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The labor magnificos in Washington were considerably embarrassed ^{today} by the big hotel strike. ~~Several of them were obliged~~ ^{Some labor leaders were} ~~even obliged~~ to shift their quarters. Incidentally, the strike came near to interfering with an important social function last week, the Cabinet dinner to the President. If it had been called any earlier, that dinner would not have taken place since neither the President nor any members of his Cabinet would have been likely to pass through picket lines; always assuming the hotel had been able to serve the banquet. I'm just in from Washington and Harry Somerville of the Willard has been telling me how Senators and Cabinet officers are now having to ^{go} through the picket lines.

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Next Saturday evening, the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents Association is to take place. If the strike isn't settled before then, that will be an embarrassing situation since not only the President but all the members of his Cabinet and a lot of high moguls of the government are to be among the guests. So the strike may concern that dinner also.

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As it is, twenty-two hundred employees, principally waiters and bartenders, are out in thirteen of Washington's big hotels. One part of the argument is that hotel managers insist upon hiring and firing whom they choose. The Union claims that both hiring and firing should be done only by consent of Union officials.

LABOR

Prospects for peace in the labor world ^{in general} looked a little bit rosier in Washington tonight. The negotiators for the American Federation of Labor modified their ^{rejection of} ~~attitude towards~~ the proposal made yesterday by the C.I.O., the proposal to unite both parties in one super organization. The meetings in Washington came to an end this evening. They will be resumed Friday in New York City.

BUSINESS FOLLOW BANKS

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~~So an announcement by~~ Harry Hopkins, Secretary of Commerce,
~~is particularly interesting.~~ ^{says he} ~~He~~ has already begun. ~~He said, on~~ his
much advertised program of cooperation between government and
business.) ~~In fact,~~ He declared, ^s "I've been working to carry into
effect all the points I made in my speech at Des Moines." He added
that he is collaborating with John W. Hanes, Under-Secretary of the
Treasury.

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"Johnny Hanes and I have ^{had} a substantial meeting of minds,"
said Secretary Hopkins. That ^{is significant} ~~sounds hopeful~~ since it is known that
Hanes is strongly in favor of tax revision, particularly substituting
one single flat tax on corporations for all such varied imposi^s~~tions~~
~~such~~ ^{the} as undistributed profits tax, excess profits tax, capital gains
tax, and so forth and so on.

~~ix~~
Another thing that Hopkins told the newspapers is that he
thinks the national income of the United States this year will be
six to eight billion dollars higher than it was last year. He
expect^s~~ed~~ it to reach some figure between sixty-eight and seventy
billions, ^{said he speaking in logarithms.}

METAL

Economists have been telling us for a long time that what the country needs is a new industry. According to a statement made in Washington today, that new industry is at hand. Government engineers, making excavations for power dams in the west, have come upon large deposits of magnesium.

This information came from no less an authority than Dr. Finch, Director of the Federal Bureau of Mines.

KIDNAP

The slimy hand of the kidnaper appeared in Philadelphia today. So far ~~x~~ there has been no snatching, only threats. One of these threats was received by a popular and fashionable physician who has two attractive daughters. He received a note demanding fifty thousand dollars if he didn't want bodily harm inflicted upon ^a ~~these~~ ^{girls.} ~~pretty daughters.~~ ~~As a matter of fact he~~ ~~received two of these~~ ~~notes.~~ ~~A similar threat was sent to~~ ~~another~~ ^a young woman, a well-to-do ~~young~~ member of the Junior League. ^{Police.} ~~city~~ ~~cops~~

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GIANT

At St. Jo, Missouri, that lawsuit in the Federal Court is attracting attention. The one in which the plaintiff is that big young fellow, Robert Pershing Wadlow of Alton, Illinois. You may have seen him at the Ringling circus, where he's labelled the Alton giant.

A medical man wrote an article about Big Bob Wadlow. He stated that the giant was not normal. Big Bob now claims today that for all his four hundred and ninety-five pounds and his height, eight foot eight inches, he is normal - as normal as Blue Sunoco. So he's pressing that hundred and fifty thousand dollar libel suit to prove it.

FREE SPEECH

Evidently there's a lottery racket in Mobile, Alabama, as well as in other places. In fact it would be news if anybody could find a town, city, or village in which nobody played the numbers. But the Mobile lottery racket gets in the news because the PRESS REGISTER of Mobile exposed the racketeers. The executive editor of the PRESS REGISTER, who is responsible for this exposé, was trapped in a house last month and beaten within an inch of his life. Five men set upon him and attacked him.

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Today three men and a woman were brought up before the United States Commissioner in this connection. They were charged with conspiracy to interfere with the freedom of the press. Their attorney had asked to have their bail reduced but the United States Commissioner in Mobile declined, saying: "It's an ~~importance~~ important question whether a man can write newspaper editorials without being interfered with."

