

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, May 7, 1935.

Amman!
W.C.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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Drama was played in Missouri today with all sorts of emotional intensity. The thread of the plot was woven around the date, May tenth, next Friday. That's the day the court set for the hanging of Walter McGee. The black ringed day of Friday was coming swiftly for Walter McGee - also for Mary McElroy. She had been his victim. Now she was trying to be his saviour. And today provided not one climax, but two, ~~in~~ⁱⁿ the tangled human situation which followed that sensational Missouri kidnapping of two years ago.

Mary McElroy was a social personality in Kansas City. She has become a personality of high drama since those events two years ago. Her father, ~~is~~^{is} City Manager, of Kansas ~~city~~^{city} herself, reared to position and luxury. So when she was kidnapped and held for ~~XXXXX~~ heavy ransom, it was a flaring sensation. Those were the nervous days of rampant crime in the middlewest, the Dillinger days, when the terror of the kidnapper stalked dark and evil. And moreover, the kidnapping of Mary McElroy was protracted and dragged out, with all the traditional kidnapping suspense, an enraged manhunt,

rumors, blank waiting - until finally she was released. Then, weeks later, federal agents made arrests, and one of the prisoners was Walter McGee. They had him right, right enough to convict him as one of the kidnappers. And, in Missouri the penalty for the crime of snatching is - death!

The blaze of drama in the affair was the attitude of Mary McElroy. She rushed to the defense of McGee. Not that she denied his guilt, far from it. She said that McGee was the one man of the kidnappers who had treated her well, protected her, persuaded the others in the gang not to harm her. She declared she ^{owed} ~~had~~ her life to him - that but for his kindness and consideration she likely would have died.

The trial came on. Mary McElroy took the witness-stand. She could only testify to the damning fact that McGee was one of the kidnappers, but she pleaded for clemency. She begged the jury to deal lightly with him. But the jury, in saying guilty, ~~recommended~~ recommended - not clemency but hanging. And the judge set Friday, May tenth, for the day. Mary McElroy appealed to the Governor, appealed repeatedly - fighting for the life of her kidnapper. As the days of life allotted by the court to Walter McGee passed in

relentless ^{succession} ~~sensation~~, one after another - Mary McElroy redoubled her efforts.

Then, Today came. It was the day for a decision on McGee's appeal. The Supreme Court of the state, in reviewing the case, handed down its verdict. It was McGee's last chance at the hands of the Missouri courts - and he lost. The Supreme Court refused to intervene - sustained the sentence of hanging for next ^{Friday.} ~~Tuesday.~~

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But that's only climax Number One. Mary McElroy was at the home of Governor Park at Jefferson City, Missouri. There she was pleading with the political head of the state. A few minutes after the court decision of appeal-denied became known, Mary McElroy left the Governor's house. And a few minutes after that, the Governor announced, - a reprieve -- an order calling off the hanging on Friday. He postponed the execution of McGee's sentence for three weeks, until Friday, May ~~2~~ thirty-first. The Governor added that during that time he will study the case and make up his mind about McGee's fate - whether he will allow the extreme penalty to be carried out - or commute it to life imprisonment.

So the young woman who was the kidnap victim has ^{won a} ~~one~~ ~~round~~ round in the fight to save the life of the man who was her kidnapper.

SENATE

Today's Senate action on the exceedingly important Bonus question needs a little background to make it clear. It is hard to keep precisely in mind some of those technical legislative facts.

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The law-makers of the upper House today voted their choice of - the Harrison Compromise Bill, the Vinson Bill, and the Patman Bill. That's fairly cryptic, unless you remember that there have been three veterans' bonus bills up for consideration. First there appeared before the lower House the Vinson Bill and the Patman Bill. The Vinson Bill provided for the immediate payment of the veterans' certificates, the necessary Two billion Dollars to be raised by means of a bond issue. The Patman Bill also provided for immediate payment, but proposed to raise the cash by means of ~~inflation, by~~ ^{Just} printing, so much new money. The lower House voted in favor of the ~~inflation~~ Patman Bill.

Then the matter went along to the Senate and the senators were confronted with a choice between the Vinson and the Patman Bill. Senator Pat Harrison did not like the looks of either - naturally, because he's ^a leader of the Roosevelt forces. And the President is against any bill calling for immediate bonus payment.

~~Secretary Committee~~ ^{Senator Pat} So in committee ~~he~~ drew up a compromise measure,

which provided, not for an immediate but for an earlier payment of the certificates, so that the veterans could borrow some money on them right away.

So the action of the Senate today came about in this form. First, the lawmakers voted to decide whether they preferred the Vinson Bill or the Harrison Compromise. They voted in favor of the Vinson Bill and tossed the Compromise out - fifty-four to thirty. Then they took another vote to make another choice - this time between the Vinson Bill and the Patman Bill. And the Vinson Bill lost out. The Senators voted fifty-five to thirty-three in favor of the Patman Bill supported so strongly by Father Coughlin. That of course puts the Senate in line with the House of Representatives, both houses squarely behind the proposal to pay off the bonus certificates by printing Two Billion Dollars in new money right off the presses.

One significant thing about the two votes the Senate took today is that in neither did the majority amount to two-thirds. It takes two-thirds to pass a law over the President's veto. And the President is certain to veto the Patman Bill. It

doesn't necessarily follow that a two-third vote to override the veto cannot be mustered. Today's figures in the Senate are just an indication.

Yesterday it was the Supreme Court Railroad decision. Today it is presidential candidate talk. The two are linked. It is inevitable that the verdict against the New Deal pension regulation for railroad workers should be interpreted in the light of Nineteen thirty-six. Not because of the fact that the highest justices knocked out those railroad pensions, but because of the way the court split on the subject. And in the surprise over that split we find two names - Owen J. Roberts and Charles Evans Hughes.

It all concerns the prospect of - the Republican Party in search of a candidate. And the surmise has been that a candidate might possibly be found in the Supreme Court. There is precedent for that. In Nineteen sixteen Charles Evans Hughes resigned as a Justice of the Supreme Court to run against Woodrow Wilson. After his defeat, he reentered the court and now is Chief Justice. There may have been vague guesses that once again Charles Evans Hughes might leave the court to run for the presidency - though that was hardly likely. The Chief Justice doesn't resign.

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The court all along has been closely divided on the New Deal, the conservatives and liberals. One justice commonly on the

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liberal side has been Owen J. Roberts. He's the baby of the Supreme Court, a fifty-nine year old baby. That's young for the august tribunal of the nine lonely men. Justice Roberts' background was that of a big business lawyer. Then he became government counsel in the prosecution of the oil scandals of the Harding Administration. Then he went to the Supreme Court. Recently he has been found in the liberal group of justices supporting the New Deal policies. Yesterday brought the surprise. In the drastic decision on the ~~2~~ railroad pensions question, a decision which casts a Supreme Court shadow of doubt on the entire Roosevelt social program, what did Justice Roberts do? He swung over from the New Deal side to the conservatives. And his was the ^{deciding} ~~deciding~~ vote which swung the verdict ~~2~~ against the pensions. Moreover, he wrote the majority decision.

On the other hand, there is Chief Justice Hughes. He might be expected to be a strong conservative, but he has joined the liberals in recent decisions. And in yesterday's verdict his ~~decision~~ position on the left was emphasized, when he wrote the dissenting opinion of the minority, and scored the majority opinion

as virtually closing the door to all federal pension legislation. You can see the logic - in the light of Nineteen thirty-six questions of candidates. And tonight eyes are focused on Supreme Court Justice Roberts as a possible Republican candidate.

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One of the really big tasks of government is going on quietly in Washington, with an occasional announcement from time to time -- the appointment of the army of officials needed to administer the four billion, eight hundred million dollar work relief program from top to bottom. The gentlemen at the top have already been appointed. Now the President and his aides are busy figuring out names for the subordinate posts -- subordinate, though many are of such power and influence, as to be top rank in ordinary times. For example, the state heads -- directors who will supervise the state organizations that will function under the guidance of the national set-up.

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The work relief drive against unemployment gets into swing, with President Roosevelt's executive order naming the top men. Once again there's emphasis on the singular importance of Relief-Administrator Harry Hopkins in the three-fold arrangement of the work relief combination as head of the division of progress. He seems to be the big idea man, shaping up work relief plans. Frank Walker as head of the Division of Applications and Information gets the requests for money. Secretary

Iokes, running the committee on allotments, exercises the critical faculty, and brings various plans into national harmony.

In addition to these three major bureaus, there's Rear-Admiral Christian Peoples, one time navy purchasing officer, who will supervise the buying of work relief materials and supplies. And as financial watch-dogs the President has appointed Secretary of the Treasury Mongenthou and Budget Director Daniel W. Bell. They will set up the work relief system of bookkeeping of auditing; and, plenty of bookkeeping ^{and} ~~at~~ auditing are necessary when you're dealing with four billion, eight hundred million dollars.

