

L. T. Sunco - Tuesday - August 18, 1936.

Drama flares red in Spain these days -- especially tonight, with the finger of the news pointing at a flying field. At the Government airdrome of Madrid, three planes stand waiting, three great ai^o liners. Through the sky other planes come winging, hostile planes, fighting craft of the Fa^oscist rebels. A bombed flying field! They are trying to destroy those three waiting air liners -- trying angrily, persistently. Why are they so keen about it? Why do they make those three planes their special mark?

M.
Cannon
NBC

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We find the answer in another bit of news from Spain. It's a tense and tragic story of marriage and military execution. General Fanjul commanded the futile revolt of the Madrid garrison. His chief aid was Colonel Quintana, both courtmartialed and sentenced to the firing squad. General Fanjul was engaged to be married. He had his fiance called-- and a priest. The wedding was performed in the military prison -- in the shadow of the grave.

The death warrants were brought to the two condemned officers, for them to sign. It's an old Spanish custom in the most somber sense for the condemned to sign the document of his doom. The General, the bridegroom, faltered as he wrote his

signature. His comrade hardened him, saying, "What is it? After all, it's nothing more than getting pneumonia." That was the flare of Spanish pride.

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When the two together stood before the firing ~~squad~~ squad, the man who had just been married still faltered. His comrade supported him as the rifles crashed.

That's the story from Spain tonight, and this is what it means. The rebels will shoot ~~The Red~~ ~~are~~ ~~fighting~~ the ministers of the Madrid government without mercy if they ever catch them; the Fascists executing Communists by the droves. Their battle cry is -- "no mercy!" -- and mercy least of all for the heads of the Left Wing government.

And tonight it seems that the rebellion is winning, slowly, relentlessly. The Reds are fighting desperately. The latest report is that they are using poison gas. But the Fascist Columns seem to be closing in on Madrid. Tonight's report is that the Left Wing government is prepared for flight, ready for a getaway -- a getaway through the sky.

So that takes us back to those three big airliners that stand waiting at a Madrid airdrome. They are said to be held in readiness for the radical government ministers, ready to wing them out of Spain the moment things get too hot. That's why the rebel fliers have been trying to Destroy those airliners, trying to cut off escape through the sky. The Fascists are desperately eager to get their hands on the government chiefs -- and stand them before the firing squad.

Thus far the rebel sky attack has failed to destroy those escape planes. The bombs missed the mark, but are said to have blown up four truckloads of ammunition.

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Meanwhile they say that Mussolini threatens active intervention. And there's a rumor that Italian & French planes have had a clash in the air.

PRESIDENT

The Spanish Civil War affects political events even here in our own country. It's changing President Roosevelt's plans for his western tour. Word from the summer White House today ^{changes} ~~makes~~ the President's itinerary, ~~seem doubtful.~~ ~~One statement is that~~ **I**n his travels he won't stray too far afield, too far from Washington. Because he wants to be in reach of government headquarters as much as possible -- to keep his eye on the Spanish crisis. The President realizes that the bitter war between the Fascists and the Reds is loaded with international dynamite, ^{and} he is much concerned about the possibility of an explosion.

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He is scheduled on Tuesday to leave for the Daokotas, the drought belt. This ~~is~~ in connection with the big conference on the ~~the~~ drought situation, the one that the governors of the states are to attend -- including Governor Landon, representing Kansas. We hear that no invitations have ~~been~~ yet been sent to the various governors, including Governor Landon -- which makes the plans for the drought conference rather hazy.

The Spanish trouble and the President's desire to keep in touch with State Department affairs, ^{has put a quietus} ~~cast doubt~~ on his proposed

show-boat trip down the Mississippi. ~~Maybe~~ The President will not
sail down the river. *All because of Spain.*
~~make that river cruise and maybe he won't. The question is open~~
tonight, ~~depending partly on Spain.~~

TREASURY

From Washington we have a story which comes as ~~an~~ ^a
~~reminder of~~ ^{reminder of} ~~aftermath to~~ that little tiff between the Secret Service and the
G-men -- when Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, who is
boss of the Secret Service, apologized to Attorney General Cummings,
who is boss of J. Edgar Hoover and the G-men. That was because
the Secret Service had presumed to investigate the activities of
the G-men.

