

UTILITY

27 - Sunoco. Friday, Sept. 27, 1935.

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Property valued at one billion dollars is  
at stake ~~in a~~ <sup>that</sup> big legal battle <sup>Also at stake is one</sup> started today. ~~war upon one~~

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of the salient, crucial measures of the New Deal Program. The opening gun was fired this morning in an attack upon the Public Utility ~~Company~~ Holding Company Act, ~~which~~ the Act over which there was such a long, bitterly drawn out fight in the last session of Congress. The attack took place in the United States District Court at Baltimore. Leading the assault is ~~no less a~~ ~~legal big shot than~~ John W. Davis, former Democratic nominee for president of the United States. He is ~~former~~ counsel for a private citizen who asks Uncle Sam's Court at Baltimore to declare that Act unconstitutional.

The suit is being brought in behalf of the American States Public Service Company. This giant corporation controls water and power companies in Illinois, Idaho, Michigan, California, Oregon, Montana, Delaware and Indiana. Incidentally, it is at present being reorganized under Section Seventy-seven B of the Federal Bankruptcy Act.

~~Mr.~~ John W. Davis claims that the Public Utilities Holding Company Act ~~maximize~~ as passed by Congress would entail

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a heavy expense and punishing burden upon the original owners of the Company and that it would also prevent the plan of reorganization being put through. ~~Property valued at One billion Dollars is at stake.~~

So no wonder that the progress of this dramatic suit in Baltimore <sup>is being</sup> ~~will be~~ eagerly watched in Washington. Upon its outcome depends one of the essential features of the President's program.

## ROOSEVELT

The big wigs of the Democratic Party were hoping that President Roosevelt would be able to iron out several political squabbles on his journey west. In more than one part of the country there are rifts in the ranks of the faithful. So it was anticipated that the presence of the Great White Father might bring peace and harmony. But so far these hopes have been disappointed. One of the wounds for the presidential touch to heal was a split among the Democrats of Kentucky. But even the advent of the President was insufficient to settle that one. The candidate who was defeated for the Democratic nomination for governor had been invited to meet the presidential train at Cincinnati. But the disappointed candidate declined the invitation in no measured terms. "So far as bringing peace and harmony to Kentucky Democrats, it's no dice, as the gamblers would say. All this on the eve of the gubernatorial election.

The only official statement from the President today was an indirect comment on John Bull's proposal to back out of the Washington Naval Treaty. Mr. Roosevelt stated that Uncle Sam is still adhering to the word he gave in 1920 and in 1930.

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What a celebration there will be on the shore of Lake Michigan tonight! And what gloom in St. Louis. Another pennant for the Chicago Cubs, the third in six years. It was no fluke, no close fight that Charlie Grimm's fence-busters beat Frankie Frisch's Cardinals in the first game of a double-header this afternoon. The score was six to two and that's definite enough for any man's pennant race.

What a curious year this has been in baseball. ~~Today~~  
~~make~~ <sup>saw</sup> the twentieth straight victory for Mr. Wrigley's Cubs, their ninety-ninth win of the season.

I ~~have~~ <sup>'ve</sup> been a baseball fan for a long while, but I can recall few things as sensational as the sudden and heroic dash of the Chicago Cubs. For the first two months of the season they looked like just another ball team. By June twelfth their record stood fifty-fifty; they <sup>had</sup> won twenty-two and lost twenty-two. Few people outside of themselves dreamed of them as serious pennant contenders. And now look at them!

Some interesting things are told about them by Ford Frick, once famous sporting editor, now President of the National League. Ford is still keeping his hand in as a writer by contributing a weekly column to the ROCKEFELLER CENTER WEEKLY. Ford points out that the Cubs didn't start their winning streak until the

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fourth of September. Thereupon, they defeated each of the four eastern clubs, Philadelphia, Boston, Brooklyn and New York, and won sixteen straight games. And that's never been done before in baseball history at this time of the year with the championship at stake. <sup>S.</sup> says President Frick of the National League. <sup>And,</sup> He declares: "It's a performance that will live longer in sports history than anything else that has happened this year." <sup>H</sup> He tells us too that everybody from P.K. Wrigley, President of the Club, all the way down to the bat boy, <sup>has been</sup> ~~is~~ doing all he can to keep those Cubs at the top of the list. ~~until the pennant is theirs~~ Mr. Wrigley is doing his bit by taking his yacht out into Lake Michigan and cruising every evening, rain or shine. You may wonder, "What on earth good <sup>could</sup> ~~can~~ that do to his team?" To understand that you have to understand baseball ~~superstitionism~~ superstition. On the afternoon of September fourth, a humid and sultry <sup>day,</sup> ~~afternoon,~~ the Cubs started their winning streak. And on that same sultry afternoon President Wrigley had taken a party of guests ~~from out of town~~ out on ~~the Lake on~~ his yacht. On the following day the Cubs won again, and it so happened on that day, also, there was a Lake party aboard the Wrigley yacht.