SLUM CLEARANCE

Senator Tydings of Maryland is hot and bothered about the Federal Slum Clearance program. He says the accomplishments of the Federal Housing Authority has become the greatest scheme of state socialism in American history. And he said further: "It seems to me to be actually on the Russian model." He admitted that it accomplished some of the objectives of the law which created the Housing Authority, but also says that one result is that Uncle Sam is providing free homes for sixty-four thousand, four hundred and thirty-one families. ^{P declares} ~~And says~~ the Maryland Senator: ~~further~~ "These homes, mark you, ~~which~~ are exempt in whole or in part from local taxation -- homes which cost more than the average home in America -- and homes for which the Federal Government agrees to pay each family residing therein \$215 per year, for sixty years, toward any rental which the municipalities may charge the occupants."

JOHNSON

2
A brickbat was thrown in the direction of the White House today by Senator Hiram Johnson of California. ^{No windows broken.} A verbal brickbat, of course. It was ⁽on the subject of neutrality, ~~The~~ California Senator ^{Hiram Johnson} declared that he was quite bewildered by President Roosevelt's changes of mind on that subject. At the same time, he ^{added that} ~~said~~ he would back the White House up in any move to repeal the present neutrality laws, ^{But} he asked why did the President insist that we pass ^{the law} ~~it~~ in the first place? Then he added: "The infernal thing was rammed down our throats by the administration. ^{said he:-} There were only five votes against it in the Senate and one of them was mine. So, ~~he declared further,~~ "I am going to be consistent and vote to repeal it."

DIONNE

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The question that's been agitating Canada seems to be almost settled now. It concerns the famous Dionne Quints. Many Canadians were horrified when they learned that the itinerary of King George and Queen Elizabeth didn't include a visit to Callander, Onatrio. Now an alternative has been found. If the mountain won't come to Mahomet, Mahomet will go to the mountain. If the King and Queen won't come to the quintuplets, the quintuplets will go to the King and Queen. What could be simpler?

^{still}
H But there's [^] one obstacle. ~~to that.~~ That's Oliva Dionne, ~~the~~ papa of the Quints. ^{Papa} ~~He~~ doesn't want to go to Toronto, and, consequently won't give his consent. However, the Provincial Secretary of Ontario is willing to bet his hat that the girls will go to Toronto to see the King and Queen. ^H Wouldn't it be more appropriate if they went to London, Ontario, in accordance with the lines of the old nursery rhyme:- "I've been to London to see the Queen." ?

~~But what says Dr. Daffoe the famous physician of the famous five? He sounds gloomy. Says he: "Anything can happen in the next two months. The King and Queen may not come to Canada. There may be a war in May." Come, Come, Dr. Daffoe,~~

RIOT

The Spanish war may be about over in Spain but rival sympathizers in America are still fighting it. There was a meeting in Los Angeles last night. The speaker was an American girl who had been a nurse on the Franco side. As might be expected the ~~next~~ Los Angeles Communists jumped at the opportunity to make trouble. Two hundred and fifty Red sympathizers picketed the hall. Inside the hall the ushers were students from St. Ignatius Loyola High School. It's easy to imagine what happened. Seventy-five cops galloped up with tear gas bombs. They threw them at the pickets who picked them up and threw them back at the cops. However, it is recorded today that most of those who were injured were pickets. Two of them are in hospitals, several hundred are at home recovering from the effects of tear gas.

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SPAIN

The news from Spain all day has been not only hectic but confusing. It was hectic because it dashes at us from all over the European map. Some of it comes from Lisbon, Portugal; some of it from London; some of it from ^{indie} Hendaye on the French-Spanish frontier, and some straight from Madrid.

The confusing parts of it are these:- On the one hand we hear from Madrid that General Casado, head of the Madrid defense council, has been doing Franco's work for him, crushing the Communists. On the other hand, Franco's broadcasting station at Burgos screams out to the world that Franco is about to start a great offensive on Madrid.

The next thing we hear is that Casado has ordered his front lines around Madrid to cease firing, unless they're attacked by Franco's \blacksquare armies that are massed against them.

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Obviously, the greatest confusion prevails in Spain. Early today it was made known that the beleaguered Communists in Madrid had surrendered under a white flag. Late this afternoon came a bulletin that they had gone back on the white flag, had

changed sides again. In short, the war-torn city of Madrid has for five days been racked by rebellion and counter-rebellion, and there's no telling which way the seesaw will teeter next.

Outside Madrid there's one definite concrete fact:- a huge Nationalist army, flushed with victory, advancing upon the beleaguered capital of old Castile. Franco has transferred myriads of ~~battle-seasoned~~ battle-seasoned veterans from the Catalonia front. The roads from Burgos are clogged with military materiel. So evidently the Nationalist chief is in earnest about his promise to take Madrid by storm if Casado doesn't surrender.

