

C.I. - Sunoco Monday, Jan. 15, 1940.

PLOT

6

That plot to overthrow the United States Government seemed ~~at first~~, on the face of it, to be <sup>rather</sup> ~~almost~~ childish. The United States Attorney in the Federal Court of Brooklyn, today used the word "fantastic" ~~to describe it~~. And it appeared to be all the more puerile when the seventeen defendants were arraigned before a federal judge. They were <sup>a defiant lot, handcuffed</sup> ~~certainly a woe-begone lot, handcuffed~~ <sup>here</sup> to Uncle Sam's deputy marshals and G-men, ~~as they stood in court, shamefaced and terrified~~ <sup>scared as they stood there in court.</sup> Thousands of spectators tried to get <sup>in for</sup> ~~into the court to have~~ a glimpse of them. Those who were successful saw four clerks, a truck driver, two unemployed men, a student, a telephone lineman, a tailor, a mechanic, a salesman and a hotel worker. Such ~~were~~ the men accused of having undertaken to overthrow the government, to bomb newspaper offices and public buildings, to assassinate fourteen congressmen and establish a new regime in the ~~XX~~ U.S.A.

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But, as the United States Attorney explained, fantastic and silly as was their conspiracy, the government had to take them seriously when they started making bombs and stealing arms and ammunition from the National Guard.

United States Attorney Kennedy then told the court some interesting facts that hadn't been made public before. It seems that he and J. Edgar Hoover, head of the F.B.I., had been working on this case for quite a while. They had not wanted to make the raids and carry out the arrests of the prisoners quite so soon. They wanted to catch them in some overt act. Also, the government men were anxious to grab all the heads of the conspiracy and that would have included ~~xxxxxxef~~ groups ~~of~~ in three other states of the union. But then the G-men learned that the conspirators had decided to find out how good were the bombs they had made, to try them out in some public building. <sup>So</sup> The United States Attorney ~~then let it be known~~ *said today* that even though these arrests were premature, plotters in other parts of the country will eventually fall into Uncle Sam's net.

Earlier in the day, it was made public that all the prisoners belonged to the Christian Front, an organization that professes <sup>to follow</sup> the doctrines of Father Coughlin. But the United States Attorney told the court that he did not believe the Christian Front had anything to do with this plot. The men arrested were using

the Christian Front as a recruiting ground for their anti-Semitic organization. They themselves were members of what is known as the "Sports Club" of the Christian Front.

When it became known that these men were connected with the Christian Front, Father Coughlin denied having any connection with that organization. This provoked a challenge from Kansas City, from the Director of an organization called "The Friends of Democracy " This man sent a telegram to Father Coughlin, calling upon him to mention any instance in which he had repudiated the connection with the Christian Front. And he stated that Farther Coughlin has advocated the casue of the

Christian Front, has fostered and encouraged it, and that his magazine, SOCIAL JUSTICE, is the official organ of the Christian Front.

*But Father Coughlin denies all connection with it.*

That, however, is a side issue in the story of the unearthing of ~~this alleged~~ <sup>the</sup> plot. The men were arraigned under a section of the United States Code which was rewritten at the time of Aaron Burr. In fact it was rewritten after Burr had been tried and acquitted before Chief Justice Marshall for the historic Blennerhasset Conspiracy. The seventeen were held in fifty thousand dollars bail apiece. So far nobody has come forward with nine hundred thousand dollars to bail them out.

One of the men arrested is a captain in the New York National Guard. And Governor Lehman of New York today said that he would certainly be in favor of an investigation to find out whether the arms and munitions found by the G. Men had been obtained from National Guard Arsenals. Though there were eighteen men arrested, only seventeen were arraigned, as one of them was released.

FINNISH RELIEF

20

Help for Finland is to be the subject of a presidential message. It was admitted at the White House today that Mr. Roosevelt has decided to make some considered proposals to Congress. Secretary ~~Steve~~ Early, who gave out the information, said that the President wants something which he thinks ~~xxxx~~ will give material relief to the invaded Finns. The understanding is that this does not mean a direct loan from the United States government to ~~the Finnish government~~ <sup>land</sup> but some plan which would be arranged through the medium of the Import-Export Bank. The money to be advanced to Finland would not be as much as the sixty million ~~dollars~~ proposed by Senator Carter Glass of Virginia. Probably the limit will be somewhere around twenty-five millions.

