

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1938.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Not for months has Washington seen such a spectacle as afforded today by the Senate, ~~of the United States~~. Not only the galleries but the floor was jammed like a Broadway hit with standing room only. The galleries were filled with women, diplomats, celebrities from all over the land. Representatives came over from the House and stood at the rear of the floor watching that fight, the closest there has been since the New Deal came to power. (It was a skimpy, slender majority, forty-nine to forty-two, that won the day for President Roosevelt. And what an important day! For that Reorganization Bill was ~~the~~ closest to his heart, second only to the Supreme Court reform, which he lost so spectacularly last year.) If this vote too had gone against him, it would have been a bitter blow to the <sup>New Deal.</sup> ~~entire Roosevelt~~ regime.

Only an occasional smile, an occasional piece of irony, enlivened the proceedings. The Senators were in earnest, in deadly

earnest. ~~Even a note of passion crept frequently into their~~  
~~trembling voices.~~ It was noted that Senator Barkley, floor leader  
of the majority, looked old and worn, aged several years since he

took over that difficult job from the late Joe Robinson. ~~Incidentally,~~

*And the shade*  
~~the ghost~~ of Joe Robinson was brought twice into the debate. Senator  
~~Jimmy~~ Byrnes, ~~who had~~ *in* charge of steering the bill, said: "You will be  
untrue to the memory of our beloved colleague, Joe Robinson, if you  
don't vote for this." And Senator Barkley ~~said~~ *added:* "A vote against  
this measure will be a betrayal of Senator Robinson who originally  
was Chairman of the Committee that handled it."

~~The line-up of Democratic senators that joined the~~  
~~Republicans in opposition is worth noting.~~ The leader of the  
opposition was *Democratic* Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, hitherto one of the  
stalwarts of the Roosevelt partisans. ~~it was astonishing to behold~~  
on his side that ardent New Dealer, Bob Wagner of New York. ~~It was~~  
~~notable that~~ New York's Senator Copeland, elected as a Democrat,  
sat throughout the proceedings next to Senator McNarry, the Republican  
~~ix~~ floor leader.

As a matter of fact, the passing of that bill was not

merely a surprise but a sensation. (All the preliminary grapevine ~~docs~~ indicated that it would lose by ~~perhaps~~ a bare one or two votes. Such was the line-up on Saturday. <sup>But-it won -</sup> ~~It won, as we have seen,~~ by a margin of seven. In other words, ~~some~~ five senators, <sup>switched</sup> ~~switched~~ over the weekend.)

In the Senate corridors, and in the press gallery, everybody was asking, why? Why ~~did~~ they switch? The rumor, and this is only a rumor, is that the administration leaders simply bludgeoned ~~all~~ the wavering ones. <sup>They say</sup> ~~over to their side,~~ the suave and irrisistible Jim Farley himself made personal calls upon senators, ~~they say, those~~ in the doubtful column. <sup>do</sup> ~~And of course~~ one-third of the senators come up for election next November. <sup>!</sup> ~~And of course~~ votes depend considerably on patronage. <sup>also</sup> ~~And of course~~ the holding or withholding of W.P.A. jobs has become a political weapon of ~~most~~ persuasive impact.

However it happened, the <sup>New Deal</sup> ~~President's~~ party won, the conservatives who ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ saw in his reorganization a menace to the Constitution, were defeated. <sup>R</sup> At the same time, the fight is not completely over. The Senate passed a bill different



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from the one put through the House. So this bill now has to be reconsidered in its entirety by the Representatives. The question lies now:- "Can the opposition to the reorganization muster enough strength in the lower chamber of Congress ~~to~~ *to block the reorganization,*



## SUPREME COURT

This was another field day for the New Deal in the Supreme Court. The Justices handed down a decision that is the most important of the year so far. It upholds the New Deal act of Congress governing utilities holding companies. <sup>Justices</sup> They decided specifically in favor of the clauses compelling holding companies to register and <sup>in favor of the power of</sup> imposing penalties. It was a six-to-one vote, with Justice McReynolds uttering the only dissenting voice. The opinion was read by the Chief Justice himself. The case was brought by the Electric Bond and Share Company. The Company had asked the court to decide whether the Act as a whole was constitutional. This the court declined to do, passing on merely certain clauses of the Act.

