

L.J. - Sunoco - Monday - Jan. 16, 1939

SOCIAL SECURITY

We now know how President Roosevelt wants the Social Security measure expanded. As we have been hearing for months, this is number two on his program for Nineteen Thirty-Nine. *No one is relief.* Roughly, he asks for more money to be distributed among more people and much sooner than the original provisions of the act. *Social Security* He sent his message to Congress today.

From it we learn incidentally how much money has been spent under the Social Security System. More than two and a half million needy old people, blind people and dependent children, are being helped to the tune of ~~half a billion~~ five hundred million dollars every year. Three and a half million unemployed received four hundred million in the last year. The federal old-age insurance system, the largest of its kind ever attempted, covers forty-two and a half million *people*.

One of the steps the President recommends is to begin the payment of monthly old-age benefits in Nineteen Forty, ~~election year~~ and not wait until Nineteen Forty-Two. Then he asks Congress to extend old-age and unemployment insurance to some ~~six~~ sixteen million workers who are not now protected by it. He also wants

to increase the protection given to the aged, and dependent children.

Mr. Roosevelt ~~has suggested an improvement of the Social Security organization. He wants the merit system extended to the people who administer social security.~~

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There are two ways, ^{the President} ~~he~~ added, of paying more money to more people. One way is to begin paying monthly old-age benefits soon and to make the payments larger in the early years. The other way is to make larger grants from the federal government to states that haven't much money. The additional cost of that to Uncle Sam, he said, would not be ~~large~~ ^{great}.

He also suggested that more help be given ~~to dependent children, pay benefits~~ to aged wives who are dependent on workers who have retired, benefits to aged widows, also to young widows who have dependent children. And he recommends that benefits be calculated on average wages, rather than on total accumulated wages.

With his message went a stinging word of criticism.

In some states, ^{said he,} ~~says the President,~~ incompetent personnel,

~~that is incompetent~~ and politically dominated ^{personnel,} has been
distinctly harmful. "Therefore," he adds, "I recommend
that the states be required as a condition for the receipt
of federal funds, to establish and maintain a merit system
for the selection of personnel."

RELIEF

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A Senate committee room today was the battleground of the fight over relief. Several senators are determined to cut the relief appropriation even lower than the seven hundred and twenty-five millions voted by the House. It's the Committee on Appropriations of the Senators that has the first say in this row. Senator Carter Glass of Virginia said to reporters today: "I think even six hundred millions is too much."

Since Glass is Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, what he thinks is of considerable importance. What's more, Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate, is also one of those in favor of cutting the appropriation down to six hundred millions.

STATES RIGHTS

The scrap between Vermont and the federal government reached the floor of the House of Representatives today. ^{There it} ~~is~~ was started by Republican Representative Plumley of Vermont, who administered a verbal pat on the back to Vermont's Governor Aiken for defying the government in that power dam dispute. Democratic Representative Rankin of Mississippi took up the cudgels for the government. His retort took the form of an attack on Governor Aiken. ^{he} ~~He~~ said Governor Aiken is making a grandstand play because he wants to run for president in Nineteen Forty, ~~as a candidate of the power trust~~. And Rankin added: "Aiken has about as much chance of being president as he has of hanging by his eyebrows from a horizontal bar."

^{of Vermont} Representative Plumley ^{Said he} said the issue is not one of power or flood control. [^] "It is the issue of taking land without our consent." And he added: "It will not be blown away by a blast of hot air or flippant remarks by the White House or anyone else."

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FISH

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One of the lessons we've learned from Europe is that Fascism, Nazism, and Communism can never gain control without a private army. A first step has been made in Congress to render such a weapon impossible or at any rate difficult in these United States. It's a bill which prohibits the formation of private military forces such as uniformed Nazis, Communists or other alien groups in America. It was introduced by Representative Hamilton Fish of New York. The bill, says Fish, was drafted by the American Civil Liberties Union. It would forbid any five or more persons to organize or associate together for the purpose of drill or parade with firearms or other dangerous weapons and for the purpose of giving or acquiring military training. (Any persons convicted under the law are liable to six months in prison and a fine of five hundred dollars each. The bill of course exempts[†] the armed forces of the United States including the National Guard and cadets and reserve groups.)

