

CONVENTION LEAD

L.J. - Sunoco. Monday, Feb. 5, 1940.

Chicago gets the Democratic National Convention.

The committee decided -- Chicago -- by one vote!

There's one body of men who will be pleased. The newspaper boys who have to cover the convention. In Nineteen-Thirty-Two, several of them announced that they were going to try to get both parties to adopt a resolution providing an amendment to the Constitution which would make Chicago the meeting place by law. So easy to get to, from all parts of the country.

The chief competitors were Philadelphia and San Francisco. The city of the Golden Gate was the heaviest bidder. It offered the Democrats the round sum of two-hundred-and-thirty-five thousand dollars if they'd hold their convention way out there. In the matter of money offers, Philadelphia was only second. The people of brotherly love bid a hundred-and-twenty-five-thousand dollars. But they had one big advantage: their hundred-and-twenty-five Grand was cash on the line. San Francisco had only eighty-five thousand in ready money, the rest of it was in promises. And a disrespectful Democrat was heard to say that

the party did not need promises, they had plenty of their own.

One freak offer received came from the Rose Bowl Committee of Pasadena. Their proposition was to stage a show at the Rose Bowl and give all the proceeds to the Democrats if they'd do their talking there.

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Mayor Kelly of Chicago naturally insisted that Chicago was the one logical place for any political convention. In fact, if you'd pin Mayor Kelly down to it, he would admit that he ~~can~~ cannot see any convention of any kind whatsoever being held anywhere else but Chicago. Mayor Kelly had reasons aplenty, but no cash. If the Committee would take their show ~~in~~ to the Windy City the windy citizens would undoubtedly raise a handsome sum. But Kelly would make no picturesque promises as to the size of it. Still, the committee meeting at the New Willard in Washington, picked Chicago.

And now that the place has been selected, the next question is, the time. That's to be decided by the National Chairman, Sunny Jim Farley himself. The Committee unanimously delegated to ~~him~~ Jim the job of selecting the date.

After this, Vice-Chairman Frank Hague, Mayor of Jersey City, made a plea for a late convention, preferably September. Sunny Jim's reply was non-committal. He said he hadn't decided anything yet but he was sure he would pick a date satisfactory to everybody concerned.

Oh, by the way, Mayor Kelly says the Republican Convention will also be held in ~~Chica~~ Chicago. The Republican Committee hasn't even met to decide this.

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ROOSEVELT

There was a good deal of Third Term talk and "Draft Roosevelt" suggestions ^{at the Democratic} ~~around that National~~ Committee meeting. But it did not ^{develop} ~~blow itself up~~ into what you might call an uproar. The President himself, who was at Hyde Park today, grew decidedly irritated at questions on the subject. He let the correspondents ^{press} at his conference know in no uncertain terms that he is quite weary of this Third Term speculation. And he might have added that he's not the only one. He advised the newspapermen to quit guessing about his intentions. And he added that any further attempts to draw him out would make his questioners ridiculous. ~~and stick them out on a limb.~~ He said that the whole subject has produced quite a crop of wisecracks both from the newspapers and from himself. — *especially himself.* Some of them have been amusing, in his opinion, but he added further that there's such a thing as driving a willing horse to death. And he made it emphatic that he'll choose his own time for telling and not the time selected by others.

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Mr. Roosevelt also took a crack at the people who have been criticizing him, claiming that the good old U.S.A. is going broke. His theory is that our national economy has been improving

for the ~~last~~ seven years of the New Deal. And he offered some figures to back up his contention. Our national income now, he claims, is seventy billion dollars a year, and all the efforts of the federal government are being used to drive it up to eighty billions. Then he made the statement that the total debt for all governments, that means federal, state, county and city, is no greater today than it was when he took office in NineteenThirty-Three. That is what President Roosevelt declared to his press conference at Hyde Park.

TRADE TREATIES

Secretary Hull's trade treaty program is to have a thorough examination. The Republicans in the House have appointed a special sub-committee of twenty-five men, to be called the Sub-Committee on Foreign Export and Import Trade. It will start holding hearings, investigating what effects these reciprocal trade treaties have had upon the trade in farm products.

CENSUS

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Things are beginning to ^{liven} perk up down in Washington - rows, quarrels and disputes breaking ^{out} ~~to the surface with a loud plop.~~ One of them is about the census. Senator Tobey of New Hampshire has been on the war-path ^{concerning} ~~about~~ certain questions that have been asked. He says they're an invasion of the privacy of the citizenry. For instance, the census-takers are asking people how much their homes are worth, how big is the mortgage, were they employed at a certain date and if so doing what and for how much.

