

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, Feb. 3, 1939.

(President Roosevelt certainly was emphatic today in denying the story about the American frontier being in France. He declared he never said any such thing.) The story emanated from a secret White House conference, in which the President gave a congressional committee some explanation concerning sales of military airplanes to France. ~~The~~ Committee members declared afterwards that they got the impression that the President wanted to line the United States up with the European democratic powers as against the dictatorships. And with this came the statement that the President had intimated that the American frontier was in France, on the ^Rhine. That of course could only mean the U.S.A. all tangled up in European politics.

Today's presidential denial uses the expression - "deliberate lie." Furthermore, F.D.R. said the one who told the deliberate lie was a boob. No American frontier in France on the Rhine. No commitments in European squabbles.

The President hammered away on this theme to a large press conference at the White House, and was so much concerned about it that he gave an outline of the foreign policy of the

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administration - an outline of four points. One - no entangling alliances. Two - encouragement of world trade with all nations, including the United States. Three - Sympathy with any and every effort to bring about reduction of armaments. Four - ~~N~~ational sympathy with the peaceful maintenance of political, economic and social independence of all nations of the world.

This last sounds like a pretty broad principle, and one wonders what meanings ^{might} ~~are to~~ be evolved from it - political, economic and social independence of all nations.

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While the denial was being made in Washington, a protest was being made in Rome. American Ambassador Phillips handed to Mussolini's government a complaint against the attacks on President Roosevelt in Italian newspapers. Fascist journalists have been assailing the President on the score of his supposed idea about an American-Rhine frontier in France. As an example, take an article by Virginio Gayda, top ranking Italian journalist who is often supposed to speak for Mussolini. Today he printed a ^{blast} ~~scathing article~~ in which he called Franklin D. Roosevelt - Public Enemy of Peace Number One. Ambassador Phillips told the

Italian Foreign Office that he considers such attacks vicious and insulting.

From France we have news that ties up to the original cause of all the argument - the French mission buying American military planes with the aid and encouragement of Washington. Paris announces that, as a result of reports sent by the military mission, the French government is increasing the size of the aviation orders it is placing in the United States.

R This was discussed ^{today} at a council of ministers ~~today~~, at which the French Air Minister presented an illuminating report. He said the production of war planes in France is getting along much better. French factories are now turning out a hundred fighting planes a month. That's fine, because last year production fell as low as thirty-seven a month. The Air Minister said that during the spring he hoped French factories would be ^{making} ~~turning out~~ at the rate of two hundred a month. He pointed out, however, that this would be only thirty per cent of the ~~normal~~ production in Germany. ^{Even with the best French figure} ~~With that top French production,~~ Germany will outbuild France in the air by the ratio of three to one. ^{So} said the

Air Minister, "it is imperative to place warplane orders abroad - especially in the United States."

Foreign affairs are involved in a lawsuit concerning finance. The Franco government in Spain is suing ⁱⁿ the United States courts to collect ^{for} ten million dollars' worth of silver sent over here by the Republican regime. This silver was bought by the United States government under the Silver Purchase Act. The Franco people claim that the precious metal belonged to the Bank of Spain, the ownership of which is on the Franco side. It was seized by the Left government, and shipped over here. So therefore the Franco people are suing ^{the} for ten million.

Indications from Washington are that they're not likely to get it.

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In Spain, misfortune multiplies for the remnants of the Republican army in Catalonia. The Franco forces are rapidly pushing on. Today insurgent artillery was bombarding the City of Gerona, which indicates how rapidly they're occupying the remainder of Catalonia. And the Republican regime at Figueras is moving once again. Franco planes have been bombarding the town and so Premier Negrin is packing his baggage ^{again} ~~once more~~ and pushing along. This time he's going to some town right on the French border.

LONDON BOMB

In London, Scotland Yard spent the day bomb hunting. All through the underground they searched, after the two bomb explosions this morning in the London subway. In one case the infernal machine had apparently been wired to the shutters of the ticket clerk's booth. The underground doesn't run all night, and this morning when the clerk threw up the shutters of the booth - bang went the bomb, smashing things up quite a bit.

Tonight the Bow Street station, of such wide renown, is under heavy guard - after the receipt of threats to bomb it.

