

LITHUANIA

A grave decision confronts the President of Lithuania. He has four death sentences before him. He must decide within twenty-four hours.

It's part of the case of those wholesale arrests of Nazis in the city of Memel several weeks ago. We heard then how the Lithuanian Government claims to have discovered a Nazi plot to seize Memel, how they arrested all sorts of prominent people, and how among the prisoners were four men accused of killing a fellow member of their Nazi organization who had turned against them. All sorts of hubbub followed. Berlin made a violent protest. The League of Nations stepped in, warning Lithuania that the rights of minorities, including the German Nazi minority, must be respected. The four men were tried and condemned to death. The case was appealed to the Lithuanian Supreme Court. And today that court handed down its verdict. It sustains the sentences:- the four prisoners to be executed by a firing squad within twenty-four hours, unless the Lithuanian President intervenes. If the President does not intervene, the doom descends on the four men, there will be a new flare of international bitterness.

GERMANY

A verdict in a sensational trial was handed down in Germany. It's in the case of one of those many Catholic priests and nuns who were arrested some time ago, charged with smuggling foreign currency out of Germany. The Nazi Reich has a law forbidding money to be taken out of ~~Germany~~ <sup>the country.</sup> And the priests and nuns are charged with violating that law in a large conspiracy.

The first one to go to trial was Sister Katharina <sup>Vee</sup> Widenhoefer and today's word is that she has been found guilty and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary and a fine of more than fifty thousand dollars.

At the same time another sentence is decreed in this same affair. The Convent of the Saint <sup>Vincent</sup> ~~Francis~~ Order of Nuns, likewise charged with money smuggling, is ordered to pay one hundred thousand dollars in damages to the Reich Government.



## BARKER

St. Paul, Minnesota. The verdict? - guilty. The sentence? - life imprisonment. With these pronouncements by the jury and the judge, we come to the end of another crime trail. After the killing of Dillinger, the black mark of prime public enemies was awarded to the Barker-Karpis mob. And violent things proceeded to happen; one after another the gang members were eliminated. Ma Barker and her son Fred Killed, her other son Arthur, captured. Only one mobster remained untouched - Alvin Karpis. And he is still alive and free - the only survivor at large of that list of widely advertised enemies. But Arthur Barker, known as "Doc", got "his" today in St. Paul.

It was, - that gang was - perhaps the most murderous and desperate crew of all. Its leader in brains and will, was the machine-gunning old woman, Ma Barker. That was the flaring headline at the time. Was it just so much lurid sensationalism? I asked that question some weeks ago of the Number One man of the Federal Agents, J. Edgar Hoover. He told me it was literally and precisely true. He described the motherly and murderous Ma Barker as having reared her two sons to the profession of crime.

She recruited the members of their gang, planned the robberies, assigning roles to her bandit sons and their pals. Chief Agent Hoover related how Ma on occasion would procure the release of a crook from prison. Appearing before a parole board, more motherly than ever, she would promise to look after the boy. But, she would procure the release because she needed the skill of that particular gangster for the next hold-up or kidnapping she was planning.

The central crime in the whole series of outlaw terror was the Bremer kidnapping. The Barker-Karpis mob snatched Edward Bremer, the St. Paul banker, and collected a Two Hundred Thousand Dollar ransom. In doing so they left a clue. In the getaway, after receiving the money, they tossed away a gasoline can. Federal men recovered the can and developed the fingerprints on it. And those fingerprints put the finger on the mob.

Then followed a hunt by the army of Federal Agents. The heat grew intense. The mob split. Ma Barker and her son Fred went South to Florida. "Doc" Barker and a couple of his pals hid out in Chicago. The two sections of the mob kept in touch with each other by telegraph and telephone. Courtney Ryley Cooper, in his book, "Ten Thousand Public Enemies", tells of the intensely dramatic catastrophe that



befell them. Ma Barker and Fred, in their Florida cottage, read in the newspaper one morning how the Federal Agents had raided the Chicago hideaway of the Barker-Karpis gang. One gangster killed, another captured. But there was no mention of "Doc" Barker. The fierce old woman knew that her son had been keeping himself concealed in that hideaway, so she scanned the news, line by line, but still - no mention of "Doc" Barker. She believed that "Doc" somehow had escaped. That's why Ma Barker and Fred stayed put in their little cottage at Oklawaha, Florida, instead of taking the trail again.

The Federal Agents were keeping their secret. They had captured "Doc" ~~Barker~~ but gave out not a word about him. They kept him hidden, isolated, questioning him. In his belongings they found a scrap of paper and on ~~that~~ it scribbled the word "Oklawaha". And that gave them the steer, to the little Florida resort town. And the next thing was - the <sup>t</sup> machine-gun battle in which Ma ~~Barker~~ and her bandit son were killed, the relentless old woman with a machine-gun in her hands.

