

L.I. - *Junoco* Mon., May 16, 1938.

TRIAL

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One of the most extraordinary trials in the history of the country began today. The scene, ~~is~~ London, Kentucky. ~~That's~~ The heart of Harlan County, ~~the~~ center of countless animosities, feuds and <sup>sudden</sup> deaths. There are sixty-nine prisoners at the bar of that federal court in London, Kentucky, forty-seven individuals, twenty-two corporations. Two of them were eliminated by the court after bitter arguments between Uncle Sam's lawyer and defense counsel.

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The bitterness and tension not only in the court room but outside, are <sup>electric.</sup> ~~almost indescribable.~~ ~~There~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ So many defendants and lawyers in court, that there <sup>is hardly an</sup> ~~is not a square~~ inch of room for spectators. ~~Only twelve newspaper men are reporting the trial, about one-twelfth of what covered the Hauptmann ~~trial~~ case at Fleming, New Jersey.~~ <sup>At the door stand</sup> ~~At the door stand sturdy~~ marshals of Uncle Sam. They frisk every man who enters that court room and remove any weapons that may be found. And eight special deputy marshals have been sworn in to guard the two hundred and fifty witnesses, most of them miners.

This trial is the result of the investigations of Senator LaFollette's Civil Liberties Committee. The defendants are charged with conspiracy under a statute passed sixty-eight years ago.

~~That is~~ An act of Congress of Eighteen Seventy, which provides that any two persons who conspire to deprive a citizen of his constitutional rights, shall be fined and imprisoned. That's what the government contends the mine operators and officials of Harlan County have done to miners and union organizers. Among the counsel for the defense is a former judge of the Federal Court. He resigned from the bench especially to fight this case, to fight the New Deal in all its aspects.

## SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court must have passed an exhaustively industrious fortnight. Enough decisions were handed down today. to fill an entire newspaper if they were extensively reported. However, let's not report them so exhaustively. The most important of them all was a victory for the National Labor Relations board. In a case originating in San Francisco, there was a strike of telegraphers. After it was over, the Union claimed that several operators were not permitted to resume at their keys because they had been prominent in the union. The Labor Relations Board ordered the Company to reinstate the men with back pay. The Company refused and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco set aside the Board's order. The Board then took it to the Supreme Court and the nine justices reversed the Circuit Court.

Again in another case, the N.L.R.B. won a partial victory. In its argument with Republic Steel. The Third Circuit Court of Appeals had prohibited the Board from taking any further action against Republic.

CREDIT

Big as his public debt is, Uncle Sam's credit is as high or higher than it ever has been. <sup>So says the</sup> ~~That's on the word of the~~ Secretary of the Treasury, ~~himself~~. That's what he told the Finance Committee in the Senate ~~recently~~ at a closed hearing.

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This testimony he gave has ~~only~~ just been made public. Said he: "Since I have been Secretary of the Treasury to date we have been able to finance this government at a constantly lower interest rate." And he added: "Moreover, we sell the government securities at a lower interest rate than any other government in the world and we <sup>(are doing)</sup> ~~manage~~ it successfully."

The bigger the debt the more the credit. Is that idea?

AVIATION

Congress is finally beginning to centralize the regulation of aviation in the U.S.A. So far, control has been scattered, divided between the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Bureau of Air Commerce, and the Post-Office.

A bill, sponsored by Senator ~~McCarran~~ McCarran of Nevada, <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ correct all that ~~it creates~~ <sup>~~if passed~~ To create</sup> a Civilian Aviation Authority.

<sup>It</sup> Under the supervision of the President, this body <sup>to</sup> ~~will~~ regulate all commercial air traffic. It will be ~~a body~~ composed of five men, to be nominated by the President. The bill passed the Senate today <sup>and now goes to the House.</sup>

ELECTION

50  
The voters in Pennsylvania <sup>(will be)</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>will be</sup> voting <sup>tomorrow</sup> ~~today~~ balloting in the primaries for Governor and United States Senator. On the Democratic side this election is looked upon as a test of the strength of John L. Lewis and the Committee for Industrial Organization. For, one of the candidates for governor is Thomas Kennedy, Secretary and Treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, <sup>John</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Lewis's own union, <sup>Kennedy is</sup> ~~and~~ described as one of the brain trust of the C.I.O. Furthermore, Pennsylvania is looked upon as the Keystone State not only of the whole country but of <sup>the</sup> ~~Mr. Lewis's professional and political~~ <sup>Lewis C.I.O.</sup> influence.