Now we hear talk of combining ^b ~~six~~ ^{six} ~~the~~ Government law
enforcement agencies under one head. Plans are being made to
introduce a bill to that effect at the next Congress. The idea
would be to ^{harmonize them under} ~~put them all under~~ the jurisdiction of the Treasury
Department -- ^{all but} ~~and that would include~~ the Department of Justice and
its G-men.

They say ~~ix~~ by being under the command of a single
Cabinet officer the various law enforcement agencies will be less
likely to go in for jealousy and friction. There'd be more harmony
and less inclination to work against each other.

MAYOR

(New Orleans has a new Mayor tonight, and the shade of
the Kingfish ^{must seem} ~~continues~~ to stalk through the old French city.

Because Robert Maestri was one of Huey Long's staunchest
supporters, ^{and he's done the thing that} ~~the thing which~~ Huey never could bring about in his
lifetime. One of the bitterest opponents of the ~~Kingfish~~ Kingfish
was Mayor Walmsley, who held the fort against the Long machine while
Huey was alive. But now Walmsley has stepped out and the faithful
Kingfish follower takes his place.)

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Huey and Maestri had one little joke between them, which
amused them tremendously. Back in 1928 Kingfish partisans were
taking up a collection for a new set of table silver to be given to
Huey who had just been elected Governor. Maestri sent a fat check
as his contribution. It was promptly returned, refused. His donation
turned down. That was because certain people of great propriety
on the committee collecting the fund didn't like the way the
Maestri fortune had been earned. It was built on New Orleans real
estate, with the accent on race tracks, the running of horses and
the ^{placing} ~~making~~ of bets. Maestri's reaction was simple and direct.

He went to Huey, said nothing about the rejected check -- he merely presented Huey with a twenty-five hundred dollar stickpin of emeralds and diamonds. Huey accepted with delight. ~~He~~ never gave it a second thought ^{-- for Huey} had no qualms whatever about the racetrack origin of the Maestri money.

Later on, the generous giver told the Kingfish the story of the gift. And Huey nearly laughed his head off. ~~He admitted~~ the joke was on ^{the committee with Huey happy and getting} ~~him, a joke in the form of~~ twenty-five hundred dollar stickpin. Huey loved jokes like that. So Maestri was rated a better friend than ever. And tonight he's Mayor of New Orleans.

RUSSIA

Tonight the news seems to flare with strange drama, twisting of events, interaction of personalities. Take the headlines, dig into obscure corners of the news, look into the background -- then add things up, and you have thrills and romance worthy of the theatre.

Here's one with a Russian background -- back in 1883, the broad empire of the Czars. In that year were born two men who today have their names sadly linked together. To those who follow Russian affairs they sound like Siamese twins -- Siamese twins of Bolshevik hard luck -- Zinoviev and Kamanev. Born in the same year, they followed similar revolutionary careers. Both became disciples of the Bolshevik leader, Lenin. They stood beside him as friends and collaborators in the Communist revolution and the building of Red Russia, occupied the highest posts of the Soviet regime.

Then Lenin died, and right there the two men, born in the same year, began to become the Siamese twins of Bolshevik hard luck. They got in wrong in the fight between Trotsky and Stalin for Lenin's place. Stalin won out and became the

Red Dictator. Zinoviev and Kamanev were placed on the black list as followers of the exiled, hated Trotsky. Two years ago they were implicated in the assassination of a powerful Bolshevik, Stalin's friend, Kirov. They were sentenced to exile on a bleak, frozen island in the White Sea.

In recent days we've heard that the Kirov case has been re-opened in Moscow, new discoveries, new evidence -- new accusations concerning the hard luck twins, so they were brought back from their lonely exile to face new charges. And today from Moscow comes the burning touch of drama.

Zinoviev and Kamanev will be tried -- as bandits, as mere ganging, robbing bandits. The two renowned Bolshevik stalwarts, companions of Lenin, will not be granted the dignity of facing the court as high political personalities involved in a great political crime. They'll be tried for the murder of Kirov, but their status will be -- just bandits.