WAR

51

The most important news from the Baltic front today is diplomatic rather than military. For it is evident that the success of Finnish resistance to the Soviet invasion has stiffened the backbone of the other Scandinavian governments. Each of them holds up a brave chin to Moscow, and to the extreme displeasure of the Kremlin. It was announced in the Soviet capital today that the Stalin government considers the replies from Sweden and Norway to the Soviet protest to be unsatisfactory. The Stockholm Foreign Office told Molotov that the Swedish Government has no grievances against Russia and hopes all misunderstandings between the two countries may soon be wiped away. At the same time, the Swedish Foreign Minister took occasion not exactly to protest but to express his grief at the attacks on Sweden printed in Russian newspapers and broadcast by Russian radio.

The ~~xxxx~~ Oslo Government went a little bit further. It not only denied that arms and munitions had been transferred across ~~Finland to Norway~~ Norway to Finland, it intimated that they might do so in future and would not consider it at all illegal, no violation

of international law. The interpretation is that Norway will promptly allow Britain and France to send arms to Finland through Norwegian territory.

The military news shows that the Soviet generals, frustrated on land, are relying heavily on airplane attacks. One air raid alarm after another sounded in Helsinki, Viipuri and other Finnish cities today. The Finns estimated that the ~~air~~ Reds are sending over four hundred or five hundred planes a day to drop bombs, most of them incendiary, on Finnish towns, <sup>in an</sup> ~~apparently in a futile~~ effort to demoralize the population of Finland.

BELGIUM

52  
In One part of Europe ~~at least~~ the latest scare about Holland and Belgium is not taken seriously. And that is in France, ~~at least on the part of the Frenchmen.~~ The French generals ~~quite~~ evidently take no stock in the rumors. An official announcement from Paris declares that the general staff of the Republic has no information of any change in concentration of German troops on the Netherlands-Belgium frontier. The French theory is and always has been, that the Germans are and always have been, ready to ~~EXERCISE~~ march through Holland and Belgium to attack France <sup>— ready</sup> on forty-eight hours' notice. But <sup>that</sup> there has been no fresh movement of German troops on those frontiers.

The chief basis of ~~the~~ <sup>e</sup> rumor seems to be the fact that King Leopold of the Belgians is personally taking command of his army <sup>of</sup> seven hundred thousand men. ~~under arms.~~ Combined with that, was the British order cancelling the leaves of officers of the Royal Air Force. But <sup>the</sup> latest is that the fear of any German invasion of the low countries is even less today than it was in the middle of November when the last scare was raised and came to nothing.



JAPAN

~~The new cabinet in Japan brings one hopeful note~~

*5-3*  
~~in this country. For the new Mikado~~ <sup>The Japanese</sup> ~~is~~ new Prime Minister

Admiral Yonai is known to be friendly <sup>both</sup> ~~not only~~ to Uncle Sam

<sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ to Great Britain; ~~That is, he's~~ in favor of amicable

relations with us and with ~~me~~ the British. Yonai is not a

newcomer to Cabinet rank. He has served as Minister of the

Navy in three former cabinets.

FLIGHT

Colonel Angelo Tondi, one of <sup>Mussolini's</sup> ~~the~~ crack aviators, ~~of~~

~~from Mussolini's~~ set out on an ambitious flight. He wanted to establish a new long distance record all the way from Rome to Patagonia. Colonel Tondi was flying a three-motored Savoia-Marchetti <sup>K</sup> ~~plane~~. He took off early yesterday from the Guidonia Airfield, near Rome, and had enough fuel aboard to last him sixty-five hours. He was going fine until early this morning when he reported he was flying through a storm over the middle of the Atlantic, south of the Equator.

Unfortunately, one of his motors <sup>went dead,</sup> ~~could,~~ and he was forced to land at the Island of Fernando Do Noronha, a Brazilian islet three hundred and eighty miles northeast of Pernambuco. ~~But he didn't give up without a tough fight. By the time he came to earth, he had exhausted his gasoline.~~

MANTON

Former Judge Martin T. Manton keeps up his fight for freedom. He appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States today, asked the Nine Judges to review the trial in which he was convicted of bribery as senior judge of the Circuit Court of Appeals. He has already had and lost one appeal. His trial was reviewed by a special Court of Appeals at which Supreme Court Justice Harlan F. Stone presided.

INDICTMENT

55

A federal grand jury at Chicago has just turned in one of the most comprehensive indictments I ever heard of. It's one consequence of the investigation of the Federal Department of Justice into the high cost of building. As a result of the evidence it heard, ~~that~~<sup>has</sup> grand jury found a True Bill against no fewer than forty persons and corporations in the tile industry in the Chicago area. The persons and corporations produced ninety per cent of the tile used on buildings in that region and a labor union is also included, Local No. 67 of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers. Likewise a joint arbitration board, which is a committee of the Labor Union of the Contractors' Association. This indictment charges the people and corporations with violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust law.