DIES

(Yes, The Dies Committee is to go on investigating Un-American activities. That's what the House of Representatives voted today. There was a stormy debate, but then the career of the Dies Committee has been stormy all along.) A lot of people who cheered the investigation of Nazis and Fascists as Un-American, became highly indignant when the Committee went on to smear the Communists and other assorted Reds - with plenty of charge and countercharge. The President himself denounced the way the Committee was applying the crimson brush to all sorts of people - said it was Un-American.)

~~Today's congressional vote represents a compromise between Chairman Dies and administration leaders. He wanted his Committee prolonged for two years with an appropriation of a hundred and fifty thousand dollars. They split the difference by prolonging the Committee for one year and it is expected that a hundred thousand dollars will be appropriated.~~

~~The~~ Today's vote was by a large majority, and was greeted by cheers from the galleries - also a few boos.

TEXTILE

The American Federation of Labor has decided to issue a certificate, and for the first time a union which broke away from the A.F. of L. and joined the C.I.O. now returns to the A.F. of L. It's the textile union. The textile workers' organization disagreed with the C.I.O. policy, and split with the John Lewis outfit. They asked to be readmitted to the A.F. of L., and the request ^{has been} ~~was~~ granted. Today President Green announced that the Executive Council of the Federation had decided to issue a certificate of affiliation to the textile workers.

MOONEY

The story about the rift between Tom Mooney and his wife is true after all. Both denied it vigorously just a few days ago, but today Mrs. Rena Mooney admitted it was true, and said her husband intended to divorce her. This she is opposing. "I spent the best years of my life ^{for} ~~with~~ Tom," she said today, "and he can't discard me now." She said the reason she was making the statement is because she's on relief, copying music for a federal music project. "Somebody," she declared, "threatened to take me off relief, now that Tom is out of prison and could support me." But he hasn't been supporting her, she claims. "Tom hasn't given me a dime," said she. "Through all the years ~~xxxxxx~~ he was in San Quentin I supported myself, giving music lessons. And," she continued, "every cent I could spare above bare necessities went to Tom - for the fight to get him out."

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When Mooney was questioned about this, he admitted that he and his wife have separated. "Our lives," he declared, "have been totally and completely incompatible"- ~~this during many years~~ ~~while he was the nation's most famous prisoner.~~ He denies he has any idea of divorce, ^{and} ~~He~~ charges that his wife was tricked into

making her statement today, tricked by somebody who ~~threatened~~
threatened that she would be taken off relief. This story,"
he declares, "was deliberately studied and calculated to defeat
the work I've been doing since my liberation. This work, " he
explains
~~explained~~, "has two aims - to unify labor and to free Billings.
Referring to Warren Billings who with Mooney was convicted of
the San Francisco bombing outrage in World War days and who is
still in prison.

SAN QUENTIN

The corned beef has trouble at San Quentin Prison in California is just about over. Of twenty-five hundred convicts who went on a hunger strike, only about a hundred and thirty-three remained hungry today. The others couldn't resist the temptation of a square meal -- without corned beef hash I suppose.

The hunger strikers were protesting against what they called the monotony of prison fare. They said it was one long monotony of corned beef hash. But the Warden says there's more to it than just hash.

FIRE

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The everyday heroism of men who fight fires is brought home to us by tragic news from Syracuse New York. The latest this evening is that hope has been given up for eight firemen who were caught in the collapse of a burning warehouse. Among the eight ~~men~~^{were} an Acting fire Captain, and three lieutenants. The burning warehouse adjoined the largest office building in Syracuse and the firemen were trying to keep the blaze from spreading to the tall structure. They were on the roof of the warehouse, the fire roaring through the building beneath them. The roof collapsed and five of the firemen sank ~~into~~^{with} the falling wreckage. ~~Next~~ Acting Chief Dugan and two other firemen saw them go and tried desperately to save them. Then they too were trapped when a wall fell on them.

Desperate attempts were made to get them out of the wreckage, in the hope that some might be alive. But later, hope was abandoned -- just eight more ~~names~~ names to be marked on the hero roll of fire fighters.

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In New York fourteen firemen were overcome today. A mere minor blaze in a basement, but the smoke and fumes were so overpowering that fourteen men fell unconscious -- but no fatalities.

FIGHT

I suppose I ought to go to a prize fight tonight,
just because of Dutchess County local patriotism. The pugilistic
idol of the County is battling "Tiger" Fox tonight for the
lightweight championship. ^{He is} Melio Bettina, ^{and he comes from} Beacon. ~~That town~~
~~is an appropriate home for a pugilistic name because you can~~
~~say~~ the Beacon "Beak-Buster."

