

L. T. - Sunoco - Fri., Aug. 14, 1936

46

There were the makings of an amusingly awkward situation in Cleveland today.

President Roosevelt arrived on a special train to visit the Great Lakes exposition. This was the identical day that one of his chief enemies, Father Coughlin, had chosen for the opening of the convention of his national Union for Social Justice.

However the awkward situation didn't develop and there's no fun to report from Cleveland. The President paid his visit to the exposition amid cheering crowds and left in due course on a trip of inspection through the New York and Pennsylvania areas devastated by the floods last spring.

As for Father Coughlin's convention, the radio priest himself was naturally the principal attraction. Brevity was his watchword today. The spellbinder-in-chief was Rush Holt, from West Virginia, the youngest man ever to sit in the U. S. Senate. Though a Democrat he's a violent anti-New Dealer. It was he who made the keynote speech, flinging accusations right and left, verbal brickbats at Ex-President

17
Hoover; at his colleague, Senator Glass of Virginia, at Samuel
Insull. "The public utilities run the government of the
United States," shouted young Senator Holt. Such was the
general tenor of his performance. A tirade against anybody
— i. e.,
and everybody [^] except Father Coughlin's national union.

GEOGHAN

Some two years ago a man named Drukman was murdered in Kings County, New York, which means Brooklyn. It was obviously a mob killing, the result of a conspiracy. The men suspected of that murder were questioned perfunctorily, released, and the evidence against them was returned to them. Apparently the Drukman case was to remain on the books of the district Attorney's office as an unsolved murder.

I relate these details for the benefit of people outside New York who may not be familiar with it. The District Attorney of Kings County, which means Brooklyn, was, and is, the Honorable William Francis Xavier Geoghan (pronounced Gee Gan.) His political adversaries arose with a clamor. The Drukman case, they shouted, smelled to high heaven. But -- an election was fought on the issue and Mr. Geoghan was reelected by an emphatic majority.

Months passed but even that victory for Mr. Geoghan was not sufficient to quell the clamor about the Drukman case. The Police Commissioner of New York City jumped in, claiming that his detective bureau had strong evidence against

the suspects, ^{that} ~~He added that it had been put at the disposal~~
~~of~~ District Attorney Geoghan's assistants and had been pigeon-
holed.

The clamor continued and grew until it reached Albany. Governor Lehman reluctantly took that Drukman case out of the hands of the District Attorney and appointed a Special ~~Bar~~ Prosecutor. That special prosecutor reopened the case, brought those suspects to trial, procured a conviction and developed evidence of a sinister conspiracy.

A special Grand Jury in the county then moved Against District Attorney Geoghan. "He should be removed," said the Grand Jurors to the Governor. ~~"He has been guilty of shameful laxness in the Drukman case. What's more, he associates with disreputable people, persons with whom no public official should be friendly."~~ Governor Lehman replied: ~~"You have the power yourselves to indict him."~~ But the agitation continued. It became obvious that Mr. Lehman was ~~extremely~~ loth to use his powers as governor against a duly elected official. Finally a formal list of charges was sent to ^{the} Governor, ~~Lehman~~. He

returned them to the accused prosecutor, giving him time in which to reply. Mr. Geoghan at first said: "That's easy, I won't need all that time." Subsequently he asked for an extension and it was granted. Finally the Governor decided there must be a public hearing. And today he appointed August 26th as the date; the trial to be held in the Executive Mansion at Albany; to decide whether Mr. Geoghan shall be removed from his office in disgrace.

So here we have in an election year a Democratic Governor forced to decide the political fate of an important Democratic official in a district with hundreds of thousands of Democratic votes. Rather ticklish for the Governor.

BUTLER

The Honorable Smedley D. Butler, Major General of the United States Marines Retired, never does things by halves. He comes to the front today with a novel suggestion for keeping Uncle Sam out of war. Old Gimlet Eye, as the leathernecks used to call him, has an idea that will make other peoples' eyes pop out of their heads.

What he wants is a peace amendment to the Constitution of the United States. This would prohibit the removal of any part of Uncle Sam's Army from within the continental limits of the United States and the Panama Canal Zone for any cause whatsoever. That sounds drastic enough.

