

L. G. - Sumner. Tues., April 30, 1935.

Sumner
WOC

HOUSE MILITARY COMMITTEE

I ^{imagine} ~~think~~ the feeling of the country at large will be

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one of considerable astonishment, when it contemplates the President's sharp message to the House Military Committee. Most of us will be inclined to marvel, when we hear the chief executive declared: that, the United States does not contemplate ever making any move against the British or French islands in American waters or against Canada. Not that we should disagree with Mr. Roosevelt in this, ~~But, that~~ we are astonished that it should have to be said. We are accustomed to take our own peaceful intentions for granted, and we've been reared to the hundred year old doctrine of an undefended Canadian frontier.

So what's all this about a military air base for defense in the region of the Great Lakes? ^{what's} And [^] this notion that in time of an emergency we might have to seize such British and French islands as Newfoundland, St. Pierre, Miquelon, Bermuda and ~~islands in the~~ isles in the West Indies? Those are the suppositions that the President rejected so vigorously today, saying that they represented neither the policies of the nation nor that of the Commander-in-Chief. "This government", he stated

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in downright phrases, "does not in any of its plans or policies envisage a ~~policy~~ change in the friendly ~~relationship~~ relationship between the United States and any foreign countries." The President's message is a thing without precedent. Never before has ^{the head of} ~~it entered~~ the American Government ~~to~~ issue ^d a public ~~statement~~ ^{denial} disclaiming statements made by high officers of the army.

It all develops out of testimony before the House Military Committee. The Committee was considering the Wilcox Air Base Bill, which proposes to create a series of strategically placed military air ^{fortresses.} ~~bases~~. In supporting the bill, General Charles E. Kilbourne, former Assistant Chief of Staff, testified. He told the Committee how it had been suggested that one air base should be built for defense along the Canadian border, the Great Lakes region. The General added that this could not be done openly, because of the tradition that we don't need any defense along the Canadian border. So it was proposed to establish a camouflage base, which would seem to be merely a big, ambitious field for commercial use, but which would really be adapted for military purposes. ~~a camouflage base~~

The part about seizing islands was contributed by General F. M. Andrews, head of the new general headquarters Air Force.

General Andrews pointed out certain strategic aspects that confronted the United States in case of a war. Even with Canada neutral, he told the Committee, there would be plenty of possible enemy bases for an attack against us. And he outlined a whole series of islands possessed by England and France, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the coast of South America. Then followed the statement that in case of some great crisis, we might have to seize ~~those~~ *islands*.

All this stirred up quite a fuss, with the government of Canada asking Washington for copies of all the published testimony. Canada, however, is inclined to smile at the whole affair. ~~The President did not smile though. He came back with that public disavowal.~~

Now let's consider the point of view of the generals in the matter. Of course, it is a familiar angle that high military officials are overly inclined to think about war and talk about war, thereby stirring up strife and dissention. But then again, it is their business to make plans for possible war. Naturally, they have to think of what would have to be done, in case -- . And that phrase, "in case", covers a lot of ground. With a little

imagination, a systematic working out of all the possibilities can produce some astonishing notions. The testimony of the generals was given in a secret hearing, not supposed to be made public. They say the hubbub is all because of a printer's error. In publishing testimony, the secret parts of it are supposed to be left out. But this time there was a mix-up in a printing office and those ~~rather~~ dynamite bits of secret testimony were set into type, run through the press, and published to the world!

The President in his disavowal adds that if testimony like that is to be made public he'll have to censor everything. Army officers ~~say~~ testify before committees.

RELIEF

The relief battle, already on in Louisiana, Georgia and Ohio, now extends to Illinois. We heard about the probabilities of this

a week or two ago. And today we find the Governor of Illinois

— and, the President gives a reply.
appealing directly to the President, Governor Horner asked the

White House to say something to Harry Hopkins, the Relief Administrator, and make him fork over the Fourteen million dollars.

That's the amount of the relief money allocated to Illinois. But

Harry Hopkins has been holding it up. He says he won't turn the

cash over until the Illinois Legislature appropriates its own

relief money, the same amount, Four ^{teen} million -- matching the federal

donation dollar for dollar.

So now the Governor has gone over the Relief Administrator's head and appealed directly to headquarters, the President. That sort of thing, of course, has happened in other cases, and every time

Mr. Roosevelt has upheld the stand of his Relief Administrator.

