

L. T. - Sunoco - Fri. Sept. 17, 1937

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Today so much was said about the document the Founding Fathers gave us that - what more is there <sup>for me</sup> to add? Well, let's think of this angle for a moment:- In the political history of this world, in all the various nations - how many Constitutions have been written? The answer is -- legion. Scores and hundreds of schemes of government have been devised. Nation upon nation has formulated a constitution. Some have had many of them, one after

LEHMAN

President Roosevelt had seventeen governors for lunch today. Executives who have been attending the Annual Governor's Conference at Atlantic City. One of the governors was Mr. Lehman of New York. It was the first time the President had met his friend and protege since Mr. Lehman helped to knife Mr. Roosevelt's court reform bill. When the luncheon was over, Mr. Lehman told reporters it was all very friendly. But he admitted that he had not talked to Mr. Roosevelt alone -- no tete-a-tete.

And that's the end of this tete-a-tete ---- and -----

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

# RETAKE

CONSTITUTION

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another. You could fill volumes with reprints of Constitutions.

But how many of them have survived? Of all that have been drawn up, how many are in force today? Mighty few. The overwhelming majority have been discarded, chucked out. Only the merest fraction have remained in force for any length of time. <sup>But</sup> ~~and~~ amid all these

fleeting and ~~many~~ ephemeral constitutions of nations, there's one towering and enduring monument - the Constitution of the United States.

Of course, you may mention the British Constitution -

but that's something else again, not written, merely established

usage, taken for granted. Not a case of a group of men sitting down

and formally drawing up the future government of a nation, <sup>which was the</sup> ~~the~~

<sup>way the</sup> ~~United States~~ Constitution was made. ~~that was~~ <sup>Q</sup> And that's the miracle

of it - the embodied political wisdom of the founding fathers, written,

adopted and signed. And it's still the framework of our government,

after a hundred and fifty years - more so than ever. The Constitution

stands so firmly established right now that our imaginations project

it indefinitely in <sup>to</sup> the future, a future so far extending as to make

the hundred and fifty years perhaps seem small in comparison.

This then seems to me something to meditate upon tonight -

so <sup>many</sup> ~~many~~ a constitution of many nations, so short-lived, so quickly gone,

and ours stands such a monument of endurance.

Now for <sup>a timely</sup> ~~an exceedingly~~ bit of constitutional news.

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Constitution, Ohio - the Constitution Stone Company on  
Constitution Day, took action on the ground that its  
constitutional rights were violated. It's a case concerning  
railroad rates and was laid today before the Interstate  
Commerce Commission.

## WEDDING

Of late the name of Roosevelt and the word "Wedding" have been going together. Today to the combination, we can add two other words - "beauty contest". At Beverly Farms, Massachusetts, John, the President's youngest son and his blonde fiance, Ann Lindsay Clark, went to a Wedding - not theirs. John was an usher, and Ann a bridesmaid at the marriage of Charles Sturgis and Miss Barbara Brewer. The beauty contest part of it is like this: - last year there was a society event, in which Miss Brewer was picked as the queen of loveliness and Mr. Sturgis was voted as the second handsomest man. So beauty and handsome were married today, and the result<sup>s</sup> should be most pulchritudinous, *na ce fac.*

NEW YORK ELECTION.

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The inevitable talk in New York today is that there'll be a shake-up in Tammany. The old tiger took such a licking in yesterday's primary election that he's due for a ~~max~~ bad stomach ache of internal dissension - fights among the district leaders, attempts to depose Tammany Chief Christy Sullivan.

The final figures ~~now~~ show that the ~~T~~<sup>T</sup>iger candidate, Senator Copeland, was overwhelmingly defeated in both primaries, Democratic and Republican. In the Democratic, he lost to Jeremiah Mahoney by four hundred and twelve thousand to two hundred and forty thousand. In the Republican primary Mayor LaGuardia beat him by seventy-nine thousand to forty-six thousand. And the astonishing thing was the showing the Fusion-Republican LaGuardia made in the Democratic vote. He wasn't on the ticket. The Democrats had to write his name in, but he got fifty-six thousand <sup>Democratic</sup> write-in votes.

