

L. T. - SUNOCO - FEB. 13, 1936

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm in Washington tonight - just gathering some first-hand impressions of affairs of Government. And right off the bat I picked up one startling piece of news. Here it is:-

President Roosevelt to be renominated on the Democratic ticket. It was worth coming all the way to the National Capital to find that out. Only - here's the joker - I'm in the wrong spot - the news doesn't emanate from Washington at all. It comes from Springfield, Illinois. Anyhow, it's official now, though we knew it all the time -- Roosevelt renomination. Because, today the President's name was formally entered in the Illinois Democratic Primaries, to be held on April fourteenth. There was nothing spectacular about the Presidential announcement. The Illinois petition came to Springfield through the mails, like the most commonplace routine notification -- only it bore the name of Franklin D. Roosevelt. It's so cut and dried that all the Democratic Big Wigs want it to have the nomination unopposed.

But the Illinois Primary news does give us something more, with a touch of novelty and speculation -- on the Republican side. There we find two large Republican names filed for the Presidential battle. Both, of course, have been widely advertised as possible candidates. But it is interesting to find them pitted one against the other in the Illinois Primary battle -- Colonel Frank Knox and Senator Borah. The Colonel is an Illinoisan, a native son. And the Senator does battle under the banner of Republican liberalism. Now they'll have it out, in a duel, for delegates. And it's reported that Governor Landon will jump in and make it three cornered.

Some people are not taking Senator Borah's presidential effort any too seriously. They think he's in it more to dictate a Liberal policy than to get into the White House, but I don't find any such belief here in Washington in the vicinity of the Willard, where the gentleman from Idaho has his national campaign headquarters. Here they tell me that the Borah forces have been quietly but strenuously at work, applying the same sort of strategy that won the presidential honors for Franklin D. Roosevelt:- reaching far and wide, to get the jump and capture

delegates in the Primaries -- delegates that will nominate at Cleveland.

That's one first hand impression I gathered here today.

Today on Capitol Hill a mild paradox was witnessed -- the newer Democrats in the Senate rushing to the support of that exceedingly old-time Republican Senator. But, of course, George Norris always was a creature of paradox, recalcitrant, a <sup>long</sup> ~~long~~ battler. It was heresy enough for him to have supported Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. But it's still greater heresy now -- as the famous Senator who is circled as a Republican Senator, flings out in the most violent attack on the Supreme Court.

Today's developments came about as the Senate deliberated over the Bankhead-Jones bill. And, that's a piece of Legislative business in which it was relevant enough to talk about the Supreme Court. Because the Bankhead-Jones Bill is an agricultural act designed to take the place of the old Triple-A, which the Court kicked out. The New Deal Senators are worried about what will happen to it when the nine venerable ex-gentlemen get hold of it. So no wonder there

NORRIS (follow Lead)

*And* It's worth coming to Washington <sup>*just*</sup> to get the feel of how the great political struggle is concentrating its disturbance over the heads of those nine <sup>*wise*</sup> ~~old~~ men. Republican cheers grow louder -- cheers for the Supreme Court as the last line of defense against the New Deal. *R* Today on Capitol Hill a mild paradox was witnessed -- the newer Democrats in the Senate rushing to the support of that exceedingly old-time Republican Senator. But, of course, George Norris always was a creature of paradox, recalcitrant, a <sup>*lone*</sup> ~~lean~~ battler. It was heresy enough for him to have supported Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. But it's still greater heresy now -- as the famous Senator who is also listed as a Republican Senator, flings out in the most violent attack on the Supreme Court.

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was some fast Democratic support for Senator Norris and his blast against the Court. <sup>a</sup> ~~The~~ group of Democrats united today for a drive to get action on the Norris proposal that the power of the nine ~~max~~ patriarchs ~~should~~ be curbed. They are all in agreement that something should be done, but there is the usual disagreement about what kind of something. Senator Norris wants Congress to put a damper on the Court's power to say -- "that law you passed, it's unconstitutional, out with it." The Norris idea is that the Court shouldn't be allowed to toss out a Congressional law except by unanimous vote of the nine Justices. They'd have to say, nine-to-nothing ~~///~~ that this or that is unconstitutional.

That, of course, would slow down the music for those verdicts of "unconstitutional" because the vote of the Justices is seldom unanimous.

Senator Pope of Idaho has an idea along the same line -- ~~though not so~~ ~~drastic~~ <sup>thought not so</sup> drastic. He'd require the Court to show a two-thirds majority before tossing out a law. That would avoid those four-to-five decisions, <sup>and also</sup> ~~it~~ would <sup>slow down</sup> the Supreme Court music, but not to such a whisper. *And they are getting behind Senator Pope's suggestion.*

Another proposal to beat the power of the Court is to permit the Constitution to be amended by a straight popular vote. Altogether there are a dozen different prospective Constitutional amendments now before the Senate judiciary committee, amendments to give the Federal Government the power over industry and agriculture which the austere judges have denied. And then there's a journalistic proposal in New York, with the Daily News saying editorially that there's an age limit to Generals. They're retired at sixty-four. So why not have an age limit for the nine justices? So many years old -- retired. But at what age? 70? 80? 90?

