

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1938.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The remark that Hugh James just made about today being the anniversary of Florence Nightingale is a reminder to me. For one thing, it's a reminder of something I've been wanting to say - that I'm lucky in the quality of the Blue Sunoco commercials on this program. The Sun Oil Company, in the announcements it makes, gives us ^{many} an interesting fact, ^{and} useful hint, ^{many a} mention of a significant anniversary. ^{And -} That's the ideal for anybody's program - ^{to} make the commercials entertaining.

All of which brings me to a second reminder - that today is also the anniversary of the British coronation festivities, just one year ago. Not so important, in the rush of world events, but a thing of personal memories to me - memories of that gray drizzly day in London; the hurried early morning trip to the crowded ceremonial Abbey; those long hours of immense pomp and ritual; ~~the memory of the exiled King,~~

~~sophisticated and worldly wise Edward the Eighth, whose reign ended in such calamitous fashion;~~ and the impassive drawn face of George the Sixth going through the heavy ordeal of coronation.

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These things were especially in my mind today at luncheon, because at the table with us was Ex-President Herbert Hoover. It isn't so long since he returned from an extensive trip through Europe, studying affairs over there, talking with chiefs of nations. Herbert Hoover has a methodical mind, and he gave us a whole series of thoughtful reasoned observations on European affairs. I'll have a chance to discuss some of these with you folks from time to time. But today [^] ~~the~~ [^] one phase *that interested me* of the Hoover European tour [^] was his visit to King George.

I was thinking of that pale, ~~almost~~ haggard coronation face, as I asked the Ex-President: "What impression did you get of the King in London? How is he standing up under the burden of the monarchy?" Herbert Hoover answered with one quick, telling phrase: ~~"He reminded me of a boy," he said. "There in Buckingham Palace the King of England gave me the impression of - an English schoolboy." That evoked a picture - a picture in vivid contrast to the sophisticated, worldly-wise Edward the Eighth in exile with his Duchess Wally.~~

phrase: "He reminded me of a boy," he said. "He gave me the impression of an English schoolboy."

That evoked a picture - Buckingham Palace, the King of England, who seemed like ^{just} an English schoolboy ^{--- the} quiet simplicity, ~~the~~ ^{and} cheery smile. Quite a contrast to that other picture - the tense, almost suffering, face at the coronation *one year ago today.*

ROOSEVELT

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There are two bits of news that stand tonight in disturbing juxtaposition. One - the Elliott Roosevelt episode, the President's son offering to fight because of an insult to his father. The official version is given today by Gilmore Nunn, Kentucky radio and newspaper man who was host to Elliott Roosevelt at the Kentucky derby. Gilmore Nunn took Elliott Roosevelt to a country club. As they drove up, they heard a man in a parked car make a remark about the President. We are not told what the remark was, but merely that it QUOTE besmirched the President's name. UNQUOTE. Whereupon Elliott Roosevelt jumped out of the car he was in, dashed over to the auto whence the insult came, and told the man who made the remark to come out and fight. There might have been a scrap - but the man in the car was restrained by other people with him. They apologized to Elliott Roosevelt and later on members of the country club came to his table and added their apologies.

So now Elliott Roosevelt has new occasion to repeat a remark he has made before - "It's awfully tough to be the son of a president."

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In ugly juxtaposition with that is this second bit of news, which is as follows. Los Angeles - a federal grand jury today indicted Keith H. Rapp, who is said to have confessed to a desire to kill the President, a desire described as -"an overwhelming urge." He was arrested after writing a letter to the White House.

I think it's about time we took our politics a little less seriously, when a President's son feels impelled to ^{go out} ~~go out~~ with his fists ^{against his father} against insults, and when crackpots get an "overwhelming urge."

HANES

Here's a report described as hot, straight from the White House sources -- the President ~~is~~ is about to name a Securities Exchange Commissioner, John Hanes, as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. This they say is scheduled to happen tomorrow, when the President ^{will} send the name of the S.E.C. Commissioner to Congress. The Hanes job ~~is~~ as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury will be that of liason man between the New Deal Administration and Business.

