

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

Coming to Washington for the Inauguration I started nosing around for news by going to the White House. Tuesday is the regular day for the Presidential Press Conference -- Number One place to seek tidings of Government. But today a notice was tacked up on the Press Gallery Bulletin Board, a notice that read -- "The regular Tuesday Press Conference of the President has been postponed on account of lack of news." The day before Inauguration and the gentleman in the White House had no tidings to tell, except -- that tomorrow he will be inducted into a second term as President of the United States.

Yet, in 1932, it was far different. The bank crisis was closing down upon the nation, <sup>and</sup> in Washington there was an overabundance of news of the most formidable sort. The Inauguration, <sup>then</sup> took place in an atmosphere of grave forboding. Even the joy of the Democrats, <sup>at being</sup> back in office, after twelve long, <sup>lean</sup> years,

could <sup>hardly</sup> ~~not~~ rise so gaily in that mood of peril and crisis.

Today the difference is complete. People feel that the great economic depression is a thing of the past. Troubles and anxieties are not stalking darkly here in Washington, <sup>- except for frequent mentions of</sup> And the difference between 1932 and 1936 was dramatized, the change in contrast made vivid <sup>here today --</sup> by that notice posted on the <sup>White House</sup> Press Bulletin Board today -- "No Presidential Press Conference, because of lack of news."

*the strike.*

WEATHER

*For Washingtonians and visitors the)*

~~The~~ most important news ~~here in Washington~~ is the kind that's commonly told in a few brief words at the top of the front page -- the Weather Report. The Capital has been hoping for -- Roosevelt luck. F.D.R. is famous for the way the skies clear and the sun shines when he has an important outdoor event on schedule. Yesterday it rained, ~~in Washington~~, but occasionally there'd be a break in the clouds and the sunbeams would peep through. Premonitions -- said Washingtonians, hints and premonitions of the Roosevelt luck. ~~on the weather~~. Today, it has still been wet, damp, drizzly -- rather sultry. ~~But~~ Then the afternoon brought the weather forecast, and it's the opposite of favorable. For it says that the wet weather is due to continue, ~~xxxx~~ with a sharp drop in temperature tonight, which will cause the rain to turn into sleet or snow. So there may be a white Inaugural, snowy weather as the President takes his oath and the parade goes tramping by.

Maybe that might make the solemnity more picturesque. It would at least put a white finger of emphasis on the fact that Inauguration has been changed from March to January. ~~So something might be added if it were to snow~~. But, suppose we should have a *fierce* stinging, driving sleet -- things might not be so solemn, in a gale

of icy particles. One thing is certain, however. Rain or shine, snow or sleet, the ceremony will take place outdoors -- according to schedule.

Washington tonight is crowded with visitors, but not so crowded as it would be if the weather promised a better break. There's more room in the hotels than had been expected. This was told me by Harry Somerville, manager of the New Willard. He's doubly interested because his famed hostelry overlooks the line of march.

"It's not only the weather," Harry said, "but also the cutting down of the parade. It will be almost entirely military. Streams of civilians on the march won't be there this time." This time political marching clubs have found less reason to swarm on Washington, since they won't be allowed to march. At the Willard today I found the New York Tammany delegation cut down to a fraction a couple of hundred because the Braves won't be allowed to parade. In spite of all this -- the visitors to Washington number a quarter of a million.

PREPARATION

*At any rate*

Things are all set for the big doings tomorrow, with drills and dress rehearsals <sup>on today</sup> to see that everyone knows his part in the complicated affair. It is a drama with a great host of actors. <sup>TP</sup> I was talking this afternoon with Arthur Cook, surnamed "Gus" -- who is in command of practical arrangements at the Capitol. He told me of five hundred Marines on duty in the Capitol and among the stands, <sup>also</sup> ~~and~~ several hundred policemen and plain-clothes men. Every man has his post, and ~~it~~ has been rehearsed. <sup>TP</sup> Of course, there are also Secret Service men -- but they are secret. No use of inquiring about where they will be standing -- no use of asking a single question of Ace Sleuth Colonel Starling who is in Secret Service command of the inauguration. ~~And then, taking their parts will be, the Vice-President, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, Congress and the governors of states.~~ <sup>TP</sup> Gus Cook told me that 45 out of 48 governors had accepted invitations to come. I asked him whether the governors of Maine and Vermont <sup>were to</sup> ~~will~~ be among those present. *At that* Gus was silent. <sup>TP</sup> He told me that all automobiles had to have a card on their windshield to get in -- even the President's car. I asked him -- what if the President should show up without the

admission card on his windshield? Gus did not answer that one either. Gus is one of his names. Discretion is the other. That's why he has been officiating at inaugurals for forty years.

