

P.J. - Sunoco. Wed, Jan. 13/37.

GOVERNMENT

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(The first shots were fired today in a political fight to which there is no parallel in American history. All over the country politicians were scanning President Roosevelt's plan for reorganizing the Government. And today's reverberations were only advance skirmishes.

More criticisms from Democrats were heard than from Republicans. Some observers in Washington predict an open party revolt.)

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Listen, for instance, to Joe Robinson of Arkansas, Majority Leader in the Senate. He of all people openly disapproves of one angle, the proposal to raise the wages of Cabinet officers to twenty thousand a year and

the pay of
also boost [^] the Under-Secretaries. *Then,* [^] Speaker Bankhead of the House usually cheers any suggestion from the White House. But on this ^{same} [^] issue he says:- "It is far too controversial to be rushed through." When reporters tried to pin him down to his opinion on specific features of the plan, the Speaker expressed himself with eloquent silence.

The sharpshooting came from all sides. It was directed violently against the proposal to abolish the Comptroller -General and substitute for him an Auditor-General. The critics also reared up against the idea of wiping out the Civil Service Commission in favor of a Civil Service Administrator. And here's what they had to say about the proposal to consolidate ninety-five bureaus under twelve department heads:- "You're simply changing tweedledum to tweedledee," they declared. *Adding: - "it* ~~this~~ makes no provision for cutting out the overlapping functions of many of those bureaus." The principal spokesman for that point of view was Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia.

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The G. O. P. delegation in Congress is planning its fight along different lines. This was intimated by Representative Snell of New York. "Congress", said he, "will have to decide whether we are going to follow the framers or the Constitution, or change the entire original conception of the nation, concentrating all this authority in the hands of the President ^{instead} of the States."

Such are the arguments which we shall hear in plenty for months to come. Those who are in favor of the plan say it will cut confusion, waste, and red tape. The White House staff today is obviously inadequate. Our present system is unworkable, say those in favor.

There's another question people have been asking today: "Who is this man, Louis Brownlow, head of the committee that drew up the President's report? Because he's been lecturing on political science at the University of Chicago, some people will put him down as another Brain-Truster. He's anything but that, he's no Academic theorist. He's an ex-reporter, from Louisville, did his first work chasing the festive item for Marse Henry Water-son on the Courier-Journal. Marse Henry soon found young Brownlow had a knack for **f**inding out what the politicians were up to.

So he made him his political correspondent. It was in that way that he got his first training in Government affairs. From that to Washington, as correspondent. Then to Europe for one of the Press Associations; all the time specializing on scientific government. He saw how European cities were handling their affairs. Next he became City Manager of Petersburg, Virginia, did the job well and Knoxville, Tennessee, sent for him. He also served as Commissioner of the District of Columbia. At any rate Brownlow is no inexperienced theorist.

STRIKE

There were hopes for peace in Detroit today. A conference between the belligerents in the automobile strike -- both sides agree to it. Meet tomorrow. Governor Frank Murphy of Michigan invited Homer Martin, President of the Automobile Workers and William S. Knudsen, Executive Vice President of General Motors, to get together with him tomorrow and talk it over. Martin, who's in Washington, says okay, and now so does Knudsen.

Meanwhile twelve hundred National Guardsmen moved into Flint, banded, armed and equipped for anything. There's no Martial Law, the soldiers are merely there in case of emergency. They'll take no sides but preserve order and prevent any repetition of Monday's riot.

At the same time the strike spread to a Fisher Body plant in St. Louis. And while Homer Martin said he was willing to meet Mr. Knudsen, John L. Lewis declared: "This is going to be a fight to the finish."

MATTSON

They are fashioning a portrait of the maniac who perpetrated the Mattson crime. Some of its features are hypothetical, others are not. Its based on the fact that the two other Mattson children saw the man when he snatched their brother.

We can recall how similar hypothetical pictures were drawn of Bruno Richard Hauptmann while the G-Men were combing the country for him. After Hauptmann was arrested it was observed that some of those imaginery pictures were extraordinarily realistic.