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Meanwhile Illinois faces a grave crisis in those angry relief demonstrations out there, climaxing with the hunger march on the state capital. — threats of riots and disturbances.

WOMEN

Here's one up for the ladies:-

cut X An odd panorama of French history is on display in New York, and it concerns heroines. It's to be seen at the Masion Francais at Rockefeller Center, and just to look at it gives one that beguiling savor of French history. There are - two nuns, a saint, seven ladies in literature, the wife of an author, four actresses, and one murderess. A panorama of women down the corridor of time.

ITALY

The European situation is quiet, all the rowdy shouts and wind-mill gesticulations quieted down to mere moderate echoes and the wiggling of the little finger in still lingering agitation. Yet suddenly there is new military action in Rome, calling fresh masses of troops to the colors, the mobilization of new divisions and the gathering of more cannon. The truth is that it all has nothing whatever to do with those European questions and disagreements. Mussolini's latest call to arms puts the Italian army right in the top rank among the heavy-armed, war gloried nations of the continent. Yet these new Roman legions are not faced to the north, gazing at the Italian Alps. Their objective is southward, across the sea - Africa.

The warlike signs are seen not merely in the martial spectacle of men and rifles, men and machineguns, men and motorized artillery, tanks and war planes. Just as suggestively significant is - an idea, the reason why. It is the familiar thesis - "I mobilize because you mobilize". Let's remember how in the bringing on of the World War the nations were caught in a grip of the iron military logic - that the Czar gave the mobilization order and so Germany had to mobilize. One act caused the other, and it meant war.

The reason for summoning new Italian divisions to the colors is given in these significant terms - "Ethiopia is mobilizing."

Haille Selassie, the Abyssinian King of Kings, is massing his hundreds of thousands of armed and drilled tribesmen, ^{— drilled by European officers.} The state of affairs is to be interpreted in the light of the old rule that if one nation masses its army, and the other nation does likewise, there is small likelihood of peace being maintained. I suppose military history would show that every time two nations have declared a general mobilization, the result has been war. Anyway, there have been mighty few exceptions.

From the angle of ourselves who follow the news day by day, the Italian Abyssinian thing has followed a curious course, flaring up and then being played down - vivid indications that things were going to happen and then periods when it would seem the storm would blow over. I have had the feeling all along that Mussolini was proceeding in a methodical predetermined way, careful, with plenty of take-it-easy from time to time, but that he is determined to accomplish large purposes with Abyssinia. If the King of Kings will yield peacefully, with an agreement on the q. t., so much the better. But if necessary - force. So I should say we needn't be

surprised if there should be a sudden flare-up of incidents, and then - bang!

Today's mobilization in Rome calls three divisions to the colors. The crack Sabauda Division in Sardonina, and two others, outfits of Fascist militia, labeled March twenty-third and October eighteenth. Those dates apply to the time when the men were called up for their preliminary military training. Rome announces that ~~today's order~~ with today's order the entire military classes of Nineteen eleven, thirteen and fourteen, men born in those years, are under arms.

SPELLING

8 1/2 Here's a subject in which I'm not particularly interested - spelling. On the radio, we don't misspell words. We mispronounce them. If there were any occasion for spelling on the air, we'd misspell them too. But as there isn't, who cares? So I'm ~~not~~ vitally uninterested in a high class, high-hat spelling competition held at the National Hobby Show. I don't give a hoot whether or not Gregory Hartswick, the Cross-word puzzle pundit, made good in his defiant proclamation that he was the world's best speller. Incidentally, he did make good - defeated a classic list of competitors *- in fact all comers.*

9 I'm unimpressed when Greg Hartswick tells me something about the trickiness of spelling, as he has found it in making up those cross-word puzzle books. It may be that apophthegmatical is a hard word to spell - also parallelopipedon. I don't know how to spell them. I don't have ~~xxx~~ to. I only know I have to pronounce them correctly. ^{Pundit} Did I? ~~Cross Word Puzzle~~ Hartswick tells me that those long words are really not the ones that tie a stuttering of knots. He says it's some of the tricky short words. So what?

SPELLING - 2

He said take this cute little word - peoff. And he insisted:

"Lowell, do you know how to spell feoff?" To which I say,

feoff, feoff, and

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.