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in
Harrisburg, Pa.

Feb. 28,
1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am broadcasting tonight from a great banquet hall in Harrisburg, at Zinbo Mosque, Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association.

The controversy about foreign policies came to a head in the Senate today with a resolution for a constitutional amendment -- an amendment providing that questions of war shall be put to the people for a vote. Make it constitutionally necessary to hold a plebiscite before the United States Government can declare war, and before American soldiers can be sent to war across the ocean. Make it permissible to use the United States Army to defend only our own soil, or our possessions, or some section in the Western Hemisphere -- but not to fight overseas, not without a national vote on the question.

That's the resolution signed by twelve senators.

They are Democratic Senators Bone of Washington, Clark of Idaho, Clark of Missouri, Donahy of Ohio, Murray of Montana, and Wheeler of Montana. Republicans, Senators Capper of Kansas, Frazier of North Dakota, and Nye of North Dakota. Farmer-Labor Senators Lundeen and Shipstead of Minnesota. Also Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin.

The controversy over our foreign policy was sharpened by a scathing remark from Senator Borah. He described it as a policy of -- "bluff and jitters." He says we don't need them, and by the time we get through with the six thousand airplane program, a lot of them will be obsolete. The whole idea, according to Borah, is just a part of a policy of -- bluff and jitters.

The Senate debate was featured today by scathing remarks from senators who oppose our getting tangled in European complications and feuds. And there was sharp reply by the advocates of the Administration policy of opposing the dictatorships.

STABILIZATION

I hope you gentlemen of the EM P.M.T.A. know more about the problems of international finance than I do. If so you may be interested in this. Tonight we're given a glimpse into a confidential piece of bookkeeping, large bookkeeping with entries away up in the millions. It's the ledger of that huge and rather mystifying affair of international finance -- the stabilization fund, that two billion dollar budget used to stabilize the dollar in the money markets of the world.

Today Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau appeared before the Weights, Coins and Measures Committee of the House of Representatives. The Gold Reserve Act, under which the stabilization Fund was established, expires on June Thirtieth of this year, and the White House wants it extended until January, Nineteen Forty. Arguing for this, the Secretary of the Treasury today opened the stabilization books to the Committee and to the public.

The accounts show what we've heard before, that the stabilization fund in its money market deals has made a profit -- there's a profit of twelve million. Governor James here has

just given his budget message to the Pennsylvania Legislature. And he probably understands all this. The books in Washington also reveal a lot of transactions in European currencies, and there's also an Asiatic slant. This is graphically illustrated by one entry marked down as follows: under the heading of deposits - Central Bank of China, one hundred and sixty five million Yuan -- forty eight and a half million dollars. And so it's revealed that the stabilization fund entered into an arrangement with the Chinese government for the stabilization of the Chinese unit of currency -- the Yuan. This was done when the Chinese Yuan showed a decided weakness in the money market. It is emphasized that China had plenty of gold and silver collateral to back up its end of the transaction.

SILVER

The Republicans today tried to amend the government Silver purchase Act by forbidding the Treasury to buy any silver except such as is newly mined in the United States. That would have thrown the Silver Purchase Policy entirely out of kilter. It was a complicated policy and the amendment would have tied it up into further complications. The administration Democrats rallied and voted down the Republican proposal.

LABOR

It looks as though there'd be a peace conference between the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. President Roosevelt proposed it and the A.F. of L. promptly accepted -- though with reservations. And today the C.I.O. fell in line. President John Lewis said, "Yes, let's have a labor peace conference." And he wrote the President to that effect.

SINGER

The argument about Marian Anderson, the famous negro contralto continued noisily today. Representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution gave out the statement that the reason Constitution Hall in Washington was refused for a Marian Anderson concert was because the auditorium had been rented to somebody else for that day, not because she was a negro.

To this Sol Hurok, the Marian Anderson Manager, replies that he inquired about Constitution Hall for a couple of other days and found it was available for white artisits. Then he tried to book it on one of those days for the negro contralto, and was refused. Sol says emphatically he has it all down in black and white! Which seems an apt figure of speech. He adds that he'll stage a free Marian Anderson concert in a park across the way from Constitution Hall.

Meanwhile, there's no more word about Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and her reported resignation from the Daughters of the American Revolution, because of the Marian Anderson incident. D.A.R. officials say they've received no resignation from the First Lady.

HINES

The central melodrama in the Hines case has produced a legal dilemma. The suicide of the gangster witness, George Weinberg, has put a puzzle in the proceedings against Judge Capshaw.

In the prosecution of James J. Hines, the testimony accused Judge Capshaw of having been influenced by the Tammany leader in cases against the Dutch Schultz policy mob. This accusation was made by the gangster Weinberg in the first Hines trial, and since then Weinberg killed himself. In the second Hines trial his testimony was read -- but, can it be read once more in proceedings against Judge Capshaw? It is a rule in such cases that the accuser must face the accused, and now the accuser lies in a suicide's grave. Such is the legal point with which lawyers were wrestling today.

Meanwhile, District Attorney Dewey is fighting legal moves made by the Hines lawyers to keep the renowned Tammany leader from prison while his case is being appealed.

