

L. T. for Sun Oil, Friday, March 30th. 1934.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Peaceful new, cheerful news for Good  
Friday. Another strike settlement. The Soft Coal Mine Operators  
and workers, I understand, have got together, on the basis of  
a thirty-five hour week with a wage scale agreeable to both  
sides. So there is another difficulty that has been ironed  
out of the strike situation. Good for them both!

## VETERANS

In Congress they are having something of that old morning after feeling - the bleary waking up after a rambunctuous spree in which they ran roughshod over the President's veto and passed that bill for increased benefits to veterans. It is a simple and homelike bit of trouble; that is, the familiar truth that you've got to pay the Piper. The Lawmakers, in defiance of the President, have tacked Two hundred and Twenty-Eight Million Bucks on the Government's bill. Now they've got to find the Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight Million, which to Congress is about the same as digging up Fifty Bucks is with most of us - not so easy. It means taxes, and, while the Lawmakers love to please the Veterans, they hate to make the tax-payers sore. So Congress is busy trying to dope out ways and means of extracting the money as painlessly as possible from the tax payer, who is the ultimate and long suffering source of all income.

## TARIFF

That 'morning after' feeling frequently takes the form of apologizing effusively to the wifey for the things you said to her the night before. The position of a political spouse is taken in this case by the President who has had such a happy domestic life with Congress until that recent rumpus. The effusive apologies are the tariff bill which gives to Mr. Roosevelt powers such as no president has ever enjoyed before. It gives him a free hand in bargaining with foreign governments, and he may raise the lower tariff rates as much as 50%.

The House of Representatives has already passed the bill. It remains to be seen how the Senate will take it. There is certain to be tough Republican opposition, but political wiseacres say that the country is behind Mr. Roosevelt in this tariff measure.

Legal incident reminds us that the veterans are not unanimous in favor of all these government benefits, but it is a reminder also that the great majority of the Legionnaires are registered in support of their leaders.

## PRESIDENT'S PAY

49 Failure of that veto comes home to the President today in the pertinent form of a check. It is pay day and the President, fishing off Florida, receives his monthly stipend of Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty dollars. Catching fish and getting his pay check - pretty soft. But it is not so simple and comforting as that. In his veto message, Mr. Roosevelt preached the doctrine of pay reduction, and if he follows that doctrine he will turn back Fifteen Percent of his check to the Treasury, a kick-back of Eight Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents. But the Legislators on the hill disregarded his veto message, and reduced the pay cut idea to Ten Percent. If the President obeys the letter of the law he will return only Six Hundred and Twenty-Five Dollars.

It's a curious point of propriety whether Mr. Roosevelt should follow the dictates <sup>of his</sup> belief or <sup>abide</sup> ~~guide~~ by the law as passed by Congress. It is a matter of a couple Hundred Dollars, ~~which is~~ important **to** the pockets of most of us, but

<sup>hardly</sup>  
~~which does not amount to~~ two battered pennies to the man who,  
while not too wealthy, is trying to forge a new economic future  
for One Hundred and Twenty Million people.

AIRCRAFT

Here's news - The man that bit the dog -

An investigation of government aviation affairs which sings  
a song of praise - yes, praise, propriety and purity.

5-0  
We have had such an abundance of muckrake stories  
from Washington, especially about aviation, in the past few months,  
that it certainly is a novelty to hear of the report issued by the  
sub-committee of the House, on Naval Affairs, which has been in-  
vestigating airplane and aircraft engine contracts awarded by the  
navy's Bureau of Aeronautics. The Chairman is Representative John  
Delaney of Brooklyn, - Jack Delaney to you - and he declares his  
committee has found no evidence whatever of profiteering. Nor was  
there any sign of collusion in contracts awarded to aviation companies.

On the contrary, Mr. Delaney's committee gives the Bureau  
of Aeronautics a hearty pat on the back.

I guess we all have a way of thinking that because some one  
thing is off color, everything else is off color, and this new report should

be a solid salutary indication that, while there may be corruption and collusion in some parts of the Government, others are found to be entirely above suspicion.

