

P.J. - Sunoco. Thurs., Feb. 10, 1938.

EUROPE

Today was a day of strange rumors from Europe. First of all came this -- the Belgian-German frontier closed. That sounded alarming. What could it mean? What was going on? ~~Something insider~~ of Germany that might call for a sealing of the border? The rumor was swiftly denied. Investigation at the frontier showed that it was open as usual, with the regular stream of cars going across.

The Belgian Foreign Office issued ^{an official} a denial, saying that the false word probably originated in Paris, probably from Stock Exchange sources -- a manoeuvre on the Paris Bourse to influence prices. A stock gambler's trick! ^H Then came another wild one -- Germany troops revolt, a rebellion against Hitler in the German Army. That one emanated ^{from} in Poland and was carried by London newspapers in big black headlines. ~~On top of that came a rumor~~

^{also} ~~that there was~~ some kind of disturbance or sedition in the Burnham Watch Regiment, one of the ^{cracks} ~~great~~ outfits of Hitler's Army. That's ^{a regiment} ~~an outfit~~ often seen at Nazi demonstrations -- providing a guard of honor for Hitler. "The officers of the regiment are all old ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Monarchists", says the story --

an explanation of the reported *sedition*.

Next a French correspondent flashed the report that army officers were being arrested all over Germany. The Paris "Soir" in telling of generals under arrest, reported that six had escaped -- German generals in a get-away from Hitler. This rumor is so much in detail as to relate that four of the escaped generals had gotten to Austria and that two had made their way to Basle in Switzerland. *This* story emanates from Basle. Still another *bit*

of news ~~case~~ informs us that the Former Crown Prince of Germany has arrived in Italy -- without a passport. *That brought the rumor* ~~There he denies~~ that he is

a fugitive from the German Army shake-up, with its intimations of a Monarchist plot. *This he denies. Says his valet forgot the passport.* ~~It~~ in all a queer rumor crop *from the*

Reich ~~regime~~ after the Army crisis. We wonder what sort of facts may be at the back of it all.

There were early ~~The news had begun with the~~ reports from Rumania -- the Goga government resigns, that anti-Semetic regime which has been in power for some weeks -- clamping down on the Jews. That report kept on persisting -- ~~it was~~ based on a series of conferences *And* today between Premier Goga and the King. *It* all turned out to be

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King Carol ~~has~~ accepted ~~and had~~
true -- Goga did resign. ~~and tonight King Carol was trying to~~

find a new cabinet to take over the government. He hasn't

~~accepted the Goga resignation yet, but is looking for a successor.~~

He has commissioned
~~one report is that he is asking~~ the Patriarch of the Rumanian

Church, the ecclesiastical head of the nation to become Premier, *and*
the Patriarch has lined up a cabinet

The immediate inference from the fall of the Goga

government is that the anti-Semetic campaign will be softened,

less pressure on the Jews in Rumania.

*that includes
7 former Premiers*

RUBENS

Today in Moscow a long awaited event occurred. It happened under circumstances worthy of a melodramatic novel. Shortly after three o'clock this afternoon, two men left the American Embassy, got into a car, and started driving. They were Loy Henderson, United States Charge d'Affaires, and Angus Ward, ~~an~~ American Consul.

For weeks these two diplomatic officials have been working on the case of Mrs. Ruth Marie Rubens. First - her disappearance, together with that of her husband. The refusal of the Soviet authorities to say anything about them - missing. ~~Then the revelation in the United States that Mrs. Rubens had a false passport, as had likewise her husband. She an American citizen. He - a man of mystery. The State Department in Washington made demands to the Soviet Foreign Office - for information about~~

No response -
~~Mrs. Rubens. No response~~ then repeated demands. Finally, came the admission - Mrs. Rubens was a prisoner of the Soviet secret police in connection with espionage - and so was her husband.

More demands by the State Department - that American diplomatic

officials in Moscow be allowed to talk to Mrs. Rubens. That
~~in accordance with American Soviet treaty. Once more - no response.~~
~~Repeated demands. Then finally the Kremlin agreed. But still~~
~~nothing happened.~~ Delay, the issue put off, ~~no date set for the~~
~~meeting of the American emissaries with Mrs. Rubens.~~ All that
suspense went on until today - ~~and it happens to be~~ just two
months today since the ^{American} woman disappeared.

^{Now at last}
~~But now we find~~ the American Attaché and Consul
sallying forth from the United States Embassy, driving in their
car - a long distance, a mile from the center of Moscow. They
come to the corner of Kalyavskaya and Lessaya Streets, and there
^a ~~the~~ ^{Butirskaya} great grim prison stands in frowning menace, surrounded by a
^a high brick wall.

The two Americans go to the prison door of massive
steel. They are admitted. The ^{(door,} ~~gate~~ ^{gate)} steel three inches thick,
swings open by a mechanical device. The Soviet comrades use
advanced technology to make a prison secure. They ^{- the diplomats} ~~two Americans~~
cross a courtyard, and there before them swings open another

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mechanical jail door of three inch steel. So they enter the Soviet prison, and are taken to talk to Mrs. Rubens.