And that's what he did again today. He upheld
~~This time the question is all the more critical, because if the~~

Harry Hopkins,
~~snarl isn't untangled, unemployment relief in Illinois will cease~~

~~altogether.~~

Meanwhile, a prominent voice is raised in the contention

that all that relief cash is one big instrument of politics.

It's a Roosevelt voice, ^{but it's} ~~that said it~~ -- Colonel, ~~Roosevelt~~ one
of the field marshals of the Republicans. ^{Col. Ted} ~~he~~ makes the outright

charge that the whole Work Relief Program represents a gigantic
expenditure designed to buy the next election.

ADD RELIEF

Another shot at the New Deal policy comes as per schedule -- from the United States Chamber of Commerce; the chamber asking the President to call a halt on reform legislation. It sums its contention in one phrase, that the New Deal is trying to do too much in a short time. And the Chamber of Commerce makes an emphatic declaration against increased taxation.

TRADE

June twenty-fourth will be an important day in Washington. It will have interesting bearings on the plan we've long heard about -- reciprocal trade agreements with various countries, to build up our foreign trade. That was one of the first ideas proposed when the Roosevelt Administration took power. Various schemes of trade agreements have been in the wind ever since. Now something large and definite seems to be in prospect, with a gathering of American business men called to meet in Washington on June 24th. They are representatives of trade and industry who will be likely to have a close interest in a commercial agreement with France. They will be asked to guide the federal government in negotiating terms of a reciprocal trade agreement with Paris.

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This comes with the announcement by Secretary of State Hull that our government is about to fix things up with France, so that a stream of commerce will be started back and forth across the Atlantic - we to take a certain proportion of French goods and France to take a certain proportion of ours.

Washington's intention to do business follows a definite

promise from Paris that American trade will be granted equal privileges with the trade of other nations. Experts believe a trade agreement will mean a hundred and fifteen million dollar increase in exports to France.

And it all has a War Debt angle. Although France makes no move to pay her debt, we are not letting that stand in the way of business. It is a formal indication that the War Debt is being considered as a separate thing, something apart from affairs of international trade.

KIDNAPPING

Word was given out in Washington today that the sensational Arizona kidnapping of nearly a year ago, has been solved. News like that emanates from only one place -- from the Investigation ^{Bureau} ~~Department~~ of the Department of Justice, where J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the government men, announces that the kidnapping of little June Robles now comes under the heading of cases that have been cleared up. This coincides with the beginning of court proceedings in Tucson, where ^a ~~the~~ middle-aged former nightclub operator has been put on trial. He is charged with being a principal in that dramatic affair last summer, in which a six-year old child was kept in ^a ~~a~~ pit ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ the desert for nineteen days before she was recovered.

^{Chief} ~~J. Edgar~~ Hoover explains that the case against the man is based on handwriting; the script in the kidnapping notes was pronounced by Department experts to be the same as the handwriting of the man on trial.

HIDEOUT

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Complicated networks of crime are being unraveled in Rhode Island. Police authorities in the smallest of states ~~are~~ announced today that they had a confession from one of the members of what is called the "Rhode Island ^{Crime} Syndicate." His confession, they say, gives the tip-off to the solution of several of those big robberies that from time to time have startled the eastern states. One of these ~~is the~~ ^{that} Fall River mail truck robbery, which has been in the foreground of the crime syndicate investigation from the start. Another, ~~is said to be~~ that champion big time exploit of banditry last summer when robbers held up an armored car in Brooklyn and got away in motor boats with nearly half a million dollars.

Along with the question ^{ing} of prisoners, a kind of verbal ~~diggi~~ digging -- there's plenty of digging with picks and shovels. Squads of relief workers, directed by the police, are continuing the ⁱⁿ investigation of ~~that~~ mystery mansion, the old Wendelschafer home. ~~There the flare of criminal mystery grows stronger all the~~ ~~time~~ The stately old mansion was once the home of Colonel Wendelschafer, who made musical history years ago as the chief

opera impresario in Rhode Island. After his death, the property was rented to a series of persons ~~and~~ of one sort or another.

It got into the hands of crooks, who turned it into a fortress of crime. An arsenal of gangster weapons has been ~~found~~^{uncovered}, and it is believed that bodies of missing racketeers will be found buried in the massive cement of the cellars.

So they are digging with picks and digging with questions - twenty-three persons under arrest, and one is said to have made a full confession.

