

Good Evening, Everybody:

The most important thing I find in today's news concerns our taxes, your taxes and mine. Now don't groan. I know it's apt to be a doleful subject, the way these legislating boys spend our money. But the information I have ~~to relay~~ sounds encouraging. Especially in view of an earlier report that President-elect Roosevelt was contemplating an income tax schedule fifty per cent. higher than last year's, and that Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi wanted to make it retroactive. A dispatch to the ~~New York World Telegram~~ <sup>Boklyn Times-Union</sup> today brings ~~advice~~ <sup>word</sup> that congressional leaders doubt whether higher income taxes will be levied on us. At any rate, Representative Collier, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, told correspondents today that he does not intend to submit any proposal to ~~broaden the base of~~ <sup>step-up</sup> the income tax rates until the beer bill is disposed of by the Senate.

Speaker Garner likewise had soothing words to offer. He told the reporters he had a tax plan. <sup>Said</sup> ~~As~~ he: ~~put~~  
~~it~~ "I think it is not quite as painful", as the proposed fifty per cent, increase in income taxes. At the same time Mr. Garner would not tell the boys what the plan is.

PINCHOT

Republicans in Pennsylvania are being quite excited over the aims and ambitions of Governor Pinchot. According to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Harrisburg is buzzing with rumors that Pennsylvania's governor is gunning for the seat in the United States Senate which is supposed to belong to Senator James J. Davis. Senator Davis, ~~a~~ our old friend Puddler Jim, has not been seated yet. He's still under indictment on a charge of having taken part in ~~a~~ the lottery conducted <sup>for</sup> ~~by~~ the Royal Order of Moose. The first trial was a mistrial. His second trial is about to occur shortly.

In the event that Senator Davis is not seated -- and Governor Pinchot is foremost among those who demand that he should not be -- Governor Pinchot is quite willing to take that Senate seat in place of Mr. Davis. *That's the story.*

# RETAKE

PINCHOT

Republicans in Pennsylvania are being quite excited over the aims and ambitions of Governor Pinchot. According to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Harrisburg is buzzing with rumors that Pennsylvania's governor is gunning for the seat in the United States Senate which is supposed to belong to Senator James J. Davis. Senator Davis, x our old friend Puddler Jim, has not been seated yet. He's still under indictment on a charge of having taken part in x the lottery conducted <sup>for</sup>~~by~~ the Royal Order of Moose. The first trial was a mistrial. His second trial is about to occur shortly.

In the event that Senator Davis is not seated -- and Governor Pinchot is foremost among those who demand that he should not be -- Governor Pinchot is quite willing to take that Senate seat in place of Mr. Davis. *That's the story.*

## JAPAN

After two days of quiet, hostilities broke out again between the Chinese and the Japanese in the neighborhood of the place which the Associated Press tells us should be pronounced Shanhaikwan, although that isn't the way it's spelled. The rival armies are facing each other across the Tashin River. The line of battle extends as far as the city of Chinwangtao. Chinwangtao is the seaport which lies several miles away from Shanhaikwan itself.

Spokesmen of the Chinese government at Nanking are ridiculing the statement of the Mikado's officials that the Japs are trying to localize the fighting at Shanhaik wan. They call this statement a smoke-screen. Everybody in Asia believes that the Japanese are about to make their long-prophesied march into Jehol. All correspondents and observers seem agreed that the Jingo element in the Mikado's government is determined to add this rich province to Manchukuo.

Incidentally, refugees from the siege of Shanhaikwan are saying that no less than five thousand civilians were killed by the Japanese during the bombardment of the city.

COOLIDGE

Ex-president Coolidge was, as the whole world knows, a man of extremely simple tastes, and utterly averse to pomp and ceremony. Accordingly, it is announced from Northampton, Massachusetts, that his funeral rites will conform so far as possible ~~with~~<sup>with</sup> his tastes. I say so far as possible because an ex-president of the United States cannot be buried without certain public tributes, and without the attendance of the foremost dignitaries of the nation.

So the arrangements for tomorrow in Northampton are as follows: Mr. Coolidge's body will lie in state for one hour between eight-thirty and nine-thirty at the Edwards Congregational Church, the historic church in Northampton which was named for Jonathan Edwards.

10  
President Hoover will arrive at Northampton at half past ten tomorrow morning eastern standard time. With him will be leaders of Congress from both the Republican and Democratic parties. Likewise, of course, groups of distinguished people outside of politics from all the biggest cities in the east.

There will be a short simple ceremony in the church. After this a procession of motor cars will start for Plymouth, Vermont. There in the beautiful hills where he was born, Calvin Coolidge will be laid to rest beside his father and his son Calvin.