INVESTMENTS

A Democratic Congressman offered a bill to protect Americans owning German securities. Representative Celler of New York suggests that German corporations that are in default on securities held by Americans must register all possible information with the State Department. If they don't, they are to suffer one year's imprisonment and ~~the sum of one thousand~~

a thousand dollars fine. He doesn't explain just how the American courts are going to punish German corporations and imprison their officers. However, this Congressman says:-

"I believe such a bill would be a concrete remedy for the discrimination against American holders of Nazi ^{bonds."} ~~corporate~~

~~dollar bonds."~~

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BLACK TOM

It's almost twenty-two years ~~ago~~ since New Yorkers were awakened early in the morning by a terrific uproar.

~~It was~~ The now historic Black Tom explosion.

Ever since then there has been an argument between Uncle Sam and Germany as to who was responsible. A commission of three men was established to investigate, and at the head of it was Mr. Justice Owen Roberts of the Supreme Court. Up to now the commission has decided more than once that the government had failed to establish definitely the hands of German agents in that disaster.

The case was opened again today by William D. Mitchell, former Attorney General of the United States. *And today he* ~~he~~ had an even more *to make* startling charge against the Germans. He said that the previous decisions of the Mixed ~~Commission~~ Claims Commission "was brought about by perjured testimony, fraud and misrepresentation of facts." Mitchell said further that former high officials of the German government had resolved to win the Black Tom case at all costs.

So the Black Tom is being investigated all over again.

WAR

(A battle of huge proportions is now raging around Barcelona. It is estimated that something like three-quarters of a million men, Nationalists and government Republican troops, are fighting day and night. The Republicans had long since ~~pre~~ prepared a line of defense around the Catalan capital. Since the fall of Tarragona, they've been feverishly and desperately reenforcing it.) The report from General Franco's headquarters in the field is that his armies are near the City of Igualada, which has been strongly fortified by the Republicans. That puts the Rebels only thirty miles from Barcelona.

Long streams of refugees ^{today} were running from the captured city of Tarragona under showers of bombs and machine-gun bullets from Rebel airplanes. General Yague, in command of ~~General~~ Franco's Moorish Division, said his troops will be in Barcelona within ~~the next~~ two weeks.

~~Generalissimo~~ ^{himself} Franco took to the radio today with an invitation to the Republican government soldiers to surrender. He broadcasted just as his Fifth Navarrese Division was marching into the streets of Tarragona. The essence of his appeal was an

offer of complete amnesty, peace and pardon, to what he described as "the deceived ones who are fighting in the Republican ranks." He accused the Republican leaders of criminal folly for persisting in useless resistance. And finally he promised a program which ^{he said} would assure all Spaniards who really loved Spain of being able to live in peace for the future.

The ~~was~~ reply from Barcelona was an order to all citizens up to fifty years of age to report to the Army Engineer Corps. They are to be employed in strengthening the defenses of ~~Barcelona~~ ^{the city.} *(The Catalonian,*

~~The~~ military classes of Nineteen Seventeen and Nineteen Eighteen were ordered to rejoin their regiments at once. The Government press department also published a claim that the armies on the southwestern front, in Estremadura, were pressing hard on the Nationalist forces, ^{who are} defending the rich mining zone. ~~in Estremadura.~~

GAYDA

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Another bit of sabre rattling from Virginio Gayda, the spokesman for Mussolini. ~~It is~~ directed against France. If French newspapers continue to insult the national honor of Italians any reprisals will be justified, and, as Gayda says specifically, "even armed reprisals."

French editors have been sneering at the ~~foreign~~ Fascist troops that Mussolini sent to fight Franco's cause in Spain. So Gayda, Mussolini's most important editor, started a fresh anti-French newspaper campaign.

And Gayda repeated what has been reported from Rome, that there would be no talk, not even talk of friendship between France and Italy, until that Spanish Civil War is over.

IRELAND

Early this morning Londoners were terrified by a terrific explosion in the southeast part of the greater city. Thousands of window panes fell crashing to earth, the force of the concussion shook people from their beds in a district over one mile square. The explosion itself happened in an electric power station in Southwalk. ^(Suthark) Aside from that it was a complete mystery. The best detectives of Scotland Yard were sent out on the job. They had hardly started before a bridge over a canal in northwest London went up with a terrific roar. At about the same time mines were set off on roadways in the Manchester district. One man was killed, one injured. Still later came the news of a similar explosion near Liverpool.

