

L. T. SUNOCO, Tuesday, January 9, 1934

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A bomb exploded in Washington today, but the dynamite was political. It involved one of the members of President Hoover's cabinet. The trouble concerns the subsidies for airmail.

The bomb went off at a hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, which is going a little delving. The first witness was an employee of the post office, who with pencil and pad functioned as stenographer for every postmaster-general in the last fifteen years. This stenographer told the Senators that when Post-master General Brown left office he instructed him to destroy, to burn, all the correspondence that had anything to do with those airmail subsidies.

NBC

Another witness was Paul Henderson, former assistant to the Postmaster General. Mr. Henderson's testimony was that Mr. Brown, while a cabinet officer authorized several airmail contracts without even a pretense of competitive bidding. These contracts concerned six thousand miles of air line. Also that those contracts were given out immediately after Congress had passed an act forbidding such procedure.

NBC

SPENDING

Let's be dazzled for a moment!

After the President's budget message, it will take tall figures to really astonish us. But Uncle Sam's Treasury issued a statement today, revealing the fact that for the first few days of 1934 your spendthrift Uncle is blowing his coin at the rate of one and a half billion dollars a month.

Uncle, where is that big rubber band you used to have around your pocket book? The kind Uncle Absie had.

NBC

BANKS

If you're lucky enough to have any money in the bank, this item may interest you. It comes by way of an announcement from the Chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The R.F.C. controls stocks in various banks around the country. Chairman Jones says the Government does not intend to meddle in the management of those banks. On the other hand, it will not hesitate to insist upon changes in the control of banks when the interests of the stockholders and depositors demand it.

We also learn that the R.F.C. is to go on functioning for quite a while to come. The White House has notified Representative Byrnes, majority leader of the House, that the President wants that R.F.C. power to lend money extended for three years beyond the original term.

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WASHINGTON

Because of ~~the~~ stacks of telegrams and letters, and at the request of President Roosevelt, Senator Wagner of New York today withdrew his resignation as Chairman of the National Labor Board and said he would continue in ~~that~~ capacity indefinitely.

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PRODUCTION

Hip hip - and another hip! The slump in manufactures, seems definitely at an end. So says Uncle Sam's Department of Commerce, as shown by the department's monthly survey of business.

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STUDEBAKER

And now some more hips and a few hoorahs. Mr. Paul Hoffman of Studebaker, reminds me that there are seventeen million five hundred thousand cars on the road today that are more than two years old. They need replacing. He adds that the past year was the "worst nightmare in the industry's history;"---- but here's what we are interested in --- the picture for 1934 is far, far brighter.

LaGUARDIA

The latest in that LaGuardia Lehman squabble in New York is an invitation from Governor Lehman for the Mayor to come to Albany and talk things over. LaGuardia accepted today. Tomorrow he'll be in Albany, trying to persuade the Governor to help him clip the claws of the Tiger.

NBC

MILK

Chicago's milk strike continued all night and all morning to the tune of disorders, squabbles, fights, rioting. The blockade was complete this morning, but the strikers made humane exceptions in favor of babies and hospitals.

Last night the out of town pickets went so far as to hold up a Rock Island train. When they found no bulk-shipment of milk on board, they even seized a consignment of canned milk. From other points come stories of milk wagons and trucks overthrown on the streets, some being pushed into the Chicago River.

Chicago got some milk from airplanes today - apparently they were not male planes. So remarks Captain Tom Morgan of the Sperry-Gyroscope Company.

This afternoon the courts threw what may be a monkey-wrench into the machinery of the strike. The judge of the United States District Court in Chicago issued a temporary restraining order, forbidding members and officials of the Chicago Pure Milk Association from interfering with interstate shipments.

FRENCH BANK

The story of that municipal bank crash in France grows more and more sensational. The mysterious Russian, Serge Stavin^{sky}, absconding head of the bank, died early this morning, - a suicide. But that doesn't complete the tale by any means. All of France is sizzling with charges that the man of mystery did not commit suicide. The newspapers of Paris are blazing it out to the world that he was shot, killed by the gendarmes who arrested him. They say the deed was done to cover up high government officials who were involved in the theft of the thirty million dollars worth of bonds which brought about the catastrophe.

One of the French papers today prints the caustic statement that a political crime, disguised as a suicide, is nothing new in French politics.

Many members of the French Chamber of Deputies were connected with the bank, and public feeling throughout France, particularly in Paris, is decidedly feverish. So much so that the Prefect of Police of Paris has surrounded the Chamber of Deputies with a cordon of police armed with machine guns.

SPONGES

There are big doings down at Tarpon Springs, Florida. They are celebrating a quaint, Old World feast, and they are holding a convention. Who? Why the sponge divers, the men who hunt along the bottom of crystal southern waters and bring up the familiar sponge, with which we wash our automobiles -- and ^{little Willie} ~~sometimes ours~~ back.

It's a Greek festival. The Feast Day is Epiphany. It is celebrated with ceremonies that recall the Isles of Greece -- because the Florida colony of sponge divers are nearly all natives of the old sponge diving waters of the eastern Mediterranean.

Yesterday Archbishop Athenogoras, Head of the Greek Church of North and South America, blessed the sponge divers in their boats in a gala parade. The sponge diving boats, the telegram tells me, all run on Blue Sunoco. *Three cheers for that.*
~~The Archbishop was assisted by Dr. Lacey of New York, who is a knight of the Saint George Gold Cross of Greece. The emblem of the Eastern Christian Church was seen displayed against the balmy Florida sky. Down there they call the~~

SPONGES - 2

And right now they are holding the first annual national convention of sponge divers in the United States. And I wish I was there to hear some of the stories of the endless quest at the bottom of the sea - fights with barracuda and the giant turtle.