I made a tour with Arthur De Titta, Washington chief for Movietone, and saw how the cameraman for both newspapers and news reels were instructed about their positions, cameras surveying every inch of the pageant -- for miles.

We stood in the presidential stand, at the place marked off for Mr. Roosevelt to stand tomorrow in front of a battery of microphones, when he takes the oath. The scene there in front of the Capitol is one of stands everywhere, a panorama of yellow pine seats. What struck me was the fact that the President while speaking will face five separate camera stands, from which pictures will be shot from different angles. All an indication of how important the new ways of entertainment have become -- the radio, newspaper photographs, news reels.

I was told that in all that complication of stands two million feet of lumber will be used. What do they do with it afterward?

*Ph*  
~~Oh, I was told,~~ the lumber <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ just rented, not bought,  
rented from the Hechinger Lumber Yard.

I called the lumber yard and said: "What do you do with the two million feet of inaugural pine board?"

They ~~says~~ said: "We just go ahead and sell it in the ordinary way."

I asked: "Is it just as good ~~just as good~~ as new?"  
"Even after it has been used in all those stands?"

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"It's usually better," they told me. "It's green lumber, putting it out there in the open for a few days gives it a bit of air drying, *though not so much in this kind of weather.*"

That might give a gag man a cue for summing up the benefits of democracy. The wise cracker might say -- that, at least, the inauguration of the President <sup>improves</sup> ~~gives~~ the lumber in the stands.

## FINANCE

Congress today provided an item of ~~politic~~ political news by passing the bill to continue President Roosevelt's power over the Stabilization Fund -- that huge sum of money which the Treasury Department used<sup>S</sup><sub>A</sub> to keep the value of the dollar even in the world's money market. Senator Vandenburg of Michigan provided some ~~Republican~~ Republican opposition to the bill. He said among other things that the control of the Stabilization Fund gave the President an amount of power which was dangerous and undemocratic. Senator Glass of Virginia countered by declaring that the bill was in the interests of the public. So the White House measure was passed, by a huge majority.



STRIKE

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Another gesture of conciliation failed ~~and~~ in the auto strike today. The union turned it down. A proposal was made by George Boyson, head of the Flint Auto Workers Union which is standing by the company. He said his organization would stop demanding its own right to bargain with General Motors, but Homer Martin, President of the Auto Workers Union fighting the company would not listen to that. In Flint the sit-down strikers are still occupying the Fisher Body ~~plant~~ plant<sup>s</sup>, numbers one and two, but no disturbances are reported.

( Today union pickets forced<sup>d</sup> the closing of the Briggs Plant which makes Lincoln-Zephyr bodies for Ford. This occurred after an outbreak of riot and violence. The strikers went right on even after the police had hit their picket line with tear gas bombs.) They defied the gas bombs, and today a cordon ~~of~~ strikers around the plant kept non-union workers away.

But the latest is that this strike in the Briggs plant has been settled; the company and the union <sup>coming</sup> ~~came~~ to terms this afternoon. So afte<sup>r</sup> the battle and the tear gas, the word is -- peace. ~~the word is~~ The plant <sup>to</sup> ~~will~~ reopen tomorrow.

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However this does not concern the General Motors trouble which is the big issue.

KIDNAP

There will be an attempt at identification in the Tacoma kidnap case -- and a man is being made to grow a beard. The two older Mattson children and another child saw the snatcher -- ~~XXXX~~ and he wore a beard. The <sup>o</sup>pl<sub>^</sub>ice have a suspect who is smooth shaven. So to help the children say "Yes or No," "this is or is not the man" -- the prisoner is not allowed ~~to~~ to shave, he is growing a beard.

Another possible suspect <sup>created a sensational</sup> ~~was up to~~ scene at Portland, Oregon, today. The police picked him up, shabby, nervous, looking something like the description of the kidnapper -- and in his pocket they found a newspaper clipping about the crime. When they questioned him he ~~shrieked~~ shrieked in wild excitement.

"I'm glad the boy was killed," he yelled. "I'd like to see the whole family killed. They've taken my money."

<sup>Maybe it's</sup> ~~you have~~ nothing more than the distracted outburst of ~~distorted brain~~ <sup>twisted brain---</sup> ~~distorted brain~~ -- but the G-men are holding the prisoner for identification.