The whole campaign, on the Democratic side, has been a <sup>nightmare</sup> ~~unusual~~. Not for a long time has the state of William Penn seen such a savage, virulent war of words. To climax this, there came an unusual announcement, the open intervention of the National Chairman of the Party, <sup>Gen. Jim</sup> ~~James A.~~ Farley. ~~As anybody~~ ~~knows,~~ this warfare among Pennsylvania Democrats has been a headache to the Democratic high command. Everybody had been wondering whether <sup>Jim</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Farley, <sup>and</sup> ~~which means of course~~ the President, ~~himself,~~ would take sides in this fight between the partisans of Senator

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Guffey, the Democratic boss, and Governor Earle, who wants to be Senator. Though <sup>Jim</sup>~~Mr.~~ Farley did intervene today, he did so on both sides. He announced that his choices would be Thomas Kennedy, the C.I.O. man, for governor, and <sup>Geo.</sup>~~Mr.~~ Earle, now Governor, for senator. In other words, ~~he has~~ picked a man from both factions.

~~In so doing,~~ He said: "This would not be a complete victory for either faction. Yet I am convinced ~~that~~ it is the only solution."

*And Jim went on with canny caution:*  
~~And he added:~~ "Let me emphasize that this is not a precedent."

It's bad judgment for a national chairman to indicate his interest in a primary contest in any state other than his own. So <sup>the</sup> ~~in~~ future I intend to keep hands off of primaries in other states."

Naturally, <sup>the Democrats</sup> ~~this~~ fight aroused <sup>1</sup> Republican hopes of recapturing the Keystone State. There are two million, a hundred and forty thousand registered Republicans; only two million, sixteen thousand registered Democrats. ~~There's competition on the~~ ~~Republican side, but hardly a factional fight. The competition~~ ~~is between Judge Arthur James, who would like to be governor,~~ ~~and former Governor Pinchot, who would like a third term. The~~ ~~senatorial rivalry is between G. Mason <sup>Owlett</sup> ~~Almont~~ and the present~~ ~~Senator James J. Davis, popularly known as "Puddler Jim."~~

FIRE

2  
A worker on the Southern Railway was having his breakfast at a corner cafe in Atlanta this morning. He smelled smoke, walked into the street, and suddenly beheld that the Hotel Terminal, of which that cafe was a part, was in flames. Burning fiercely and not a fire engine in sight! The railroad man ran across the street to the fire alarm box. As he did so, he was almost knocked down by a falling body. A man <sup>had</sup> jumped from the fifth story of the hotel, his pajamas blazing. ~~He bounced like a rubber ball, said the observer, and landed clear across the street.~~

That was just one harrowing detail in <sup>one of the worst</sup> ~~the most shocking~~ of hotel fires <sup>that</sup> ~~that has happened for a long time.~~ The building, constructed of brick and frame, was completely gutted. ~~The flames had got a huge start on the fire department.~~ The walls remained standing but every floor collapsed one after the other. Horror followed horror as the list of known dead increased from eighteen to nineteen, to twenty-one, to twenty-four, to twenty-five. And that number represents only the counted <sup>fatalities.</sup> ~~bodies taken from the ruins.~~

The fire chief believes ~~several~~ others may be buried ~~among the~~ ~~in an old hotel~~ ~~embers in the basement.~~ Tragedy by fire.



LEVINE

*Series*  
~~There was~~ a strange sequel to the disappearance of twelve year old Peter Levine of New Rochelle. Fishing in the Rockaway River on Long Island, a fourteen year old boy found a bottle.

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In it was a note which read: "Help, held by bandits." And signed, "P. Levine."

This was taken to the authorities, who began searching the vicinity. They paid particular attention to a shack inhabited by a middle-aged rag picker. In the shack they found several pieces of boy's clothing; ~~They were~~ similar in color to the clothes that had been worn by young Peter Levine, when he disappeared. However, they were not the same size. The rag picker was taken in custody and questioned, ~~for three days.~~ ~~But tonight~~ He denied knowing anything about the kidnapping, anything about any boy whatsoever, and said he could neither read nor write. The authorities let him go today. But handwriting specialists are comparing the signature on that note with the caligraphy of young Peter.

Later today the police got some additional information. they learned that the rag picker formerly lived in Yonkers, not far from the Levine home in New Rochelle. So they arrested him again.

## ROBBERY

4  
And here comes a tale that should have had its origin in Colorado, Nevada, ~~or~~ Oklahoma or the Dakotas. It has all the flavor of Deadwood Dick. However, it comes from East Palestine, Ohio.

The law ~~had~~ received a tip that a mob of crooks would try a hold-up at the hall of the Eagles' Lodge. So a force of sheriff's deputies, police and state patrolmen lay in wait for them. Four hours they waited, at the end of which five men broke through the door. A sergeant of state troopers and the custodian of the building had been left in plain sight as a decoy. The bandits forced them to lie on the floor. Then the officers who were hidden in the lodge room opened fire. Three of the crooks fell, riddled with bullets, two of them dead.

More trouble in Palestine - this time Palestine, Ohio.

## MEXICO RIOTS

Students in Mexico take their education seriously.

