GARNER

Lowell Thomas Broadcast for Literary Digest, Tuesday, March 29, 1932.

Page.

Good Evening, Everybody:

There was a stirring scene in the 1 House, of Representatives to day when 2 Speaker Garner got up and made his 3 plea to the assembled law makers. The 4 galleries were crowded, and an air of 5 suppressed excitement prevailed. The 6 Speaker's appeal promised to be the . 7 critical point of a long and confused 8 controversy about taxation. . 9

It was realized that the time 10 had come for decisive action, if the 11 budget of the United States Government 12 was to be balanced. With the defeat of 13 the sales tax, Congress seemed to have 14 turned into chaos. The leaders waxe had 15 lost their control, and the time had 16 come when the men whose business it is 17 to guide parties in the legislative 18 body es, were called upon to assert their 19 influence and authority. 20

Yesterday we heard how the variant second string leaders put it up to Garner, the Speaker of the House, and how he had promised to take the floor and make a fight today. GARNER - 2

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The New York Evening Post tells 1 how Speaker Garner was applauded by 2 both Republicans and Democrats, which he arose 3 then to spoke He didn't turn loose 4 with his usual fiery oratory. He 5 spoke in a slow measured husky voice. 6 "You have arrived", he told the 7 Congressmen, "at the conclusion that 8 you will have no sales tax. But I 9 appeal to you for the sake of your 10 party and your country to do your duty 11 and restore some taxes to the bill, by 12 which this country's financial 13 integrity may be maintained." 14 That was the gist of the 15 Speaker's plea. He called upon Congress 16 to get together and put through enough 17 taxation to balance the budget. 18 And he seems to have won out. 19 Here's the way the New York Evening 20 Post begins its story of the events in 21 22 Congress today: "The balancing of the Federal 23 budget", declares the Post, was made 24 certain today when the Ways and Means 25

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Committee brought forth XXX a new tax proposal and Speaker Garner made personal appeals to the House."

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Hett, The new program offered by the Ways and Means Committee rounds out the tax bill in such fashion that it will produce over one billion two hundred million dollars.

The new features which are 9 before Congress now consist of a tax 10 on stock transfers, which means that 11 whenever stock is bought or sold, 12 why tax will be collected by the 13 government. The same thing goes 14 for bond transfers, and various other 15 types of trading in securities. 16 There's also a tax on soft drinks, on 17 cosmetics, furs, jewelry, sporting 18 goods, radios, chewing gum, automobiles, 19 boats, and other kinds of goods 20 designated as luxury products. 21

It had been supposed that there
might be **xx** a tax proposed on gasoline,
gas, electricity; and tobacco, but
none of these commodities are mentioned

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1 in the new bill.

Very well, now, we have it :-2 the new tax program proposed by the 3 Ways and Means Committee, and Speaker 4 Garner's appeal to Congress. The 5 e results were immediate. A procession 7 started, a procession of congressional 8 leaders of various factions, each of 9 whom pledged his support in the work of balancing the budget. Among those 10 leaders were Representative^s Snell, 11 La Guardia, Rayney, Doughton, and 12 Rankin, some of whom were prominent 13 in the fight against the sales tax. 14 The day's proceedings in 15 Congress make it seem as if there will 16 now be orderly action on the subject 17 of new taxation. 18

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(President Hoover today came out with a definite statement that he is was unalterably opposed to any further soldiers' bonus payments.)

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Mr. Hoover made this statement 5 to the newspaper men at a pressman's 6 conference. He declared that it looks 7 as if a strong movement might get under 8 way in Congress for & soldiers' bonus. 9 He explained that there was a good 10 deal of apprehension through the 11 country because of the belief that 12 a majority in the House of Representatives 13 would support the bonus payments, which 14 would cost the country something like 15 two billion dollars. 16

The New York Sun quotes the 17 President as declaring that he made his 18 position clear at the last convention 19 of the American Legion at Detroit, and 20 that he was supported by a vote of the 21 Legionnaires. He added that if any such 22 bonus proposal comes to the front, he 23 will do everything he can to defeat it. 24

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The battle of prohibition in Washington entered a new phase today when a judiciary sub-committee of the United States Senate started proceedings for a consideration of three resolutions put forth by Senator Hiram Bingham of Connecticut. Senator Bingham is a leader of the anti-prohibition forces, and he wants to put through several proposals which would change the present method of amending the Constitution of the United States.

