

Tues. July 16 - '40

THIRD TERM

Well, tonight seems to be the night. No, not the night of the nomination, but something that apparently amounts to pretty much the same thing. Late this afternoon President Roosevelt announced that tonight at the convention the democratic majority leader, Senator Alben Barkley of Kentucky will make a statement on the third term issue. He will speak for the President, and will disclose that number one political secret: ~~President Roosevelt's~~ ^{F. D. R.'s} intentions about a third term. At the White House, Mr. Roosevelt did not say just how much ground Senator Barkley's declaration would cover. But he did say that the statement will answer the questions involved in that long awaited disclosure - whether or not Franklin Delano Roosevelt will run for a third term.

Thus today's biggest story about the convention breaks, not in Chicago - but in Washington. It occurred in this fashion. At the White House Press Conference one newspaper man kept asking the President - why was he keeping the third term issue such a riddle? to this President Roosevelt replied that tonight will be the first night with the convention fully organized. Senator Barkley is the permanent chairman, and it's according to schedule for him to make an address.

2--add President Third Term

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The President added that his own presidential statement about a third term would be read by the Senator at the end of his speech. He told the reporters to have their radios tuned in. There's a tip from the White House. The first break of the great secrecy.

(end)

GLASS

Senator Carter Glass is on his way to Chicago. That's decidedly interesting, because of the proposal that the Virginia Senator place in nomination the name of James A. Farley. The fiery veteran, Carter Glass, nominating Jim Farley - right out in front of the third term band-wagon.

The eighty-two year old Senator left Washington today with his newly wedded bride. He was asked whether he would nominate the postmaster for the Presidency, if he were asked to do so. Carter Glass replied in these words: "I suppose so, but he would not ask me if he were wise." That's decidedly a cryptic statement; ^{that} ~~and~~ it would be unwise for Jim Farley to have himself nominated by the gentleman from Virginia. You can make your own guess about what it means.

Jim Farley is said to be supporting Jesse Jones of the R.F.C. for the vice-presidency. This, as an appeal to business men, of whom Jesse Jones is a shining example. The chief interest in candidates out here ^{what little there is, } because} concerns the vice-presidency, ^{the} the number one place on the ticket is taken so much for granted.

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Once in a great while silence can produce drama more terrific than large volumes of noise. That happened today at the Convention shortly after noon. Mrs. Thomas MacAllister, director of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee, had her hour at the microphone. She turned out to be another instrument in the Draft Roosevelt machinery. As she ~~wound up to~~^{mounted to} her peroration she shouted out the final words: "the First -- Citizen -- of -- the -- world -- Franklin -- Delano -- Roosevelt."

Then, as might be expected, came the applause. And, as nobody expected, it stopped. Stopped short, dead, mute -- after just fifteen seconds. I should add that the man who counted those fifteen seconds did not have a stop-watch. But just think of it -- fifteen seconds' applause for the President whom the convention is expected to re-nominate without a dissenting voice.

Thereby hangs a tale and to me a mighty interesting one. All this apathy and sullenness in Chicago is reported to have created a worry and anxiety in the White House. Also, the President and his inner circle of advisers are much concerned over the attitude of Jim Farley. One emissary after another has been

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sent to ~~X~~ Jim begging him not to give up the ship, calling upon his loyalty to the party, his loyalty to the ~~Bill~~ chief. ~~But~~

So there was a new shock in store for them when Farley announced in Chicago this afternoon that he positively would not run the campaign, that he would step out September first. Frank D. Schroth, publisher of the Brooklyn Eagle, wired a story to his paper that The Postmaster-General had been offered a nice little job paying a salary of \$100,000 a year as head of the Willys-Overland Motor Company. There was much agruing about that. The President's friends tried to persuade Jim that this was ~~just~~ a Republican trick to deprive Mr. Roosevelt and the Democratic party of Jim's experience and skill as campaign manager. Of course all this is behind-the-scenes business but the story is reported to come from sound sources.

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~~FARLEY'S~~ Farley's friends, on the other hand, declare most positively that he is not behaving like a sorehead and a disgruntled candidate, but, that he is hurt, deeply wounded. One reason is the presence and actitivits in Chicago of Harry Hopkins, ~~Sec-~~ Secretary of Commerce, ^{and} Harold Ickes, Se cretary of the Interior, and Madam Perkins. For instance, it was noticeable at last night's

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 session that the applause after Farley's own speech was quite per-
 functory. Now the delegates are genuinely fond of Jim. Hundreds
 of them consider themselves his personal friends. So why the per-
 functory applause? ~~The~~ The report in Chicago is that the
 delegates were afraid, did not dare to applaud Farley too loudly
 while sitting under the vengeful eyes of Hopkins, Ickes and Perkins.

