

L.J. - Sunco. Thurs., Dec. 16, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I can give you only the briefest word about the trouble they've just had at Alcatraz, the United States fortress prison in San Francisco Bay. The news is still flashing over the wires, and the disturbance may still be going on out there.

The first word came a mere few minutes ago. It stated that Alcatraz had called for help from the Coast Guard - asked that two Coast Guard cutters be sent at once. Immediately telephone calls put through to the prison brought this word:—"There has been serious trouble, but nobody is dead." What that trouble is, nobody outside those grim walls can guess - save that it is connected with escape.

Because the latest is that two prisoners have got ^{Tom} away
from that famous escape-proof prison, from which they said
nobody could ever get away. The two are named as Ralph Roe of
Muskogee, Oklahoma, convicted of robbery, serving ninety-nine
years; and Theodore Cole, of Cushing, Oklahoma, convicted of
kidnapping and serving fifty years.

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And later still, just to hand - those men may not have
escaped. They may be still on the prison island, hiding - they
simply disappeared.

Tomorrow's newspapers will tell the whole story.

SHIPS

The United States Maritime Commission today called for bids. Twelve new steel cargo ships for the United States Merchant Marine to be built immediately. They're to cost between eighteen and twenty-five million dollars. So ship-building companies are asked to submit their figures for the job -- which is a record-breaker. The Commission describes the program in these words - "The largest individual peace-time order for merchant cargo tonnage ever placed in this country.

Today's call for bids follows the placing of orders for a new American liner. Work is beginning on the construction of a fifteen million dollar queen of the seas to fly the Stars and Stripes. The echo resounds -- hurrah for the ships of the U.S.A.!

But meanwhile, as this ship-building news flashes, along comes word: - conviction in Baltimore. This disconcerting case concerns the fact that if you have ships you need crews also. And discipline is needed on the wide spaces of the ocean, mid storm and lashing waves. Yes, it's disturbing to take a glance at the case in which fourteen United States sailors are charged with -- mutiny. It's the case of the Steamship ALGIC, the troubled story of which

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has been in the news from time to time. At Montevideo, part of the crew staged a sit-down strike. The sit-down was then quite the vogue in the labor world. But on a voyage it comes under the heading of -- mutiny.

The prosecutor today made a plea to the jury to enforce American discipline at sea -- to put a check to disorders among the crew. "Let us stop this," he shouted, "before there is bloodshed on American ships." And the word is just in:- the jury has convicted the fourteen sailors of the ALGIC.

Not so much hurrah in that, nor is there in the news from Washington that the Senate Commerce Committee staged a secret meeting today to consider charges against the crew of the United States Steamship BLACK FALCON. A New York engineer has put a complaint before the Committee stating that on a voyage from New York to Rotterdam, Holland, the sailors of the BLACK FALCON got drunk, threatened and bulldozed the passengers, and went heaving things overboard -- part of the cargo. Senator Copeland of the Commerce Committee said today that if we can't keep passengers and cargo safe from the crews on American ships, we might as well stop trying

to build up a merchant marine.

For a climax, here's the Manila headline. The passengers of the Steamship PRESIDENT HOOVER today put in complaints, charging misconduct by the crew. Those passengers have just landed at the Philippine port, after an anxious adventure when the American liner went on the rocks off the Island of Formosa. They say that while the ship was imperilled on the reef, a dozen sailors broke into the bar, and got drunk. Most of the crew kept discipline and good behavior. But the drunken dozen ran wild. "There was no attempt to suppress the hoodlums," one passenger declared today. Another tells how when everybody was rescued and taken to the Japanese controlled island, the intoxicated sailors landed shouting and howling and singing. And this statement is made -- that several American woman passengers asked the protection of the island police to keep them from being molested by the rowdies of the American crew.

BRITISH FOLLOW SHIPS

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Well, the British have their troubles too. The crew of the MONARCH OF BERMUDA went on strike in New York harbor today, and that caused the Company to cancel passenger reservations for the sailing tomorrow. They offered the passengers their money back or a trip on another ship. They say the MONARCH OF BERMUDA will sail tomorrow on schedule, but with empty cabins.

STRIKES FOLLOW BRITISH

There's labor trouble on land too. Last reports from Dearborn Michigan say that a total of a hundred union members were arrested today. There's a strike at the Ford River Rouge plant, and there's a regulation that prohibits the distribution of strike literature in one forbidden area. The strike pickets assembled there today and started passing out copies of a union publication. Then arrests were made -- to the total of one hundred.