~~All along the line the Supreme Court was favoring the New Deal. For instance, it upheld the Norris-LaGuardia Act, which prohibits the use of federal injunctions in labor quarrels. It also upheld the authority of the National Labor Relations Board.~~

EVICTIION

There's a curious situation in Reading, Pennsylvania, today. The old City Hall is no longer functioning as a seat of government. It is turned into a playground for children and a home for needy families. It all started when a man with ten children, evicted for not paying his rent, moved them into the City Hall. And he announced: "We're here to stay until the Relief Board finds me a home. I'm tired of being evicted," he said. "I'm not going through that again." Then he added: "The Relief Board has got to find me a home with rent paid one year in advance." <sup>Whereupon</sup> Twelve cots were set up in the office of the director of the Public Assistance Board.

The answer of the Relif Board was to give all the clerks and workers a holiday. The director sent them home and said the relief offices in Berks County, Pennsylvania, would remain closed until the invaders left. To which the father of those ten children said: "We're here to stay." While the arguments were going on, the children were playing up and down the corridor of that City Hall. Another family is expected to move in soon. A long table has been set up outside the director's office. There the family eat and play <sup>see nuchle</sup> ~~pinocle~~ pinocle.

So one consequence of this bit of direct action is that no relief work <sup>is being</sup> ~~has been~~ done at all in <sup>Berks County, Pa.</sup> ~~that county~~.

Colonel Edward House, the King-Maker from Texas is dead.

The advisor of Wilson -- man behind the scenes in the World War -- his last writing was on the subject:- "How to Keep out of War:"

"We cannot keep out of war by folding our hands and doing nothing or by drawing in our horns wherever they clash with some alien interest. Nor can we assure peace by congressional resolution!"

So he wrote for the issue of Liberty just out.

His political testament is against isolation. And he was against isolation in Nineteen Seventeen.



SPAIN

The armies of the Spanish Government ~~continue to fight though almost every day brings news of a new Rebel victory.~~ General Franco's <sup>Spaniards and</sup> Italians tonight are only eighty-four miles from Barcelona. There is a rumor that the great medieval City of Lerida <sup>S</sup> had fallen into Italian hands. However, this isn't confirmed. ~~The fighting of the last few days has been almost the most sanguinary since that frightful conflict began. The town of Barbastro has been captured.~~ The main body of the armies of ~~Franklin~~ Franco and Mussolini are well <sup>Thinka</sup> over the Cinca River, which is the natural boundary of Catalonia.

The defenders in their retreat ~~had~~ dynamited all bridges for ~~xxx~~ fifty miles. But that did ~~not~~ stop the ~~bloodthirsty~~ Rebels. They waded through the river, ~~their~~ rifles over their heads, ~~with~~ the icy water ~~reaching almost~~ <sup>up</sup> to their chins.

The offices of the American Embassy, <sup>and</sup> ~~as well as Uncle Sam's~~ consulate, are ~~going~~ to be moved from Barcelona; ~~That's a pretty clear~~ <sup>An</sup> indication that the capture of the Catalonia capital is expected any day. ~~When the Embassy moves, American citizens will be warned that they remain in Spain at their own risk. The newspaper men are going to remain no matter what happens.~~

MUSSOLINI

There is something a bit puzzling in tonight's news from Rome. ~~An extraordinary anxiety~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~is evident in the~~ official circles, ~~of Italy.~~ For about the sixth time in as many days the Fascist regime warns France not to interfere in Spain. The report is that Mussolini himself is gravely concerned. ~~It seems to consist~~ ~~the possibility of~~ French interference not at all improbable! This of course comes at a time when there is not <sup>denial that</sup> ~~a shred of pretense that about~~ Mussolini himself <sup>is</sup> ~~is not~~ interfering in Spain.

It <sup>is</sup> reported in Rome tonight that <sup>Italy</sup> ~~Mussolini~~ is taking active precautions, ready to move ~~at an instance~~ ~~notice~~ upon any suspicious action by the French Government. All this is particularly significant today <sup>for the</sup> ~~the~~ Italians were celebrating the Fifteenth Anniversary of the reorganization of the <sup>in</sup> air force. General Valle, <sup>air</sup> commander ~~of the air force~~ said to Mussolini: "The air force impatiently awaits the supreme test" <sup>—echoing Goering.</sup> In other words an open war against ~~the~~ a first class power would be welcome to Mussolini's air fighters.