HUGHES

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Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Hughes spoke
an aphorism today that might stand as a motto for all courts,
and tribunals ^{and} legal procedures. Said he:- "A law is ^{nought} ~~not~~
^{but} ~~by~~ words, save as the law is administered." He expanded
that aphorism with some definitions of a good administration
of law. He named them as: "Deliberation, fairness,
conscientious appraisal of evidence, determinations according
to the facts, and impartial application of the law. And he
added these words -- " whether the controversies are
decided in the courts or in administrative tribunals."
And thereby he meant those boards and agencies of Federal
government that are so important these days -- administra^{tive}
tribunals. In describing fair procedures of the law, the
Chief Justice said:- "These are the safe-guards of society. "

C.I.O. John Lewis is a citizen of formidable and somewhat lugubrious appearance -- with his bushy bristle of eyebrows and deep somber voice. ^{And today} ~~Today~~ ~~the~~ ~~only~~ John Lewis ~~that~~ steps forth ~~is~~ quite a lugubrious prophet. In Atlantic City he was telling a convention of C.I.O. unions about a great and wide-spread ~~ing~~ plan to organize millions of workers -- the greatest labor organizing plan in history. And this must be started quickly. Why?

"We must hurry," boomed the deep dark voice of John Lewis, "Because already we can see the next depression coming."

He can see the end of the present slump, the coming of prosperity, ^{and} the depression ^{that} will follow. ^{So boomed} ~~that~~ -- this veritable Cassandra of prophecy.

But John Lewis went further than ~~xx~~ mere second-sight. He gave an account of industrial processes which, ~~said~~ he, will bring on the next depression. He reasoned it this way:-- As soon as things start booming again industry will start tearing out its old and obsolete machinery and put in

new equipment, more modern mechanism. And the new machinery

will start throwing people out of work all over the place,

which will result in ^{that} another depression.

Another John crying out
of the wilderness.

TALL STORY

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I had a phone call ~~today~~ from Reporter F. A. Shepherd of the NEW YORK EVENING POST. He told me something that happened in a Brooklyn court case today, which he was covering. The judge, it seemed, provided our old Tall Story Club with a member. A man was on trial on a bootleg alcohol charge. In his apartment he was running an illicit still, capacity fifty gallons a day.

His defense in court today was that he never sold any of the lawless hooch he made, not a drop of the fifty gallons a day. — 50 gals. a day "I drank it," he told the judge. That was his defense. Nevertheless, he protested, he was no tippling alcoholic soak. He said he drank all that hooch - as medicine. He explained he had a stomach ailment and drank the fifty gallons a day for ^{his} ~~the~~ stomach's sake - ~~in a~~ reference to ~~the~~ Scriptures.

Federal Judge Grover Moscowitz
~~The judge~~ suspended sentence because the man really was ill, and ^{His Honor} ~~he~~ handed down the following opinion:- ~~His Honor~~ said he didn't believe the defendant drank all that liquor, 50 gallons a day. that was just a whopper. And he added that the man's stomach ailment was of such a character that almost any ~~any amount of~~ alcohol at all would have been

fatal. "Therefore," the judge concluded, "I

fatal. ^{the Federal Judge} "Therefore," ~~the judge~~ concluded, "I sentence you to
Lowell Thomas's Tall Story Club." No, Judge, we draw a line --
we don't allow our whopper manufacturers to tell ~~them~~ that tall!

MANOEUVRES

The enemy was sighted today, seven hundred miles out on the Atlantic, due east of New York. That was the major event of the day ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ the great Air manoeuvres staged in the defense of the Atlantic Coast. ^{The} ~~A~~ problem worked out by the ^{air} ~~Force~~ ^{Force} ~~tacticians~~ ^{tacticians} of the army is that three nations, two ~~European~~ European powers and one Asiatic power have joined forces to attack ^{our} ~~the~~ Atlantic Coast ^{of} ~~the~~ of the United States in a giant sky ^{raid:} ~~wave~~. Who these three enemy powers might be, is not mentioned, coyly omitted. The Asiatic power that might attack us is not named, a mystery -- the same with the two European powers. But today -- do we get a hint?

^{well, an} ~~Yes, an~~ American air squadron sighted the enemy out in the Atlantic. What kind of enemy? A trans-Atlantic liner. The Armed ^y ~~the~~ Air Force is just using ^a ~~the~~ liner on its way over, as something for the planes to sight -- ^{the} ~~it's a~~ mythical enemy. What liner? Why, the Rex. That's ~~an~~ the Italian queen of the seas. Can there be any significance in this? Can it be that one of the two European powers ~~is~~ attacking us is that dictatorship, Mussolini-land? Or is it just an accident ^{that} ~~that~~ the Rex ^x happens to be out at sea just now,

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a convenient time and place for the manoeuvres? Anyhow,
it's a coincidence.