The interview occurred in an office with steel bars guarding the windows and heavy curtains drawn. There Mrs. Rubens was brought in - she was clad in a simple house-dress. There's one detail in the news dispatch that's characteristic of the color of the whole story - we're specifically informed that the American Attaché and Consul had met Mrs. Rubens before she disappeared, knew her by sight. So therefore they were sure that it was she to whom they talked today - and not some other woman, not a ~~w~~ringer. Present and taking a hand in the proceedings were a representative of the Soviet Foreign Office, two police officials, and an interpreter. They made the conversation complicated. The Americans would ask a question of Mrs. Rubens in English - the only language she understands. But before she could reply the interpreter would translate the question into Russian for the Soviet officials. They would then decide whether the American woman could answer it.

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~~Yes, it was,~~ *Indeed a* complicated dialogue, and it took two hours -

from half past three to half past five this afternoon. What did Mrs. Rubens tell the two Americans? What was she permitted to tell? Perhaps some fantastic tale, Communist intrigue, espionage, Soviet prison, what not? All that right now is being transmitted as a secret dispatch to the State Department in Washington. Presently, no doubt, it will be released ^{an} inside story of the case of Mrs. Rubens. The important thing at the moment is - that the Kremlin ^{finally} ~~has~~ acceded to the repeated demands of the American government, ^{and} permitted the Attaché and Consul to talk to the American woman who was arrested by the Soviet secret police.

BRITAIN

Well, the news is a funny thing. Just ^{a few} ~~several~~ years ago, the big talk all over the world was - disarmament. There were disarmament plans and disarmament conferences. Now, it's ~~at~~ the reverse. Armament is the thing - without any suggestion of the prefix "dis." So this evening it's a bit refreshing to have that older theme come back - yes, disarmament.

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We heard ^{it} from London. In the House of Commons today, Prime Minister Chamberlain declared that Great Britain is willing at any time to join other nations in a proposal for disarmament, cut down on ~~the~~ guns, regiments and warships.

The question came up with reference to the United States. With Arthur Henderson, son of the old-time ~~like~~ Labor leader, remarking - that the United States is ready to join in a program of arms limitation. "Was Britain prepared to do the same?" he asked. To which the Prime Minister responded - "Yes." Then Henderson asked ~~if~~ whether His Majesty's government would think it a good idea to send a disarmament mission to Washington to talk things over with the American government.

"The Prime Minister's answer was phrased this way:

~~"I am not sure that will be the best way of preparing the ground."~~

~~Which is a long way of saying "No."~~

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^ ~~ASO~~ ~~anyway~~ there was some disarmament talk in London,
^ although the British capital provides us with something
of the reverse - a declaration that both Great Britain and the
United States have made definite plans for building dreadnoughts
of more than thirty-five thousand tons, which hitherto has been
the limit by treaty. Britain is expected to build ~~any even~~ them even
bigger than ~~the~~ ^{the "Hood"} giant [^] constructed before the Naval Treaty
limitations. ~~That Colliath of the sea is~~ H.M.S . HOOD, forty-two
thousand tons! But then, Japan is said to be building forty-three
thousand ton monsters, and nobody expects the Tokyo reply to the
British and American questions ~~about it~~ to be satisfactory. So,
the word is, build 'em big.

In Washington there was no mention of disarmament
today. It was the opposite ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ the debate before the Naval
Affairs Committee, with an added journalistic twister, a prominent
newspaper ^{man} [^] brought into the wrangling.

NAVAL AFFAIRS FOLLOW BRITAIN

I know Arthur Krock of the NEW YORK TIMES, and have always found him to be a writer of shrewd, sound knowledge. So you can bet that he got his information from some substantial source-
~~the statement~~ that statement of his ^{which} ~~may~~ kicked up a row at today's hearing ^{on Naval} ~~of congressional~~ affairs. It concerns that much wrangled question - whether we have some sort of war agreement with Great Britain, which the Secretary of State has categorically denied.

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P Today, Representative Brewster read an article that Arthur Krock wrote for the TIMES, and ~~admitted~~ demanded that Krock be brought before the Committee for questioning. ~~Here's the central thesis stated in the article.~~ "This correspondent," ^{wrote} ~~writes~~ Arthur Krock, "is expertly informed that should it at any time serve the common interests of the two great democracies, their navies would ~~ordinarily~~ complement each other in the Pacific." Then he says that this complementing would result from an exceedingly private understanding - on the q.t. "This is the kind of understanding," says he, "that is hardly more than a wink or a nod."

Well, who does the winking and who does the nodding?

And in what fashion is Arthur ~~Ker~~ Krock "expertly informed", as

he phrases it?

That's what Congressman Brewster wants him to tell the House Affairs Naval Committee.

Will he do it? That raises a ticklish point.

In response to the congressional rumpus, ~~Kiroch~~^{Kiroch} gives out this statement: - He will gladly appear before the Committee and testify - but but, of course, ^{he} says ~~no~~, he will not reveal any sources of confidential information that he gets for his column. It would hardly do for a Washington correspondent to testify to the ways in which he is - "expertly informed."