Such are the ructions on the New Deal side, while the Republicans are just as ructious -- in an opposite way. Republican jubilation over the Supreme Court is expressively trumpeted in a phrase by ex-President Hoover. While Norris was demanding, "curb the Court," Hoover speaking of the New Dealers was crying, "Their language was confounded and they were scattered by the Supreme Court."

Perhaps I should say "The New Hoover," as they are

calling the ex-President here in Washington. Hoover, the phrase-maker, flinger of the flashing line -- that's a new one. It sounds like Al Smith or Franklin D. But I was talking to the Washington head of the Fox Movietone Newsreel, Arthyr De Titta, he's been in intimate contact with three Presidents. And he gave me a vivid picture of the transformation -- the one time self-conscious, ill-at-ease Herbert Hoover, turned into a phrase-making Herb charging gaily into the battle of words.

Yesterday, Lincoln's Birthday, was a time for all good Republicans to come to the aid of their party, and they did -- vociferously. But of all the pronouncements delivered by the G.O.P. giants, you'll find the real snappy lines in Herbert Hoover's attack. "The New Deal," he cried, "has been a veritable fountain of fear." Or take this flash of rhetoric, attacking the way relief has been administered: "The poison of politics is mixed in the bread of the helpless." And again the ex-President blazed away with this:- "It was the Supreme Court decision crashing through New Deal tyrannies which brought a gleam of confidence from the fears that had retarded recovery."

Yes -- once more it's the Supreme Court, as the clash of battle whirls around the nine majestic men.

SWANSON

Washington is speculating on a possible successor to Secretary Swanson, should the illness of the head of the Navy Department cause him to retire. The hospital report today is that the Secretary has pleurisy, which comes as a complication of a case of a broken rib. He fell on the ice in front of his home last week.

I heard one knowing observer say today that if Secretary Swanson were to retire the man most likely to take his place would be Col. Henry Roosevelt, cousin of the President, who is now Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He's in line, they say, to become boss of the Admirals, if there should be any change.



HEPPTMANN

Three names big in the news tonight -- Bruno Richard Hauptman, Samuel Liebowitz, and Mrs. Evelyn Walsh McLean. It is now official that the famous lawyer Liebowitz is defending ~~an~~ Hauptmann, and that he <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sub>^</sub> been paid by the Washington society woman, Mrs. McLean.

It was revealed today that Liebowitz has had a secret interview ~~lik~~ with Hauptmann in the death cell at Trenton. What they said to each other, nobody knows. What Liebowitz hopes to accomplish we can only guess at -- now that all the courts have turned ~~down~~ <sub>^</sub> down the appeals of the Bronx carpenter. <sup>W</sup> The lawyer who gets acquittals -- that's the ~~name~~ fame of Liebowitz. <sup>He</sup> ~~He~~ <sub>^</sub> got no acquittals in the case of the Scottsboro negro<sup>s</sup>, but neither have those prisoners suffered the death penalty to which they were sentenced. There are acquittals galore in the record of the ~~the~~ attorney for the defense, a record on which such flagrant names figure as Al Capone, Vincent "Mad Dog" Coll, the "Breadknife Murderess," and the "Bobbed-Haired Bandit."

The ~~re~~ entrance of Mrs. McLean ~~into the affair of the~~ Lindbergh kidnapping adds a ~~slightly~~ <sup>It's a re-entrance.</sup> sprightly touch. She's the

wealthy lady who paid a large sum of money to Gaston Means on his story ~~that~~ he was in contact with the kidnapers and could get Baby Lindbergh back. She handed over the cash to the amazing Means.

And he proceeded to fill her with fantastic stories about secret ~~meetings~~ meetings and negotiations. He also had ~~ex~~ ingenious explanations

as to what he had done with the money. They found he was living in high ~~style~~ style, a man of means, ~~spending~~ *They sent him to jail. Still there,* spending the cash. <sup>1</sup> So Mrs.

McLean was gypped and trimmed. You'd have thought that would have discouraged her, ~~with the Lindbergh case.~~ But now she's in it again --

<sup>the</sup> glamorous society woman whose social power was ablaze in Washington during the Harding administration, <sup>owner of The Hope Diamond,</sup> <sup>1</sup> her husband owner of the Washington Post and a figure in the oil scandals.

FRANCE

Tonight there's a Cabinet crisis in France, with drastic Government action -- a swift national episode. And all because of a strange event today, an ugly riot, a singular story to tell.

There was a funeral in Paris, a Royalist funeral, a solemn cortege for Jacques Bainville. He -- a celebrated man, a distinguished author, a member of the Academy of France, and a leader of the Royalists.

So the funeral had a political character. Hundreds of <sup>enemies of the</sup> ~~Royalists~~ <sup>Republic</sup> in carriages and marching afoot. In the procession was a troop of fiery young Royalists <sup>who</sup> ~~wh~~ call themselves -- the henchmen of the King.