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One of these changes would fix things so that any constitutional amendment which gives the government an increase of power over the people must be ratified by special state conventions. At present amendments are ratified by state legislatures, but Senator Bingham and a group of his supporters believe that special conventions should be elected by the people on the direct question of adopting new constitutional amendments. The second proposal is that any

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such amendment must be ratified by popular elections, with three-quarters of the states voting YES.

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The third proposal calls for Congress to call a National Constitutional convention whenever two-thirds of its members are in favor, and also when twothirds of the states^{*} legislatures put on their O.K.

The advocates of these changes declare that the idea is to put questions of amending the Constitution right square in the hands of the people.

desson halter POLL Page_ 8 Ladies and Gentlemen: Well, let's go on with that 1 most important subject of the day - yes. 2 that same old topic of prohibition. 3 I have an interesting list of 4 cities here tonight, and They begin 5 with communities in those two rival sunshine 6 states. that dispute the primacy of 7 sunshines 8 Santa Barbara, California, 9 votes 432 for continuance of the 18th 10 Amendment, and 1,429 for repeal; while 11 Daytona Beach, Florida, votes 12 218 dry, and 792 wet. The proportions are 13 about the Rock Island, Illinois, 14 245 for, 1,066 against. 15 Elwood, Indiana, 403 dry, 16 658 wet. 17 Westfield, Massachusetts, 18 217 for, 1,083 against. 19 Muskegon, Michigan, 357 dry, 20 1,797 wet. 21 ys die for dear ald Kulgers, New Jersey, where 358 for continuance, 2,394 for repeal. 22 23 New Rochelle, New York, 24 259 wax dry, 2,479 wet. 25

erson halter POLL Page_9 Denver, Colorado, comes through with a second set of returns 4.611 in favor of prohibition 9.031 against. And we also have a second report on Bridgeport, Connecticut, 797 for continuance, 5,520 for repeal. We now return to our program. 3-1-32 5M

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This afternoon the Mers. Charles A. Consolvo, wife of the a prominent president of the Baltimore Hotel man Corporation; told reports of a Baltimore newspaper^s that she had a telephone call from her husband concerning the Lindbergh case. She declares that her husband told her that he was going to take aboard his yacht the three Mm Norfolk citizens who are said to be negotiating with the kidnappers of the Lindbergh baby, and that it was his job to pilot them to a point outside the 12-mile limit, where they would meet the kidnappers.

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This is the most important bit of news this evening in the hunt for the missing child.

The New York Sun relates that Dean Dobson-Peacock, one of the three Norfolk men who have become so prominent in the case, flew back to Norfolk this morning, after his conference with the Lindberghs last hight. The clergyman denied that he had brought to the stricken parents LINDBERGH - 2

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any positive proof that the baby is aboard a boat, but he asserts that he is mighty confident that he is on the right trail, together with his two colleagues, Rear Admiral Burrage and Charles Hughes Curtis, the Norfolk shipbuilder. He declares that he hopes to call upon the Lindberghs again within a few days, and if he does he will have something mighty definite to offer.

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Meanwhile, Colonel Lindbergh declares **hm** that he does not believe the Norfolk clue is very significant. He seems rather to belittle it. The head of the New Jersey state police declares likewise that he doesn't thing there's anything much to it. The police in general don't seem to be taking much stock in that story that the Lindbergh baby is aboard a voat, and that the kidnappers have asked the three prominent Norfolk citizens to negotiate with the bereaved parents. A suspicion is felt that there may be a cruel hoax somewhere. LINDBERGH_- 3

Jesson Walter

Meanwhile, the police are centering their attention upon the hunt for members of the kidnapping gang, those same underworld characters that have been sought for some time.

