

DEFENSE

L.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Feb. 23, 1939.

46  
( The House of Representatives chucked out the Guam item today. In the defense bill before the House, a series of new American air bases was ~~authorized~~ <sup>proposed</sup> - one of them the island of Guam. There has been plenty of argument about this, whether we want ~~the~~ to create a fortress way across the Pacific, so near Japan. )  
Some said "Yes" - Guam is vital for the defense of the Philippines. Others said "No" it would involve us too far afield, and would create more likelihood of a war with Japan.

Today a motion was entered in the House to amend the air base bill by eliminating Guam. And (the amendment was carried by a coalition of Democrats and Republicans that beat the administration line-up. No authorization for the fortification of that distant island in the Pacific. ) With that change, the bill was passed. The other air bases <sup>are</sup> to be built - but not Guam.

## REORGANIZATION

Reorganization again! Representative Corcoran of Missouri today introduced a compromise bill in the House of Representatives. It's a new scheme for reorganizing the bureaus of the government, and it's designed to meet the objections of the anti-administration lawmakers who beat President Roosevelt's ~~or~~ reorganization plan last summer - in that noisy political fight.

47  
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau spoke some encouraging words for business today - encouragement on the subject of taxes. He said the administration doesn't intend to slap on any new taxes at this session of Congress. Quite ~~to~~ the contrary, he suggested that Congress look over the present tax laws and see if it can't eliminate a few that may be a detriment to business.

With that encouragement, Secretary Morgenthau advised business men to drop what he called - a what's-the-use attitude, ~~you-can't-tell-what-the-government-is-going-to-do-next~~ - so what's-the-use. No need for that attitude - argued the Secretary.

## PEACE PENNY

A penny won't buy so very much, but Senator Davis of Pennsylvania thinks a penny can do a great deal -- ~~what~~ it can help to preserve peace. He announced today that he will introduce a bill to authorize the coining of a peace memorial penny. The copper coin will carry ~~an~~ insignia to remind us about keeping out of war and preserving the priceless boon of peace.

Seems like a good idea, but it would be ironical to go out some day and use a couple of those peace pennies to buy a newspaper headlining <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ United States declaration of war.



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AMBASSADOR

(Our ambassador to France was scathingly attacked today in the House of Representatives. The attacking was done by Representative Hamilton Fish of New York who ~~will~~ is dead set against the Roosevelt foreign policy -- he says it will just get us into a war. Bill Bullitt, our ambassador to Paris is regarded as being very much in favor of the policy of supporting the democracies against dictatorships. And Ham Fish is much annoyed by a Washington's Birthday speech Bullitt made in Paris yesterday -- in which he spoke of American help for the democracies.)

"Bullitt"  
"Bullitt"

ut { didn't speak for the American people" says Fish. "Because the American people", in his words -- "still believe in the American policy of non-intervention, peace and no entangling alliances."

"America," claims the New York Representative, "will defend itself and its possessions but is not going to make war again to make the world safe for democracy."

RUMORS

49 Both of yesterday's big rumors kept on fizzling out today - the story about a savage battle between French and Italian troops in Tunis and the report of a ship torpedoed in the Atlantic.

Paris newspapers today were denouncing the French-Italian battle yarn that flashed across the United States, saying there was nothing to it, pointing out that it was emphatically denied by the French Foreign Office. The Italians also denied it, which seems to make it unanimous. The German newspapers today ridiculed the battle story as an example of war fever in the United States. The general European attitude seems to be that such war scare tales are dangerous.

As for the torpedoed ship, vessels today searched the location given in yesterday's reported distress signal. They couldn't find a sign of a torpedoed ship, not a bit of wreckage, nothing. Nobody seems to be able to figure out what vessel it could possibly have been - the wireless identification signal being entirely meaningless. (There's one dubious supposition in navy circles - that a ship might have struck a mine. They say a large floating mine has been reported in the general area where

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the torpedoing is supposed to have taken place.

But really there seems to be no reasonable guess about the mysterious distress signal - whether it was a hoax or mistake of some kind, or what.



ROME

The radio is not to play such a quick and instant part in announcing the election of the new Pope. There was a plan to broadcast the name of the successful candidate immediately after the decisive ballot was cast, but today the College of Cardinals decided against the idea. The ~~xxx~~ Papal election won't be quite so ultra-modern. The decision was made right after a vigorous protest from one of the Cardinals -- who insisted ~~that it will~~ that ancient tradition must be preserved. What was the nationality of that exceedingly <sup>ly</sup> traditionalist <sup>is</sup> ~~of the~~ ecclesiastic? Why, Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago. The American prelate who spoke against the violation of ancient ways.