Putting three and three together, the British authorities decided that these six bombings must all have the same origin, the same motive, a political demonstration. Their theory was confirmed in the afternoon by two explosions in Belfast, the capital of northern Ireland. It was all timed to coincide with the mobilization of the I.R.A., the Irish Republican Army. The purpose is to force the withdrawal of British troops from

northern Ireland. ~~demanding that~~ Posters were put up all over Ireland demanding that England withdraw all military and civil ~~ian~~ officials from the island. The posters also contained a pledge of all members of the Irish Republican Army to keep working and agitating ^{quote:—} "so long as a single British soldier or a single vestige of British power or authority remains in this country," ^{end quote.}

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As a consequence of all this, every town and every important road in northern Ireland, ^{tonight} is patrolled by a constabularies armed with rifles and machine guns.

SLAYING

People who don't like New Yorkers accuse them of being unneighborly, indifferent. People who do like New Yorkers say that they're not unneighborly but they do make a specialty of minding their own business.

An incident in Brooklyn might illustrate either theory. For several hours a man fully dressed with ~~hat~~ hat and overcoat was seen lying on a snowbank. People living nearby thought he was a celebrator who was sleeping it off. There he lay several hours. Finally, he was reported to the police and the cops on investigating found that he was ~~sleeping it off, but was dead~~ *indeed asleep — forever;* in fact ~~he~~ had been dead ~~five~~ *far* hours, ~~with~~ *with* ~~five~~ *And —* bullets in his head. He was a man with a police record. *Looks like gang murder.*

Compare this with an episode in Chicago. There a man sixty-two years old walked into a police station, told the desk sergeant he had ~~beaten a woman to death with an axe~~ *committed a murder.* "When did this happen?" asked the sergeant. "Early Sunday," replied the man. "Why didn't you report it before?" Because Sunday is a day of rest," *he replied.*

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BURGLARS

The barracks of the state police at Ridgefield, Connecticut, presented a peculiar sight today. On display were articles valued at something like a hundred thousand dollars, five truckloads of them. They had been stolen from some two hundred and fifty homes in Connecticut and New York.

Those five truckloads ~~of things had been collected~~ after three

men ~~had been~~ ^{were} arrested by the Connecticut state police, ^{burglars}

~~suspected of being burglars.~~

FISHING

Pretty soon there'll be literally no limit to what you can study at a university. You might suppose that fishing was an art to be acquired on rivers, brooks, lakes or at sea.

NOW However, you can

~~in the future, you will be able to~~ study the subject at Columbia

under Fishing Professor John Alden
University Teachers College at Columbia has already somewhat

astonished the public by having courses in such ~~pastimes~~

pastimes as baseball and piano tuning. The curriculum is now

going to include the theory and technique of fresh water angling.

It will teach the equipment, methods and practices of modern angling in their latest stage of developments. You'll be able

to learn not only how to catch your fish but how to cook him

after he is caught or to mount him for hanging on the wall

in case you don't want to eat him.

knights.

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WEDDING

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A joyous village wedding was about to ^{begin}~~commence~~ in a pretty village church near Naples. Miss Aquilina Cofone was to become the bride of Angelo Canino. The priest had read that part of the ceremony where he ~~xxxxx~~ asks: "If anyone here present can show just cause why these two should not be united in the bonds of Holy Matrimony let him speak now, or forever hold his peace." Usually nobody answers, but on this occasion somebody did. It was Mrs. Cistina Canino the bridegroom's mother. She not only spoke, she shouted. And the just cause for impediment she held in her hand. It was a large club. With this Mrs. Canino started to beat up the bride. The bride's kinfolk jumped into the fray, whereupon Mrs. Canino's family joined in the argument. The final score was a dozen black eyes, bruises uncountable, two people in the hospital, three in prison, ~~and~~ - oh yes -- and no wedding. You might say that was one argument which a mother-in-law won before she even became a mother-in-law.

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And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.