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The other proceedings before the Committee brought some sharp denunciations of ~~the~~^{our} armament ~~policy that is being~~^{proposals.} ~~debated.~~ Frederick Libby, Secretary of the National Council for the Prevention of War, described the big navy program in these words:- "A definite step on the road to war." He spoke scathingly of the President's quarantine speech in Chicago with its suggestion of an embargo against Japan; ~~The war prevention~~ ~~Secretary spoke of it as~~ - "a policy of threatened bluff which can only end in humiliation or war," ^{he called it.}

ARMY

The retirement of high ranking United States army officers looks something like a clean sweep. Twenty-six are scheduled to go - among them generals of brilliant record.

Why the sudden flurry amid the gold braid? It's all quite simple - the World War. During the A.E.F. days of battle, there were many promotions - which left us with a large crop of high ranking brass hats. Just add up the years that have elapsed since the War, and you will see that most of them right now have reached the retiring age.

Relief

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:~~

Two hundred and fifty million dollars more for this year's unemployment relief; ^{--- and} there's no better way of giving the facts than to quote from a letter that President Roosevelt sent today to Speaker Bankhead of the House of Representatives. The letter begins like this:- "Sir, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration a supplemental estimate of appropriation of two hundred and fifty million dollars for the relief of the unemployed."

Why is this extra sum needed? Here's what the President writes:- "During the past three months approximately three million persons have lost their jobs with private employers.)"

~~Then he~~
~~The President points out that the present W.P.A.~~
~~relief funds are not enough to provide employment for one million~~
~~seven hundred thousand persons. He adds that right now there~~

are one million, nine hundred and fifty thousand on the W.P.A.
rolls - two hundred and fifty thousand more than there is money
for. Moreover, there are a myriad of others that need to be added.
So he asks a ~~quirk~~ quarter of a billion dollars to maintain the
present number on the rolls, ^{and increase} ~~and add to~~ that number.

This two hundred and fifty million will bring this year's
expenditures for relief to a little over two billion dollars -
and it will boost the deficit to a billion, three hundred million.
Deeper in the red.

BUTLER

The doctor's report is grave, almost hopeless, on the condition of the son of Justice Pierce Butler of the United States Supreme Court. He fell from a speeding passenger train today in Pennsylvania. It seems not yet certain that he jumped ^{from} the train - he may have fallen accidentally, knocked through a window by ~~the~~ ^a lurch of the car.

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People who were along the railroad track ^{to} tell of the train rushing ~~along~~ at fifty miles an hour when they saw a man jump from a passenger car window and plunge to the ground beside the tracks. At first they thought it was a criminal attempting to escape, ^{a guarded} prisoner ~~in~~ aboard the train, ~~in the custody of officers~~ ^{taking} who ~~had~~ taken a flying leap for freedom. But it was the son of Supreme Court Justice Butler.

LETTERS

It appears that on Monday evening I was not talking to Nobody, although I remarked that I might be, ~~because~~ ^{because} President Roosevelt was on the air at the same time.- a Boy Scout program.

Now

I know that some people listened to me - at least the number that have written in to tell me so. Stacks and stacks of letters,

~~the~~ the biggest batch of communications ~~in~~ I've had from listeners since that time two years ago, when I received ~~about~~ a quarter of a million telegrams ^{all in one day.)} I know why I ^{then} got that stupendous response.

Because I was broadcasting from Western Union headquarters, and the Company announced anybody could send me a ~~telegram~~ ^{wire -} free.

Everybody seemed to jump at the chance of sending a free telegram - once in a lifetime.

~~But~~ ^{But}

I wonder why I got such a big response to Monday's broadcast, ~~with~~ [?] people listening to this program instead of the presidential chat? Could it be possible that a hint is contained in this postal card I have here from a listener ~~at~~ ^{at} Natalie, Penn?

It reads: - "~~Have you forgotten Maine and Vermont?~~"

~~"What's wrong"~~ "Have you no faith in Maine and Vermont?"

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So I wonder - could there be something a little bit Republican in it all? But that's ~~me~~ too deep for me.

What caught my attention particularly in those heaps of mail was a brief missive signed "Carolyn.." It reads this way:
"At last we're alone. How perfectly charming." *Carolyn.*
~~So at last we were alone xx how perfectly wonderful! xx~~

now,
Now, [^]Carolyn, that does suggest high romance - a radio man going on a national hookup to talk to just one girl! That would be the height of expensive sentiment.

Or does it suggest this tragic depth of romance - losing my listeners one after another, until finally only Carolyn is left, the true devoted Carolyn? It's romantic all right, but what would my sponsors say?

~~I hate to think - and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.~~

AIRPLANE

Two items about speed tonight. An Italian plane crashed in France, in an attempt to establish a new speed record between England and South Africa. The plane burst into flames. It sounds like tragedy, but it wasn't - the entire crew escaped.

~~There's speed in a hurricane, the wind that blows in southern waters - also these new hurricane fighting planes that Great Britain has.~~ ^{England} London claims a new air speed record, nearly three hundred and eighty miles an hour. Edinburgh to London in ~~just~~ forty-eight minutes, and they say it was a mere routine flight.

And ^{For tonight,} That ends my routine, and -- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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