CHINA

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China made a protest to Washington today and summed it all in two words -- deep disappointment. The Chinese Ambassador called on Secretary of State Hull and told him the Chinese Government was deeply disappointed by the President's order declaring a semi-embargo against both China and Japan. War shipments to those two countries aboard American vessels ~~is~~ forbidden, also warning to all vessels under the American flag that such war shipments are at their own risk. <sup>TF</sup> The Chinese Ambassador complained to the Secretary of State that this ~~order~~ embargo was altogether unfair to China. He pointed out that Japan with a big merchant fleet of her own doesn't have to depend on American ships. Consequently, she can get all the American war supplies she wants by transporting them in her own vessels. <sup>TF with</sup> While ~~in~~ China -- it's altogether different. China has few merchant vessels and has to depend upon American ships. Therefore, the semi-embargo affects only China, and not Japan. We've heard this rather paradoxical analysis before. Today it is embodied in a formal complaint to Washington.

In the Far East a ferocious story is rumored --  
*that* a massacre Japanese troops are said to have committed in a  
Chinese village. Nanking claims that five hundred inhabitants,  
an entire population of a fishing town, were killed when the  
troops of the Mikado came marching in.

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Another Chinese report tells us that the old mens'  
*not so out to* army will ~~not~~ do or die. This *army of the aged* ~~army~~ was to consist only  
of men over fifty, the older the better. And they were to  
battle the Japanese to victory or death. The sponsor of the  
old mens' army was former Minister of Education, Chang-I-Lim.  
He is 72 and full of fight. Today however, Generalissimo  
Chang-Kai-Shek has called off the idea, vetoed the Legion of  
the ~~Arise~~ Ancient. War is for the young -- that's his idea.

SPAIN

The most anxious thing in the world seems to be the increasing rift between Great Britain and France on one side and Italy and Germany on the other. And today that antagonistic cleavage grew wider and deeper. (London and Paris announce that the neutrality ship patrol is off -- discontinued. The maritime cordon to keep war supplies from the Spanish belligerents never did amount to much, was more or less of a farce. The serious thing is that Britain and France have called it off -- without consulting Italy or Germany. And that's rather a slap at the Fascist powers. Also -- it released a few more British destroyers which, as London announced, will be promptly put into the anti-piracy patrol.) That patrol is strengthened and made more drastic, -- it includes the immediate attack of planes and surface vessels that are not easily identified -- and this seems to come in response to Mussolini's most recent demand that Italy will join the anti-piracy business, if given a big enough part in it.

Altogether, today's developments sharpen the hostile line between the two Democratic and the two Fascist powers. Italy seems to be furious about it all.

SPANISH PRISONERS.

Tonight the news from Spain brings a note of humane mercy - exchange of prisoners. The Franco Government today announced that an agreement has been concluded with the Valencia authorities, whereby twenty-five hundred Left Wingers, Franco prisoners, will be sent over to the Valencia side. In return an equal number will be released by the Left Wingers - twenty-five hundred refugees in the Foreign Embassies at Madrid, people of anti-radical sympathies who took ~~shelter~~ <sup>shelter</sup> under foreign diplomatic immunity. They'll be transported to Valencia, and there will be put aboard foreign ships and taken to Franco territory.

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This exchange of prisoners will be good news to a number of Americans who are war prisoners of the Nationalists, United States citizens who fought with the Left Wingers and were captured. They have been a subject of large interest, ~~†~~ those Americans battling in the ranks of the Socialists. Some of them are radicals by political belief - others not. I was told some odd things about them by a Spanish lady, Countess Nina Belmonte, who stands high in ~~FRANCO'S~~ Franco's circles. She

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related how one American was captured - and then made indignant demands. He was a rough and ready chap who said he had been stranded in Paris when Madrid agents offered him good wages to drive a truck in Spain. He wanted a job badly and took it. But in Spain, instead of giving him a truck to drive, they handed him a rifle and put him in the ranks to fight. He didn't like that. ~~When~~ <sup>When</sup> was made a prisoner ~~and~~ he turned hotly on his captors. He had been guaranteed a job -- by Spaniards. He didn't know anything about political differences, they were just Spaniards. So he insisted that his job be continued, driving a truck at the fat salary he'd been promised. He told the Franco officers that they would have to carry out the contract he had made with Left ~~Winger~~ <sup>Wing</sup> Madrid. At last reports the Franco officers were still laughing.

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Then there's something similar about the American aviator, Harold Dahl, who was reported to have been condemned to death and saved from the firing squad by the entreaties of his wife. Countess Belmonte told me that she talked to Harold Dahl and found him a badly worried man - nothing about

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firing squads, however. He was anxious because he had four thousand dollars coming from the Left Wing army in back pay. And he wanted to get the money. He made an offer to the Franco authorities; ~~he~~ proposed that they send him under guard to Paris. There he would go to the Left Wing Agency that had hired him, and he'd get the money from them, or else. Then, still under guard he would return to his Franco prison - with the four thousand ~~dollars~~. He considered it a fair proposition, but strangely enough it was rejected.

