

Good Evening, Everybody:-

Mother Earth has another headache tonight. There are more rumblings of revolution, <sup>--</sup> in Central Asia. Last night, just as I came on the air a cable was handed to me from London ~~xx~~ stating that the Amir of Afghanistan had been assassinated.

Later the news was definitely confirmed, and today the son of the murdered King Nadir Khan ascended <sup>the throne of Kabul</sup> ~~the throne~~ and tonight

the report from London is that another wild revolution may break out in Afghanistan. The tribesmen are restive. With their rifles on their backs, in their bulging turbans, and baggy pantaloons, they are looking for trouble, two groups, followers of the assassinated Amir, and his enemies.

The name of the new king is Mohammed Zahir Shah. He is only nineteen years old. The new Amir was born in Afghanistan, <sup>but</sup> /educated largely in Paris.

Afghanistan is a land of war and sudden death.

It is a completely landlocked, independent kingdom, in the wildest part of Central Asia. ~~It is~~ Its western neighbor is Persia. On the south it is bounded by Baluchistan and more of Persia; on the east by the independent tribal region in the wild mountains of Waziristan, which is a sort of No Man's Land between Afghanistan and British India. On the north is Turkistan, ruled by Russia.

Of what importance is the assassination of a king in that far-off Central Asian region? Well, the two great powers in Asia are Soviet Russia and John Bull. The land of the Afghans lies between them. This makes it one of the most important buffer states in the world. Its people are white, ~~as~~ ~~like~~ we are, <sup>^</sup>most of them, tall, swarthy mountaineers, fierce men with noses like hawks. From childhood every Afghan carries a rifle. It is a land of blood feuds. Very few travelers from the outside world have ever visited it. I happen to be one of the few. Several years ago I was there as the guest of <sup>Amanullah Khan</sup> of a relative of the king who has just been assassinated. In fact, Amanullah

tried to introduce western reforms too quickly. There was a revolution. He lost his throne. His successor was a bandit named Bacha-i-Sakao. At that time, in the winter of 1928 and '29, Nadir Khan was living in Paris. He hurried home, but too late to save my friend Amanullah who lost his throne. ~~The~~ But

Nadir Khan raised an army, overthrew the usurper, and made himself Amir. And now he has gone the way of nearly all Afghan

monarchs. *And by the way I have a cable from Bombay, India stating that ex-king Amanullah has sent word that he is ready to resume the Afghan throne-- if the people want him.*

~~Many political authorities feel that Afghanistan is to the world of today what the Balkan states were some years ago, a sort of witches caldron where a world war may brew.~~

~~However, this may blow over quickly.~~ At any rate, tonight in the walled city of Kabul, the tribesmen are brandishing their scimitars, shaking their shaggy hair and dancing their wild dances, in front of the palace of their new king, Mohammed Zahir Shab. What effect ~~xxxZahirKhan~~ will this have on world affairs?

Probably we will hear more about it in a few weeks when more information starts coming across the mountains and deserts of Central Asia.

CUBA

The Cuban pot is boiling more furiously than ever. In a conversation over the radiophone to Havana I learn that an official count lists the dead at twenty and the hospitals are crowded, more than a hundred people having been wounded.

And here's something to indicate how serious ~~is~~ the situation is. Uncle Sam's cruiser Richmond and the two destroyers in Havana Harbor have just uncovered their guns and are ready for action. What's more, a U. S. Navy transport has just steamed into <sup>Havana</sup> ~~the~~ harbor. ~~Though it is said that it has not brought re-enforcements, it nevertheless did carry supplies and ammunition to the three men-o-war.~~

(<sup>new rebel</sup> The ~~A B C~~ forces ~~who are~~ besieged in Fort Atares, which they have captured, were shelled today by a lone Cuban gunboat. ~~axExEtz~~ The A B C <sup>rebels</sup> in the fort replied so fiercely that they drove the gunboat out of range) after she had dropped only a few shells on the fort. They also drove off the Federal troops attacking by land.

~~The rebel forces are so well equipped and so determined that they also succeeded in driving the government troops away from the fort.~~

An inflammatory speech was delivered over one of the radio

stations by a rebel leader at three o'clock this afternoon.

This speaker, a leader of the A B C organization, warned all Cubans employed by American firms to quit the job at once. The speaker also announced that an attack would be made on all United States citizens. Nevertheless, my colleague tells me none of our countrymen have been injured so far. He adds that it's quite a miracle because rifles are popping all the time, snipers are posted on roof tops and there's intermittent canonading. ~~One shell strike~~ struck the power plant in Havana and killed two spectators. All the banks and the stock exchange are closed, and ~~the strolls~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>through</sup> the streets of Havana, a hazardous promenade, shows that windows of most of the stores are firmly boarded up.

EUROPE

The principal news from Europe is that the Right Honorable Neville Chamberlain, John Bull's Chancellor of the Exchequer, ~~made~~ <sup>told</sup> an announcement ~~in~~ the House of Commons ~~concerning~~ <sup>that</sup> the government's money policy. ~~The Cabinet~~ intends to maintain the value of British Sterling regardless of what happens to other currencies, even to Uncle Sam's dollar.