Now, the criminal drama of <sup>Ma the</sup> ~~the old woman~~ master-mind who raised her two sons to be bandits, has been played out. The Federal men put the surviving son, "Doc" Barker, on trial for the Bremer

50

BARKER - 4

kidnapping. And today <sup>camp</sup> - the verdict, "guilty" - the sentence, "life  
imprisonment."



## BONUS

At noon today the Vice-President of the United States signed his name to a document -- the Patman Bonus Bill. Vice-President Garner performed the necessary formalities as presiding officer of the Senate -- the formalities needed to send the bill to the White House. The President will veto it the early part of the week. It won't be just an ordinary veto, not with the bonus issue as burning as it is. And the President has decided to do an unusual thing. Mr. Roosevelt announces that he will appear in person before the Senate, and speak his veto message. We had been told that the President would make some mighty strong declarations, but now he goes further. He'll make those declarations, himself, standing before the assembled law-makers. Today he expressed the most earnest hope that his veto be sustained.

So the battle is scheduled for next week. It's going to be one of the bitterest of Congressional free-for-all fights. The test, the veto, will probably come toward the end of next week.

The complicated confusion in the N. R. A. mix-up grows still more complex, with the word about the impending retirement of Donald Richberg. This report from Washington appears to be based on sound information. ~~It emanates from a personage high in the Administration, who, however, is not named.~~ The statement is that Richberg will retire by June Sixteenth. That's the date when the present National Recovery Act expires. If the fight over its extension is not settled by then, the whole N. R. A. set-up, codes, organization and all will go automatically into the discard. But even if the life of the Blue Eagle is extended, and a new N. R. A. program takes effect on June Sixteenth -- they say Donald Richberg will retire just the same. He will take no part in any second edition of the N. R. A., but will retire to the private practice of law.

If the dope would turn out to be accurate, we'll be appraising another one of those meteoric careers that have flashed high and flickered ~~it~~ out in the pyrotechnics of the New Deal. ~~Even more of the~~ *In fact an even more* dizzy ascent and just as dizzy a drop as in the case of Richberg's predecessor and prime antagonist --



the one-time "Crack 'Em Down" General Johnson. Richberg has stood even higher in the Administration than ~~Johnson~~ <sup>the General, for he has been</sup> hailed in the boldest and blackest of headlines as Number Two man of the U. S. A., "assistant president."

The report that he is soon to retire is all the more suprising -- as the President has just come to the support of the N. R. A. boss, backing Richberg in his demand for a two-year N. R. A. extension as against the ten months that the Senate ~~has~~ voted to grant. So the natural response to the resignation-report is -- can it be true?

There's an interesting play of logic in the Banking Report presented to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, a line of reasoning which seems to boil down to this: that the New Deal plan of government banking control is bad, because the hand of government worked badly in banking, in the Republican era of Coolidge and Hoover.

53  
The New Deal plan is to concentrate control at Washington and take away the independence of the state branches of the Federal Reserve. The bankers of the nation don't like the idea. So, a banker of national prominence was commissioned to draw up a report. That banker is Winthrop W. Aldrich, Chairman of the Chase National of New York. Mr. Aldrich is related to John D. Rockefeller. He is a member of the National Republican Club. ~~But then, the~~

So Winthrop W. Aldrich drew up his indictment of the centralized banking idea and presented it to the Senate Committee today. The principal angle is a bit technical and financial, but let's see if we can wade through it. We can at least wade into it. It's this way:- The State Federal Reserve organizations lend money to individual banks and charge them a certain rate of <sup>interest.</sup> of <sup>^</sup>



This re-discount rate governs the rate ~~xx~~ which the individual banks charge when they lend money for Stock Market operations.

54  
The lower that re-discount rate, the easier for brokers to get money, the more speculation there is. Conversely, a higher interest rate cuts down the stock buying, handicaps speculation, puts the damper on boom tendencies. The Aldrich Report declares that in 1929, when the boom was soaring to its wildest, the Federal Reserve Board in Washington blocked efforts of local Federal Reserve Banks to have the re-discount rate increased. The inference being that the central Board in Washington did not want to do anything to discourage the speculation, but on the ~~fx~~ contrary acted in a way to keep the boom riding higher and higher. It has been charged here there and the next place, that the Coolidge and Hoover administrations followed boom policies, and helped along the stock-speculating craze. The Aldrich Report tends to give this some substantiation.