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Therefore, baseball ~~superstition~~ superstition decrees, the Cubs are bound to win so long as there is a big party of guests out on the Lake aboard the big boss's yacht. During the last few weeks there have been several cold, blistery afternoons when it would have been ~~x~~ more comfortable and more rational to sit by a nice warm fireside than to go yachting. Nevertheless, P.K.Wrigley has done his bit for the welfare of his team by taking his yacht out, rain or shine, hot or cold.

On that same afternoon, September fourth, a youngster twelve years old, a chubby lad of some hundred and sixty-two pounds, was sitting on the Chicago bench as a visitor. As a result he has had a free seat on that bench every afternoon since. He's not a bat boy. He does nothing but sit. But, says Ford Frick, "I really believe that the Cubs would refuse to start their game until they found that hundred and sixty-two pound boy and hauled him to his lucky seat." Maybe he's responsible for the winning streak. He's got to sit there!

Anyhow the Cubs have won by the most remarkable end-of-the-season victory streak in history.

WHALEN

A young lad stubbed his toe in the woods this morning and the result was that for several hours policemen, state troopers, and federal agents thought they had another big kidnapping tragedy to handle. The lad in question was the fourteen year old son of Grover Whalen, former Police Commissioner of New York City, former Commissioner of Plant and Structures, <sup>and</sup> former head of ~~the~~ ~~big Wanamaker~~ ~~Wanamaker's store,~~ and now head of a big distillery ~~company.~~ He ~~was~~ also famous as New York <sup>'s</sup> official greeter, the handsome gentleman who used to go down the bay in a morning coat, <sup>a gardenia,</sup> and top hat and welcome distinguished visitors.

The Whalens have a summer place near Dobbs Ferry.

Grover Whalen, Jr., sallied forth this morning toward the woods.

He didn't come home for lunch and there was no sign of him.

Immediately the alarm was sent out. The police were notified and

before long the Whalen home swarmed with state troopers and

Uncle Sam's "G" men.

Fortunately, however, it was a false alarm. They found

the fourteen year old boy unconscious, ~~to be sure,~~ but with no

bones broken, at the foot of a ledge near his parents' summer home.

He had evidently fallen off the ledge and been stunned. Badly shaken up he gave his family a serious scare, but luckily there is no kidnapping to report.

## FIGHT

You have to hand Max Baer credit for one thing: he continues to offer no alibis. He declines even to take any interest in the discussion over that long fourth round in Tuesday night's fight. I can think of other boxers <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ would scream to the heavens and claim that they had been swindled out of a victory. But what does Maxie say about it? He was in Chicago when the news of the discussion broke, ~~and~~ Reporters asked him how he felt about it. And his answer was: "Whether the round was nine seconds too long or nineteen seconds too long, makes absolutely no difference to me." Then he added: "I was beaten and beaten in grand fashion."

So far there has been no official action on the timing in that fatal round. <sup>General</sup> ~~John~~ Phelan, Chairman of the New York Athletic Commission, says he can't do anything until a formal protest is made. Then he adds: "And I'm certain there will be no protest from Baer's manager, knowing that there isn't anything to protest."

However, Baer's manager, Ancil Hoffman, declares he will ask an official investigation. At the same time he admits that

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nothing much can be done about it and that Baer would probably have lost anyway.

It seems that several different people checked on the timing of the fourth round and found it incorrect. Technically the bell had again saved Max as it did in the third round. But it didn't ring.

Well, it would be strange if an important heavy-weight fight came off without some such aftermath.

## GENEVA

In Geneva, the pendulum swings again. The clouds hang low over the magnificent palace of the League of Nations. We can realize how grave it is when we hear the cagey, cautious, conservative Premier Laval of France admitting: "War is imminent". He made this statement openly at a meeting of the Committee of Thirteen which has now taken the place of the luckless Committee of Five, - the Committee that made such a brave effort to settle the dispute.