\* \* \* \* \*

A celebration was held in Munich today by the Hitlerites, for today is the tenth anniversary of the putsch which failed, the putsch which landed Hitler and his principal supporters in the hoosegow. ~~The celebration is described as quiet and dignified.~~ ~~The old guard of the Nazis paraded through Munich, led by Chancellor Hitler and his right-hand man, Captain Goering.~~ ~~The march took place amid complete silence. No cheers; no music.~~

NBC

BANK

A dramatic story came to light today in the hearing before the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency. The story was told by John J. Rascob, who <sup>testified</sup>~~appeared~~ at his own request. He wished to contradict rumors that he and Alfred E. Smith had taken part in a syndicate which had borrowed money from the Chase National Bank for the purpose of gambling in stocks. Mr. Rascob told the Committee what really happened.

On November 10th, 1929, the President of the County Trust Company in New York committed suicide. The news of his death was kept dark by the medical examiner of New York City for all of two days. This was done as a matter of policy to prevent the chance of any run on the bank. Meanwhile, Mr. Rascob and Mr. Smith took hold, raised the funds, bought up the stock of the County Trust Company and got things so straightened out that by the time the death of that bank official became known the assets of the bank and the depositors' money had been effectively safeguarded.

\*                      \*

Another bit of news from the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency is that it's going to investigate some of the loans made by the R.F.C. One particular transaction concerning which

the Senators are curious is that ninety million dollar loan made to the Dawes Bank in Chicago, a loan made within a few days after <sup>Charley</sup> General Dawes himself had resigned from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

NBC

WASHINGTON

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Now for the day's news from Washington. Uncle Sam's price for newly mined gold ~~today~~ is up 10¢ and now stands at \$33.15 an ounce, 45¢ more than London is paying.

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President Roosevelt received a present of a bronze plaque of Martin Luther. It was given to him by the Treasurer of the National Lutheran Council of New York City, in honor of the 450th anniversary of the birth of <sup>the great Martin</sup> Luther.

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President Roosevelt was urged <sup>today</sup> to buy ten million tons of anthracite, ~~today~~ to be distributed to the needy and unemployed. The proposal was made by Thomas Murphy, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and a delegation of Pennsylvania congressmen and other notables.

\* \* \* \* \*

The President also conferred with the heads of various departments of Uncle Sam's government, who will be interested in the control of liquor traffic. It was announced at the White House that the present embargo on importations of wines and liquors

from abroad ~~would~~<sup>will</sup> not be lifted until December, when repeal of prohibition becomes effective. On the same date, the federal tax on gasoline will be half a cent a gallon less. The minute prohibition ceases to exist officially, this federal tax on gas will be only one cent. And that's good news.

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9  
A Senator from ~~Porto~~<sup>Puerto</sup> Rico called at the White House today, apparently for the principal purpose of complaining about Governor Gore of ~~Porto~~<sup>Puerto</sup> Rico. This Senator makes the accusation that "every semblance of government has been abandoned<sup>down there.</sup>" Then ~~he~~<sup>he</sup> ~~Senator~~<sup>Senator</sup> went on to say, ~~that~~ "the situation in that island is ~~serious~~<sup>critical</sup> and may boil over and cause bloodshed at any moment. Everybody in ~~Porto~~<sup>Puerto</sup> Rico is carrying guns, he ~~says~~<sup>added,</sup> and if the legislature convenes under such conditions, anything ~~might~~<sup>may</sup> happen."

NBC

N R A

The N R A administration received a set-back today. You may recall that a Brooklyn firm of contractors had submitted the lowest bid for the buidling of an annex to Uncle Sam's post-office in New York. The bid was rejected by the government because the contractors had not signed an N R A agreement.

The case was submitted to General McCarl, Comptroller of the United States, and he overruled General Johnson. General McCarl said that under the law the contract must be awarded to the lowest bidder, N R A or no N R A.

NBC

Prof. James G.  
Smith.

Economist,  
Princeton.

Nov. 9, 1933.

## INTRO TO PROFESSOR SMITH

There is a great deal of agitation now for the return to the gold standard.

One of the world's leading authorities on international finance, Professor Kemmerer of Princeton, who has been called into consultation by many foreign governments, says now is the time for prompt, vigorous action to bring about a return to the Gold Standard." "Unless such action is taken, there is serious danger that our so-called controlled inflation will get out of control, with unfortunate results."

I wish we had the Doctor here in front of the microphone to explain all this. But, one of Dr. Kemmerer's associates at Princeton is here with me, Professor James G. Smith, another economist.

Many years ago, I'll not say how long, before I became a war correspondent, traveler, scribbler and so on, I happened to be on the Princeton faculty, and in those days I was the "Prof" and Dr. James G. Smith who sits here beside me was one of my pupils. Not only that, he was my first private secretary. But he has successfully lived that down and has become a well-

LT  
INTRO - 2

known economist, editor of Facing the Facts, and so on.

