

P.J. - Sunoco. Monday, April 1, 1940.

PRIMARIES

All eyes on

those primary elections in Wisconsin tomorrow. ~~will have~~

~~the whole country watching them. A great deal is expected from~~

~~the result~~ To be sure, Wisconsin ~~sends~~ ^{will have} only twenty-four delegates

to send to each ^{to the} convention ~~only twenty-four electoral votes~~ But, for

~~various~~ ^{attitude of} reasons, the ~~feelings of the~~ voters in Wisconsin tomorrow

~~is~~ ^{are} expected to provide a test. ~~The~~ Political wiseacres declare

that from those returns we shall be able to get some ~~real~~ idea

of the comparative strength of Senator ~~Arthur~~ Vandenberg and

^{Dist. Atty,} ~~Prosecutor~~ Tom Dewey as Republican candidates. ^{And on the Democratic side} ~~And~~ Wisconsin

will also be a proving ground for that troublesome third term

issue.

The inside dope from Madison is that the balance of

^{Wisconsin} power in ~~the state~~ will be in the hands of the LaFollette

Progressives. And so far both Governor Phil LaFollette and his

brother, the Senator, have kept a cagey silence. They have

refrained from indicating interest in either side, Republican or

Democratic. So at present the inference is that the LaFollettes

will call the tune in Wisconsin. But tomorrow's primaries may tell

a different story. ^{Some} ~~show a picture from another angle~~ twenty-four

hours from now we'll know more about it!

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LEWIS

Once again the threat of a third political party crops up.

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~~The man~~ ^{And} behind the threat is John L. Lewis, C.I.O. chief. He admitted his menace was aimed principally at the Democrats, but he added that what he said goes for the Republicans also. ~~However,~~ ~~said Lewis, "we don't expect much from the Republican Party."~~

One of the first considerations that comes up when you're organizing a new party is, what will you use for voters? Lewis has his answer pat. He proposes to try to take the labor union men, farmers, negroes and youth organizations. That's what he'll do if the Democrats at Chicago do not nominate a candidate to suit John L. Lewis.

All this he said at Monongah, West Virginia, where there was a rally of the United Mine Workers.

Lewis seemed particularly bitter at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He openly joined the curious campaign of attack against the G.-men that ~~has~~ ^{we have} been ~~so noticeable~~ ^{hearing about} lately. ~~It is~~ ~~partly a whispering campaign of slander and innuendoes, partly indirect and irrelevant charges and suggestions for curbing the activities of the F.B.I. Those who should know say this~~

~~campaign was begun by the Communists.~~ Lewis comes to bat with
~~one of the most curious accusations of all.~~ ^{the} He charges that the
 government is going to train men for industrial espionage. He
 spoke disparagingly about the fact that the government had asked
 Congress to appropriate nine million, eight hundred thousand
 dollars for the F.B.I., whereas ~~Herbert Hoover, when he was~~ ^{the last Republican}
~~administration~~ ^{administration} spent only two million, eight hundred thousand on
 the same cause.

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^{TP} John L. Lewis also let it be known that he'll join hands with
 the supporters of Dr. Townsend, the Old-Age Pension champion.
 He's going to address the Townsend Convention in St. Louis early
 in July and will ask them to support the C.I.O. ^{In fact he} ~~he~~ has already
 announced himself in favor of pensions of six dollars a month for
 everybody over sixty.

~~Mr. Cannon wants reference to Herbert Hoover~~
~~cut out!!!~~

CONGRESS

Only two more months for this session of Congress. That's
a promise, or, should we say ~~more politely~~, a prophecy? ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Promise or prophecy, it ^scame from Senator Barkley of Kentucky, —
Democratic leader in the Upper House. ^{The} President ~~Roosevelt~~ has
sent to Congress all the suggestions for new laws that he has in
mind at this session. ^{So we hear,} Consequently, there's more than a fair chance
for an adjournment by June First, if not sooner.

CENSUS

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If a stranger had called at your house today and asked how old you were or some other impertinent question, you would have been quite right to reply, "April Fool!" For the census takers aren't supposed to start out until tomorrow. Evidently the authorities thought April First was a rather too ticklish day on which to start such a quiz.

~~Probably a good many of the census investigators will start on their rounds with at least one strike on them.~~ The air still rings with the indignant protests of Senator Tobey of New Hampshire. ~~HEXE~~ To counteract his and other criticisms, a *census* message was sent ^{today} to the citizenry at large, by William Lane Austin, Director of the Census. Austin wants us all to understand emphatically that what we tell the census takers is strictly confidential. The reports, he says, cannot be used for purposes of taxation, regulation or investigation. What's more, they cannot be handed over to any other agency of the government, tax collector, or prosecutor. They are confidential, not by any census bureau regulation but by act of Congress.

Austin also announced that the agitation over the

questions about income had been misplaced. There are just two questions on the subject, one of them calls for the amount of wages or salary received up to five thousand dollars a year.