He Here's the way they picture the Mattson kidnapper:- swarthy with dark hair; He wore a beard on the night he invaded the Mattson home, but he's probably clean shaven by now. That, it is believed will reveal a weak face, weak chin, mouth drooping at the corners, high cheek bones, with sunken cheeks and weak eyes. Slight of build, probably not more than on-hundred and fifty pounds; five-feet six or seven inches tall. Middle aged, they believe him to be somewhere between forty and fifty. Of one thing they are pretty sure. He's left-handed. When he broke through the window of the Mattson home he gestured with his left hand, and with his left hand he also threw the ransom note on the floor. That he's a maniac,

a pathological case, is beyond all doubt. The ransom notes were obviously written by a defective, and his few brief conversations with Dr. Mattson and the intermediary also indicated a crazy mind. And it is apparent that he knew the Mattson family, had a grudge against them. One of the remarks he made was that he had spent plenty of money on the Mattson home and that he was going to get some of it back. The police are seeking him among ex-convicts, and they have three specific ones in mind.

Late this afternoon the Tacoma police received information which led them to suspect a definite person. In the fashionable neighborhood where the Mattson home is located, they learn several children have been annoyed by a ruffian known to be a narcotic addict. He's an ex-convict who has violated his parole. They know further that he broke into several homes near the Mattson home. The information seems to be fairly definite, as the G-Men have his picture. It will ^{be} shown to the surviving Mattson children to see if they can identify him.

CASE

It was a wisp of hair on the shoes of a negro porter that led to his arrest, charged with that horrible bathtub murder in Queens, New York. In thirty-six hours the man named Major Greene was under arrest. And late this afternoon Police Commissioner Valentine issued the statement:- "The brutal slaying of Mrs. Case has been solved and the perpetrator is in custody."

At twelve o'clock last night Deputy Chief Inspector Ryan was telling reporters:- "We are up against a stone wall." But two hours later they had their man at the station house, with such an overwhelming mass of evidence against him that the police declared the case closed. At first the rumor went abroad that Green had confessed. But tonight the police are saying:- "WE don't need any confession." Actually they say when they arrested the man he was wearing a shirt with the initials F. W. C. in the neckband, the initials of Frank W. Case, the husband of the murdered woman. As for the prisoner himself, all he says is: "Not me. It may look bad for me, but I didn't do it."

POPE

The sun shone on Vatican City today, and the person who enjoyed it most was the convalescent Pontiff. It was the first time in a month that the physicians allowed Pope Pius to get out of bed. The first thing he did was to hear Mass in his private chapel, where he was taken in a wheel-chair-throne especially built for the purpose. After that he sat in the sun outside the window of his private apartments, reading, receiving visitors, including the Cardinal Secretary of State.

John Bull's Navy won a victory in Spanish waters today, ~~it was~~ a victory over ~~General Francisco~~ Franco's Spanish Nationalist Navy, just ~~out~~^{off} ~~in the Straits of~~ Gibraltar. ~~To be sure it was~~ a bloodless victory; ~~with~~ not a shot fired. ~~Still, a victory.~~ A British steamship was on its way to Bilbao. Just as she reached a point off Cape Tarifa outside the territorial waters of Spain, one of ~~General~~ Franco's armed trawlers overhauled her ~~fx~~ and fired a shot across her bows. But the British freighter ~~was~~ equipped with ^{ra} radio, ~~she promptly~~ wirelessly ~~a~~ call for help and H.M.S. Destroyer Sussex came steaming up under forced draft. ~~#~~ Just as an officer from Franco's warship was about to board the British cargo vessel the Sussex appeared on the scene. The boarding party was hastily recalled and the trawler made off at full speed. The officers of the destroyer then examined the cargo of the freighter and found she was carrying nothing but wheat, wine and fruit, so ~~xx~~ she was allowed to proceed, ~~to Bilbao.~~

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For the most part Europe today was, following the words of Woodrow Wilson, adopting the ~~px~~ policy of watchful waiting.

The outstanding bit of news is that Dr. ~~Helmer~~ Schacht,
Hitler's Minister of Finance, will not go to Paris after all.

The explanation in Berlin is that affairs in Germany are too
pressing to allow him to leave. The purpose of his trip to
the Quai d'Orsay ^{to be} was to negotiate a trade treaty with France.

As it is, he will leave that conference to his experts.

~~Along with rearmament on the ocean, there's an equal amount of war preparation in the sky.~~ All of Europe is feverishly building air fleets - and it's an European realization of American ideas.

Several years ago, European military and aircraft experts were seriously considering the question - why ~~is~~ *was* American aviation and air transport so far ahead of the world? They decided to find out. Engineers of the leading powers of Europe came to this country and spent months studying our methods in the design and manufacture of aircraft. This is told me by Al Ludwig of the Curtiss-Wright Company, who saw a good deal of the investigation the European experts made.

And those experts learned a lot. They went back home and proceeded to put ^{American} ~~the~~ methods of American aviation into operation, ~~in their own countries.~~ Now millions upon millions are being spent over there, with the result that our own progressive lead in the sky may be threatened.

we showed them around.

All because

*56
from here on*

I heard a tragic story today, as much of a classic as the old one -- about the soldier who ~~had~~^{served} in the wars unscathed for many a year, and then falls down his own doorstep and is killed. Yes, I heard the story -- and also saw it.

We were looking at pictures in the Movietone studio, pictures of a plane ~~skimming~~ skimming the wildest of ~~tropical~~ jungles, diving into tropical canyons, landing on the narrowest ~~and most wild~~^{and most winding} of equatorial rivers. They were Martin Johnson pictures of aviation and wild animal filming in remot^e, unexplored places.

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Martin and his wife, Osa, as I ~~saw~~^{mentioned} last night, ~~had~~^{had for several} specialized ^{years} in far-flung travel by plane. He was a pioneer in exploration by the sky route. He brought back a series of great animal pictures, ~~one after another~~^{—thrills for all the world.} His last one, not yet shown, not yet even cut -- Martin and Osa had just returned from filming it. Wild beasts in Borneo!

A while ago I told a Martin Johnson story of how his ~~crack~~ aviator, Jim Laneri, had knocked out a giant orang-outang, while they were filming and capturing the monster. Later on ~~he~~^{she} had

Jim Laneri on the air, ~~with me~~, telling of flights over the country of the head-hunters, landings in a few square yards of log-filled rivers, getting pictures. ~~¶~~ Today I sat with film editor

Truman Talley while they ran off that last Martin Johnson picture--

— just being cut; not yet released,
of Borneo. ^λ And it showed as perilous aviation as I ever looked

at -- adventure flying to the nth degree. I was seeing the story-

and then I heard it. It was told me by Lew Lehr and by ^{editor and} ~~λ~~ cutter

Russ Shields, who had been working with Martin on his film. They

had been talking with him ~~me~~ just before he left for the West.

I told last night how Martin Johnson, in his ^{aviation} ~~λ~~ enthusiasm, never would ride on a railroad train -- if he could help it.

Always preferred a ~~xxx~~ plane. But that wasn't the case last

week when he started out to give some lectures. He told Lew

~~Lehr~~ and Russ ^{he felt} ~~Shields he had~~ ~~λ~~ a premonition about flying.

He and Osa were not going to take a plane this time. He seemed

to feel that ^{they} ~~he and Osa~~ ~~λ~~ had dared death dangerously enough in

their Borneo sky travels, jungles, head-hunters, no fit landing

places. It was time to call a halt, to knock on wood.

So Martin and Osa took the railroad, much as he disliked

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the train. Four days to Salt Lake City, in a Pullman! —
Much as Pullmans always irked him. But at Salt Lake City he
found that his ~~inf~~ lecture dates on the coast were such that
they couldn't possibly make connections by train, so they must
fly -- premonition, or no premonition. And so, Martin and
laughing, doll-like Osa, took the plane for Los Angeles.

(Tonight, after the ^{air} crash yesterday, Osa Johnson lies
in a Los Angeles hospital, half conscious. She hasn't been
told that Martin died of his injuries. First reports were that
he had merely a broken leg. Then we ~~lea~~ rned he had other
injuries -- fatal.)

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He had a lifetime of hazards in remote places since
he went ^a voyaging with Jack London twenty-five years ago. They
were just back from the most dangerous of flying in Borneo
when tragic destiny caught them in a routine flight on a
standard American airline.

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