Meanwhile, another federal grand jury was working in New Orleans and found a True Bill under the same law against the Building and Construction Trades Council of New Orleans, together with twenty-one affiliated locals of the American Federation of Labor.

NOTRE DAME

Not only Roman Catholics but football fans all over the country will be interested in an event at the Sacred Heart

Cathedral at South Bend, Indiana, today. ~~A full third of the~~

~~Princes~~  
~~principals~~

of the Church in America were present, for the occasion

was the consecration of ~~the Most Reverend John E.~~ <sup>Father</sup> O'Hara ~~as~~

Titular Bishop of Milasa and Auxiliary Bishop of the Army and Navy.

As ~~any~~ <sup>all</sup> football fan <sup>s</sup> knows, Father O'Hara ~~is the famous~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~has long~~

<sup>been</sup> President of Notre Dame University. The ~~person~~ <sup>prelate</sup> who consecrated him

was ~~none other than First Bishop Francis M.~~ <sup>Archbishop</sup> Spellman, ~~Archbishop of~~

New York. ~~He was anointed with holy oils by the Bishop of Fort~~

~~Wayne, Indiana, and the Bishop of Indianapolis.~~

So far, no successor has been named ~~to Bishop O'Hara,~~

~~as President of~~ <sup>at</sup> Notre Dame.

NEWSPAPER

New York City is to have another evening newspaper.

This announcement was made today by Ralph M. Ingersoll, formerly

Managing Editor of the NEW YORKER MAGAZINE and later publisher

of TIME. *To be launched in June.* ~~The news is quite circumstantial capital has been~~

~~subscribed, and many of the advance preparations already made.~~

~~Ingersoll says they're thinking of beginning publication on the~~

~~First of June.~~

*sub -*  
It'll be a tabloid, smaller than the tabs that

are now published in New York, printed in both black and color.

It'll have no advertising to begin with, and ~~it~~ will be a five

cent newspaper. ~~The list of stockholders is interesting. It~~

~~includes John Hay Whitney, Marshall Field, Mrs. Louis Simbel,~~

~~our colleague Dorothy Thompson, and P.K. Wrigley of Chicago,~~

~~the chewing gum and baseball magnate. Official wiseacres~~

~~are guessing that this will be a daily version of TIME.~~

TWINS

57  
-  
An unusual double romance in New York has had consequences that today are interesting the doctors. Four years ago, a couple of young men named Benjamin and Hyman Rubin, who happened to be twins, ~~met~~ met a couple of young women named Ruth and Sylvia Reisman. They also are twins. It sounds both touching and incredible that those twin couples fell in love with each other.

the brothers Rubin wooed and won the sisters Reisman, and they ~~were~~ *were* married and all lived together in ~~XXXXXX~~ a New York apartment.

Four days before Christmas, one of those couples had a bouncing baby boy. Three days later, on Christmas Eve, the other couple also added to the population - twins, both girls.

As all four parents have blue eyes, and the mothers and fathers are so much alike in looks, an embarrassing moment awaited the ~~doctor~~ *doctor*. *And he made a faux pas.*  
~~doctor~~ He congratulated the wrong father.

The medical wisemen are interested because they say that this case is ~~quite~~ *quite* unique in the annals of medicine.

WEATHER

58

Several portions of the country were mending their wounds today, wounds from weekend storms. Pennsylvania and the States around Lake Michigan got the worst of the gales and blizzards, though the weather was <sup>fierce</sup> ~~fierece~~ all the way East from the Rocky Mountains. Snowdrifts blocked the highways in Iowa and Illinois. Power-lines were down in many places, while many people were marooned by the snow in Northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. At Monroe, Michigan, huge five-ton cakes of ice from Lake Erie were piled up forty feet high on the beach, threatening to crush the summer cottages. In the wake of the rain, a cold wave is now <sup>sweeping</sup> ~~sweeping~~ eastward from the Rockies.

58 1/2

Winter sportsmen all over the country ought to shed a tear of sympathy for the ski fans in Wisconsin. There was to have been an open tournament at Beloit. Preparations had been made weeks in advance for the races on the ~~xx~~ big hill-slide there. The promoters of the affair kept looking to the skies -- looking in vain for snow. But the skies refused to oblige. Finally, in desperation, the management of the tournament decided to import some snow. They brought a hundred-and-ninety tons of



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59 1/4  
it from Ishpeming, Michigan, seven box-cars full. They had  
it in readiness for the tournament that was to have been held  
yesterday. And when yesterday dawned, snow was falling in  
such volume from the skies, that they had to postpone the  
event. So much snow it would blind the jumpers, and nobody  
could see 'em ~~jump~~ Yump. And now, let's yump to Hugh.