## WIRT

The grave political sensation created by the well known educator, Dr. Wirt, is turning into farce comedy. It began with the dark, sinister solemnity. You know how dark it is when an eminent citizen comes forth and makes accusations. You know how sinister it is when he declares that a member of the President's Brain Trust told him that the professors merely regarded Mr. Roosevelt as a Kerensky preparing a way for Lenins and Stalings to come. You know how solemn it is to reflect that Kerensky was the ingratiating and moderate radical who opened the flood gates of Bolshevik revolution and terror. Dr. Wirt still stands by his guns and declares that he will reveal to a senate investigating committee the name of the Brain Truster who told him those ominous things.

The Doctor was indignant about the state of affairs in Washington - and now he is still more indignant. Why? Well that's where the farce-comedy comes in. A serious minded gentleman of Chattanooga, Tennessee is trying to take the credit away from the Doctor. He is a Mr. Christians, President of an organization called the Crusader for Economic Liberty.



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He claims he told the President right to his face, told him what Dr. Wirt is now saying - the accusation about Kerensky, Lenin and Stalin. Professor Raymond Moley, the original Brain Truster, confirms Mr. Christians' story of having said those things to the President. Professor Moley adds descriptively that the gentleman impressed him as being an earnest "crackpot". But Dr. Wirt is saying more than that. He claims he never met Mr. Christians and he declares that it was not Mr. Christians who made the Kerensky, Lenin, Stalin comparison. The Doctor claims that honor exclusively for himself.

BOOK

I left the White House correspondents last night at the Miami White House and on the train north. I wondered and speculated a bit -- which of those correspondents was the man? - the unknown author? Another one of those anonymous books about intimate things behind the scenes in Washington has come along. It is called the "New Dealer" written by "The Unofficial Observer". The unknown author is admitted to be one of the Washington correspondents who is keeping his identity a profound secret. There's a good deal of reason for that, because in the past some of those anonymous inside story books about the Government have caused trouble for their authors.

This particular unknown author declares that he intends to remain unknown because, says he: "It is impossible to write candidly about your best friend without losing him and I have no desire to lose the friendship of the New Dealers".

I sat in the train and mentally went over the list of the White House correspondents I had met in Miami and wondered which of them was the anonymous and unknown. I have my suspicion. And I'll think about it some more tonight and

BOOK - 2

tomorrow on my way to Millersville, Virginia, Britol, Tenn.,  
Tazewell, Virginia and up the valley to Staunton.

radical. Now it is the Nazis who have their coats and talks  
are now looking under the bed for a brown shirted storm  
trooper. This is being taken seriously enough for Congress  
to appropriate \$10,000 to enable Representative Dickstein  
to investigate Hitler propaganda for the United States.

You would think that communist propaganda and Nazi  
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bonding would be affected by what the other was doing.

## PROPAGANDA

It used to be the communists who had multitudes of timid souls scared and looking under the bed for a red radical. Now it is the Nazis who have them scared and folks are now looking under the bed for a brown shirted storm trooper. This is being taken seriously enough for Congress to appropriate \$10,000 to enable Representative Dickstein to investigate Hitler propaganda for the United States.

You would think that communist propaganda and Nazi propaganda would neutralize each other, and what one was hollering would be offset by what the other was howling.

HITLER

I wonder what Hitler has to say to President Roosevelt? He told the foreign correspondents in Berlin he wished it were possible for him to meet the President and talk things over.

That would be an interesting encounter. But its unlikely that the President will go to Germany to see the brown shirt dictator and a visit of Hitler to Washington might provide fireworks - especially if he stopped off in New York.

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In Washington the leaders of the Anti-semites might arrive in time to witness the ceremony of Dr. Albert Einstein getting his American citizenship papers. A bill has been introduced in Congress to make the great mathematician, who has had to flee from Germany because he is a Jew, a full fledged subject of Uncle Sam without waiting for the usual time and the usual formalities. Germany's loss, America's gain.

## AUSTRIA

The quaint idea of the burning of books seems to be spreading. At least it has spread from Germany to Austria. This time it's not burning, but banishment. Chancellor Dollfuss has barred more than 100 American and British publications. The list of forbidden magazines is curious. It includes Variety, True Story, Wide World, the American Magazine, and, lo and behold. The Saturday Evening Post.

Another Dollfussy edict forbids the showing of any nude statues in Vienna or elsewhere in Austria. Art without clothes is forbidden. No nude dolls declares the fussy doctor Dollfuss.

## APRIL FOOL

It is a little bit early for an April fool story, but this one came to an early, and untimely end.

Some Japanese manufacturers tried an April fool joke on us Americans. They sent over a consignment of doughnuts and pretzels. But really rubberized imitations. You know the kind - you take a bite and your teeth bounce off. The Japanese manufacturers were out to sell April fool jokes to the American jokesters.

Hashimuro Togo, the Japanese schoolboy understands that Tom, Dick, and Harry would just love to hand their friends those rubber doughnuts and pretzels.

But the American Customs Officers at Philadelphia discovered that those imitation doughnuts and pretzels were made of a composition of rice straw, thought to contain bacteria injurious to American plant life. They are confiscating those April fool doughnuts and pretzels, thereby putting the joke on the jocose Japanese.

LOCAL

I am in Jacksonville, Florida, tonight, and the town is agog over two things - the President's visit, and the great Florida cross-state canal.

This part of Florida has long been clamoring for a canal right across the peninsula, for ships to go straight from Gulf ports to the Atlantic without making the long trip around the Keys. There has been plenty of argument pro and con, some interests are opposed, other people point to the expense.

So naturally when President Roosevelt arrived here plenty about the Florida canal poured into his official ear. Mayor John Alsop of Jacksonville tells me that Mr. Roosevelt was most sympathetic. The President asked Secretary of War Dern, to make a study of the whole canal set-up. Mr. Dern is now here on a tour of inspection and seems of the opinion that the Florida waterway will be built. "President Roosevelt wants to see it built," he declares.

I have the Mayor of Jacksonville beside me now. He is a shy, retiring, silent man, but maybe I can persuade him to tell us something about the President and the Florida canal.



I know Mayor Alsop hates to talk, a man of few words, but just the same Mr. Mayor here's the microphone, and although you may be a silent man, don't be silent now.

FOR MAYOR ALSOP

I don't know about that Lowell, my wife just said to me: I want to tell you something Bug, -(when we got married she used to call me Honey Bug, but now it's just Bug.) She said:- "Listen Bug, when you go on the air with Lowell Thomas remember what I told you when you went to see the President.

L. T.:

What was that Mr. Mayor?

Mayor:-

Well, I'll tell you Lowell, when I saw the President I did not say anything about the canal - not a word, and when Mr. Roosevelt was talking to the newspaper boys he turned to me and said:- "Mr. Mayor, won't you say something about the canal?"

I said:- "Mr. President, when I left home my wife said to me:- "Now remember Bug, when you meet the President don't talk about the canal, because if you start talking ~~it~~ about it you will never stop." So that Mr. President, is why I have not

said any thing about the canal.

Mr. Roosevelt laughed, "All right!" he said, "then I'll talk about the canal."

It was different when President Coolidge was here the last time. Mr. Coolidge didn't like to talk. The crowd wanted him to make a speech. We asked him to say something, but he just shook his head - he didn't even say "no". Just closed his mouth tighter and shook his head. So I made the speech.

Later on I told Mr. Coolidge about the Penny Farms, established by J. C. Penny, for retired preachers. I told Mr. Coolidge how the preachers lived there all by themselves and he said:- "and I guess they preach to each other." He didn't seem to understand why anybody should say anything. And as my wife said to me tonight: "Bug, don't you talk too much."

L. T.:-

All right Mr. Mayor let's both say the same thing now.

Mayor:- All right Lowell--

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.