Clause two of his amendment would prohibit the vessels of Uncle Sam's Navy or of any other branches of the armed service from steaming more than five hundred miles from our coast for any purpose whatsoever except an errand of mercy. And, just by way of rubbing it in, Old Gimlet Eye would forbid aircraft of the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps from flying seven hundred and fifty miles beyond the coast of the United States for any reason whatsoever.

Such an amendment, says General Butler, would be an absolute guarantee to the women of America. He writes ~~in~~ ^{for} the Woman's Home Companion that it would assure them that their loved ones would never be sent overseas to be needlessly shot down in European, Asiatic, or African wars that are no concern of our people.

Critics may ask -- what about our territories and dependencies beyond the seas? Porto Rico, Guam, Hawaii. Let 'em all go, says Old Gimlet Eye, except the Canal Zone, Hawaii and Alaska. As for Hawaii and Alaska, he would not even defend them against armed invasion. If they're attacked, let the United States announce to the world that it will ^{use} ~~use~~ every economic pressure possible against the offending nation. But troops, No.

And this from a man who holds 2 Congressional Medals of Honor — one of the fightiest, scrappiest soldiers who ever chased the enemy for Uncle Sam.

All of which leads us right up to that war in Spain where many Americans are stranded.

SPAIN

Some interesting personal details have come my way about the rescue of those American refugees from Granada.

52
I've just been talking to the wife and mother of two of those Americans. Her case is probably typical of not a few people who have had to stay home waiting in terror and anxiety for news.

"Ever since July Nineteenth," this lady told me, "I've been sitting here never further than three feet away from the telephone. My husband and daughter just barely missed a boat at Gibraltar, a boat bound for Italy where my daughter had a tour of dance recitals booked. The next thing I learned was that they were on their way to Malaga. After that, silence for days. I had no way of knowing what had happened to them, whether they had taken a motorcar and been stranded in the mountain passes or whether they had been dumped on the rocks around the shore. After the news cables reported them still alive in Granada ^{where all Americans} ~~I was still more anxious. All the Americans~~ ^{held} ~~in Granada~~ were ^{absolutely} ~~absolutely~~ incommunicado. Neither letter nor cable nor radio could get through. To add to it all I learned was that the hotel in which they were staying was being bombed

daily by government planes."

Then she added:- "It was the British who saved them, by procuring a safe conduct from the rebel general and sending a plane to bring them away, and getting the government forces to agree not to fire on them."

Incidentally, the American refugees had to leave all their trunks in the hotel at Granada. Which isn't any too lucky as, from all accounts, the chances of that hotel's being demolished seemed fairly certain today.

In the meantime, today, the State Department became even more peremptory with the Americans remaining in Spain. Uncle Sam will no longer be responsible for any of his nephews in the capital. They can't take shelter in the embassy any more, in fact, the embassy may be closed. That goes for all Americans,

whether they're business men, newspaper men, or newsreel men. I telephoned the office of Truman Talley, head of Twentieth-Century Fox Movietone. ~~News.~~ And I learned that their newsreel cameramen are scattered all over the peninsula. One of them is at Toledo, others with the various armies of both sides. Newsreel men, like reporters, ^{willingly} take their own chances in such desperate affairs. They cover the news ^{wherever it is} and don't expect their government to protect them.

54
Most serious of all is the plight of J. O. Ambler from San Antonio, Texas. He's a mining engineer on the staff of the Rio Tinto mine at Huelva. Ambler, and thirty-seven British subjects are reported to be held as hostages by government forces at Huelva. The British authorities have demanded the right to remove them to a British destroyer in the vicinity. But the government authorities at Huelva are said to have refused.

Meanwhile a ~~veritable~~ ring of death ^{has surrounded} ~~was strung~~ around Madrid. ^{And -} The guns of rebel warships are training on San Sebastian where the government x troops are still stubbornly hanging on. If those guns open fire, say the Loyalists, the

rebel prisoners in the beleaguered city will be executed. Similar threats are reported from six other besieged cities. Humanity and sportsmanship seem to have been abandoned on both sides. From all over Spain come tales of reprisals, the merciless shooting of prisoners.

Destruction from aloft hangs over so many of those beautiful old cities with their magnificent cathedrals and ancient palaces. It looks as though future travelers to Spain will see only the shattered ruins of that Moorish masterpiece, the Alhambra, about which Washington Irving wrote so graphically.