The story by Frank Schroth in the Brooklyn Eagle ~~reiterates~~
 tells about a three-hour conference at the White House between the
 President and Secretary Hull. For three hours Mr. Roosevelt tried
 to persuade his Secretary of State to take the nomination for ~~the~~
 Vice-President. So far as is known, Hull has not yet consented.

The conference ended with his promise to talk it over with Mrs. ~~Hull,~~

51 *so the story goes.* *it is said to be*
~~Hull,~~ One reason for his reluctance ~~is~~ that he does not want to

leave the State Department because it would look as though he had

been forced out by Berle and Under-Secretary Sumner Welles who do

not agree with ^{*certain important*} ~~the~~ Hull policies and would like to see him go.

according to the Brooklyn Eagle,
 Hull, in turn, tried to persuade the President to take

one step and that would be to call Chicago and put Farley in com-

plete charge, thus ending the confusion of authority and the

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embarrassment and humiliation of the National Chairman. In this, however, Hull did not succeed in convincing the President. At any rate, the advice was not followed and now, after Farley's announcement this afternoon, it would seem to be too late. The presumption in Chicago is that the ^{final} ~~last~~ straw that broke the back of Jim's patience was the announcement that ~~Senator~~ the President had delegated to Senator Barkley the job of revealing Mr. Roosevelt's wishes on ~~the~~ that Third Term issue.

PLATFORM

Concerning the task of constructing a platform, the isolationists are talking confidently. Senator Wheeler said today that he believed the platform committee will write an anti-war plank strong enough to satisfy him. That means mighty strong - because the Montana Senator is the number one isolationist at the convention and is utterly against the suggestion of war.

There's mention of one plank, which certainly would be an embattled piece of timber. Imagine -- an anti-third term plank. Of course, it wouldn't have a chance. But, some hard-boiled conservatives are threatening to go to the convention floor and put up a fight for an anti-third term plank.

MINE

From the mine disaster at Portage, Pennsylvania., come words -- tragic and pitiful. There's an aching pathos in every syllable from that coal mine town, where today rescue crews broke into the black pit. They forced their way into the living tomb, where the deadly explosion occurred yesterday. The rescue crews wore gas masks, and those grotesque masks on their faces told the fearful story -- there was no one to rescue. In the deadly gas of the coal mine explosion all had perished -- the sixty three men who were trapped.

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The most tragic and pitiful words of all were found on scraps of paper, a series of notes written by one of the doomed coal miners. Which one? no body knows -- at the moment. No signature, no indication. The only certainty is that, as the dread gas flowed slowly in on them, one of the sixty-three miners scribbled a note. Then another note, at fifteen minute intervals, as long as he could.

On one of the scraps of paper they found today is written:

"Little son -- Junior, be good to Mother." another note reads:

"To my Daughter -- be a good catholic." the last one, the final message, reads: "I don't feel sick, but there's an awful rolling in my head."

2--add Mine Disaster.

Tonight, at the stricken mining town in Pennsylvania, they're comparing hand-writing and family circumstance to determine which of the tragic sixty-three wrote those messages, so simple and touching -- and to whom they shall be delivered.

(end Mine)

ITALY

France gives us a ~~wixf~~ weird story about the next expected Hitler blitzkrieg. A French newspaper declares it has been postponed for astrological reasons. The invasion had been scheduled to begin on July Ninth and Tenth, ~~but~~ has been put off until July Nineteenth - because that's the beginning of the full moon. "Hitler," says the French newspaper, "believes in the movement of the stars and patterns his actions on their conjunctions."

Liberty Magazine had an article telling us this same thing last week.

So it's to be blitzkrieg plus astrology, which could ~~make~~ make a terrifying combination. Or, on the other hand, the delay until the full moon might hint at night operations.

PILOTS

One angle of the British war problem is indicated by a London invitation to American aviators. The air ministry announced today that American pilots and airplane technicians, who want to enlist in the Royal Flying Corps, can do so under conditions that will not cause them to lose their American citizenship, ~~these~~ ^{that} conditions are such as to square with the American neutrality law.