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## BALLOONS.

If you like to go to fires, here's one to take your fancy - a whole row of giant balloons going up in one tremendous blaze. It happened today in England, at the Cardington Air Field. There, nine military balloons, part of Britain's new defense program, were lined up. They were inflated bulging with inflammable hydrogen. A violent thunder storm broke. There was a terrific streak of lightning. It hit the balloons and of the ten - nine exploded with immense bursts of flame. Luckily, the crews were not aboard, not a man - so there were no casualties. Merely a terrific spectacle. Another "Hindenburg" disaster in nine installments.

BARRIE

Now about Peter Pan. He has been bequeathed - in a Will. That whimsical lad is one of the items listed in the last testimony of his creator, Sir James Barrie.

In London, Barrie's will was probated today. The Playwright leaves an estate over eight hundred thousand dollars. From this he makes large bequests to two women. To Lady Cynthia Asquith, who was his Secretary, he leaves a hundred and fifty thousand dollars. And he grants a sum of money and the rights to his plays and books to the Actress, Elisabeth Bergner. "For the best performance given in any play of mine, " says the Will. She gets the rights to his books and plays - with one exception, "Peter Pan." Who gets "Peter Pan?" Barrie leaves the amateur rights of that best beloved of his characters to a Hospital of sick children. So "Peter Pan" is bequeathed to the ailing little ones.

LEGION

Today New York looked a good deal like next week --

The American Legion look. All over the city you saw Legionnaires in the <sup>in Legion</sup> ~~completing~~ caps -- and yet only a fraction have arrived

for the Convention beginning Monday. From three to four hundred thousand are expected. At Rockefeller Center the Legion ~~was~~

was a dominant theme today. Not only did the boys come trooping

to see the sights of the R.C.A. Building, but N.B.C. was humming

with preparations for Legion broadcasts. The Convention will

be put on the air as one of the biggest of radio features.

The first broadcast will be tomorrow -- the arrival of the

Legionnaires, <sup>the big rush</sup> ~~when the big rush to New York is on~~, the coming of the special trains.

At luncheon I had a talk with National Commander

Harry Colmery, and I asked him why it was that this is the

first legion convention to be held in New York. I said I'd

~~have~~ ~~thought~~ ~~that~~ the big town might have been one of the

first places <sup>ever</sup> ~~to have been~~ selected -- ~~because~~ <sup>for it was here</sup> ~~wouldn't~~ the

<sup>that so many</sup> ~~boys have been interested in the port where so many thousands~~

of them embarked for France? New York played a big part in the

lives of the war-time doughboys -- so why <sup>want</sup> ~~wasn't~~ the Legion

convention brought here before? "Well, it ~~is~~ just never was" replied National Commander Colmery, "and even this time there was a good deal of opposition. A whole lot of the Legionnaires were opposed to bringing the ~~REMYER~~ Convention to New York this year."

"Why?" I asked.

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The response was that they were afraid that the Convention, huge as it was, might be swallowed up in the vastness of New York. The National Commander explained it this way:- "The Legion has to take over an immense deal of hotel room, and in New York ~~the~~ available hotels might be spread out as far as ~~to~~ Brooklyn, Upper Manhattan, <sup>and</sup> the Bronx. State Delegations of the Legion concentrate each in its own hotel, and then the boys like to go visiting -- from one hotel to another. If they had to do a lot of travelling to make their visits, they'd feel the Convention <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ scattered ~~around~~ <sup>sort of</sup> too much -- <sup>lost</sup> in the big town. That's why some were reluctant about New York.

"Has it been spread out so much"? I asked.

"No," he replied. "We are fairly ~~REMYER~~ concentrated

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in the heart of Manhattan, so far as the State Delegations are concerned, although many of the boys are having to ~~it~~ find quarters out in Brooklyn or up in The Bronx."

While talking with National Commander Colmery I made sure I got all the facilities I could for attending the Convention events and circulate among the Legionnaires --

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. So I'll be able to tell the

Legion folks at home a thing or two about the former soldiers

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—  
59 1/4  
*right now are taking*  
of the A.E. F. who ~~have taken~~ over the big town — moving in upon Little Old New York by the tens of thousands, as I move out of this studio and say so long until Monday.