They won't stand before the dreaded military tribunal in one of those gaudy, spectacular dramas of the Red courtroom,

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~~BRAD~~

with Klieg lights and microphones, and ^a great crowd. The proceedings will not be held in the great hall where Lenin lay in state and where so many ~~red pageants~~ ^{red pageants} of Communist law have been ~~xxx~~ staged. They won't be given any such big chance to put on an act of martyrdom. They'll be tried in a small, drab room on the second floor of a trades-union house, a ~~xx~~ shabby place where there 's ~~hardly~~ enough room to ~~xx~~ seat the newspapermen. The sort of contemptuous court where mere wretched ~~xxx~~ thieves, robbers and other malefactors are tried.

(Hitherto the Soviets, with all their shootings and wholesale executions, have never inflicted the death penalty on a leading Bolshevik. But tonight Moscow supposes that the penalty inflicted on Zinoviev and Kamenev is likely to be death.)

~~xxxxx~~ So, the hard luck twins, the two one-time lords of the Red terror, companions of Lenin -- will face the firing squad as bandits. *Sounds like Spain, doesn't it?*

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Even the world of sports is touched by that wild disturbance in Spain which dominates the news tonight. There's a rumor that one of the great old characters of the art of wrestling has fallen in the Spanish fighting, Władek Zbyszko, the Polish paladin.

The elder of two famous wrestling brothers, he was the veteran of veterans. He grappled with half-Nelsons and toe-holds until the time it seemed when he should be in a wheel-chair. That burly behemoth of the thick neck and ponderous body seemed never to grow old -- and tonight we hear that ~~when~~ he was trying a comeback. He still wasn't through -- ^{but he} ~~but he~~ was making his comeback at Barcelona. And right now Barcelona is the better place for a down-fall than a comeback. The rumor is that Zbyszko was caught ^{in the} fighting in the Catalonian city and was killed. That's a pity, if it's true -- for the grand old man of wrestling to fall by a Red radical or a Fascist bullet.

This report comes several days ~~xx~~ after a previous one that another great character of sports had been killed in the Spanish fighting. Paulino Uzcudin, the Basque wood chopper, said to have fallen in the battle at San Sebastian. That same scarred

and ~~xx~~ battered hulk of an iron man, who was never knocked out --
until he met Joe Louis, that same Joe Louis ~~xx~~ who goes stalking
in the ring tonight.

FIGHT

This might be the time to say something about the Joe Louis Jack Sharkey fight tonight -- if a bigger bit of fight news had not broken this afternoon. Joe and Jack will swap punched under the summer sky tonight, but the larger theme for discussion concerns the still bigger fight that was to have been held in September -- the scheduled championship brawl between Champion Jim Braddock and ~~the~~ ^{ex-} Champion Max Schmeling. ~~But it's~~ ^{But it's} ~~called off~~ ^{called off} this afternoon. At least, that's the word from the Braddock camp, which gave out the news that Longshoreman Jim, the family man, ~~has~~ ^{indeed} injured his sharp-jabbing left hand -- that accurate left which has smacked so many chins. Braddock ~~has~~ ^{has} hurt his hand so badly that he will have to have an operation. Five doctors examined the injured fist today and decided that the surgeon's knife will have to trim away a growth that has developed on Braddock's left ~~hand~~ between the fingers. The docs will ~~have~~ perform the operation on Thursday.

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Joe Gould, the champ's manager says that Jim will not be able to fight for four or five months. However, that's not quite official ~~because~~ it's up to the New York Boxing Commission to say

the final word. The Fathers of Fisticuffs announce that they will hold a meeting next Friday and pronounce judgement -- decide whether Braddock's hand is in bad enough shape to warrant a postponement of the September championship affair.

So that puts a rather peculiar angle on the Joe Louis-Jack Sharkey scrap tonight. They're both staging comebacks. The Brown Bomber trying to prove that the way Schmeling bombed him did not spell his finish as a fighter. The garrulous gob is trying to come back after defeat and retirement. Supposedly they were to battle for the position of leading contender -- to see which would fight the winner of the Braddock-Schmeling fracas for the championship. But with Braddock out for some time to come, the picture shows us plenty of contenders with no champion in a condition to defend. They'll have to fight among themselves. So it's left jab and raght hook. And I'll be left right out in the cold if I don't hurry and say

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW