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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

The Special Session ended late this afternoon, at 5:13 to be precise -- an extraordinary session of Congress which the President called to put through emergency legislation. It wrangled for five weeks and put through next to nothing. Today, before the adjournment the Senate passed the Administration Housing Bill, which is designed to attract billions of dollars for home building. But even that measure will have to be worked over in Committee, before it's finally enacted.

The Number One bill/for which the Special Session was called was likewise the principal thing with which it got nowhere -- the ~~farm~~ Bill. The Session ends with the program of agricultural aid all snarled up in arguments -- a thorny problem for the regular session of Congress which convenes on the first of the year. The Wage and Hour Bill, another important Administration measure was another foremost task not accomplished. It went sunk in a tempest

of debate.

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Put don't think the Special Session of Congress did not pass at least one bill, completely and entirely. The lawmakers triumphantly put through -- a mileage bill. This is for 225 thousand dollars ^{for} ~~of~~ legislative carfare, to pay the traveling expenses of the lawmakers on their way back home. So the Special Session was not a total failure -- not by a mileage.

ROOSEVELT

Two familiar names ^{are bracketed} ~~loomed brightly~~ in the news tonight - Roosevelt and Landon. It sounds like a hundred per cent American story - but, it's quite Asiatic. The State Department made public today a telegram that the candidate of a year ago has just sent to his successful rival. Governor Landon reminds the President how when they met at the Gridiron Club dinner in Washington a year ago, he said - that politics must ^{cease} at the water's edge. "Water's edge" meaning - "foreign crisis." "I pledged ~~my~~ you cooperation and support in the difficult foreign situations confronting your administration," Alf Landon recalls in his wire. "I want to renew my pledge," he goes ~~on~~ ^{as he} ~~on, and~~ takes a fling at members of Congress who play politics with government foreign relations. He refers specifically to the bill that would forbid Congress to declare war without a referendum of the people. ^{Landon is against the referendum idea and} ~~Landon~~ congratulates Roosevelt for the way he said "No" to ~~that~~ ^{the referendum bill.}

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As its last candidate for the presidency, Alf Landon ranks as titular leader of the Republican Party. And so he speaks for the G.O.P., in pledging support to the Democratic administration - a sign of American solidarity in the face of the Japanese crisis.

To this President Roosevelt replied with a telegram of thanks, in which he struck a keynote phrase, saying: "We cannot close our eyes." His telegram is a renewed declaration against the policy of isolation, also against - peace at any price. "Ultimate security cannot be assured by closing our eyes" - says the President.

This exchange between the President and the Republican leader had an echo in London today, where Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in a statement to the House of Commons declared himself in these words: "It must not be thought that our own desire for peace and our patience mean that we are forgetful of our duty to protect British interests." This - in the course of debate concerning Japanese attacks on British ships.

Meanwhile, the Japanese are still in a confusion of declaration and counter-declaration about the sinking of the PANAY. ^{Pahnt} They can't seem to make up their minds. The army contradicts the Tokyo Foreign Office. And the Mikado's navy seems to be at odds with his army - vivid evidence of a struggle within the government structure of Japan.

CHINA FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

The China war news brings us dramatic ^{word} ~~news~~ from inner Asia, ~~that~~ that a son is leading an army to the aid of his father.

Son and father - long estranged, bitter antagonists. Now reconciled - a reunion, fighting shoulder to shoulder. The older man is Chiang Kai-shek, head of ~~the~~ Nationalist China; the younger ^{is} ~~is~~ Chiang Ching-Kuo - a flaming Communist leader.

They split in Nineteen Twenty-Seven, when Nationalist Commander Chiang Kai-shek broke with the Chinese and Russian Communists, who had been his allies. His son went with the Reds, visited Moscow as a disciple of the Soviets. Since then he has been a Communist chieftain in Outer Mongolia, ^{a region} ~~a~~ controlled by the Soviets. They say he secretly visited his father earlier in the year, and now the reconciliation is complete - in the face of Japanese attack.

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In Outer Mongolia a powerful military machine has been built under the Red flag - Mongol troops, descendants of the hordes that followed Genghis Khan and swept the world, Russian trained, Russian equipped, armed with the latest technique of modern war. Five hundred thousand of them, they say. The RussianSoviets took the wild spaces of Outer Mongolia from the Chinese, but recently

Moscow has acknowledged that the vast expanse is still under Chinese sovereignty. A late dispatch says Mongolia is about to declare itself a part of China again. And so it is logical for the Mongolian Red army to march to the defense of China against Japan, a new and powerful striking force. Now marching under the command of the younger Chiang so long at odds with his Generalissimo father.

This human story is today's central incident in the continued flash of news -- that the Communist elements have been wanted a dominant part in the Chinese government, which is now entered at Hankow. The chieftains of the former Red Army of China are in control.

This is of such vital importance in the crisis of Eastern Asia that I've asked for the opinion of a Chinese student of Far Eastern affairs -- Dr. No-Yong Park, a Harvard Ph. D., a lecturer on Asiatic problems, author of a prophetic recent volume -- called "Retreat of the West."

RETAKE

Park.

Dec. 21,

1937.

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L.T.: What Dr. Park in your opinion is behind this shake-up in China?

PARK: It is Japanese aggression which drives China into Communism. Another factor is the failure of the Nine Powers to uphold the Nine Power Treaty, the Covenant of the League against Japanese aggression.

L.T.: In other words - the Japanese, instead of opposing Communism, are actually promoting it?

PARK: Exactly. If Japanese aggression is not checked, you will see some day 400,000,000 Chinese ~~will~~ unite with 200,000,000 Russian Communists and unleash their fury against all the capitalistic powers of the world. And so even if Japan wins every battle in China, she would not have even a Chinaman's chance in the end.

L.T.:- Yes, Dr. No-Yong Park, that might explain the Far Eastern paradox. And I have a dispatch here which supports your thesis.

It relates that the Government at Hankow, with the Communists predominant, is to get extensive military help from Soviet Russia.

The Far Eastern Red army of the Soviets is being heavily reinforced -- with the object of aiding the new regime at Hankow. So says this dispatch from Shanghai.

NAVY

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There's no explanation of the secrecy the Navy clamped down today out on the Pacific Coast. Patrol boats with machine guns ~~ready~~ on the look-out in San Diego harbor. Civilians going aboard warships were searched. Secrecy reminding one of wartime.

This follows the movement of a squadron of destroyers from San Diego to San Pedro. The Navy command says:- "It's just for training purposes." Training in secrecy, maybe.

SPAIN

There's the usual contradiction from Spain ^{this evening} ~~tonight~~ each side claiming victory.

(A dispatch from Barcelona states definitely that the Left Wing regiments have completely captured the important city of Teruel, at the tip of the strategic Teruel salient.) They tell how they fought their way into the stronghold, street by street after days of desperate fighting - and now have occupied the entire place.

(This is contradicted by a Franco news broadcast from San Sebastian tonight. ^{This} ~~B~~ _A declares that the Rebels have captured vital positions from the Left Wingers attacking Teruel and have cut their communications;) ^{and} ~~A~~ _A ^{Left Wingers} claims they ~~lost~~ sixty per cent of their men.

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In addition to military battle, it's war on the radio - a confusion and contradiction of broadcasts.

MUSSOLINI

~~They say that~~ Over in Rome Mussolini made a hit with ninety-four mothers today. He awarded prizes to the winners of the baby face started in Nineteen Twenty-Six. Some of the mothers ~~are said to have~~ burst into tears ^{when} they came into the awe-inspiring presence of the Duce. But there's one thing the Black Shirt Dictator said that brought smiles. "If your husbands misbehave," he told them, "you just let me know about it."

And, ^{that's} ~~there's~~ something for domestic conversation in an Italian household. "Look here, Giovanni, if you don't do better, I'll tell Mussolini!" And you can imagine Giovanni's face when wifie says that!

PANAMA

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A strange story comes from Panama, with the arrest of four United States soldiers on a charge of murder, the killing of a Chinese farmer. There seems to have been some sort of tropical romance, a row about a woman. The story relates that one of the soldiers got into a duel with the Chinese farmer, a duel with machetes. They fought with those savage heavy razor-edged blades of the tropics - and the soldier with a terrific slash decapitated the Chinaman. Tonight all four are held ~~for trial by~~ ^{by the} military ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities}.