The inference goes further. It was the Federal Reserve Board in Washington that blocked the efforts to increase the re-discount rate. State Federal Reserve Banks wanted a boost in <sup>the rate.</sup>

25  
They were in favor of a policy that would put the brakes on the boom. And so, the Aldrich Report reasons that the State Federal Reserve outfits displayed better judgment than the Central Federal Reserve Board in Washington. From which it is assumed that the States would be more likely to use better judgment in the future. Hence, the argument against centralized bank control, which would give the government so great a power over the swing and movement of finances. And that's the bankers' report that has now gone before the Senate committee.

On the other side Sec. of the Treas. Morgenthau spoke strongly before the committee in favor of centralized banking, and the President backed him up in the Press Conference.



VIRGIN ISLANDS

President Hoover called the Virgin Islands --  
"America's Poor House." And he was criticized a bit for saying so.  
And now what does Senator Reynolds say? He ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> the chairman  
of the sub-committee investigating the political wrangle that  
has been going on in the Virgin Islands, and as such he took  
a trip to the islands to investigate for himself. Now he has  
returned and here's what he says --even more drastic than what  
President Hoover had to say.

"The United States," declared ~~the~~<sup>s</sup> the Senator, "paid  
Denmark twenty-five million dollars for the Virgin Islands.  
Well, I'd pay them some more money to take the islands back."

Just to offset the glumness of that verdict, here  
are a couple of lighter ~~personalities~~<sup>touches</sup> about Senator Reynolds,  
himself. ~~During~~<sup>he</sup> one of his campaigns for election, ~~he~~<sup>he</sup> bought  
thousands of candy bars which he distributed to children all over  
the state. The wrapper on each candy bar said:- "Tell Daddy and  
Mama to vote for Bob Reynolds." On one occasion he took a trip  
to the East, to Egypt and Africa. That was a splendid political  
stroke because Senator Bob took a list of voters with him and

bought thousands of picture postal cards. To each voter he sent

a <sup>picture</sup> ~~postal card~~ of the pyramids or the Taj Mahal.



AUTOS

Good work in Hartford, where the Eastern Conference of Motor Vehicle Administrators are having a two-day session. They're the auto authorities of various states, gathered in the cause of safety, <sup>are</sup> trying to do things to cut down the casualties and accidents of ~~the~~ auto traffic. The guest of honor is Governor Harold G. Hoffman of New Jersey, who used to be Motor Vehicle Commissioner of his state. Let's hope the boys dope out <sup>some</sup> ~~something~~ ingenious ways to stop traffic accidents - and give us more safety with our Blue Sunoco.

BET

How much is twenty-five from forty million? How does it figure out when you lose a twenty-five dollar bet and marry a forty million dollar heiress? That is answered by no less an authority than Count Court von Haugwitz Reventlow, now honeymooning with his Countess of the Clan Woolworth. He explains it in a telegram accompanying a money order paying the bet he made with Alexander Brown, the Lord Chesterfieldian society editor of the Fox Movietone News Reel.

It cost the lucky Dane just twenty-five bucks to be so secretive about the marriage. When he arrived in this land of the free, (Reno freedom) he denied everything. Alexander Brown supervising the taking of newsreel pictures said he'd bet the Count that the Count would marry the heiress - that the Dane would get the Dame. And the Count bet he wouldn't. So the bet was won and lost -- and now is paid, with the following message from the Count:- "The nicest bet I ever made, the loser being happier than the winner." That's what he thinks of the arithmetic of forty million minus twenty-five.



REINCARNATION

58

Scientists and mystics alike are vividly interested in the mysterious case of a Hungarian girl. She is fifteen years old. She was stricken with influenza and seemed to be dying. She <sup>ed</sup>seems in fact to be dead -- for a few moments. Then suddenly she revived and recovered quickly. It seemed as if she had come back to life -- a different person. For she spoke, not Hungarian, but Spanish, although she didn't know a word of that language before her illness. They had to engage a Spanish interpreter to translate to her bewildered Hungarian parents. Chattering in voluble Spanish, the fifteen-year-old girl declared that she was Senora Lucia Alvarez de Salvio, wife of a working man in Madrid. She declared that she had fourteen children, and was forty years old. Since then she has been able to pick up a little Hungarian which she speaks with a strong Spanish accent. She sings Spanish songs, prefers Spanish food, and knows how to cook it. She has become fond of her parents, but ~~xxx~~ says she can't understand why they should pretend to be her father and mother. She is homesick for her supposed family in Madrid, and can't figure out how she ever got to Budapest.

58 1/2

"I was sick," she says, "and I died, and now I have come back to life in this strange country, among strange people."

9  
What is the explanation? Transmigration? The transmigration of a soul? Or is it some weird turn of mere mental disturbance? Prominent psychiatrists are studying the girl, trying to find out. So far they have been unable to guess the explanation. Who can guess it? Can you? I can't, and

59 1/2  
SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY