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Di. - Sunoco Jan. 20, 1938, Thursday

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BISHOP

There's a tone of sadness and regret in a letter the
Episcopalian Bishop of Tennessee wrote today - a painful letter to
send to one of his clergymen and a friend. It's addressed to the
Reverend Israel Noe, Dean of the Cathedral of St. Mary's, who
for nineteen days has been on a fast - to prove that man can exist
on spiritual food alone, and is immortal. There's drama in the
fact that Bishop Maxon has been too ill to be told about the
foodless experiment that Dean Noe has been making. He was informed
only today, whereupon he took instant action. ~~a letter that begins~~
~~like this: "For the first time I am today well enough to be~~
~~advised of what has transpired during the past two weeks." The~~
~~Bishop makes the point that the Cathedral at Memphis represents the~~
~~entire diocese, not merely a small group and he says that the~~
~~Dean's prolonged fast and his expressions of religious conviction,~~
~~do not correspond to the beliefs of the people of the diocese,~~
~~Consequently,~~ *to the Dean: -* He writes, "I regret to advise that it is
convincingly evident to me that you be removed as Dean of St. Mary's
Cathedral." So there's the climax of the Dean's strange spiritual

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ordeal - removed. The Bishop says, however, that his salary will be continued, and he can go on living in the deanery.

"I do not think you are at present your normal self," the Bishop's letter continues. "I urge and ~~beseech~~ beseech you to discontinue the fast which you are now undergoing." The Bishop concludes:- "This is a painful letter for me to write." And that we can readily believe.

There exists

There's no indication what the fasting Dean will now do. He is said to be thin and weak from his long starvation, but friends say that he is convinced his experiment is a success - proving that man can live on spiritual food alone. Hitherto he has taken ^{only} the wine and sacred wafer of Holy Communion three times a week. They say he believes he has only to discontinue those tiny sips and morsels, and he will achieve immortality on earth. He is convinced he is just that one step away from what he calls, in his own words - a perfect existence on a spiritual plane of life.

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The dreamy mysticism of the Dean, and now - the disapproval of the Bishop. *But the Dean says he is going right on fasting*

The wires were humming all day long, with one dispatch after another about G-man doings. Yet it all boils down to nothing definite, just a whole lot of vague activity shrouded by secrecy. In the northern part of the middlewest, with St. Paul, ~~Minnesota,~~ as a focus, it ^{was} a story of G-men here, there and everywhere, ~~and~~ J. Edgar Hoover reported at various places, unexplained airplane trips, unheralded arrivals at hotels. It was ^{again} noticed that G-men were carrying bundles about the size to contain digging tools. So it's assumed they were hunting for the bodies of the two victims in the case of the lumberjack Anders. He ^{who} ~~was~~ confessed that he killed the kidnapped Charles ~~S~~ Ross, and also his own partner in the snatching. There's ^{later} one report tonight that the bodies have been found.

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In all the scurrying around, one thing seems to be certain. It had been suspected that Anders may have had a hand in the kidnapping and murder of ten year old Charles Mattson, but now J. Edgar Hoover, interviewed on the fly, says no. "Anders," declares the chief of the G-men, "is not a suspect in the Mattson case." That's confirmed by another report which tells that the

brother and sister of the kidnapped boy were taken to look at Anders. The two children saw the kidnapper at the time of the crime, and they say Anders is not the man.

In the hurrying about of the G-men, a party of them were seen with two heavy manacled prisoners, one of whom may have been Anders. But ~~HEXWAX~~ who was the second? That's answered vaguely by a report that they had ^{VE} caught another suspect, made another arrest.

Tomorrow, I suppose, we'll be hearing the story of today's goings-on. I myself intend to put in a long distance call to J. Edgar Hoover, as soon as the ~~YHXX~~ fast driving G-men can be pinned down long enough for a telephone talk.

CHAIR

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Fifteen years ago an engineer named R. T. Storm built the electric chair in the Texas State Penitentiary at Huntsville. He was master mechanic of the prison, and it was his task to construct the hot seat. Since then a hundred and eighty-five convicted criminals have died in that electric chair.

Right now ~~engineer~~ Storm is ~~the~~ construction engineer for an oil company at Houston. Today he was called for jury duty in a murder trial, and a routine question was asked - "Do you believe in capital punishment?"

"No," he replied.