Two rebel generals will face a court martial in Madrid tomorrow. The guessing is that there can be only one outcome -- a firing squad.

In one respect this Spanish civil war is ~~quite~~ ^{almost} unique. It is not confined to professional soldiers. It's a war of the entire population, civilians, businessmen, housewives, children, farmers. General Francisco Franco with an army of ten thousand strong is marching on Madrid through the farmlands to the west of the capital. Along every line of

that march the fierce and fanatical opposition of the peasants hamstrings and ■ delays the rebel commander-in-chief. From either side they are sniped by peasants. From the trees, from the mountains, from behind boulders, farm buildings, the dead bodies of cattle, comes the constant ping-ping of bullets. The deadliest enemies General Franco's soldiers have to face are ~~these~~ these unseen peasant fighters.. And it avails him little to capture any of the villages. As soon as ^{one} ~~it~~ is occupied by rebel soldiers, most of the inhabitants have fled to the hills with arms and ammunition, ^{there to} ~~and~~ continue ~~their~~ guerrilla warfare.

6
16

MOSCOW

Strange news from Moscow. (Sixteen Bolshevik big-shots arrested, charged with conspiracy, counter-revolutionary activities. But that isn't all of it. Two of the men so accused are Gregory Zinovieff, former Chairman of the Executive Council of the Third Internationale, and Leon Kamenéff, formerly number two man of the Council of Commissars. The story is that they were acting as agents of the exiled Leon Trotsky.

Now here's what makes this news difficult to understand. Kamenéff and Zinovieff were put on trial a year or so ago in connection with the notorious Kiroff murder. They were condemned, sentenced to exile ^{at} one of those lone outposts on an island in the frozen White Sea. For some time we've been getting vague accounts from Russia of the unearthing of a widespread Trotskyite plot with ramifications in all the provinces of Russia. Evidently the exposing of that conspiracy has come to a head.) *There probably will be more exciting news from Moscow about this.*

OLYMPICS

Those rowers from Seattle seem to hate to win a race until it looks as though they have hopelessly lost it. The finals of the eight-oar Olympic event were half way over on the long lake outside Berlin today. Italy was comfortably in the lead at the half way mark, with the Swiss, Germans and British behind them. Our boys, the Huskies from the University of Washington, were in fifth place. Not until that moment did the coxswain give the word "bring that stroke up." Then they began to show that faultless rhythm and speed that has carried them from victory to victory. In the next two hundred meters they had moved into second place just behind Italy. At the fifteen hundred meter line Italy was still in the lead, Washington had slowed down, riding along in third place. Again the stroke, Don Hume, rowing with the handicap of a wracking cold, quickened the pace and the Husky clipper spurted ahead, an easy winner. Italy ~~was~~ second, Germany third.

*And Uncle Sam picked up a laurel or two ~~what~~
~~We got some laurels in the swimming, too. Adolph~~
in the days swimming events. American
Kiefer, the ~~eighteen-year-old school boy from Chicago wasn't~~
still leads in swimming.
And the U. S. A. won the world's
basket ball championship — as had been
expected.*

RACE

Alexandria, New York -- on the St. Lawrence -- is to be the scene of an odd race tomorrow. A sort of automobile obstacle race. It's official name is: "Round The Houses Road Race."

For seventy miles with amateur drivers whizzing round and round, the main streets. All movable obstacles will be cleared from the streets tomorrow. Immovable hazards such as telephone poles, fire hydrants, etc. will be thickly padded. The entire town will be shut off from traffic by State Troopers and the city police.

Tom Dewart, whose father is publisher of the "New York Sun" will drive an M. G. Midget, Miles Collier of Tarrytown will drive a supercharged M. G. Midget, his brother Barron Collier, Jr., will drive a supercharged M. G. Magna, and so on.

The course has been marked out by officers of the Automobile Racing Club of America.

The purpose of this peculiar event is to promote auto-racing as a non-professional sport. As the cars entered range in size from a tiny side-valve baby Austin to a Ford V-8 it has been necessary to arrange handicaps. The Austin will start fifty-two seconds ahead of the Ford, and so forth and so on. Firemen and ambulance will be on hand to pick up the pieces. And I imagine the populace of Alexandria will flee for safety to somewhere among the Thousand Islands, saying what I'm saying now -- solong until Monday.