DIONNE

I suppose we'll have to score a hit for Mrs. Dionne. She's complaining that her famous five babies are not hers now, but are wards of the Canadian government. She says it just breaks her heart to go to the quintuplet hospital and see her simultaneously born five gals being taken care of by somebody else. She'd like to take her quints home to get acquainted with their five brothers and sisters.

The plump and comely matron is twenty-six, and has had ten children already. So naturally somebody asked her whether she intended to have any more.

Her sparkling black eyes flashed. "Not for the government", she said.

BIRTHDAYS

Two birthdays are being celebrated today, birthdays that make an odd combination. William Randolph Hearst, America's ^{emperor} ~~biggest~~ newspaper publisher^s, is seventy-two. The Emperor of Japan is thirty-four. Recalling the frequently anti-Japanese attitude of the Hearst papers, you can't help feeling a sense of oddity when thinking of the simultaneous celebrations at the palatial San Simeon ranch in California, and at the ^{almost equally} imperial palace in Tokyo. ^P The birthday at San Simeon was quiet and unostentatious today at William Randolph Heart's princely domain of two hundred and forty thousand acres. Life is commonly conducted ^{there} with almost ritual ceremony. The San Simeon palace would open the eyes of many a king. The vast dining room seats a hundred and fifty persons. And according to the common ~~ritual~~ ^{ritual} dinner, the guests are first seated and then the famous publisher enters through a panel. When the meal is over, he leaves first. The guests follow.

I said that the Emperor Hirohito is thirty-four years old. That is correct according to our way of reckoning. He was born in Nineteen one. But the Japanese are celebrating his thirty-fifth birthday, because in the oriental fashion they consider a child one year old at birth. Today's birthday party in Tokyo was a

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bizarre combination of ancient religious ritual and modern military pageantry. Shinto priests performed weird ceremonies a thousand years old in the sanctuaries of the palace, while on the parade ground the earth shook with the tramp and rumble of divisions of infantry, batteries of mechanized artillery and squadrons of tanks.

TOMBSTONE

Here's a sad story from the Philippine Islands. Maximo Labrada lost his wife, and was so broken up by sorrow that his father-in-law said: "Let me take care of everything, arrange the funeral, and provide the monument." The bereaved husband agreed between sobs, and ^{the} wife's father went ahead.

The funeral was held and in due time the monument was put in place. When the grief-stricken Maximo saw it, he immediately rushed to a lawyer. His lawsuit against the father-in-law is now in the Manila Courts - because the inscription on the tombstone reads: "Here lies Senora Labrada. She died of maltreatment by her husband." And that's a sad ending of a story that was ~~sad~~ sad to begin with.

CASEY

A fiftieth baseball anniversary was celebrated today. It was just fifty years ago that Casey -- he struck out. A real event, not a mere legend. The hero of "Casey at the Bat" is a living person; gray-haired, seventy-one year old, Daniel M. Casey of Washington, D. C.

Yet Dan Casey complains bitterly about the immortal poem. He doesn't deny that he struck out. He did. It was in a game half a century ago between New York and Philadelphia. Casey came to bat and hit the breeze with a mighty abandon. What he objects to is the idea projected by the poem in that ringing stanza:-

"But Flynn let drive a single, to the wonderment of all,
And Blake, the much despised, tore the cover off the ball,
Then from five thousand throats and more there' rose a lusty
yell,
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the plate."

From that is to be inferred that Casey was a mighty hitter. "That's all wrong," wails Dan. "I was a pitcher." He admits he was a mighty pitcher. He began by tossing 'em up for the old Washington team, on which the patriarchal Connie Mack was then making his debut as a catcher. Casey later went to Philadelphia, where he achieved greater heights with his curve

and his fast ball. But at bat he was always a weak sister. So when he came to the plate in the pinch during that immortal game he wasn't expected to do anything much. The fans yelled merely with derision.

Ernest Thayer who wrote the poem was there and ~~he~~ intended to write mere ironic mockery when he described Casey as a mighty batsman. But people took it seriously. It was meant to be comedy but they took it for tragedy. So Dan Casey the mighty pitcher, who was never expected to hit is recorded in history as the mighty hitter who struck out. -- You remember that last stanza of unmitigated tragedy?

"Oh somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,
The band is playing somewhere and somewhere hearts are light.
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout.
But there is no joy in Mudville, mighty Casey has struck out!"

And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.