This is the most ominous direct word we have had yet from the banks of Lake Geneva. Though numerous reports have indicated that hopes for peace were vain, the delegates, and especially the more prominent ones, have at least kept up a front of optimism. When such a serious and careful man as Laval publicly gives up hope, then, yes we can practically hear the troops on the march and the bombing planes roaring over the Ethiopian frontier.

And, the picture becomes all the blacker when we consider the latest from Rome. Mussolini is about to fulfill his threat of taking his country out of the League. He didn't say so himself. But the statement was made by "an official spokesman for the government."

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The rest of the message indicates what several observers have repeatedly charged, that throughout the last two weeks the Duce has just been stalling. As the official spokesman put it, the Italian delegation has remained on the job in Geneva out of courtesy to the other Powers. But in Rome all hope has long since been abandoned of Geneva being able to arrive at any satisfactory solution of the African squabble.

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In other words, they've taken the muzzles off the war dogs. All that's now left to be done is to unleash them. That will be done in two weeks. The official statement from Rome says that Italy will observe a two week's truce with Ethiopia. That is, unless something unforeseen comes up. The word "truce" sounds somewhat peculiar. It is difficult to see how you can have a truce with a country unless you happen to be at war with it.

At any rate, it now becomes pretty clear where this tragic chapter in history stands. The rainy season is ~~about~~ over in Ethiopia. On either side of the frontier armed forces are standing on their marks, ready to <sup>20</sup>~~push on~~ at one word from Rome. That word will be spoken in two weeks. In two weeks the first shot will be fired. And the whole world is asking itself in fear: "What will be the repercussions of that fatal first shot?"

## JAPAN

This surely is a year of ill-fortune for the Mikado's empire. Hardly a month passes without some news of disaster from Tokyo. The latest tonight is that no fewer than fifty-three of the Emperor's sailors perished in that awful typhoon that roared down upon the Imperial Fleet on the last day of its manoeuvres.

Of course, that was the most serious part of the disaster. But it wasn't all of it. Two of the Mikado's destroyers were badly damaged, and, a big aircraft carrier didn't escape Scot free. It appears that Japan's main fleet was steaming somewhere off the east coast of the main island of Honshu yesterday. The typhoon is said to have struck without warning.

Of the men reported missing, fifty-two ~~xxx~~ were swept overboard in the first blast of the fierce storm. Destroyers and auxiliaries combed the waters all night with blazing searchlights but failed to find any of the missing men. It was one of the most dramatic episodes that ever occurred during naval manoeuvres.

## CLOCKS

We are all interested in clocks, and I'm afraid of them. Every evening their hands go round here, and I'm always trying to keep up with them and get off the air when the minute hand says "Git!" In fact, I'm worrying about it right now. I've just time to tell a couple of bits about time-pieces. So I'll see if I can beat the clock on the subject of clocks.

In the town of Greiffenberg, Germany, everybody was late for work this morning. The big church clock failed to chime off the get-up hour. All of Greinffenberg, people and industry, are regulated by that clock. So when the bell didn't ~~ring~~ ring nobody woke up. Why didn't it ring? When the Greiffenbergers investigated they found that some mean thief had broken into the church tower and stolen the giant swinging pendulum of the great clock that runs their town. And that made the Greiffenbergers gripe.

## RIOT

Can you imagine anybody starting a rebellion over the date of the month? It seems rather incredible, but that's what happened quite recently in Roumania. In fact, the Government had to call out the troops to suppress an armed revolt. And the nub of the quarrel was the question: "What day of the month is it?" The peasants in the Province of Balti, northeast of Bucharest, have for all these years been still living by the ancient Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar. <sup>8 1/2</sup> As a matter of fact, it was not until Nineteen eighteen that Russia accepted the Gregorian calendar. <sup>And</sup> Roumania didn't adopt it until Nineteen fourteen, and Turkey got on the band wagon in Nineteen twenty-seven. <sup>R</sup> But whatever the governments do, there are peasants in the remote parts of those countries who would fight you if you said this was September twenty-seventh. <sup>They</sup> ~~and~~ would insist it was only the sixteenth. In that Roumanian riot, two peasants were killed, while nine peasants and soldiers were injured <sup>just over</sup> an argument about the date.

<sup>59</sup> And if I want to start trouble all I have to do is start an argument about the time. Because it's time for me to be on my way. And s-l-u-Monday. <sup>9 1/2</sup>