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If you earned more than five thousand dollars, all you have to do is say, "over five thousand." All that information about income is to be used only to compile tables of statistics.

In spite of Austin's message, Senator Tobey of New Hampshire continued his charges. He said in many districts active Communists have been hired as census enumerators and district supervisors.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt has postponed his visit to Warm Springs, Georgia. He had intended to leave immediately. But his physician advised him ~~xxxxxx~~ that to go south now for a change of climate and change of diet, would be unwise. So the plan at present is that Mr. Roosevelt will ^{not} go to Warm Springs ^{until} about April Eighteenth. ~~Incidentally,~~ **I** it is now admitted that the cold with which ^{the President} ~~he~~ was supposed to have been afflicted was actually an attack of influenza.

WHITE BOOK

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That German White Book, with its charges against American Ambassadors, ^{has} brought repercussions in Washington. Senator Reynolds of North Carolina wants to have Ambassador Bill Bullitt put on the griddle, examined by the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, and asked what he really said to Count Potocki, the Polish Ambassador. ^{Sen.} Reynolds also wants Sumner Welles to tell all. He thinks the Under-Secretary should be compelled to make a full statement about that European mission ^{he undertook} ~~he took~~ for President Roosevelt, where he went, with whom he talked, what was said, what was done. Reynolds is the Senator who returned from Europe ^{some time ago} making remarks which some people in Washington interpreted as ~~being~~ ^{Sen.} decidedly pro-Nazi. And Reynolds added that what Bullitt is charged with having said privately to the Polish Ambassador is suspiciously like the things that Minister Cromwell said publicly in Canada.

Almost in the same breath Reynolds offered a resolution in the Senate. He wants to place the Upper Chamber on record as being in favor of having Uncle Sam recognize defacto governments wherever they are established, provided they in turn recognize

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the rights of American citizens. This resolution was a decided slap at ~~the policy of~~ not only ^{the} Roosevelt policy but also at some of the preceding Republican administrations. Ever since the Japanese seized Manchuria, the United States has definitely declined to recognize any acquisitions of territory made by force or governments set up as a result of aggression.

In the House, the German White Paper was taken up by Representative Hamilton Fish. The Republican from New York wants a five-man committee to make a full investigation of that Nazi document. Fish made one statement which some people will consider ^{odd} ~~rather curious~~ when he said: - "I cannot conceive that the German Foreign Office would fabricate or forge documents." And he added that it is certainly in the interest of the German Government to maintain peaceful relations with us.

Fish even talked of impeachment. "If," he said, "upon investigation the facts warrant impeachment of any American ambassador or minister, or even the President, for making secret commitments, then it is the duty of the House of Representatives to initiate impeachment proceedings."

COAL

Here's ^{an} ~~a somewhat~~ ironic ^{item.} ~~situation.~~ Early this year, the British blockade threatened the Italians with a shortage of coal. So Italy bought ~~somewhere near~~ ninety thousand tons of ~~soft coal~~ from West Virginia. ^{Then the} ~~The~~ Italians paid twenty dollars and ten cents a ton for shipping that coal from minehead to Italian ports. The coal itself ^{having} ~~only~~ cost ~~XXXXXXXX~~ around two dollars a ton.

All this comes to light because the soft coal miners have sent a petition to ^{Washington.} ~~the government.~~ They want ships! Europe is crying for coal, and American mines have plenty to sell. But ^{ships are needed} ~~they need ships~~ to get it across the ocean. The Coal Exporters Association points out that there are a hundred old freighters which Uncle Sam built twenty-two years ago, freighters that aren't doing anybody any good, just rotting at their anchors. If some of them could only be reconditioned and put into commission, the coal mine operators could get their coal to Europe, they could employ more miners, and the United States could push up its coal export trade fifty per cent.

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CHINA

It has been quite a while since we heard anything important from the Far East. ^{But here is} ~~an~~ announcement ^{from} ~~in~~ Chungking, capital of the Chinese Government, ~~is quite interesting~~

There was a meeting of the Peoples Political Council at which Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek stood up and gave utterance. One of the claims he made was that in the last six months no fewer than two hundred and thirty thousand Japanese soldiers had been killed. Chiang claims further that the Japanese are stalemated in China, cannot successfully operate the territory they hold, cannot move without disastrous losses.

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He also said that China has been getting more help than ever from Russia in the last few months, not only Russia but other nations, and he added that the new twenty million dollar loan from the United States has been a great encouragement.

As for Wang Ching-wei, the former Chinese Premier whom the Japanese have set up as a puppet ruler, Chiang Kai-shek describes him as a rebel. He said further that Japan faces a hopeless outlook, the Mikado's armies can't win any more victories in China, while at home his subjects are under-going severe

sufferings because of the war.

~~So~~
~~That is as~~ Chiang Kai-shek sees it, ~~or rather~~ ^{that the way} ~~as he~~
he says it. The Japanese, of course, tell a different tale.