^{Gordon}
I have a telegram here from County Judge Flannery
who tells me the Beacon Elks have chartered a special train to ^{take}
Dutchess County enthusiasts to the battle -- two thousand
"apple knockers" -- as the judge ^{says. And tonight they'll see} ~~said~~. ~~And they will~~ be yelling
^{Battling Bettina}
their heads off for the Beacon "Beak-Buster."

MEXICO CITY

Today in Mexico City the order was given - daylight saving. That practice of setting the clock an hour forward is usually reserved for the summer time, but right now the capital of Mexico has resorted to daylight saving to ~~xxx~~ save electricity. ~~For city transportation a whole string of additional buses were put into operation, to cut down the use of street cars - also saving electricity.~~

The reason is - drought. Central Mexico is having an intense dry spell, and the water in the streams is mighty low. At the hydro-electric dam, which provides electrical power for Mexico City, the water is ^{down so far} ~~so low~~ that the power produced is a mere fraction of normal. So they're saving electricity in every way they can - including daylight saving.

TRAPPER

Today at Yellowknife in the Canadian northwest territory, Carl Arnus, a trapper, sat down to have a bite to eat. ~~big bites.~~
spinach and parsnips
Bread, potatoes, ~~turnips, apple sauce~~ anything but caribou.

Last fall the trapper was up in the MacKay Lake section, far in the wilderness. His plan was to fly out as winter closed in. *Come south to some warm place - say Port Hope on Lake Ontario. But he missed the plane.*
~~in, but he missed the plane.~~ And there he was stranded in the icy desolation of the north. He had little or no food supply, but he did have his rifle and plenty of cartridges. So ~~he ate~~
he
~~caribou,~~ lived by hunting the big fellows with the spreading antlers. For four months he ate nothing but caribou.

Today at ~~ixx~~ last an airplane brought him out, and he *to*
sat down ~~for~~ a copious repast of all sorts of vegetables, - *"Bring on your spinach," said*
Trapper Carl ~~but~~
no caribou.

GOLF

Out in the Philippine Islands it was a great day for golfing - and laundry, 'Washing, ironing, sprinkling and blueing. The Philippine women's golfing tournament was played at Manila - and who won the championship? Why, ~~it~~ a laundress, the washwoman. She's been winning right along, her third championship.

Dominga Capati is a twenty-nine year old laundress who does the washing on the Calamba sugar ~~plant~~ estate. The plantation is run by Americans, and Dominga washes their clothes, spic and span, ~~to perfection~~. This the American seniors appreciate, and moreover they admire Dominga's strength and vigor. She's husky. She gets plenty of exercise - at the washboard. ~~That develops the driving muscles~~. So the American seniors thought that Dominga could shoot a powerful game of golf. They taught her how to tee off, and Dominga sure could hit long drives. She entered a tournament several years ago, and in competition with American women - won the championship. She won it another year, and ^{now} ~~then~~ again today for the third time - beating the best ^{women} American golfers in the Islands. ^{In fact} She finished thirty strokes ahead of the runner-up.

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I suppose the moral is that if any of you ladies want to improve your game of golf, the way to do it is - do your own washing. Just stick to the washboard with that vigorous up and down, and you'll develop those driving muscles for smacking the ball to the far fairway.

INDIA

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Near Allahabad in India, there was a lot of idol
smashing today. Villagers in the temples tore down the idols,
the effigies of the monkey ~~and~~ ^{Hanuman -} god and the elephant god ^{Ganesh,}
and ~~smashed~~ ^{crushed} them to bits. It sounds inspiring - as if those
heathen Hindus were abandoning their idolatry. However, it
wasn't quite that lofty ~~and pointed~~ ^{in point of} theology - it was all because
of a hailstorm.

A violent tempest hit the countryside, with a fearful
downpour of hail. Things were smashed up far and wide, and the
torrent ~~hailstones~~ ^{of hail stones} killed six shepherds.

The villagers, in a panic, rushed to their local
temples and prayed to their idols - to make the hail stop.

But it didn't stop. It continued unabated for an hour and a half,
and that made the heathens angry. Indignant because their gods

didn't stop the hail, they ~~ore~~ ^{ripped} down the idols and ~~smashed them~~ ^{hammered them to bits}.

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Just showing the gods: "you can't do that to us!" "Take that,
and that!" Crash, bang. And so - l - u - Monday.