DEWEY EDITORIALS

I wish I could spend more of my time away from New York City than I do - getting the point of view of the ~~country~~ rest of the country. For instance are people outside of New York talking about the outcome of the Hines trial, and if so what are they saying? Here's a sample: ~~In~~ Philadelphia's two big independent papers, the Evening Bulletin and the Ledger, carry editorials on the subject tonight, pointing out that Tom Dewey has again proven himself the Nemesis of highly organized rackets. And they point out that his victory has given him a wide margin over the field for the Republican presidential nomination.

GOV. JAMES

I spent a little while at the State House this afternoon, visiting the sessions of the lower House and the Senate, listening to the remarks of the same legislators who are sitting here with me now. The Governor, having just sent in his budget message, I was glad to have a chance to talk to him about it. His message calls for drastic cuts. Balance the budget!

In the executive office in the State Capitol Building I met Governor Arthur James, and asked him what chance there was of cutting state expenditures. He replied that seventeen or eighteen million would be saved by cutting down the number of state jobholders. More he hoped would be cut from relief expenditures. General business recovery, he believes, will take care of the rest.

The Governor of Pennsylvania remarked rather caustically that the National Administration had now come around to the Republican point of view that it was fatal to attack, whip and lash business.

On the way back from the Capitol I accidentally ran

into the Governor's law partner from Wilkes-Barre who with much enthusiasm told me the life story of Governor James - the story so well known in Pennsylvania of how he was ~~fr~~ born in a miner's cottage, worked in the mines as a boy, studied law, became a brilliant district attorney, for years a judge of the Appellate Court where he handled some three thousand cases of every conceivable type - then Governor. A typical American success story. Where next? He is only fifty odd years of age, and his friends say he is headed for the White House. He is of the Lincoln type - and an orator. Perhaps that will be his destiny. I'm no prophet.

VATICAN

The Papal election is scheduled to begin tomorrow, and today a complaint was made by the French Foreign Office. It has to do with the simple fact that Vatican City is in Rome - Fascist Rome, Fascist Italy. It is well known that Mussolini's government places all sorts of restrictions on the foreign press, on newspaper men from other countries, on communications with the outside world. So what about news concerning the Papal election.

The French Foreign Office today states that the Fascist Government has refused to provide the foreign press with the right kind of radio and telephone facilities for reporting the conclave of the Cardinals. The French officials were saying that the Cardinals should consider the situation, since the Catholic Church is of worldwide extent and the election of a new Pope is of international interest -- and the news about it should not be impeded by one nation, Italy.

SHIPS

An amateur radio operator received a distress call from a ship today, and it created a lot of perplexity. A vessel, the steamship MARION in grave danger -- with a fire in her hold. So, to the rescue, let ships steam at full speed to the fire, imperiled craft. The amateur wireless operator said the stricken ship gave its bearings as Longitude Fifty Degrees East and Latitude Seventy-three Degrees North. Just check that on your map and you'll see it's in the Arctic Ocean north of Russia, and there the ocean is frozen solid, just a stretch of the Arctic ice-pack. The United States Coast Guard figures the amateur wireless operator must have got it all wrong -- just a garbled message out of the ether.

BLIZZARD

In Iowa tonight there's a strip one hundred and twenty-five miles wide extending from the northeast to the southeast corners of the state, and it's a belt of blizzard. One of the greatest snowstorms on record swept along that path, sixteen inches of snow whipped along by a forty miles an hour wind. Everywhere transportation is at a standstill, which can be readily understood after what happened in Des Moines. Twelve inches of snow fell in Des Moines and the blast of the wind piled it into huge drifts. Street cars, busses, trains and airplanes -- all at a halt. Taxicabs refuse to pick up passengers except in the main downtown street of Des Moines - because the streets further out are completely blocked by the huge snow drifts.

SECRETARIES

Here's a conundrum for you business men -- who is it that has unfailing courtesy, tact, politeness, charm, urbanity, gentility, civility, amiability, good temper and sweetness? Why, your secretary. That is, if she's up to the standards of the Order of Seraphic Secretaries. There's a madcap gentleman in New York, a demon publicity man named F. Darius Benham, who just had a delerius brainstorm and founded the Order of the S_eraphic Secretaries. I myself am recommending my own secretarial staff for membership - although they are sometimes not so seraphic.

The other day I dictated something about Hannibal crossing the Alps and when the transcript came to me it told about a cannibal crossing the Alps, with elephants! In another case, there was something about some unfortunate fellow being coerced by a big policeman -- my secretary had him caressed by the big policeman.

I had a secretary once who had an unfailing knack of getting on my nerves. As a stenographer she was almost perfect, so expert mechanically that while taking the fastest kind of

dictation she'd be reading something or other on the desk beside her. Once I was dictating a book to her, and all the while she was reading another fellow's book -- which I didn't consider perfect tact.

Well, if any of you business men have a secretary you consider seraphic, I'll recommend her to F. Delerius Benham as a candidate for the Order of Seraphic Secretaries. But remember, she must have -- unflinching courtesy, tact, politeness, charm, urbanity, gentility, civility, amiability, good temper and sweetness, and, and, and - SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.