Harry Hopkins, Secretary of Commerce, picked up the gauntlet today and made acid reply to the New Hampshire Senator. The one thing which might do serious violence to the census will be the spreading of false charges that these questions are new and fearsome. He says questions like that have been asked for years. In fact fifty years, as long ago as Eighteen Ninety, when Benjamin Harrison was President. The question about rent was first put on the census list when Herbert Hoover was in the White House, ^{he adds. In} ~~in~~ fact, says Hopkins, the law under which the present census will be taken is with one exception the Fifteenth Census Act, which was recommended to Congress by Herbert Hoover while he was Secretary of Commerce, and enacted into law while ^{Hoover} Hoover was President.

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DIES

The row over the Dies Committee was again sizzling in Washington today. ^{All this} ~~It went on~~ before the Rules Committee of the House. The ^{center} ~~center~~ of the fight again was Representative Hook of Michigan.

Oh yes, and I have to acknowledge receipt of a carload of brickbats, old shelalehs and dead cats because of Mr. Hook.

I made the mistake last week of alluding to him as a "Republican". He's not, he's a Democrat, the first of such elected to Congress from his district in quite a number of years. So evidently I owe an apology. I don't know quite to whom, but at any rate, here's an apology, ~~and let anybody pick it up who wants it.~~

Now, to get back to the case of Hook versus Dies.

The Michigan Democrat still refuses to apologize to Dies. He ~~says~~ he's got nothing to apologize for, that he didn't impugn anybody.

And he refuses to be a party to any resolution to expunge from the record his remarks ^{about} ~~and the~~ forged letters which connected Dies with Silver Shirt William W. Pelley. As a matter of fact, Hook contends that it has not yet been proved that those documents were forged.

Hook got quite indignant in his speech to the Rules

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Committee. He said he was in the same position as Finland toward Russia. The Dies Committee has all the testimony and has refused to let Hook take a look at it. The guessing in Washington is that the Rules Committee will order the remarks of Hook about Dies to be expunged from the congressional record.

Here's a later bulletin ~~that~~ just ~~came~~ in on that fight. The Dies Committee itself took action in the absence of the Chairman. It adopted a resolution to turn over to Attorney General Jackson, ~~for appropriate action,~~ all the testimony and exhibits in this controversy with Representative Hook of Michigan.

YOUTH CONGRESS

Here's the American Youth Congress again, this time as a subject of a controversy between Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and John ~~D. M. Hamilton~~ Hamilton, Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Hamilton had been invited to address the American Youth Congress. He refused and ~~xx~~ stated why in definite terms, said he wouldn't speak to the Congress or invite any other Republican to speak to it until the American Youth Congress ~~has~~ purged itself of its Communistic elements. ~~Then he added that it~~

said he,
~~was~~ The Dies Committee, *which* described the American Youth Congress as dominated by Communistic ^{s.} elements.

thereupon
Mrs. Roosevelt [^] declared that this was a mistake.

The Dies Committee, she said, did not say that the American Youth Congress was dominated by Communists. *And* ~~Then~~ she added that she

did not see how any youth organization can purge itself of Communists any more than Chairman Hamilton can purge the whole United States from *red elements.* ~~allowing Communists to exist. This to the~~

~~First Lady of the Land, seemed obvious.~~ She added that she had studied the report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and all

other available evidence and that she was not convinced that the American Youth Congress was in the clutches of the Communists.

She admitted that the Young Communist League is one of the groups.

But she argued! -

~~And she added:~~ "Communist papers always claim that the young

Communist League does thus and so to any group that it touches."

said she

But she ¹ has not discovered that the Communist voice or vote is

a predominant influence *in the American Youth Congress.*

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A new sensation from Finland, but we have to keep our fingers crossed about it. Another whole Red division wiped out, the Eighteenth Division. ^{But} ~~We have to keep our fingers crossed because~~ the story is not confirmed yet, ^{It} doesn't come from Mannerheim headquarters. It's reported by a Swedish newspaper man. That Swedish correspondent wires his paper that the Eighteenth Division of Stalin's army has been wiped out near a place called Kⁱtelae, where the Bolsheviks were trying to break through northeast of Lake Ladoga.