LEAGUE

Today at Geneva, an episode of international drama closed on a note of moody pathos, pathos deepened by futility. Haile Selassie appeared before the Council of the League of Nations to make his final plea for fallen Ethiopia. But he didn't make it - not out of his own mouth. The one-time King of Kings, small, swarthy, black bearded and stately, explained that he was too ill to speak, and so his plea was read. ^{The dethroned Lion of Judah} ~~He~~ sat in stoical dignity and listened.

"We are victims of inexcuseable aggression," his plea stated. "We are even faced with brutal abandonment by the powerful British Empire. Members of the League, this is a reign of fear." And the declaration came to a climax with these words: "I ask you that Ethiopia be allowed to remain among you as a living image of violated right."

But that's not the way of worldly statecraft - to cherish a living image of violated right. Haile Selassie, in his white Ethiopian shāmas, sat there in the pathos and futility of so many an exiled king, so many a dusky potentate of Africa or Asia sent wandering into strange lands.

Whereupon

Great Britain made its declaration. Lord Halifax ~~for~~
~~Great Britain~~ indicated that the peace of the world is more
important than Ethiopia. The French delegate cried to the one-time
Lion of Judah: "We've done all we can." The representatives of
other nations on the Council spoke up and said that the Italian
conquest of Ethiopia was an accomplished thing, and that nothing
could be done to change it. Only New Zealand and China came out
in favor of Ethiopia. Soviet Russia and Bolivia gave Haile Selassie
only a half measure of support. The other ten nations on the
Council, dominated by Britain and France, turned thumbs down on
the former Negus Negusti, King of Kings, Lion of Judah, and
descendant of the Queen of Sheba.

So the League Council made its Ethiopian decision,
not an outright but a tacit recognition of the Italian conquest -
each nation in the League to ^{decide for itself} ~~make its own decision as to~~ whether
or not ~~it will~~ ^{to} give open recognition to the conquest. That's
what England and France demanded, ~~It~~ ^{ing} leaves ~~as~~ ^{ing} them free to carry
out their part of the bargain with Mussolini, the bargain that
England had ^s made and France is making.

In Washington the State Department gave its comment. Today's League action means nothing to the United States, we still adhere to the stated policy of not recognizing possession gained by force. No recognition therefore of Italian Ethiopia.

In Italy, by way of a striking coincidence, Antonio Volpi died today. Who was this Antonio Volpi? He was the last survivor of twenty-three survivors of the Battle of Amba Alagi in Eighteen Ninety-Five. That was in the Adowa campaign, when the Ethiopians defeated and massacred the Italians - the Adowa defeat which Mussolini said Italy was avenging in conquering Ethiopia.

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BRAZIL

A question has been insistent -- since the Brazilian ~~evend~~ events of yesterday. Were foreign elements concerned in the Fascist plot to overthrow President Vargas? Strictly speaking, there is no answer today -- although there's one suggestive fact. The Brazilian police have arrested seven officials of the German South American Bank, which is the Brazilian branch of a Berlin financial institution. ~~There~~ ~~are~~ They are all members of the Integralista Party, the Green Shirts, which staged the revolt. The "Rio dispatch" gives their names. Three are German sounding names, but ~~who~~ *even the chief of police who commanded* then there are many Brazilians of German ancestry. So it is not paradoxical when the Rio report tells us that all seven officials of the German Bank *arrested today* are Brazilians.

the suppression of the revolt is named members

JAPAN

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While the war in the Far East rages, and the Japanese seizure of Amoy seems to indicate a major invasion of south China - the Mikado's empire is involved in a new controversy ~~xxxxxx~~ with Soviet Russia. You may call this the Horinouchi-Slavutsky controversy, and it has to do with a rather astonishing idea.

Today in Tokyo, Assistant Foreign Minister Horinouchi had a grave conversation with Soviet Ambassador Slavutsky. The theme on which Horinouchi talked to Slavutsky was indeed a strange one. The story is that emissaries of the Japanese government approached the Soviet Ambassador to Afghanistan and made him a proposition. What was the proposition? Why, that the Soviet ambassador should secretly enter the service of Japan, and do underhand work in behalf of Japanese interest^s, ~~in~~ all the while retaining his post as Soviet Ambassador.

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Well, that's a bright idea - one nation ~~secretly hiring the~~ ~~carrying the~~ ambassador of another nation.

So no wonder there was a serious talk today between

Horinouchi and Slavutsky. Horinouchi denied the story, said the Soviets were circulating it - just a lie to discredit Japan.

He declared to Slavutsky that Tokyo considers this an unfriendly act.

All this might even lead to a war, in which case what the governor of North Carolina said to the Governor of South Carolina would be eclipsed by what Horinouchi said to Slavutsky.

9/14 And now I'm saying S-l-u-t-m