automobiles rode in procession through Quebec. Then back to their convent. But they'll be out soon again.

The Ursuline celebration today was joined by the cloistered Order of Augustine nuns, and later in August the Augustines will celebrate their three hundredth anniversary. Then once more the Ursulines will see the outer world - in procession.

BURGLAR

A sentence handed down in a Montreal court today points a moral - if you go out to commit burglary, drink a few cups of black coffee first to keep awake.

A Montreal burglar broke into a house, ransacked it and collected a lot of loot. He burglarized so energetically that he got tired. He laid down to rest for a ~~few~~ moment and fell asleep. He was sound asleep when the house owner returned home. He was still snoozing when the cops came.

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Today the judge, for that and other crimes, gave the drowsy burglar seven years in prison --- which will give him plenty of time to sleep.

MOTORIST

At Boston today, the authorities suspended a lady's license because of a kiss. She was driving along without lights.-
Well, shrinking damsels often do like to have the lights out. She was buzzing along at forty-five miles an hour, but the kiss she bestowed on the man next to her wasn't nearly as fast as that. It lasted for five minutes, testified the police. It lasted while the car went whizzing along for nearly four miles - and without lights.

Today, Boston Motor Vehicle Commissioner Frank A. Godwin handed down this magisterial decree:- "Osculation," he ruled, "should be performed only when the car is stopped." But suppose you're in a hurry Commissioner? Suppose a fellow is rushing home to the wife? If he stopped the car for five minutes - he might be late, make the wife angry.

The Commissioner suspended the lady's license for one week, and uttered an opinion worthy of Solomon: "She should be able to get the kissing out of her system in the next seven days," gouth the Commissioner. Five minutes at a time for seven days - but not while driving the car, ^{m' lady -} ~~madame~~ not while driving the car.