The exchanges all over the country will close tomorrow at eleven o'clock as a tribute to the ex-president. In all the military posts of the United States a salute of thirteen guns was fired ~~at Revere~~ this morning. Today all the officers of the army and navy began their thirty day period of <sup>u</sup>morning<sup>^</sup> by order of President Hoover.

An important meeting <sup>has been</sup> ~~is~~ going on <sup>for a couple of</sup> ~~today~~s which

bodes no good for the wets. A group of foremost leaders of the Dry Cause have been in session <sup>for 2</sup> ~~all~~ days at Atlantic City, of all places. There they are planning a vigorous defense of their pet babies - ~~the~~ 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act.

The report in the Philadelphia Evening Ledger brings the news that the public was rigorously excluded from this meeting. It is essentially a secret <sup>get session.</sup> ~~meeting.~~

The Dry potentates even had heavy furniture pushed up against the door of the room in which they were assembled in order to keep out intruders. - meaning prying reporters.



DIVORCE

Newspapers all over the country are discussing the lengthy report submitted after three years of work by President Hoover's Research Committee on Social Trends. The report itself is so long that it fills two fat volumes.

~~In those there are many interesting phases.~~

One <sup>chapter that will</sup> ~~that will~~ concern practically every ~~xxx~~ grown

person deals with the question of family life and divorce.

President Hoover's Committee, after all its investigation,

finds indications that the divorce rate in America will continue

to increase. Moreover, the size of the family will continue

to decrease. Also, more and more of the things that used to be

done by the family and in the family circle will be taken over

by outside agencies. On the other hand, the committee finds no

evidence to prove what some prophets are saying, that the family

is about to disappear. The family, it says, has declined in

social significance, but not in human values.

The Committee's findings on the question of

divorce are somewhat startling. It predicts that out of every

DIVORCE - 2

five or six couples who get married this year, one couple will ultimately find its way ~~in~~<sup>to</sup> the divorce court. The old U. S. A. has the highest divorce rate of any country in the world outside of Soviet Russia. ~~That is, among all countries that keep statistics of such things.~~

It's rather curious the way divorce rates vary in different parts of the country. The ~~divorce rate is~~ highest *average* ~~in proportion to population~~<sup>is</sup> in the inter-mountain states. It's next highest in the central states, and the Pacific Coast states come third. There are fewer divorces per thousand in the middle Atlantic states than anywhere else.

7

Dan and Judy of Bel Air, Maryland, write in,  
wanting to know why I haven't been telling any Sunoco Tall  
Stories lately.

Okay, Dan and Judy, here's one for your especial  
benefit.

TALL SUNOCO

John Schaller of Tontogany, Ohio, wins this week's autographed copy of the Tall Story book, and wins it hands down, in a walk. John writes from Tontogany:

"My motor stopped -- on a lonely road -- out of gas. Did I get out and ankle it for gas? I did not. When i looked at my watch I saw that the time was 6:42 p.m. So I simply opened the cap on my gasoline tank and waited until 6:45 p.m. As soon as your Blue Sunoco program came on the air I stepped on the starter, the motor began to hum, and I reached my home in Tontogany sixteen miles away, just as you were saying So Long Until Tomorrow."

And that's about the tallest one I've heard in a long time.

ACCIDENT

(6)

The following item is going to be a sad blow to people who like to knock the automobile and ~~are~~ harp on the number of accidents it causes. Dr. E. E. Free in "The Week's Science" informs us that deaths by automobile accidents are decreasing. Furthermore, the decrease in motor car deaths is not attributable to the decrease of traffic as a result of hard times. The decrease goes far beyond any lowering in the number of fatalities that might be laid to the depression.

The figures on which this statement is based, do not come from an automobile <sup>manufacturers</sup> ~~company~~. They come from the actuary of an insurance company in Hartford, Connecticut. And believe me, insurance actuaries are thoroughly impersonal fellows when it comes to figures.

TAXI

Would you like to know what a taxi driver~~x~~ thinks of you? The New York Taxicab Chamber of Commerce today issued a glossary of terms used by hackmen. According to the story in the New York World Telegram a passenger who doesn't tip is known as a skunk. Any call amounting to over one dollar is a ~~taxi~~ soldier; any call over two dollars is a rip.

5  
A male passenger who uses a taxicab for petting purposes is called a muzzler. A long trip with an amorous couple aboard is known as a "mugger rip".

One of the most amusing terms in this glossary to my mind is "a coffee pot lawyer". This is taxi chauffeurs argo for a talkative driver.

200th ANNIVERSARY

A rather unusual event is taking place in Boston tonight. It is a banquet at the Masonic Temple, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the oldest Masonic Lodge in North America, St. Johns Lodge of Boston.