Prosper
Telegram

FLIGHT

Now that it's too late for trans-Atlantic flights to Europe, the season is beginning for hops across the Pacific. Six huge planes of Uncle Sam's Navy are about to take off from southern California for Honolulu. They will be in command of Lieutenant-Commander McGinnis. They expect to take off around noon tomorrow and they hope to make the flight, a distance of two thousand, a hundred and fifty ~~mi~~ nautical miles, by Thursday evening. The Navy's weather observer at San Diego declares that flying conditions are ideal. The Navy has organized a string of eight floating relief stations, warships, which will be stationed at intervals of three hundred miles across the Pacific.

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BYRD

Two rivals talked today, down around the south Pole.

A Mackay radiogram from the Jake Ruppert. Admiral Byrd in the radio shack on the boat deck, received a wireless message from across the Polar Continent. It came from the Wyatt Earp, flagship of the Lincoln Elsworth expedition, Elsworth, Balchen and Wilkins who are putting on a competing show. This is the message Elsworth sent to Byrd: "Little America is as you left it. Your planes in good condition, though you'll have to dig them out; your radio mast O.K."

When Byrd received this message he remarked: "That answers a question I have wanted to know for several years. Thousands of people have asked me:- 'Will Little America be found or will the snows have buried it as they buried Amundssen's camp at that same place?' "Now we have the answer. It's all there."

Mackay

BAITER

Well, they done him wrong. Poor fellow they gave him a raw deal, they gave him a job. He lives out in San Francisco and for some while has been out of a job and on the city relief roll. All of a sudden, the President established the C.W.A., which took this modest fellow off the relief roll and put him to work with pick and shovel.

Now he's furious. He claims that being given this job constitutes, as he puts it, "involuntary servitude, in violation of the Constitution". Acting as his own attorney, he has filed suit in Federal Court against all eleven members of the San Francisco C.W.A. committee. He asks ten thousand damages from each, or a hundred and ten thousand dollars. And all because they gave him a job.

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PLAQUE

Visitors to New York now have something new to look at. I don't mean the Fusion administration but a huge work of art which was set up last week at the French Building in Rockefeller Center. A large bronze plaque which towers over the Fifth Avenue, eighteen feet high, eleven feet wide and weighs ten tons.

It is designed to picture the ancient friendship between the cities of Paris and New York.

BRIDGE

3 { An interesting bit of mechanism is being used at the National Bridge Tournament, ~~in New York~~. This can be described as a huge robot k¹abitzer. It is a ~~gix~~ gigantic electrical signal board. On this board the spectators can see every ~~hand~~ hand held by every player. What is more, every player has a microphone at his elbow so that everybody in the audience can hear his bid while looking at his cards.

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~~11009~~
Lochinvar

You've all heard of young Lochinvar who came riding out of the west. ^{Nowadays} ~~Today~~ instead of horses the American Lochinvar is riding in a gas-buggy. One such Illinois cavalier-of-the-auto went to Decatur, grabbed his girl, threw her into his car and said: -

"Now sweetheart we're going to St. Louis. And you're going to marry me, believe it or not." Or rather, what he really said was, "like it or not."

Now there's one thing a Lochinvar should do whether he's in a car or in full armor on horseback. He should keep awake. This one didn't. He got drowsy and let the girl drive the car while he took a nap. As soon as he was snoring the girl turned the car around and headed back for Decatur. He was all wrong. But she was all wrong, too. She hit a motor truck. That awakened Sir Lochinvar. Not only that, it sent both of them to the hospital.

PRINCE

Some playwright has a fine chance to write a comedy entitled: "The process server and the prince"; or, "the lonely bride". Fancy being a forty million dollar heiress and having to sail half way across the Pacific on your honeymoon with all those sumptuous rooms aboard that N.Y.K. liner minus a bridegroom.

The latest news from the marrying Mdivani front is that the princess was hob-nobbing with the nobs of Nob Hill, today, all alone. We have heard of golf widows and tennis widows. The princess appears to be what you might call a process-widow. That pesky process server is watching her hotel and also watching the dock from which the Japanese liner with the princess aboard, will sail for Honolulu tomorrow. But the question still runs: "Who's got Barbara's prince?" He is supposed to be somewhere in the northwest, presumably Seattle, learning that absence makes the heart grow fonder, but not fonder of process servers.

AUTO SHOW

After a second day of Auto Show, at the Grand Central Park and Waldorf-Astoria listening to the spielers who tell you all about the new cars, my mind is whirling with automobile terms that are pure Greek to me:- cross-bracing, automatic brains, bimetallic thermostats, anti-friction bearings, by-pass in the manifold, super-heated tight joints. Ah, and here's one that makes me as dizzy as Ben Turpin looks:- quadripoise suspension. Also de-synchronization of rythmic impulses, (I wonder if that means the good old fashion shimmy). Then here are two other noble ones:- spring dimensioning, and spring articulation.

One of the Hupmobile officials with great glee pointed out something to me which he described as a heavily gusseted X-member.

And the Studebaker boys have evolved coordinated suspension to eliminate periodicity of oscillations. This combined with torshional stabilization just about clears the matter up.

AUTO SHOW ENDING

Well, if I don't come down to plain English
somebody may de-synchronize my rythmic impulses, eliminate
the periodicity of my oscillations, and crown me with a
heavily gusseted X-member. Before that happens, SO LONG
UNTIL TOMORROW.

L.T.