The first story sent by that Swedish newspaperman had it that twenty thousand of that Eighteenth Division had been scattered, driven in helter-skelter flight, seven thousand killed. But the latest which came in only a few minutes ago, is that the division was wiped out, nearly eighteen thousand dead. It's ^{all a} ~~the~~ culmination of a battle that has been raging on the north shore of Lake Ladoga for ~~no less than~~ ^{some} three weeks. However, we have to remember that this report is not yet authorized by the Finnish high command.

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For the rest, Stalin's generals continue to hammer at the Mannerheim Line on the Karelian Isthmus. They hurl thousands

upon thousands of Red soldiers in a constant stream of attack. On the defending line, the report is that the Finns are holding fast, in spite of furious attacks by bombing ~~air~~planes.

The LONDON DAILY MAIL has a story from Stockholm, again a Swedish source, that Stalin's air force has been recruited with German flyers. No fewer than a hundred and twenty of the Bolshevik ~~air~~planes, based on Murmansk in the north, are *now* being operated by German crews, attacking the Finns in the Petsamo area. And that same source reports further that the Nazis have been helping their Red comrades out, transporting supplies and ammunition to the Russian division in the Far North.

COUNCIL

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From the other side of Europe, the only important news is that there was a meeting of the Supreme War Council of Great Britain and France. It was held in Paris. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was there, also Viscount Halifax, Foreign Secretary Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, General Viscount Gort, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force. They were attended by other big shots of the army, navy, the air ministry and the war department. What happened there, what the Allied chiefs discussed or resolved, we do not know. The only information vouchsafed was that of Prime Minister Chamberlain, who said it was the finest meeting of the War Council he had ever attended.

BANK

A new bank to stimulate our business with South and Central America! That's a plan which seems to be coming to a head.

The idea is to make it a hundred million dollar affair; ~~and~~ all the American Republics ~~are~~ to be shareholders. Uncle Sam would be asked to subscribe for five million dollars' worth; Argentina and Brazil about the ~~xxxxxxx~~ same amount. Smaller nations would take half a million dollars.

The plan is being cooked up by a committee of financial experts, ~~which is~~ a sub-committee of the Economic Advisory Committee which was created by the Foreign Ministers assembled at Panama shortly after the War broke out in Europe.

AIRLINE

A new Trans-Continental Airline is being planned.

The Civil Aeronautics Authority has received application for a permit for a route to go from Seattle to New York via Toronto.

SEA MYSTERY

A schooner came to grief in the Gulf of Mexico.

Uncle Sam's Coast Guard Cutter CARDIGAN, which controls the waters in those parts, ^{found the} ~~came upon this~~ vessel, battered and beaten by the storm, a derelict, a menace to traffic. Her deck housing wrecked, her mainsail rigging swept overboard, her steering gear torn out.

All of which is dramatic and harrowing, though not unique. ^{TR} But here's the crux of the story. Not a soul was found aboard, and there was nothing to show what had become of that derelict schooner's crew, mates or master. No signs of those shipwrecked men have been seen by any other vessel or at any port in the Gulf.

So there's another mystery of the seas - what has happened to the crew ~~xxx~~ of the schooner GLORIA COLITA of the port of St. Vincent in the British West Indies?

WHALE

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In a cove near Halifax, Nova Scotia, the incoming tide apparently brought good luck. It was a whale that had swum in on the flow and didn't get out fast enough on the ebb. ^{There he was} ~~He got~~ stuck underneath a wharf. Trying to get loose he was lashing out with his powerful tail, and made such a racket that nearby fishermen heard him. They hurried to the spot and killed him with axes.

At first they thought this was money in the bank.

But after they had killed him, they discovered that they were ^{almost} stuck as badly as the whale. ^{For the latest is they may} ~~For they can't get that big twenty~~ ^{have to take} ~~foot mammal out of there without taking~~ the wharf down. ~~And now~~ ^{For the moment} ~~you might almost say~~ they're in a whale of a quandary.
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HIKERS

Here's a little story about three young ladies of Framingham. This may sound like the beginning of a limerick, ~~but~~ but it isn't. At Framingham, Massachusetts, there's a woman's reformatory. Three of its young inmates escaped early today. They wanted to get as far away as possible, but had no money and no car. So they started to pursue their travels by thumbing. After several cars had passed them, one driver stopped, and the girls got a free ride. And, it was a police car, looking for them! And maybe you could make a limerick out of it, starting like this:-

There are three young ladies of Framingham,
Who've gone back to a place where they're
taming 'em.

And now, Hugh, it's up to you!

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