There was a pitched battle today in Mexico City between police and who call themselves the "Socialist Youth Movement." undergraduates of the University of Mexico. For many weeks, a large body of the undergrads has been in a quarrel with the dean. They don't like the dēcanal policies. In fact, the entire student body of the University has been split into two factions. Today, the rebellious party organized, swooped <sup>down</sup> on the buildings housing the preparatory ~~school~~ and law school<sup>s</sup>. They were armed with pistols, bricks and sticks. The faculty tried to oust the rebels, with arguments. But that attempt didn't get to first base, so at noon they called upon the police. The cops arrived, commanded by no less a magnifico than General Montez himself, Chief of Police of Mexico City. The gendarmes, armed with rifles, formed cordons around the besieged buildings. But it wasn't until two students were wounded, one of them quite seriously, that the undergraduates surrendered and evacuated the building.

In the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi, the news is -- All Quiet. And that seems to be news, considering the insistent rumors that the Governor-General Cedillo is about to start a revolt. He is at odds with President Cardenas, who wants to oust him. But Cedillo is in a strong position in his own state. There are reports that Cardenas would welcome a Cedillo revolt, which would take the attention of the nation off troubles that have followed the oil seizures, and would moreover settle the Cedillo question once and for all.

CHINA

We learn tonight that those Japanese claims of victory are true enough (The Chinese have abandoned their so-called "Hindenburg Line" in Central China. The City of Suchow is surrounded and liable to fall at any minute.)

But there's consolation for people who sympathize with the Chinese. Neutral military experts declare that the victory is a shallow one. The Japanese failed in one important object, the capture and annihilation of four hundred thousand Chinese troops. The troops merely withdrew further west, <sup>intact;</sup> ~~the armies of General Li~~ ~~are intact~~ and the Japanese invaders will be subject to endless and exhausting guerilla attacks; ~~And their latest victory is like the one they won in the Province of Shansi. There, although~~ <sup>holding</sup> ~~they hold~~ the principal cities; the country in between the cities is still unsubdued, and ~~Japanese control is far from effective.~~

RUSSIA

Diplomatic courtesy between Russia and Japan these days has rather a sour tone to it. On May Day, the Soviet Vice-Commissar of Defense made a speech at Vladivostok, in which he said:

"Japanese imperialists like bloodthirsty mad dogs, invade China."

This aroused a protest from the Japanese ambassador to Moscow.

The protest was answered today by the Moscow Foreign Office.

7  
The Vice-Commissar of Foreign Affairs said: "We cannot entertain such protests from the imperial government of Japan until the Imperial <sup>g</sup> government of Japan changes its own propaganda against the Soviet government." And he backed this up by quoting from pamphlets issued by the Japanese War Ministry, pamphlets in which ~~Japanese~~ General Saito Araki calls for war against Soviet Russia. ~~The Soviet Foreign Office also pointed to a campaign against Russia carried on in the ~~JAPANESE EXTERMINATED PRESS~~ controlled Japanese press.~~

LONDON

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain is having none too easy going. A story in Viscount Rhondda's weekly, TIME AND TIDE, ascribes this to Chamberlain's gout. It seems the Prime Minister has been exceedingly irritable with the commons. His predecessor, Lord Baldwin, was also a sick man; had arthritis, and gout traditionally is the greatest inducement to bad temper.

There are several ominous questions on the calendar regarding the state of John Bull's air forces and the superiority of Hitler's air power. So Chamberlain, from his sick room where he is nursing his gout, announced a general reshuffling of cabinet jobs. Sir Kingsley Wood, who has been Minister of Health, now becomes Air Minister, replacing the noble Lord Viscount Swinton. This was done because it was considered more proper that the Air Minister, who has large sums of money to spend, shall give an answer for himself in the Commons which a member of the House of Lords can't do.

## STABBING

From London comes a tale of a fight on the high seas,  
~~a story such as might have been told by Joseph Conrad or might~~  
~~have been one of the early plays of our own Eugene O'Neill.~~

An American ship steamed up the Thames today after a voyage from  
Baltimore. She was minus five members of her crew, and this is  
how it happened:-

*At sea —*

*8 1/2*  
~~There was~~ a fight between one of the deck hands and the  
second cook, presumably the deck-hand made invidious remarks  
about the cook's proficiency in making slum-gullion. Angry repartee  
*(naughty nautical words.)*  
was followed by ~~the short and ugly word~~. Then a knife flashed and  
the cook lay dying on the deck. The man with the knife jumped  
overboard. This was in the dead of night. Hastily <sup>*second*</sup> the mate on  
*— to the rescue.*  
watch jumped over the rail, Out went the cry, "Man overboard!"  
A shout from the bridge came: "Lower Starboard lifeboat."

*9*  
A heavy sea was running in the English Channel. In their  
haste, the men lowered their boat at the wrong <sup>*moment,*</sup> ~~time~~. She landed in  
*of the sea.*  
a trough, Whereupon the three men who were taking their places at  
the oars were swept away. The <sup>*First Mate*</sup> ~~mate on watch~~ lowered another boat.  
*But all had vanished into the gloom*  
~~in search of them. But in that howling dark it was impossible to~~  
*find them: of the storm. & now Hugh —*

*9 1/4*