POPE

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In that splendid and historic palace, treasure house of ~~works of~~ art, an aged and ailing man lies in pain. And the bulletin is -- worse! the bulletin from the Vatican. Pope Pius the Eleventh suffered a relapse today. His condition took a turn for the worse last Saturday. Today, ~~aged and~~ <sup>still</sup> worse. The swelling in his legs has increased -- and the pain too. So much so ~~that~~ that his physician has had to stop the treatment of massage and hot packs. Tonight in the Vatican, where there are such treasures of the art of Raphael and ~~Michael~~ <sup>Michael</sup> Angelo the Pontiff of the Church of Rome fights against stubborn and perilous illness.

RUSSIA

In the days of the French Revolution and the guillotine some one spoke up with a phrase of telling power and fierceness -- saying, "The Revolution devours her own children." Yes, that told the story powerfully and fiercely, *told* how the creators of the Revolution sent each other to the guillotine: Madame <sup>Roland,</sup> ~~Robespierre,~~ Camille, Desmoulins, Danton, Robespierre. For a long time ~~there~~ the Red Regime of the Soviets was a different thing. The Russian Revolution did not devour its children. Stalin merely exiled Trotzky, for example. But then came that recent terror, charges of plotting with Trotzky -- and the execution of old Bolshevik leaders, companions of Lenin, like <sup>Zinovieff</sup> ~~Zinovieff~~ and Kamanév.

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Today we hear the names of two others of those old Bolsheviks who <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ companions of Lenin. One is Karl Radek, for long years the Number One journalist of Red Russia -- chief contributor to the official Soviet newspaper ISVESTIA. For weeks we've been hearing the Moscow claim that Radek was implicated in the Trotzky plot, ~~that led to the shooting of~~ ~~Zinovieff, Kamanév and the others.~~ He was dismissed from his

journalistic post. He disappeared. He was arrested. He was ordered <sup>on</sup> ~~trial~~ trial.

Today comes the word that he will face the Communist Court on January 23rd. He will stand as the chief figure in another one of those fantastic Soviet trials that have led to execution<sup>s</sup>.

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The second name is Bukharin, another old Bolshevik and companion of Lenin. With Lenin, he was one of the founders of the Red Russian Revolution. He became a spokesman in the realm of culture and art. Bukharin, highly educated, was the Communist lord of education, the theatre, literature, music. Of more recent times he was editor of the ISVESTIA, of which Rakek was the star writer. After the Trotzky plot sensation, with the trials and executions, he <sup>too</sup> was suspended from his post. Recently he was reinstated. Today the word is that he has <sup>again</sup> ~~been removed~~ been removed; <sup>of late has</sup> implicated -- in that much-talked-of Trotzky plot, which ~~led~~ led to so many grim and terrifying events.

## FLOODS

There are flood stories tonight from a score of places. In Missouri, for example, <sup>the</sup> St. Francis River has burst through its levees. Farming land flooded. Several thousand WPA workers and National Guardsmen are reported marooned, without food or fire, and the temperature sinking to freezing.

The Green River in Kentucky has forced a thousand families from their homes. The Red Cross is looking after flood sufferers in eighty towns in the Ohio Valley.

It's better news from the Pittsburgh area, where there's a river rise three feet above flood stage -- but the climb of the water seems to be checked. The damage is mostly -- flooded basements.

In other places the rain has stop ed and freezing temperatures are turning water <sup>to</sup> ~~into~~ ice. So ~~ix~~ there isn't likely to be any such disastrous floods as we had last year.

This morning Howard Hughes took off from Los Angeles. He soared aloft in his new bullet-fast plane, something of a mystery racing ~~plane~~<sup>er ---</sup> -- nobody seems to know much about the details of its speed-sprinting design. Howard Hughes didn't say where he was going. That's like him; the oil multi-millionaire and one-time motion picture producer, ~~revels~~ in secrecy. But the supposition was that he was heading for Chicago -- out to set a new speed record between Los Angeles and the Windy City.

8 1/2  
But Hughes never arrived in Chicago. All day -- no sign of him at the airport there. What happened to him? Here's the surprise. He landed at Newark, New Jersey, a shade under seven hours-and-a-half after he left Los Angeles. So you can <sup>see</sup> ~~see~~ what he was up to. His goal was the transcontinental speed record -- and he smashed it into fragmentary bits.

It was Hughes himself who set the previous record -- coast-to-coast in a shade under nine hours-and-a-half.

So he cut that today by two whole hours. His exact time, ~~was~~ ~~seven~~ seven hours, twenty-eight minutes, and twenty-seven seconds.

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Twenty-five hundred miles at an average of three-hundred-and-thirty <sup>two</sup> ~~thirty~~

miles an hour. That was the Howard Hughes secrecy and  
surprise today. A flight and a fling of mad speed, swiftness  
and haste. <sup>After</sup> ~~the~~ which I make haste to say --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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