All right, now Jim, I mean Professor, what do you think about N.R.A. But don't make it too blooming complicated.

L.T.

So far as the avowed purpose of the N.R.A. is to do away with unfair trade practices, it meets with the approval of most economists. The N.R.A. also includes such features as the abolition of child labor and sweat-shop labor -- this too has been strenuously urged by ~~the~~ economists for a long time. We are <sup>all</sup> for it !

Regarding other features of the N.R.A. there is not much general agreement among economists. But, most of them strongly oppose the deliberate lining up of industry and labor into great national monopolies -- making bigger and better trusts. Once monopolies become established no Democratic government will be strong enough to control them. That's what we fear. In fact, if we have gigantic monopolies we may have open economic warfare and not ~~the~~ fair competition or cooperation which we know the President wants.

The plans to limit production and to fix prices may lead to racketeering such as we have recently experienced under Prohibition. There are many historical examples of the despotism and terrorism which have developed from price fixing schemes.

In all history price fixing has failed.

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In spite of what I've said I'd like to add that economists, whether they agree with President Roosevelt or not, have a deep respect for him. They think he is trying his best to give us a New Deal in the face of tremendous political obstacles.

STRIKE

The farmers' strike, after two days quiet, is again in a flaming condition today. Early this morning another railroad bridge went up into flames, the third to be so destroyed. This is believed

to be the work of striking farmers. The sheriff of <sup>Shelby</sup> ~~Marion~~ County <sup>where</sup> I lived for a few years when I was a kid, says he found a kerosene can and other incendiary materials near the bridge.

~~Nevertheless, the deputies escorted through the picket lines all the trucks that were on their way to market. Similar reports came from other strike regions in the middlewest.~~

NEC

KIDNAPPING

The Chicago police tell us today that they have broken up a nationwide ring of crooks which has been engaged principally in the kidnaping business. The Chicago cops tell me that the men have been in custody for some time and that they now have signed confessions that this gang has in three years taken over half a million dollars from nine victims.

5-  
From the State's Attorney's office I learn that all the members of this ring are college graduates. However, they don't say which colleges.

On my way up from Delaware today I read in the Bucksnellian, the newspaper of Bucknell University that the leading post graduate institution is Sing Sing Prison. Representatives of more colleges there than in any post graduate college in the country.

## LIGHT

Here's something of interest to motorists. A lighting system has been installed on the highway short cut recently blasted through Mount William, along the Delaware Valley, near Port Jervis, New York. Port Jervis is in Orange county and stands at the corner of three states, - New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mayor Wendell Phillips of Port Jervis told me on the phone this afternoon that those new golden lights will be formally turned on tonight. These golden lights are a new wrinkle in highway illumination. They were designed by Westinghouse engineers. The electricity passes through a vapor of sodium into a tube something like the tubes used in your radio. The glass for these lights was made in Port Jervis.

The test is going to be watched with great interest by illuminating engineers and motor vehicle commissioners of several states. Perhaps all highways eventually will be as light as day - at night.

RAM

There's the deuce to pay in New York City collegiate circles. Somebody has kidnapped the famous Fordham University ram, and this just on the eve of one of the big football events, the annual game between Fordham and New York University, which is to take place Saturday.

From the fact that I learned of this crime through telephone messages from no fewer than four N. Y. U. men, you may judge who did the kidnapping. Nine huskies from N. Y. U. entered the Fordham campus at three o'clock this morning and got away with their rival's mascot. If, after this, ~~the~~ Fordham doesn't win on Saturday, it'll be a real tragedy.

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NBC

CHRIS

Oh yes, and my friend Chris Cella, the eminent  
*not funny face, boniface*  
boniface - of East 45th Street, has just returned to  
these shores in a new suit and a high state of exultation.

When Chris landed off the Ile de France, he  
was stopped by the customs inspector which somewhat  
astonished him. Though Chris had plenty of contraband  
on his person, he had it in such fashion that not even  
the most ingenious customs official could have confiscated  
it - it was inside of him. So when the customs man asked

Chris: "Have you anything to declare?", Chris replied

in a loud cheery voice: "*Yes--* "I declare that I am back in *da bigga da*  
~~United~~ States. *Kaze bonyuh!*"

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

PRESENCE OF MIND

I have just run across a story to show how valuable presence of mind is to a driver. A motorist ran past the red lights the other day and was promptly overhauled by a motorcycle cop, who angrily wanted to know, "What's the idea?" Like a flash the driver replied: "I'm awfully sorry officer, but I happen to be a doctor and I've got to get this patient to the asylum in a hurry."

The cop was suspicious and looked at the passenger. But the passenger had just as much presence of mind as the driver. He instantly assumed a broad idiotic smile, looked at the officer, and said, beaming, "Kiss me, Sergeant", at which the cop hurriedly closed the door of the car and growled: "All right doc, on your way. Step on it," *and a-l-u-t-m.*

Sporting & Dramatic News.