Moreover, the police are grabbing and questioning people -- trying to find out who did the shooting. ~~today~~ Automobiles were speeding along taking non-union workers to the River Rouge factory, when shots began to pop. The Union claims it was Ford Company guards that opened fire. Company men accused the strikers.

51 Things are becoming tense at Dearborn -- in the ^{labor}~~state~~ drive against Henry Ford.

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There was a telegraph strike today in ^{six}~~the~~ large cities ^{of}~~the~~. It didn't last long -- wasn't intended to. The Postal Company has been having Labor troubles of late, and today the Union

staged a demonstration of strength -- to add point to its demand.^S

^{In}
~~The~~ New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and
Detroit telegraph employees stopped work, a temporary sit-down
strike. In New York it lasted for three hours, then the workers
returned to their ~~xxxxxx~~ tasks. The Union says it was -- a show
of strength. The Company states² that while service was impeded
-- it was ^{not}~~not~~ completely tied up during the sit-down period.

LABOR FOLLOW STRIKES

The chances of peace in the world of labor look rather poor tonight -- after what John L~~aw~~ Lewis had to say today. The C.I.O. chief talked to a steel workers convention, and made statements ^{giving} ~~that give~~ a decided impression that the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. cannot get together.

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Lewis' remarks centered around the word digestion. He said the A.F. of L. would have to digest four million C.I.O. members -- his organization, would march into the Federation that many million strong, if peace were made. Sounds as if such a vast legion might give the A.F. of L. indigestion. They might easily take control. Lewis added that the A.F. of L. would like to admit about a million, but would have to take them all in, the whole four million.

Then John Lewis spoke harsh words: "I ^{know} ~~note~~ today," he shouted in his rough, gruff voice, "That the digestion of President William Green of the A.F. of L. is very bad. Four million men is just too much for him to digest. His stomach in this respect is just like his mind -- a little weak."

When the boys start insulting each other like that, it

does look pessimistic for peace ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ the ^{ranked} ~~rights~~ of labor.

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Meanwhile, ~~xxxxx the~~ A.F. of L. President Green was having his say -- but not about the C.I.O. or the Labor War. He made a declaration about the Wage and Hour Bill -- and he spoke against it. He told Congress to send that pay-and-work measure back to the Committee, and have it changed, fixed up. He sent a telegram to every member of Congress, saying:- The Wage and Hour ^{Bill} Bill is highly objectionable to the membership of the American Federation of Labor."

ROOSEVELT FOLLOW LABOR

President Roosevelt today made a recommendation to Congress about social security. The main point concerns states that were late in passing their own Social Security laws in cooperation with the government - New Jersey for example. In those states people are not to get Social Security benefits as early as in others. The lateness in passing the law causes a delay in the payments of old-age pensions and unemployment insurance. The President wants that changed! He asked Congress to fix it so that the old and the unemployed in the states that were tardy will get the money as soon as people any place else.

The presidential recommendation asks for a broadening of Social Security payments in various other ways. ~~Some~~ Changes in the complicated details.

ROBINSONS

The mystery of the Robinsons in Russia comes to a logical climax today. The man and woman vanished strangely in Moscow. And then it was disclosed on this side of the ocean that they were traveling with false passports. The Soviet authorities for days denied knowing anything about them -- but the inevitable surmise was that they were in a Bolshevik prison.

This was confirmed today when Moscow made the disclosure -- that the Robinsons are under arrest. And with this is mentioned the word so familiar and terrible in Russia -- Trotskyist. The Robinsons are in a Soviet prison, charged with being involved in a Trotskyist plot. That's the accusation which so often ends to the firing squad.

Beyond today's revelation, the Robinsons are still mystery man and mystery woman. Nobody seems to be able to place them as individuals who lived ever here in America.

SPAIN

There are two ^{military} ~~melancholy~~ reports from Spain tonight. One is from the Franco side and declares that the insurgent preparation for their much talked of big offensive is just about complete. They say that on December Twentieth or soon after, the grandiose Franco push will begin. ~~The~~ Left Wingers ^{declare} ~~say~~ their push has already begun. They're driving at the Teruél salient, a long, narrow neck of territory that Franco controls. Barcelona declares tonight that its attack is blasting through successfully, and that they're about to cut the salient in two and surround Franco's great military fortress at Teruél. They report that they're within two miles of the city and can see the church steeples.