And so, because he does not believe in capital punishment, they excused him from jury duty, the man who built the electric chair.

VITAMIN

It's quite appropriate to find today's news about science ^{coming} from ~~a point in~~ ^{balmy} Havana. The Pan-American Medical Convention is holding its sessions down there in ^{salubrious} ~~balmy~~ Cuba, and today flashes a headline concerning Vitamin B-one. Yes, Havana is the proper and appropriate place to acclaim Vitamin B-one -- although Florida might do just as well. It was ^{from} ~~for~~ Cuba that the legendary Ponce de Leon sailed seeking the Fountain of Youth, and found Florida. ~~That old time Spanish don symbolized the age old quest for the secret of being eternally young.~~ And today we hear of Vitzmin B-one in a modern scientific fountain of youth. That is -

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something of the sort, if it works out the way the doctors think.

It is a subdivision of the fairly commonplace Vitamin B, and it occurs commonly in food, but is mostly destroyed by alkaline in the digestive system. The news now is that Dr. Elias Stern of New York has found out how to prepare Vitamin B-one artificially and has succeeded in injecting it directly into the spinal fluid. He says this has had excellent results in the treatment of diseases and old-age, the hardening of tissues that comes with the years. So, it's rejuvenating, and may turn out to be the "fountain

of youth."

Such is the word from Cuba, whence Ponce de Leon sailed those many years ago. And even today Havana is still a place where youth can come in handy.

EGYPT

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There's ^{mention of} ~~memory of~~ the magic name of Cleopatra in telling of today's royal bride. This evening the old City of Cairo is jubilant with festivities, following the wedding of young King Farouk and the lady Farida Zulficar. So now Egypt has a queen, and that inevitably brings mention of the name of Egypt's queen of greatest renown - Cleopatra.

Does the bride deserve it? Does she merit that age long term that symbolizes beauty? I can answer that from a letter I have here, written me by Wendell Cleland of the American University at Cairo.

"A year ago last New Year's Eve," he writes, "Mrs. Cleland and I attended a party at the home of a prominent Egyptian lawyer and senator, and there we remarked that Egypt certainly possesses her share of beautiful girls. One of these young ladies was rather taller than the others, very distinguished looking, graceful in her movements, and particularly striking in a pink evening dress. I noticed her especially when she was dancing with Sesostris Sidarous Pasha, former minister of Egypt to Washington. That was all the attention we gave her that evening, but later on when

King Farouk

^ became engaged, I discovered that his fiancee was that same queenly looking girl of the pink evening gown, whom we saw at the New Year's eve party." So writes Professor Wendell Cleland, who is a most learned scholar, and moreover has an eye for a pretty girl.

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We can depend on his word that it is not ~~so very~~ ^{at all} wrong to speak of the modern Cleopatra when referring to Egypt's present day queen.

Today's stately ceremony was a wedding without a bride, a marriage without any woman being present. That's in accordance with Mohammedan custom. But the masculine scene was brilliant and glittering, the dignitaries of the land in flashing uniforms - forty princes, cabinet ministers and high officials of the court. ~~They were witnesses to the signing of the marriage contract by young King Farouk and by the bride's father, the eminent Judge Youssef Zulficar Pasha.~~ Then the King's Chamberlain handed ^{the bride's father,} Youssef Zulficar Pasha, an envelope - the bride's dowry. Next prayers were offered by the Sheik ^{zul} of Islam, the nearest approach to a pope that the Moslems acknowledge. And the Sheik ^{zul} of Islam threw a silk ~~hand~~kerchief over the clasped hands of the King and

the father of the bride. Thereupon an officer on the palace roof waved a flag, and batteries of artillery fired the royal wedding salute.

This womanless wedding was witnessed by the bride, who stood in an adjoining room, hidden - looking through a lattice. So she saw herself made Queen of Egypt, the modern Cleopatra.

RUMANIA

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The flare of anti-Semitism in Rumania resulted in ugly violence in the Bucharest law courts today. With the new government policy of persecuting the Jews, there was mob action against Jewish lawyers, ~~today~~ And the mob consisted of Gentile lawyers ~~not gentel.~~ They attacked their Jewish colleagues to keep them out of court, and the fight was on.

Thousands of Jews are trying to leave Rumania, seeking some place to go. They almost mobbed the Mexican consulate today, attracted by a report that Mexico would admit them.