Ordinarily, when a man enlists in a foreign army he must take an oath of allegiance. The neutrality law, however, provides that if any American takes such an oath of foreign allegiance, he loses his citizenship. So the British concession is that no declaration of allegiance to the British government is necessary. Americans need only take an oath of allegiance to the Royal Air Force itself, which does not come under the heading of a foreign government.

This ~~relaxation of regulations is~~ because of a scarcity of trained pilots in Great Britain, - So says the London air ministry. ~~The~~ British aircraft production has been sped up at a great rate to meet the deadly threat of invasion. Production of planes has increased so much that it has outstripped the training of pilots.

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BRITISH CHILDREN

Ugly charges were made in the British House of Commons today -- concerning the evacuation of British children.

Spokesmen of the labor party declared that the real reason for abandoning the plans for a wholesale evacuation of children was that the British government plan was to ~~the~~ send abroad the children of the rich and not the youngsters of the poor. One labor speaker described the government decision in these words: "A camouflag to get the children of the well-to-do out of the country." He declared there was indignation throughout Britain because of reports that the sons and daughters of a number of the cabinet ministers had been sent across the ocean, while the children of the poor have had to stay behind. This led to a heated debate, with the Cabinet Ministers denying the charges

SPAIN

Here's a late dispatch, and it's an international headline.

Spain has broken off diplomatic relations with Chile. There has been

trouble between the South American republic and its motherland for

some time, because of events of the Spanish civil war. ~~There was a~~

sharp dispute when the Chilean Embassy in Madrid gave refuge to a

number of leaders of the defeated republic. Franco demanded that these

leftist leaders be turned over to him. Chile refused. Relations continued

to grow worse, ~~and~~ now Spain has broken with Chile.

(end)

JAPAN

Today the United States^s spoke in opposition to the reported agreement between Great Britain and Japan. Secretary of State Hull declared himself against the arrangement about which we heard last night. The British closing the Burma road -- that Burma road which is a main source of war supplies for the Chinese Nationalist regime.

Secretary Hull stated today that the closing of the Burma road would, in his words -- "Constitute an unwarranted interposition of obstacles to World trade." Much American traffic passes along the Burma road into China. And the United States does not want it closed.

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ROYALTY

Royalty comes to America - that's a headline tonight. It was revealed today that the ex-Empress Zita of Austria - Hungary is on her way to American shores - with one of her daughters. The former Empress is flying aboard the same Clipper that is bringing home Ambassador Bullitt. He's returning for confabulation with the president and secretary of State, and there is no certainty when or if he will return to his post - in conquered France. Ex-Empress Zita of Hapsburg is coming with her daughter to join her son, the Archduke Otto. He arrived in the United States by Clipper plane several weeks ago.

And the royal family of Luxembourg is on its way over. Luxembourg is a tiny place, but ranks as a nation - a conquered nation now. Its sovereign is the Grand Duchess Charlotte Ad'elgonde. The Grand Duchess herself is remaining in Europe, but her Prince Consort and their six children are on their way to the United States. They're sailing board the United States Cruiser Trenton. They rank as a reigning royal family, and are entitled to international courtesies. So therefore they were invited to sail aboard the United States Warship.

Still another royal family is said to be getting ready to travel westward across the Atlantic - King Zog, one-time monarch of Albania,

~~add~~

2--add Royalty.

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and his kindred. Ever since he was driven from his throne by the Italian invasion, King Zog and his family have been living in England. Now the report is that they're going to apply for entrance permits into the United States - King Zog, queen Geraldine, Crown Prince Skando, and Zog's three sisters. There's no official word of this at Washington as yet, but at the State Department it was said that the exiled royal family of Albania would be welcome in the U.S.A.

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Now back to the shores of Lake Michigan for a moment:-

Chicago is a hospitable city. But its officials don't seem to take celebrities very seriously. I was at one of the gates when a distinguished gentleman came up ^{to} the uniformed attendant on the door, and said: "I am Senator So and So from Tennessee. I forgot to bring my credentials and am in rather a hurry to get in." To which the conventionhall door man replied: "I don't care if you're Senator Washington From Mount Vernon, you can't get in without your credentials."

But let's switch to New York, and see if Hugh James has anything on his mind. Have you Hugh?