CAPONE

Scar-face Al Capone lost out again today. That former underworld lord of Chicago ~~gang~~ gang wars has been a consistent loser ever since he got into the toils of the Federal courts. Scar-face Al was sentenced to ten years in prison -- he is in Alcatraz now. With time off for good behavior, he is scheduled to be released from the prison fortress ^{late} in 1939, a couple of years ^{hence.} ~~from now~~. The prison ^{was} term ~~is~~ imposed on charges of felony. But the Bootleg Boss was also convicted on misdemeanor charges, for these he was sentenced to an additional year in the Cooke County Jail, Chicago.

Capone has been suing to be relieved of the extra county jail sentence, ^{his} ~~his~~ lawyers calling this an inconsistency. But today the United States Circuit Court of Appeals of Chicago said -- no, there's no inconsistency. So, when the most renowned of prohibition racketeers is released from Alcatraz in 1939 he will have to serve ~~ix~~ another year in Chicago. He won't be back in circulation until 1940.

LABOR

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The labor news this evening can be briefly set forth in a statement that one Union leader made today. "We broke up," he said, "it's all off." ^{if} The peace meeting between the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. - that's what's all off. It met today and lasted for twenty minutes - nothing doing, no sign of agreement or compromise.

"It's useless to continue," said George Harrison, A.F. of L. delegate, "We have not set any date to reconvene."

SHIP

Radiogram from an American steamship in the North Sea --

"We are sinking fast. Ten miles east of Terschelling, after a collision." That was the first wireless distress signal! --

alarming! -- catastrophe at sea! But later on the word was

reassuring. The Baltimore Mail liner CITY OF HAMBURG had indeed

had a collision with an Italian freighter, but she was not

sinking -- nothing really alarming. The last word is that the

ship was proceeding *a whole in her hull - but* to port under her own power, [^]no danger.

AMBULANCE

A man can laugh at a hospital, but it's rather fantastic for a hospital to laugh at a man. Yet that's an appropriate thing in the case of Clarence Gibson.

Clarence has laughed at the hospital many a time. He is a hitchhiker who discovered that a trip in an ambulance was comfortable and restful -- with a pleasant bed at the other end for a good sleep, also a free meal or two. So Clarence's way was to be found unconscious along a highway, the ambulance would come hurrying. Then in the hospital he would suddenly recover from his malady, before the docotors really had a chance to go to work on him.

Once he had a narrow escape. He described his symptoms in such fasion that the doctors instantly said -- acute appendicitis -- operation necessary at once. They were all for cutting Clarence open then and there, and he had a hard time getting away.

United States Veteran's Hospital at Coatesville, Pennsylvania has twice been victimized by Clarence, but today it was different. An automobile driven by Supervisor Clyde Olmstead of the Veteran's Hospital. The car hit Clarence, and this time he had an honest-to-goodness ride in the ambulance. Tonight he's in the Veteran's Hospital with a compound fracture of the left leg -- and the hospital has the laugh on Clarence.

WRECK

58 1/2 Today at Cohoes New York a school bus was speeding along -- railroad tracks ahead, ~~and~~ a train ~~was~~ coming. The driver slammed on his brakes, but the road was slippery with ice, and the bus kept going. It crashed through the railroad gates, and ~~slammed~~ ^{slid} onto the tracks just in time to be hit by the train. The impact knocked the school bus smashing into a three story building, where it ripped right through the wall and smashed into the first floor, where people were living. Casualties? Sounds as if they must be tragic -- but they're to be counted this way:- One injured driver whose ~~ex~~ face was ^{cut} ~~xxx~~ a bit by flying glass. ^{A miracle.} That's all. [^] There were no children in the school bus. It was on its way to get them. When it ripped through the brick wall into the house, it demolished one bed. But nobody was in it. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy were in the kitchen eating breakfast. The bus wrecked a baby's crib where a year and a half old child was sleeping. The ceiling just above the crib was knocked loose. But the ceiling didn't fall and the smashing of the crib didn't hurt the baby. He was found smiling at the excitement.

59 1/4 It was a slam-bang smash-and-shatter accident with a maximum of good luck for all concerned.