FLOODS

Every year we have a story of floods, an old, old story, but this year the place names are slightly different. This time it's the Susquehanna River that starts the forced march of the hungry waters. And the center of ^{today's} news is Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania.

~~That's the news of today. When American rivers begin rising there's no telling where the damage will end.~~ It's also news ~~today~~ that

there ^{is} no danger in Pittsburgh. ~~To be sure~~ Water did cover some or the streets of the steel capital. But ^{the level is falling} ~~it's falling~~ and there's no cause for fear at that ^{famous} crucial triangle.

But ^{Pa.,} ~~In~~ Wilkesbarre, it's another ^{tale today.} ~~story~~. The folks of that Pennsylvania coal metropolis ^{now} have to put up with a peculiar law. ~~today~~ Smoking ~~is~~ illegal in Wilkesbarre. A gasoline storage tank burst and ~~the inflammable stuff~~ spread over the flood waters.

A half-burned match, a lighted cigar or cigarette butt, might have ^{started something indeed.} ~~created a horrible conflagration, no mere fire, but~~ ~~conflagration.~~

In the City, ~~of Kingston, right~~ next door to Wilkesbarre, three storage tanks blew up with a roar. Kingston was already devastated by flood. The fire just put a climax on the peril. ~~and~~

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For a while an expanse of flood waters was covered by a mass of flames, but they burned themselves out.

And the flood story is by no means confined to Pennsylvania. In Connecticut, the Housatonic is over its banks.



~~that an ice jam on that river might break and the people of that part of Connecticut have been holding themselves ready to fly at a moment's notice.~~

In New Jersey, the Delaware ^{today went} ~~was almost~~ fourteen feet

above normal, threatening a flood at Trenton, with several low lying highways ^{already} under water.

In West Virginia, the Ohio was two feet above flood

level at Wheeling, and officials of the steel plants were advised

^{some of} to shift their moveable machinery. ~~to the high spots~~

^{on the whole it's not an}
~~in Ohio, the people in the southern end of the state~~
alarming flood picture. But ~~were getting ready to move and the Red Cross was preparing to~~
~~waters in many regions are~~
~~get into sudden at any times~~
on the rampage.

Out in California, two people died and more than a thousand families left their homes to escape peril from the Sacramento River. Twenty thousand acres are inundated in the Golden State. ^H Altogether, the death total from floods in various parts of the ^{nation now total.} ~~country went up to~~ fourteen.

Here's the latest prediction ~~for those flood waters~~

It comes from Uncle Sam's Weather Bureau at Harrisburg. At

Wilkesbarre, the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ crest of the Susquehanna will be at

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the thirty-four foot level by two o'clock tomorrow morning.

By two o'clock tomorrow afternoon there'll be a crest of

twenty-two feet and one-tenth at Sunbury; twenty-one feet at

Harrisburg by one o'clock Wednesday. The people of Wilkesbarre,

Plymouth, Kingston and Sunbury are all standing by in case of

orders to evacuate.

Twenty thousand people are homeless already. ~~And if~~

~~I have just named~~
~~these four cities are evacuated there'll be a hundred and fifty~~

~~thousand more refugees.~~

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ALASKA

Here's an odd one:- The Chamber of Commerce of Ketchikan, Alaska has passed a resolution expressing deep commiseration for those ~~other~~ Americans living in rigorous climates ^{here} in the States! In other words, ~~these~~ ^e Alaskans are razzing us. ~~up there in the Alaskan pan-handle.~~ They say they have had no snow this winter. ^{White} ~~But~~ down here, ~~look what we have had?~~ ^T This past weekend when Bill Stern handled the news so nobly for me, I was in the snowy Adirondacks. In fact, ^{we} left there last night in a blinding snow storm. Up in the White Mountains, where the snow is nearly one hundred feet deep in Tuckerman Ravine, they are getting ready for big ski races next weekend and the weekend after that.

But listen to the way this Alaskan resolution reads:- "There has been no snow or ice here whatever this winter. Our lawns are green, bushes are budding, flowers ^(in Alaska!) and it goes on! - are growing", ^{and} "we have even been able to pick roses and go without overcoats and winter underwear." Therefore, continues this formal Alaskan resolution, "Be it resolved

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ALASKA - 2

-- Oh oh our warmest --

that we express our warmest sympathy for the people of the
unfortunate Eastern and Southern states and recommend that
they spend their winters in Southeastern Alaska." Bob
Crawford the Alaskan Flying Baritone sends me that one.

CHERRY TREES

Ah, but here's some pleasant springtime news:-

The blossoms of the famous Japanese cherry trees in Washington will make their belated appearance in two weeks. They should have been out already, but the freak spring has delayed them. But the latest is that they will be in full blossom during the week beginning April Fourteenth -- the single blossom trees. The double blossom trees, a week later. This is a forecast and promise by the National Parks and Planning Commission. So fill up your tank with Nu Blue and let's meet in Washington!

But that sounds like me playing April Fool on Hugh -- by talking for him.

Photocopy and incorporate.