A taxicab came driving down a cross street. He tried to pass through the funeral procession. That looked bad. The manners of Continental Europe pay grave respect to the dead, to funerals. Men <sup>always tip</sup> ~~tip~~ <sup>their</sup> hats as <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ hearse goes by. <sup>And-</sup> It's bad form to cross the street through a funeral. So the taxicab provoked swift anger, the more so as the funeral had a tone of Royalist defiance.

But -- ~~it~~ <sup>he</sup> was quickly revealed that the passenger in the taxicab was a ~~an~~ member of the Chamber of Deputies. That was different. ~~It's~~ It's one of the prerogatives of a Deputy that he may interrupt a funeral cortege and pass through it. Yes, but wait --

the Royalists recognized the Deputy. That face was exceedingly familiar, mild and thin, with a shaggy drooping mustache, and glasses -- like the visage of a harmless old professor at ~~Sorbonne~~<sup>the</sup> Sorbonne. Leon Blum -- that's who it was.

To understand the state of mind of the Royalists let's look a little closer at Leon Blum. He was not born in the slums or on a ~~poor~~ poor farm. He's the son of a rich Parisian silk merchant, but he is the flaming Socialist leader of France. He <sup>has</sup> always had a way of enraging his opponents. He never drinks wine, but in 1929 he ran for election at Narbonne, in the great wine district. They ~~shrieked~~ shrieked at him, "a teetotler representing this land of wine -- a disgrace!" But Leon Blum won the election.

For years he's been President of the French Socialist party, radical and unyielding. He refused<sup>s</sup> to compromise, has always ~~refused~~<sup>scorned to</sup> hold office in a coalition cabinet with ministers of other parties. He is the radical extreme of everything the Royalists hate.

TP So this is the leader of the Socialists who, using his prerogative as a Deputy, tried to drive through the Royalist funeral. The enraged henchmen of the King swarmed about the taxicab. They dragged out the

veteran Socialist and beat him, blacked his eyes. He was rescued and taken into another car. They poked out the glass windows with their canes, smashed them. Blum was cut by pieces of glass. New Royalists came swarming in fury. Blum was dragged out once more and beaten. By the time he was rescued he was severely manhandled -- taken to a hospital and given treatment.

The street riot at the funeral set off immediate political fireworks. There was a near riot in the Chamber of Deputies. The black eye and the bruises suffered by their leader set the Socialists wild. "Avenge Leon Blum!" they shouted. They yelled an instant demand to Premier Sarraut and his ministers. "Supress the "enchmen of the King!" Put an end to all Royalist organizations!"

Premier Sarraut immediately called a Cabinet meeting. The Ministers went into session to deliberate. They had something to deliberate about, because the Socialists are a powerful party in the French parliament, and their vote could overthrow the Sarraut government. What's the answer? The last word from Paris is that the Cabinet has issued an official order dissolving the

GERMANY

Things are said to be moving behind the scenes in Germany.

In secret they are planning a new and more violent drive against the Jews -- and against the Catholics too.) That's the report, but ~~nothing~~ nothing is officially made public. Why the concealment? The answer was illustrated today when Chancellor Hitler and Propaganda Minister Goebbels attended the Olympic Hockey Games -- Hitler sniffing with <sup>a</sup> cold. They say the Olympic games are the influence that is keeping the Nazis from launching their drive. The rumor goes so far

as to mention the likelihood of Hitler signing a decree expelling all Jews from Germany. The Nazis are fierce in their intention to strike

with retaliation for the killing of the Swiss <sup>Nazi</sup> ~~leader~~ leader, Gusloff take it out on the Jews in Germany. But the bad impression it would

make on the Olympic Games is persuading them to keep their intention secret <sup>for</sup> ~~from~~ the ~~president~~. ) <sup>And then -</sup> The Nazi youth leader, Baldur von

Shirach, declares that he is going to get every German boy into the ranks of <sup>the</sup> ~~Nazi~~ <sup>Organization</sup> youth ~~before~~ before the year is over. That's what ~~he~~ has the

Catholics worried. They realize what a blow it would be to their church if they had to turn their children over ~~in~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~Nazi~~ ~~State~~

~~youth organization~~ for training in Nazi ideology.

And the Berlin regime tightens its hold. General Goering, Chief of the Secret Police, has his hand strengthened, as the decree is issued keeping the secret police a separate unit, responsible only to Hitler. And that decree orders the district rulers of the provinces to put themselves under the command of the secret police and ~~to~~ obey their orders, the orders of that German Gay Pay oo.

CALIFORNIA

Tonight brings good news, where last night the news was bad -- about the California State, that training ship with an epidemic of meningitis aboard. Last night we heard ~~as~~ that medical help was ~~rushed~~ rushing across the waters of the Pacific, help so desperately needed. Now tonight the word is that a Navy destroyer, after a thousand-mile voyage, has reached the California State and delivered six doctors, half a dozen gobs who volunteered to act as nurses, and plenty of serum. Has all that doctoring done any good? It has. The stricken pupils aboard the training ship are said to be -- getting better.