SPAIN

There's all sorts of confusion about the story of the American freight ship said to have been seized by the Spanish ~~insurgents~~ insurgents. She's name^d "Nant^uucket Chief", and was bound from Russia to Left Wing Spain with a cargo of Soviet oil.

The State Department says it has no word about the affair. Secretary Hull thinks that "Nantucket Chief" may be an American owned vessel chartered by the Spanish Left Wingers.

Then later -- here's word from Lloyds of London, saying that "Nantucket Chief" is on her way to Barcelona right now -- not captured at all. London's great insurance institution declares that a Russian ship was seized by Franco's men and this started the rumor₂ about the American vessel. So maybe the story is all a mistake.

Barcelona flashes word of two British sailors killed today by Franco's sky bombs. No, not an attack on a British ship however.

The vessel was ⁱⁿ harbored~~ed~~ at Tarrigona, and the sailors went to town on shore leave. ~~and~~ Franco's war planes roared overhead and bombed the city. The two British sailors were among the casualties.

BUSINESS

At the White House they're still sounding the grandiose theme of presidential conferences with industry, the head of the nation parleying with representatives of business. Today this imposing program takes a turn of small time simplicity. Just reach down and dig out a handful - that's the presidential commandment. Take the tall stack of letters that have been coming in and select a few at random, and then send out invitations to come to a White House meeting - a conference of little business.

President Roosevelt feels that in his talks with industry the little fellow should not be neglected, the small business man.

~~He has been discussing things with the chiefs of big industries, but what about the lesser industrialist, who has a small, medium sized company? He represents the rank and file of American~~

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~~industry.~~ The White House has been receiving stacks of letters from second string corporations, which declare that they've been the ones ~~the~~ hardest hit by the business recession - they've been hurt the most by the tax on undistributed surplus. And they ask that they be included in the presidential conferences with industry

That seems reasonable enough, but you couldn't invite all the little fellows - there are so many of them. The White House wouldn't hold them all, it would take a stadium. So, just select a few. How? At random, says the President, just pick out a fistfull of letters from the stack and mail out invitations.

That's being done right now, getting ready for a gathering of little business - as the President prepares to meet the great moguls of the automobile world tomorrow.

COMPTROLLER

The Comptroller of Currency resigned today, and right away there's mention of the Senate. J. T. F. O'Connor steps out of his post dealing with the nation's money and says he does so to return to California and take care of pressing matters there. Those are his words. The report is that the pressing matters concern the next primary election in California, with Mr. O'Connor going after the Democratic nomination for the Senate.

REED

(The way to the Supreme Court seems smooth for the newly appointed justice. It was indicated all along that there would be little opposition in the Senate to the confirmation of Stanley F. Reed to succeed Justice Sutherland, ~~who~~ retired.) There was further evidence of that today, when a Senate judiciary sub-committee reported favorably on Stanley Reed - the vote was unanimous.

SECESSION

Sixty or seventy years ago these were fighting words -- Southern secession. Today they are the cause of quite a bit of annoyance in one section of this country. This secession in 1938 is southern enough -- the southern-most part of Texas. Four counties in the lower valley of the Rio Grande are making moves to secede from the state of Texas. They want to make themselves the 49th state of the Union.

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At Austin state officials are looking up legal points to stop the secession. As a problem of law it's rather ambiguous. The Constitution of Texas says nothing about the question of counties withdrawing from the state. And then there's the treaty under which Texas, then an independent republic, became part of the United States. That treaty merely specifies that the state can be cut up into other states, depending upon the vote of the citizens.

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The secession movement in Starr, Cameron, Willacy and Hidalgo counties has gone so far that they have named a sort of theoretical government at the town of McAllen. They've even named the president and vice-president. A ~~local~~ local publisher,

P.E. Montgomery is president of the proposed 49th state.

And a program has been drafted -- embodying purposes and projects. The suggested new state wants horse racing and dog racing. These pastimes are forbidden by Texas law. Let the horses gallop and the dogs ^{run--} ~~race~~ -- is the slogan of the present day secessionists. They also plan to inaugurate a thirty day divorce law, according to which the unhappily wedded could be legally parted for a maximum fee of one hundred dollars. That would turn the place into a second Reno.

Gay and lively doings would seem to be the motif of the secession, the purpose of this intended 49th state. — *state of gay prosperity, & a-l-u-t-m.*

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