Meanwhile, however, he seems to be giving the defense council time to consolidate and to wipe out the last vestige of Communist resistance. If Casado can't do it, Franco will storm the city. ~~And there seems to be little doubt~~ that he can do it.

PARIS FOLLOW SPAIN

At the same time a bulletin from Paris describes what seems to be an interesting gambat by Franco in the diplomatic chess game. The world at large has been rather astonished that the Nationalist dictator didn't start his advance upon Madrid sooner. It's an open secret that both Hitler and Mussolini are nagging at him to wipe out the Republican army. What would most satisfy the Duce and the Fuehrer would be the complete ^{annihilation of the} ~~extermination of all~~ Republicans, ^{army} ~~only that could completely eliminate the establishment of an all-Fascist totalitarian state.~~ So Franco's delay in the advance upon Madrid is interpreted as a sign that he is not being as complacent to Hitler and Mussolini as was expected.

They say in Paris that Franco really is not ~~in~~ any too anxious to become merely a vassal of the Rome-Berlin Axis. ^{And} ~~So~~ the [^] undeclared truce that he has maintained for the last week is supposed to be a proof of that.

CARDINAL

The news from the Vatican today has an especially significant interest for us. It concerns the College of Cardinals. When Pope Pius the Twelfth ascended the throne, it created nine vacancies in the college. They are soon to be filled, and the report around Vatican City is that one of the new wearers of the red hat will, ^{probably be} ~~be~~ ~~an American;~~ ~~He'll be Monsignor~~ Monsignor Stephen J. Donahue, Administrator of the Archdiocese of New York.

All this won't be a surprise to many. ~~Catholics~~ It has long been expected that Bishop Donahue would be elevated to the College as a successor to the late ^{Cardinal} ~~Archbishop~~ Hayes, ~~Lord Cardinal~~ ~~of New York~~. And it's expected that ^{still} another prelate of ~~the~~ western United States, will be elevated to the cardinalate.

HITLER'S SUCCESSOR

Last week I reported the publication of a book based on the theory that ~~Fuehrer~~ Adolf Hitler was murdered shortly before the Munich Conference and that the man now occupying his place was an imposter who resembles him. It was only to be expected that it would be ~~denied~~ not only denied but promptly dismissed as ridiculous by the Nazi authorities.

Another rumor concerning ^{Herz Hitler,} ~~the Fuehrer, however, does not~~
~~die so easily.~~ It has been freely reported and never contradicted, that the Fuehrer himself did not expect to live long. If I am not mistaken, that was ^{corroborated by} ~~collaborated by the eminent~~ Karl von Weigand, the American correspondent who, I believe, knows Hitler better than any other foreign newspaper man. This expectation of Hitler's is accepted as an explanation of the extreme rapidity of his diplomatic moves, his haste to get as much accomplished as possible before he dies. All this seems quite plausibly a part and parcel of ~~such~~ an excessively mystic nature. ~~as the German Fuehrer's is.~~

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An item in today's news has a bearing on this. Hitler's successor has been already decided upon. His identity is, of course,

HITLER'S SUCCESSOR - 2

kept secret. ~~The~~ But the inner circles, the higher-up Nazis, have picked their man. This information comes from San Francisco.

The man who gave it out has the comparatively minor position of German Consul General at the Golden Gate. That Consul General is Fritz Weidemann, for a long time ~~the Fuehrer's~~ ^{Hitler's} personal aide and known to be one of his ~~white~~ ^{fair}-haired boys.

GERMAN HUMOR

8 1/2
Though you may not like Adolf Hitler, you have to admit one thing about him, he has attempted a lot of things that everybody thought impossible. And he got away with most of them. *Now Hitler is trying* but now he has tried something that caps them all. He undertakes to prove that the Germans have a sense of humor.

This monumental item in the Nazi program started only recently. It began when Dr. Goebbels, Hitler's Minister of Propaganda, barred five actors from the German stage. They were being punished for making jokes about Nazi officials. That aroused ^{the} comment in numerous foreign newspapers that they ~~Germans~~ can't take a joke. So one of the official Nazi papers has been conducting a contest to prove that ^{they} ~~Germans~~ can take a joke. ~~Here is a specimen of one of the prize-winning jokes~~ The prize winner is a building trades worker, who draws in his spare time. And here's ~~a specimen of~~ one of his jokes. It's a cartoon of a woman wearing a dress which stops short above her knees. Says the lady to her husband: "What do you think of my new dress? I bought it on the instalment plan." And the husband replies: ^{So.} "I see you're wearing the first instalment!"

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