

BLOCK BOOKING

L.J. - Sunoco. Monday, July 17, 1939.

The Senate today passed a bill which will vitally affect moving pictures and eventually everybody who likes moving pictures. It forbids picture producers from selling their pictures to exhibitors in blocks. In other words, ~~it~~ prohibits block booking. It also makes it compulsory for producers when selling their pictures to an exhibitor to furnish a complete and accurate synopsis of each picture. Inasmuch as pictures are ^{sometimes} sold before the story is even written, it's difficult to see how this order ~~is~~ of the Senate can be complied with. Of course, the picture magnificoes have complained loudly that this bill will ruin the industry. But the Senators ignored all protests and the bill is now in the House.

NEUTRALITY

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There was a conference at the White House today, a discussion of serious moment. Secretary of State Cordell Hull was there, also the Democratic leaders of Congress. And the topic of their talk was "Neutrality." In consequence of that conference, indications are that the President's leaders on Capitol Hill will try to ~~get~~^{keep} Congress on the job until some sort of neutrality bill is passed which approaches Mr. Roosevelt's wishes. For instance, Majority Leader Senator Barkley declared that he would not even guess when Congress was likely to go home. But, he said, it was unlikely that ~~it~~^{they} would adjourn as soon as August First.

As for Speaker Bankhead of the House, he was a bit more specific. He said that the legislators would be there two weeks longer, maybe three, to clean up unfinished business.

Senator Barkley admitted that neutrality was the crucial point of the whole program. It takes precedence ~~of~~^{over} everything in the unfinished business before Congress. Next to it comes the President's big lending program. But neutrality comes first.

Later it became known that the President plans still another conference at the White House, this time of the congressional leaders

of both parties, Republicans as well as Democrats. It turns out that Mr. Roosevelt has asked Senator McNarry to inquire among the Republicans in the Senate and find out what chances there are of the G.O.P. senators being persuaded. The gossip ~~about~~ⁱⁿ Washington is that the report which Senator McNarry will make to the President will ~~be encouraging~~ not be encouraging. Even Senator Barkley, the Democratic leader, is rumored to be pessimistic. Nevertheless, Mr. Roosevelt is determined to fight to the bitter end for his idea about neutrality.

PARIS

A story from Paris tells us that the French and British general staffs are polishing up their plans in case of war. One of the principal objects ~~of their plan~~ is to keep the seas open between France and Britain on the one side and America on the other. So they're going to establish a stronghold at Dakar, the chief port of French Senegal on the West African coast. Dakar is going to be made into a sort of American Singapore. The French have already built quite a considerable naval base there.

Another event of ~~keen~~ diplomatic interest was the arrival at Warsaw of General Sir Edmund Ironside, Inspector-General of British forces overseas. He landed at the Polish capital in an airplane and immediately began conferences with the heads of the Polish army. He was received in considerable state. Of course the purpose of his visit is to perfect plans of cooperation in case France and Britain have to fight with the Poles. One of the first things the British General did was to inspect Polish fortifications on the German frontier.

FAR EAST

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The relations between Japan and John Bull are no *better*,
~~becoming any sweeter.~~ The latest exchange of sentiments was a
flat rejection by Great Britain of the latest demand by the
Japanese. ~~Chamberlain~~ Chamberlain told the House of Commons today
that he wanted to make it clear that his country could not reverse
its policy in the Far East, at the demand of another power. He
said further that His Majesty's government had not received any
such demands from the Japanese government.

All expressions of opinion in Japan continue to be
violently anti-British. There came to my desk today a batch of
Japanese propaganda, all of it fulminating against Great Britain,
some of it written by members of the Japanese government, some of
it throwing side cracks at the U.S.A.

SPIES

Hardly a week passes without a spy story from some quarter of the globe. In fact, there are moments when it seems as though the whole world had been turned into an E. Phillips Oppenheim novel. The novels we don't have to read, but the news we cannot escape.

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A story from Paris today brings the information that there are no fewer than ten thousand spies at work in Europe and America. ^{And -} That is supposed to be a conservative estimate by high officials of the French Intelligence Service. In addition to these ten thousand spies there are probably at least five thousand other agents employed in counter-espionage. Spies, counter-spies - I wonder how many counter-counter-spies there are, and so forth, and so forth.

All this comes to light because of an agreement that has been made between Great Britain, France and Uncle Sam on this spy question. The three countries have agreed to swap information about spies, especially the Fascist and Nazi brethern.

CRICKET, FOLLOW GENTLEMEN

~~Just to show that that sort of thing isn't exclusive~~
~~to the good old U.S.A., here's a story from London.~~ One of the
big events of the London season is the annual cricket match
between the two famous schools, Eton and Harrow. Harrow won this
year. At some of our own football games it's not unusual for
teams to celebrate by tearing down the goal posts. At English
cricket matches, ~~of course~~ there aren't any goal posts. So the
triumphant side celebrates by snatching the trousers off any
partisans of the opposing side whom they're able to catch alone.
The process is known ~~as~~ in English dialect as debagging.

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After ~~the~~^s recent cricket match, the Harrovians tried
to debag an elderly Etonian. They didn't get his bags, but they did
get away with some of his money. This became ^{today} known when an
advertisement was published in the TIMES of London. The Ad requested
plaintively that the numerous Harrovians who tried to divest an aged
Etonian of his trousers and instead deprived him of two treasured
five shilling pieces and a gold safety pin, please return one or all
to the Army and Navy Club. To which the reply

probably will be: - "rightho"!

KUHN

Here's a bit of news for the for the folks in Massachusetts.

Fuehrer Fritz Kuhn of the Deutsch-America Bund will ^{pay a return visit} ~~not come to the~~

^{to the} Bay State. ~~any more.~~ That's the sequel to his little venture into

the news at Webster, Massachusetts, last night. He and another

person were arrested, charged with being drunk and speaking to ^{the} police in language ^{unprintable and also unbroadcastable,} ~~that cannot be repeated.~~ The Deutsch-American

Fuehrer was released after he found a friend to put up fifty-four

dollars bail. He was supposed to show up in court today to answer

those charges. But when his case was called, there was no Fritz

Kuhn. Reporters found him in New York and asked him about it.

He explained that he had sent a telegram to the judge, saying that

he was too busy to appear. Then he declared that the charge against

him was untrue, that he had only had two drinks and a man can't

be drunk on a couple of drinks. When he heard that the Massachusetts

police would arrest him if he returned there, he declared: "Well,

that settles that. I'll stay out of Massachusetts." ^{So it seemed}

^{that} ~~the~~ Bay State ^(would have to) ~~has to~~ get along without a fuehrer.

~~Kuhn, by the way, still awaits trial in New York City,~~

~~where he was indicted and charged with the larceny of fourteen~~

~~thousand five hundred and forty eight dollars from funds
belonging to the Band.~~

Later in the day there was a change of heart on the part
of Germany's gift to America. He will go back to Webster,
Massachusetts, after ~~he~~ all and answer to those charges.

HARLAN

There was a conference today at Knoxville, Tennessee, a meeting between delegates of the United Mine Workers and the Coal Operators Association of Harlan County, Kentucky. ~~This~~ ^{It} was called a "peace meeting," the seventh peace meeting in three days.

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Four more killings were added to the death roll in bloody Harlan ~~County~~ over the weekend.

STRIKE FOLLOW HARLAN

The other outstanding strike troubles of the day were at Cleveland, Ohio. There were fights between police and pickets, ^{and} fights between pickets and ~~the~~ workers who didn't want to strike.

At the Cleveland

~~It was all around the~~ Fisher Body Plant of General Motors, ~~at~~

~~Cleveland.~~ Several men who refused to strike tried to go to work but the C.I.O. had two hundred pickets on hand. The mounted police of Cleveland charged the picket lines, and four men were arrested, including the financial secretary of the union local.

RISK FOLLOW STRIKE

And at Lincoln, Rhode Island, a member of Congress had picket trouble. Republican Representative Risk was one of those who voted for the bill which increased the working hours of ^{the} W.P.A. A textile union at Woonsocket picketed his home. They disturbed his family, and blocked the sidewalk in front of his house, for which five of them were arrested. A sixth tried to wallop Congressman Risk over the head with a placard. At least so it is said, and Risk took a punch at him.

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Today the Congressman went to court and got an order restraining the officers and members of that union from picketing his home.

HOLD-UP

There was a peculiar scene in a New York law court today.

It was the wind-up to one of the most sensational hold-ups in America, the robbery of ^{that} ~~an~~ armored truck at Brooklyn, ^{the} Four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars the bandits got away with. Three of them were arrested, brought to trial, convicted, and today the judge pronounced sentence on them. Two of them got ten to thirty years apiece.

The oldest one of the lot, a man named Wallace, was awarded thirty years flat, and Wallace said to the Court: "I am guilty, but these two men are not." Then he added a statement for the sake of the record that, though ten men and one woman were indicted, only nine men took part in that spectacular robbery. And he said further:- "These men are not two of the nine who committed the crime."

GENTLEMEN

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At Broomall, Pennsylvania, a party of young people, described as being of Social Register rank, were having a party. It was a celebration of the home-coming of a bride and groom. As the party progressed, they decided it would be amusing to throw things such as fruit at the motor cars driving by. Six drivers telephoned complaints to the police that they had been struck while driving in front of the house where the party was going on, and that they had narrowly escaped accidents in consequence. Finally, the merry pranksters threw an over-ripe pear at the wrong car. It was a police car! So they were pinched and taken to what people not in the Social Register call the ^{"jug."} ~~"sneaker"~~

Today, one of them, a Virginia under-graduate, appeared before the Justice of the Peace, apologized and paid twenty-five dollars. He intimated that the others were going to follow suit. ~~One of those arrested, named John Harrison, is described as a widely known "gentleman jockey." Many people will wonder just what constitutes the difference between a jockey and a gentleman jockey.~~

WEDDING

The great Italian comic playwright, Goldoni, was born two hundred years too soon. If he were alive today, he'd find a plot after his own heart, right in Greenwich Village, New York.

In the Greenwich Village section ~~of Little Old New York,~~

there's a well-to-do property owner named Carmelo Locapira.

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Carmelo, having reached ~~thi~~ his sixtieth year, and being a widower,

felt lonely. He fell in love with ^{the} ~~a~~ daughter of one ~~nix~~ of his

janitors, a young lady sixteen years old, in the sixth grade. The

young lady's name was Tarsilla Michielli. Tarsilla's papa, the

janitor, was tickled to death at his daughter marrying the rich

sixty year old boss. But there seem to have been a number of other

people in dear old ^{Greenwich} ~~Green~~ Village who did not share papa's delight.—

relations, in-laws,
They assembled outside the church where the marriage was being

performed. It was the Church of St. Anthony of Padua, ~~WHERE~~ the

patron saint who helps you find things when you've lost them.

While the nuptials were being solemnized, the crowd became so noisy that the officiating priest telephoned for the cops.

A squad of police came tearing up from the nearest precinct with radio cars. They drove the crowd away and locked the doors of the Church so that the ceremony could proceed in peace.

But suddenly those nuptials were interrupted again.

There was a loud "Bong, bong, bong" in the streets, accompanied by

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the awful noise of ten fire engine sirens. Steamers, hose wagons, hook and ladder wagons, ten pieces altogether, almost an entire battalion of the New York fire brigade, tried to break into that Church to put out a fire which didn't exist except in the hearts of the ^{sixty year old} ~~bride and the~~ bridegroom.

After the firemen had been persuaded to depart in peace, the wedding ceremony was resumed. But five seconds later there was another loud gong ringing in the streets. Up drove an ambulance which another friendly neighbor had summoned.

Eventually, however, the path of true love was smoothed out, the ceremony completed, and the bridal pair escorted to the bridegroom's home by an able-bodied squad of Father Knickerbocker's police. The cops locked the doors on the bridal couple and warned them not to issue forth in the streets. But later in the evening, there was another uproar in Greenwich Village. More than six hundred people assembled outside the love nest to give the bridal couple a ^{serenade} serenade. They seemed to have been headed by the brother of the late wife of the bridegroom who didn't approve of his brother-in-law marrying again.

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The climax was capped by the father of Tessie, the sixteen year old bride, He divulged that she used to have an ambition to become a radio singer. But father put down his foot on that, and ~~he~~ explained: "I didn't want her to get all that notoriety."

But Tessie hits the headlines just the same.

FARMERS

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Headache tablets are in demand among the big-wigs of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the Province of Ontario. For many years, the Ontario farmers have been complaining about the armies of caterpillars that destroyed crops, ~~over thousands and thousands of acres.~~

The agriculture officials investigated and discovered that there was a certain type of fly which destroyed the caterpillars. So they imported large numbers of those flies, ^{flies} and they did the job. They effectively eliminated the caterpillar pest.

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59 1/4
But now that the farmers are rid of their caterpillars, they find themselves with swarms and swarms of flies on their hands; *angry flies, hungry flies - and no caterpillars.* So now they're kicking again, demanding that the Ontario Department of Agriculture do something to get rid of the flies. The flies are harmless, but the farmers are grieved because they make a noise like airplane engines. So the Ontario Department of Agriculture declares today: - *"My my aint people* ~~people sure are~~ *hard to please?"* *And s-l-u-t.*