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A statement was issued in Stockholm today which has a sensational bearing on the suicide of Ivar Kreuger, the Swedish match king. This statement is made by the directors of the corporation controlling the gigantic Kreuger interests. It declares that a financial report issued by the match king late in January was false. It gave a rosy picture of the financial condition of the company, which did not correspond with the facts.

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The directors declare that although the report was given out by the match king in their name, they didn't know anything about it.

A special wireless dispatch to the New York Sun continues the story by saying that the match king was involved in a maze of financial complications which have not been suspected until now. He lost immense sums of money in various speculations.

They say the stage is all set for a huge financial battle, with Swedish

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KREUGER - 2

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interests trying to hold control of the Kreuger enterprises, and with powerful foreign interests fighting to take over these enterprises for themselves. JAPAN

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Now comes mention of the Black Dragon Society, and that sounds like some mysterious organization of lodge brothers, or something like that. It's a good deal more serious, we are told. The Black Dragon Society is a secret Japanese association which devotes itself to the advancement of Japanese interests in China. They say its main purpose is to stir up trouble in the great republic of the Far East, and to urge the Japanese to constantly increasing aggressions.

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William Philip Simms, the foreign editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, declares that the Black Dragon Society has passed out the word that it is "now or never" for Japan -- that the confusion and disunion in China is such that Japan now has her supreme opportunity to get control of the country.

A melodramatic instance of the war enthusiasm among the Japanese comes in a story from Tokio which tells how seven Japanese high school girls made a flag, JAPAN - 2

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which they sent to the Japanese troops at Shanghai. The flag is 18 inches square -- the usual ensign of Nippon, white with a red ball in the center to symbolize the rising sun. It is the way the girls procured red coloring matter for that emblem of the rising sun that's interesting. The red they used was their own blood, which they got by

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At Shanghai the peace negotiations which are going on between the Chinese and the Japanese adjourned today, and won't be recontinued until Thursday. The St. Louis Star comments that it doesn't seem that as if any too much mp progress is being made by way of settling the trouble in the Far East. They say the Commander of the Chinese Nineteenth Army is conferring with the War Office at Nanking. The General is talking about plans for defense. He says they'll need plans for defense, because the Japanese are preparing to get under way again with further

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aggressions against China.

In Manchuria large forces of Japanese infantry, supported by airplanes, were reported on their way to the town of Nungan. The town is said reported to be surrounded by Chinese who are conducting a regular siege. Large sections of Manchuria, says the Rochester (New York) Times-Union, and are swarming with Chinese irregular troops. The Japanese say they are bandits. The Chinese declare they are patriots. And I guess the truth lies somewhere between the two opposing claims.

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And here's how a man drank a gallon of water to save his life, while he was buried eight feet under ground.

A United Press dispatch in the New York World-Telegram relates how Walter Koester was inspecting an excavation with his father when there was a cave-in. A landslide engulfed young Koester and buried him to the waist. And the older man saw that more earth was coming down -- another landslide. He tossed to his son one end of a long garden hose. And just as young Koester grabbed it, down came the second landslide and buried him beneath eight feet of earth.

He had the hose in his mouth to provide him with air, but when he tried to breathe he found the hose was full of water, and he had to start drinking the water out of the hose. He says it must have been a gallon at least.

When finally the hose was drained dry he had a bit of air to breathe, and then rescuers attached an oxygen tank to the other end of the hose. It was 2 hours before they could dig him out. Dut he came thom O.K. SNAKE

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Well, they are the snake's hips. Yes, in fact they are--and they are on exhibition at the Field Museum in Chicago.

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A United Press wire in the New York World Telegram explains that just to prove that the familiar slang expression has some reality, the Museum authorities have placed on exhibition the hips of an African rock python. That snake has taken because he has a pair of hind legs. He also has hips.

And so it's no joke when I say they is the snakes hips, and So Long Until Tomorrow.

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