So tradition will be followed. The announcement of the election will be made by the Dean of the Sacred College from the balcony of St. Peters. That's when radio will play its part. The Cardinal will have a broadcasting microphone before him -- and his words will go to the whole world as well as the people of Rome.

## SPIES

The Los Angeles spy trial today focused on a piece of paper - the copy of a letter. Three Russians are on trial for espionage - one an important Soviet personality, Gorin, Pacific Coast Manager of Intourist, the Soviet travel bureau. The testimony is developing a story of how Gorin of Intourist sent a suit of clothes to the cleaners, and in one pocket was found a slip of paper that aroused suspicion. On it were words in Russian and in English with a couple of drawings, regular secret ~~xx~~ agent stuff.

On this page of alleged Soviet Russian spy information, were the names of three Japanese spies - that's odd and interesting. The prosecution charges a Soviet plot to get information the United States Navy had gathered about the Japanese - about Japanese espionage. They say that Gorin of Intourist procured a secret navy list of Japanese spies operating on the Pacific Coast.

## SCURVY

52  
In Maine there's a controversy about scurvy. The State Health Department Director resigned today, as a protest against the attitude of the Governor, ~~and it all concerns that deficiency~~ ~~malady which is caused by improper diet, not enough vitamins.~~

~~One of the isolated parts of Maine is the St. John River valley, which has few people on scattered farms.~~ <sup>77</sup> Dr. George H. Coombs, the State Health Director, issued a statement that in the St. John Valley there were five thousand people who had scurvy. because in their diet they were not getting enough of vitamin C. This caused action in Washington. The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation prepared to send to ~~Six~~ the St. John River valley supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables - which have a lot of vitamin C.

Now the Governor of Maine has entered the proceedings with an emphatic denial. ~~that there's an outbreak of scurvy in the valley.~~

Said he: ~~"There probably is"~~ <sup>"</sup> Not a solitary case of scurvy in the whole area," ~~said he,~~

ant { (This aroused the ire of the Health Director, who had made the scurvy report in the first place, and today he resigned.)

## HIPS

The New York State Labor Relations Board was confronted with a broad problem today, or perhaps we'd better say - the issue narrowed<sup>S</sup><sub>A</sub> down. Because, it's a case of a beautiful model's hips. Are they broad, or are they narrow?

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~~Miss Hirsch~~<sup>Phyllis</sup><sub>A</sub> is a model who has been discharged by the clothing company that employed her. She claims it was because she was an official of the models' union - anti-union discrimination. They claim it was because she put on a couple of extra inches around the hips.

~~Miss Hirsch~~<sup>Phyllis</sup><sub>A</sub> declares that she'll present evidence to show that during the four years she has been modelling, her hips have not ~~not changed the merest fraction of an inch. They have never~~ deviated one iota from the standard of perfection - thirty-five and a half inches. I suppose the ~~only way the~~ Labor Relations Board ~~can issue a ruling is to~~<sup>will</sup><sub>A</sub> measure the beautiful model's hips.

~~Miss Hirsch~~<sup>Phyllis</sup><sub>A</sub> claims, moreover, that her former employers right now are using models whose hips are bigger than hers. And maybe the

Labor Relations Board will have to examine the hips of those

beautiful models also. ~~It all sounds like hip hip~~  
~~hip, hip, hurrah,~~<sup>shouts the Labor</sup>  
~~Relations Board.~~<sub>A</sub> ~~hooray. and a-l-l-t-m.~~



HINES

There was a weird sort of scene in a New York courtroom today, with a lawyer talking to a dead man, a defense attorney roaring questions at an empty witness stand. It was Lloyd Stryker, attorney for Tammany Leader James J. Hines. And the absent witness whom he was cross-examining, <sup>was</sup> the suicide gangster Weinberg. -  
~~one-time lieutenant in the Dutch Schultz policy racket.~~

Actually, the time for witnesses and testimony in the Hines trial was over - and today Stryker was making his appeal to the jury. He quickly revealed the number one defense contention. With fiery declamation he drew a picture of two ace-high underworld characters, plotting in a prison cell - one, Dixie Davis, who was the lawyer in the Dutch Schultz gang; and the other, the suicide Weinberg. They were kept together in a cell in the Tombs - this before they ~~made~~ made their confessions implicating Hines. And Stryker thundered today - that while they lived together in the cell they concocted the tale of the Tammany leader being political fixer for the policy racket. Together, he claimed, they were able to fix the frame-up or, as Stryker phrased it - "contriving a perjurious tale against my client."

"I say it was wrong," he roared, "to put those two crooks into one cell." <sup>R</sup> He bitterly attacked the testimony given for the prosecution by Dixie Davis but he reserved his choice dramatics for assailing Weinberg, ~~who testified in the first Hines trial, then killed himself before the second trial began.~~ Stryker maintained that Weinberg killed himself because he was afraid to face the cross-examination he would get from Stryker in the present trial. He told of the cross-examination to which he had intended to submit the Dutch Schultz henchman, and then he illustrated by turning to the witness stand - as if the suicide gangster were there. And he lashed out with cross-examining questions - ~~attacking~~ talking to a dead man.

It was a bit of court drama right up to the standard of ~~the expert~~ an author who likes to write trial ~~pr~~ scenes with a lot of theatrical punch.



## HOLD-UP

Here's another one of those stories of a hold-up man foiled by a woman - though hold-up boy is more accurate in this case. It's a curious story of strange behavior - some sort of weird juvenile delinquency.

A robber, sixteen years old, walked into a Brooklyn candy shop and pointed a pistol at the owner, a fifty-six year old widow. She grabbed at the gun and there was a scuffle, which ended when the boy dropped the pistol and ran away.

Now here's the incomprehensible part of it. The juvenile hold-up man came back later on, banged on the widow's door, and demanded the gun.

"I want my pistol back," he shouted. Why the widow should return the gun to him is something of a mystery, but she says she was handing it through the door - when it accidentally fired. The hold-up boy fell seriously wounded.

"I stooped and asked him where it hurt," relates the widow. "And then I got a towel and washed his face. I hope he lives - he is only a child."

Yes, just some freakish twist of juvenile delinquency.

## WEDDING

In a New York court today there was an explanation of the trouble at the Scheterlak wedding. A splendid wedding it was, and the marriage feast with fifty guests was in full swing - until Felix Liszczynski beat up the bridegroom.

Today in court the bride told how it happened - and she ought to know. <sup>said Mrs. Scheterlak</sup> "Everything goes swell," ~~says she~~ "until this Liszczynski ~~beat up the bridegroom~~ see my husband kiss me. He tell my husband not to kiss me. I say, 'Why not? I pay for license.' My husband tell him to get out, then they have a fight." <sup>at the Scheterlak wedding</sup> They had such a fight <sup>^</sup> that the husband was in the hospital for the next ten days. And today the embattled Liszczynski was held on bail of a thousand dollars.



## ARREST

The vagaries of the weather during the past week produced a crime at Camden, New Jersey. Yesterday a man hurled a brick through the window of the Camden Post Office, and waited to be arrested. He waited in vain. ~~Finally, he hunted up~~ It was Washington's Birthday and nobody was around. Finally, he hunted up a policeman, took him to the post office, showed him the shattered window and said he had done it. The cop condescended to arrest him.

Today, the prisoner was held on bail of a thousand dollars and refused to attempt to raise a nickel's worth of it. He says he hopes to remain in jail until spring.

Why so anxious? The prisoner explains that during the warm weather a few days ago, he thought that spring had come.

I suppose quite a few of us did - it was so mild and balmy.

This chap was so convinced <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~ coming of spring that he pawned his overcoat. Then <sup>present</sup> ~~the~~ cold snap hit him. He had no money and just about froze to death. He thought longingly of a nice

comfortable prison cell. Well, he's in one now and he says he hopes

to stay in jail until spring really does come - with the robins, the balmy breezes and the blooming flowers.

BROADCAST

8 1/2 Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" is a beautiful work of music - and shouldn't be interrupted by anything unseemly. At <sup>Minnesota,</sup> St. Paul, <sup>^</sup> the radio audience was listening to a broadcast performance of the Unfinished masterpiece, when suddenly a loud and ghostly voice came squawking right in the middle of one of the most lyric melodies.

"Hello Spook, this is Grampaw!" That was the interruption, ghostly indeed, a spook talking to its grampaw. It just about finished the Unfinished Symphony.

9 The mystery is now cleared up with the information that a telephone lineman was working on the radio station wiring. On a wire not in use, he was talking to a pal of his. Those two telephone workers had nicknames. One was nicknamed "Spook", the other "Grampaw." ~~Grampaw was starting a conversation with Spook, when~~ <sup>And the</sup> ~~he got their~~ <sup>got</sup> private wire <sup>^</sup> crossed with the radio transmission.

~~So here's a warning to telephone workers - be careful how you get your conversation crossed with radio transmission.~~

It's bad enough to have spooky ghosts talking to their grandparents, <sup>For -</sup> but it might be worse. There's no telling what a telephone lineman <sup>^</sup>



might say in an unguarded moment. ~~And I'd like to quote a few~~  
~~but that would be as bad as getting the lines crossed. So I'd~~  
~~better compromise by saying - SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.~~

And S-l-u-t-m.

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