VIENNA

In Austria ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Nazis seem to be making a clean-up of almost everybody ~~who has any~~ <sup>of</sup> distinction. ~~The latest~~ <sup>Now</sup> ~~scientist~~ they've arrested ~~is~~ a professor who won the Nobel prize, and one of the foremost physiologists ~~in~~ <sup>of</sup> the world. Another, ~~man they took into what they call protective custody~~ <sup>is</sup> a professor of criminal psychology. ~~In addition to this~~ the Nazi hatchet men are reorganizing the faculty of the University of Vienna, once the pride and glory of Southeastern Europe. They dismissed another Nobel prize-winner, ~~also a~~ professor of political economy, who used to be Minister of Welfare.

In Berlin ~~Fuehrer~~ Hitler made a speech to eighteen thousand worshippers, ~~most of it was~~ devoted to denouncing ~~Chancellor~~ Schussnigg; the man he defeated. The Fuehrer ~~told~~ <sup>said</sup> the faithful that he had given Schussnigg the greatest opportunity of his life, ~~but Schussnigg~~ <sup>which the Austrian Chancellor</sup> did not accept it. And then he said: "Schussnigg attempted an impertinent, ~~and~~ miserable fraud." <sup>Hitler</sup> ~~He~~ worked himself up until he described ~~Schussnigg's~~ Schussnigg's actions as treason. His speech was punctuated by shouts from the crowd, shouts of "Hang Schussnigg!" <sup>Heil Hitler! Hang Schussnigg!</sup>

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PRAGUE

The government of Czechoslovakia is getting fed up with Nazi propaganda. That much can be judged from an announcement by Prime Minister Hodza. "It is true," he said, "that the German minorities are to be given new freedom. But that doesn't mean freedom to agitate against the state. Propaganda against the government must cease. At the same time," he said, "we are sure that the German government has no intention of interfering with the internal affairs of Czechoslovakia." And he added the reassuring words that his country is stronger than ever and that there is no international danger on the horizon.

*Optimism in Prague.*

HUNGARY

Wonders will never cease. Another European country ~~wants~~ to pay its debts to Uncle Sam. ~~It's~~ Hungary. The money the Hungarian Government has been owing us is not a war debt. As President Roosevelt pointed out to Congress today, it was actually a relief loan contracted in May after the War was over. What Hungary really borrowed was not money but food. The original sum amounted to only one million, six hundred thousand dollars, but by Nineteen Twenty-Four the interest had made the debt swell to nearly two millions. The Hungarian Government now wants to make a compromise which President Roosevelt says Congress should consider seriously.

MEXICO

There were dramatic sequels to the Mexican business today. <sup>oil confiscation</sup>  
This morning's announcement by the <sup>U.S.</sup> Treasury <sup>- buying no more Mexican</sup> broke the price of <sup>silver</sup>  
silver in London. Thereupon the Treasury issued another statement, <sup>declaring</sup>  
~~This brought the news~~ that the price of foreign silver in New York  
was cut from forty-five to forty-four cents an ounce; ~~that was~~ the  
first change of quotations in two years.

Another event today was the visit of six big oil men  
to the State Department. There they had a long conference with  
Secretary Hull. But they wouldn't say what they had been talking  
about.

In Mexico, one of the oil companies, a subsidiary of  
Royal Dutch Shell, asked for an injunction against the government,  
~~they~~ petitioned the court to prohibit the Mexican treasury from  
attaching the Company's funds. The Mexican government <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ proposing  
to seize five million Pesos for back taxes. <sup>one seizure</sup>  
<sup>after another.</sup>



EXPLORER

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The Russian scientists who spent ten months on an Arctic ice floe are receiving their reward. The leader of the expedition, ~~was~~ named first assistant to the Administrator of the Northern Sea Route. That's one of the big jobs in Soviet land. The Administrator <sup>himself</sup> is none other than <sup>the giant, bearded</sup> Professor Otto Schmidt, the most celebrated Arctic explorer in Russia. The other members of that <sup>ice cruise</sup> ~~Arctic expedition~~ were also rewarded, ~~Each of them got~~ <sup>given</sup> thirty thousand Roubles in cash and ~~was~~ decorated with the Order of Lenin.