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Meanwhile, the Franco frontiers are closed. The borders with France, Portugal and Gibraltar are shut tight. One explanation is:- Franco ~~is~~ stopping communications as a preparation for his drive. The Left Wingers claim it is to hide outbreaks on the insurgent side, fighting among the Franco people.

CHINA

The battle of protest and apology continues today - American indignation and Japanese regret.

(Today Secretary of State Hull said - yes, it's confirmed that the Panay was machine-gunned, as previous reports indicated. The State Department has definite information - telling how Japanese war planes in low sweeping dives turned their machine-guns on the stricken American gunboat, after it had been bombed.) And the Mikado's war craft on the river fired their machine-guns at the boat - still flying the American flag. And Japanese officers clambered aboard the PANAY, before it sank. *No mistake.*

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This machine-gunning, in addition to the bombing, makes the attitude of Washington more drastic. It is expected to cause the United States government to demand a still broader satisfaction - more protest.

On the apology side, the Japanese ambassador to Washington assures the President - yes, that presidential remonstrance, addressed to the Mikado, will be put into the Imperial hands. It won't merely be held by the Japanese Foreign Office. Ambassador Saito explains that the Roosevelt protest would have gone to Hirohito

anyway, in the normal course of things - even if there hadn't been any insistance on this end, as there was.

There's a report that the Japanese commanding officer responsible for the attack on the PANAY is being recalled to Tokyo, to be demoted. London has word that this is true - that's the latest ~~report~~ tonight. ~~And~~ It is said ~~that~~ ^{the} demotion of that commanding officer ~~would~~ ^{may} be followed by ^h ~~hari-kari~~ ^h - Japanese ceremonial suicide. Others involved may enure the same fate. Such may be the expiation, - the answer to the demand that those responsible be punished.

(The theme of apology came to a climax today when the Japanese Navy did an unparalleled thing. The Mikado's fleet, in formal declaration, apologized to the United States Navy) to its officers and enlisted men. ~~There's~~ Never before in history has any such thing occurred. *And the Mikado gave his approval of this.*

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Japanese sailors are raising money as an indication of apology - five thousand Yen, fifteen thousand dollars, which they'll contribute to the United States Navy fund - as an

expression of regret by the sailors of the Imperial Navy. Two Japanese newspapers announce that they also are contributing money, three hundred dollars each, to be paid to the families of the PANAY victims. And at San Diego, California, the local Japanese societies sent flowers and expressions of regret to the widow of the Navy petty officer who was killed. Japanese apology is as effusive as the smiles and bows of oriental politeness.

From the Chinese side -- expressions of defiance.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, in a radio address to all China, declared today for war to the end. He estimated the casualties the Chinese have sustained as half a million. But he sounded the slogan -- we must no surrender but march onward!

MAXWELL

Today many people have been paying tribute to George H. Maxwell, called by some the world's foremost conservationist -- irrigation, great dams, and so on. In 1899 Conservationist Maxwell organized the so-called irrigation forces of this country. And he is credited with having inspired the C.C.C.



BARBARA

The United States lost one Countess today -- the Woolworth heiress. She has renounced American citizenship.

She married Prince Mdivani, one of the Marrying Mdivani Brothers -- but that didn't last. Then she wedded the Danish Count Reventlow von Haugwitz -- and now she has formally become a Dane. An indication that this time we have something lovely in Denmark. And indication that this time wedded bliss is coming along all right.

FOUR HUNDRED

I have many more items tonight. But they are crowded out. Here's a brief one in conclusion:- The man who created the Four Hundred -- died today. Cecil Jerome Allen, society editor of the NEW YORK SUN - he was sixty-nine years old.

How was the Four Hundred created? Well, it was like this:-

Back in the halcyon days of New York society, the king of fashion was Ward McAllister. He dictated the social style, passed judgement on who should be admitted to elite circles and who should not, the social ins and outs. Society Editor Allen interviewed Ward McAllister one day on the subject of personalities among the bluebloods. And the king of fashion declared himself thusly:- "There are only four hundred people in New York that one really knows," said he.

Allen played up the snooty phrase in his story, and it became a by-word. That was how the Four Hundred began. And this is how this broadcast ends:- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.