Starr Burdick, Master of the Lodge, informs me that it was an adjourned meeting of the members of St. Johns that pulled off the historic Boston Tea Party, just prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War over one hundred and fifty years ago.

200th ANNIVERSARY

A rather unusual event is taking place in Boston tonight. It is a banquet at the Masonic Temple, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the oldest Masonic Lodge in North America, St. Johns Lodge of Boston.

Starr Burdick, Master of the Lodge, informs me that it was an adjourned meeting of the members of St. Johns that pulled off the historic Boston Tea Party, just prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War over one hundred and fifty years ago.



BURGLAR

4

A news item comes from Chicago today that's ~~xxx~~ somewhat along the lines of the famous story of the chicken thief. You may remember it -- how the farmer heard someone in his hen house one night and shouted out: "Who's there? Better answer quick or I'll shoot." Whereupon a voice came from the chicken coop saying plaintively: "There ain't nobody here but us chickens."

Well, a gentleman tried to burglarize a tailoring establishment in Chicago. Moving clumsily he stubbed his toe and made a noise. Thereupon, the tailor's wife called out: "Now Tommy, Tommy, get back into your box."

Thereupon the burglar lifted up his voice and said: "Meow, meow".

Well, that was just too bad for the burglar. What he should have said was: "Bow, wow", because Tommy is not a cat but a wire haired fox terrior. So today the burglar, lying disconsolate in the Chicago calabose, thinks ladies have no right to call wire haired terriors Tommy.

FASHION

Now for a fashion note of a different sort. Some of you may know or may have read that once upon a time coon skin caps and fringed hunting shirts were quite the thing. Those were the days when papa went out with his long rifle on his shoulder and had to bring home the bacon for mama and the kiddies.

(3) Well, I heard today that the coon skin cap and the fringed leather shirt are going to be fashionable again. And I didn't hear it from a furrier either. This statement was made at a convention of teachers of home economics who are meeting today at the Hotel Lexington, 48th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York. These ladies and gentlemen are teachers who lecture to thousands of women annually telling them how to make the home more comfortable, and how to balance the budget and so forth and so on. One of these teachers reported that she has been struck by the number of housewives who today are demanding new recipes for preparing the meat of rabbits, squirrel, bear and deer. Then

FASHION - 2

again they want to know how to fix wild chestnuts, wild onions, <sup>and</sup> mushrooms gathered in the fields. Another of these teachers reported that in some places in the Middlewest which she visited recently nearly every house had rabbit, squirrel, bear or deer hanging in the back yard. And men out of a job are turning hunters and going out and shooting their own dinner, just as their great grandfathers used to do. And what was wrapped around the dinner, the skin, was being tanned and made into clothing.

Well, all such symptoms as that help to make the times interesting.

PARKING

Here's an ominous note for folks who park their motor cars in the street all night. If other police chiefs follow the example of Commissioner Mulrooney of New York City, it's going to be just too bad. ~~Naturally at these times many people try to save the expense of parking in garages, which in New York is utterly exorbitant, in fact, prohibitive for people of small means.~~

~~Well,~~ It seems that in New York the all night parking of cars has begun to constitute a fire hazard. So says the fire commissioner, ~~of New York~~. So the police commissioner has ordered his laddies to start a campaign. For first violation you get a sticker pasted on the windshield ~~of your car~~ as a warning. For second violation, a summons and a visit to <sup>the</sup> ~~New York's~~ Traffic Court where <sup>some of my friends tell me,</sup> you will find yourself treated something like a leper who has just committed ten crimes in a row.

## PEACOCK THRONE

Gems, jewels; diamonds, sapphires, rubies, emeralds, not by the hundreds but by the thousands, not only by the thousands but by the tens of thousands. In fact two hundred thousand jewels -- worth twenty million dollars -- all owned by one man. Oh boy - oh boy - oh boy!

Who is the lucky fellow? Why, a <sup>chap</sup>~~man~~ who used to be a stable boy. His name is <sup>or</sup>Riza Khan, the cavalryman who overthrew fat Sultan Ahmad and made himself Shah of Persia a few years ago. And when he became Shah of Persia into his possession fell the famous Peacock Throne.

In 1929 French jewel experts went to Persia and catalogued the ~~Persian~~ crowned jewels; it took them a month to do it. And <sup>then</sup> they announced that their value exceeded the value of the Russian crowned jewels.

Now, word comes from London that Riza Khan, Shah

PEACOCK THRONE

of Persia wants to sell the Peacock Throne above  
which is an out-spread tail of a peacock forming a  
glittering canopy and in that tail are 140,000 gems.

Do I hear any bids for the Peacock Throne?

Going, going, gone - and solong until <sup>Sunday.</sup>~~tomorrow.~~  
^