AIR CRASH

From far off Japan comes a tale ~~of not only great~~ courage  
~~but~~ <sup>and</sup> infinite pathos. It's an aftermath of the wreck of an army  
airplane in which seven of the Mikado's officers were killed.  
The crash happened last week. The remains of the plane weren't  
found until today. And that brought to light that one officer, a  
major, had lived in the cockpit of that plane, ~~though smashed to~~ <sup>mortally injured,</sup>  
~~pieces,~~ <sup>lived</sup> for five days. He had passed the time writing, making  
observations on air currents in the mountains, where the plane had  
crashed. After using up all the paper he could lay his hands on,  
he scribbled further notes on the surface of the plane. He hoped the  
information he was handing down would enable other flyers to avoid  
similar accidents in those mountains.)

He also wrote his last will and testament and a letter to  
his wife and children. ~~Three of these officers were killed outright,~~  
~~two died plugging through snowdrifts trying to get help.~~ The last  
words of that <sup>2</sup> gallant major were: "I am sorry to die here. I should  
have died in China." And he continued: "I wish everybody happiness  
<sup>adding: -</sup> in another world." <sup>1</sup> "May you fly better in this world. Banzai, His  
Imperial Majesty!" <sup>1</sup> So he wrote.

~~In the note~~ <sup>And</sup> to his children; ~~he said:~~ "Your father died  
for his country. He watches from above. <sup>You</sup> ~~And in conclusion:~~ "You  
must be strong and obey your mother."



Mt. Mansfield

Friday evening, in signing off, I mentioned that I was catching a train for Vermont, in search of snow. In my mail today are a number of letters saying: Don't you realize summer is nearly here? Whoever heard of skiing in March and April? All of them implied that surely I was kidding. Well, I found the snow, found it four feet deep on Mount Mansfield, and on Saturday it started snowing, and during the night another sixteen inches fell.

Skiers had gathered on Mount Mansfield from far and wide to take part in an annual downhill race, on a spectacular trail called the Nose Dive.

This isn't the time to put your skis away. As all true fans of this sport know, the Spring snow is the best of all.

There'll be plenty of snow up that way for another month or so.

*Xes Spring Ski -*  
Just a word of warning: Don't ski alone on mountain

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trails. Yesterday afternoon, just as we were about to start back for New York, we heard a cry for help, from far up the mountain.

Several of the fastest skiers hurriedly put on their sealskins and started climbing at top speed. Roland Palmedo, one of the veterans of skiing in this country, and Jacques Charmoz, Chief Instructor to the Chilean army, to the rescue!

Far up the mountain they found a wellknown New York lawyer and Socialite, Livingston Longfellow, himself an excellent skier, lying in the deep snow, with a broken leg. \_\_\_\_\_  
a famous Swiss skier, dashed off to the Nose Dive trail, where the Government has a small coffin-shaped structure containing a toboggan for just such emergencies. The boys made a splint out of two ski poles, and got Livingston Longfellow off the mountain shortly after nightfall. Longfellow had made the mistake of coming down, all alone, after the races. Fortunately there was one skier left on the mountain, who happened to find him, and whose calls brought a rescue party. Longfellow, good skier though he is, had apparently come abruptly upon an ~~brook~~ open brook, just the sort of thing you find at this season. So, don't miss the Spring skiing. But don't do it alone!

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## RIOT

There was an amusing scene along one of the most famous of waterfronts, the Embarcadaro of San Francisco. <sup>The rumpus</sup> ~~It~~ recalled the old days of the Forty-Niners, when gold coins were less precious than eggs. ~~Or it might bring to mind a prank out of the "Arabian Nights."~~

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There was the usual crowd of longshoremen, warehouse men and sea-faring men along the Embarcadaro. Suddenly, from nowhere, a stranger dressed in rough clothes appeared and became conspicuous. Digging into his pockets he brought his hands out filled with twenty dollar gold pieces. These he threwspank into the mob.

You can imagine what followed. Fists and legs flew like trip-hammers. The pavement was littered with fragments of torn clothing. A few of the strongest emerged from the scrap with black eyes, bleeding noses, clutching in their hands the gold pieces they had fought for.

When it was all over, people looked around for the stranger who had started the trouble. Like the man who met Lewis Carroll's Boojum, "He had softly and silently vanished away and never was heard of again."

When the news became known, it aroused the curiosity of



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Uncle Sam's men. The agents of Mr. Whiskers, as Uncle is sometimes called, would like to know the identity of the fellow who dared to own fistfuls of twenty dollar gold pieces which has been against the law for some five years.

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And no so — long — but  
no, Hugh James has something  
important.