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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Phone Riley 5551

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1935.

PROPAGANDA'S SUBTLE WAYS

SIR JOSIAH STAMP, British economist, declares America today faces the biggest moral issue in her history: in view of the grave turn of international events.

America, he said, could only be cynically indifferent at the price of Europe in ruins. America's moral issue, therefore, is between actively helping try to save the world and letting things slide.

A cartoon from a leading London daily depicts John Bull standing up manfully to a gigantic Mussolini, while Uncle Sam, from the sidelines, is asking John why he doesn't stay out, too.

The subtle propaganda already making its appearance in Europe has an all too familiar ring. For we belong to the generation that lived through the World War.

At the outset of that war the head of a great American news-gathering organization called on the premier of an allied country.

"The American public," he explained, "is pretty hazy on what the war's all about. So I have come here, just as I shall do in Berlin, to offer to you our facilities if you care to state your case. Ours is not a propaganda agency. But we do feel our public is entitled to hear both sides. Hence our desire to co-operate."

"Co-operate?" in effect replied the apparently amazed statesman. "I see no call for co-operation. This is our war, not America's. Good morning."

That was at the beginning of Europe's war. Germany would soon be licked. We had nothing to do with it. It would soon be over and the spoils divided. The less America meddled, the better.

BEFORE the war was half-way over, however, picture had entirely changed. In speech, press and cartoon, American was being lambasted for staying out. It was a war for civilization. A war to end war. In fact, it was America's war. And an un-sportsmanlike people were holding aloof, letting others fight and die for them while they coined dollars out of Europe's blood.

We are not concerned here with the rightness or the wrongness of all that. The point is we were shamed and bullied by propaganda into lending a hand in a fight which, at first, admittedly was none of our business.

Today Europe is inclined to insist that her quarrels, dating back two millenniums, are really our quarrels. When a European power which did not get its share of the spoils of the last war tries to grab a colony somewhere in Africa, the other and more fortunate powers cry out that America's duty is to step in and help stop it. The propaganda barrage begins.

Whereupon our war-time memories again come to life. When President Wilson suggested an end of the war on a basis of "peace without victory," he was jeered. When later, at the peace conference, he fought against the spoils of war, he was almost leaped upon.

Today's war in Africa is, and tomorrow's wars in Europe will be, largely because his advice was not taken. Yet when the new wars come, we will be swamped again by shaming, bullying and cajoling propaganda to make us feel that it is "our war."

Unquestionably the world is growing smaller. Certainly it will be difficult, if not impossible, for us to stay out of a new major war, if it lasts long enough. Nevertheless it is our duty to try. And one way is for us to keep our heads—not to permit our emotions to run away with our reason.

We must learn, among other things, not to allow propaganda, whether originating at home or abroad, to blind us to fundamental truth. Which is, that America's first duty to the world is to be loyal to herself.

ANOTHER GAS BATTLE

A BITTER undercover fight that has raged in recent years between the gas industry and the U. S. Bureau of Standards, with \$490,000,000 of the American people's annual fuel bill at stake, was brought into the open by the Federal Trade Commission.

Some ten years ago, gas companies in all parts of the country were planning to reduce the number of British thermal units—in other words the heating value—in the gas they sold. The American Gas Association, according to Trade Commission records, was supplying the companies with material from which to argue that consumers were not hurt by such a reduction, even though it was not accompanied by rate cuts.

E. R. Weaver, chief gas chemist of the Bureau of Standards, didn't believe this was so.

He fought for three years to get his views before state regulating commissions, charging that the proposed BTU reduction meant as much as a 60 per cent increase in the price of gas and, if adopted, generally meant a \$490,000,000 addition to the nation's annual bill for cooking and heating.

The battle ended only when some of the most brilliant companies concerned started to sell natural gas, with high heating value, and did a right-about-face on the BTU question, arguing that they should be allowed higher rates to compensate for the higher heating value of their gas.

Weaver's story of his fight has just been put in the Trade Commission record, together with a score or more of exhibits showing efforts made by gas men to have his views suppressed.

IN 1924 Weaver wrote Technical Paper 290, in which he said the amount of gas consumed increases inversely as the number of BTUs in a cubic foot is reduced. The consternation caused by his paper is indicated in letters in the record. Henry L. Doherty of Cities Service Co. called to remonstrate.

The gas companies continued their campaign, arguing that the Public Service Co. of Colorado, a Doherty company, had reduced the heating value of its gas from 525 to 400 BTUs and that "it is doubtful if any of our customers know that a reduction in heating value has occurred."

In 1926 Weaver determined to write another paper on the Denver situation, indicating consumers had been paying 19 per cent more for their gas since the reduction in heating value.

He was told by George K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards, that protests against publication of such a document had been made to Secre-

tary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, in whose department the bureau was.

Eventually Cities Service blocked publication of the report, Weaver says, by withdrawing permission for use of confidential data on the Denver situation.

Mr. Weaver, however, obtained other less detailed data which had been published at various times, revised his paper, and sent mimeographed copies to the state commissions. The Colorado commission reversed its earlier stand and ruled that any reduction of BTUs must be accompanied by a rate reduction.

DO YOU STILL BEAT YOUR WIFE?

THE United States Chamber of Commerce has just sent out to its 1500 member organizations four questions constituting its referendum on the New Deal.

To make it easier, the answers are supplied in advance by a special committee of the Chamber appointed to study trends in Federal legislation. The members are supposed to answer yes or no to the soundness of the committee's findings.

Looking over the questions, we wonder whether the Chamber isn't in the position of a judge who furnished a jury with ballots all marked "guilty."

1. Should there be an extension of Federal jurisdiction into matters of state and local concern?

2. Should the Federal government at the present time exercise Federal spending power without relation to revenue?

3. Should there be government competition with private enterprise for regulatory or other purposes?

4. Should all grants of authority by Congress to the executive department of the Federal government be within clearly defined limits?

Remember, yes or no!

IS HISTORY REPEATING?

AUG. 5, 1914: The British navy dredged up and cut the German cables, and thereafter most of the foreign news served up to neutral America was cleared through Entente channels.

Oct. 10, 1935: The British postoffice refused to relay through a British short-wave station a scheduled broadcast from Geneva, in which Baron Aloisi, the Italian delegate to the League, was to present Italy's case to neutral America's radio audience.

Thus the first "sanction" seems to be against information.

Bitter though we feel against Mussolini and all of his spokesmen for their war of invasion, we believe we are entitled to hear what Italy has to say and that it is not Britain's business or any other nation's business to turn the dials.

BENITO VS. BENITO

THE New Leader, Socialist journal published in New York, appeals from Mussolini drunk with power to Mussolini sober in the fresh morning of his life.

The New Leader quotes an editorial written by Mussolini Jan. 1, 1912, when he was the young editor of the Socialist daily Avanti. Attacking Italy's war in Libya, North Africa, Mussolini said 23 years ago:

"The nationalist, conservative and clerical Italy of today wants to make the sword her law and the army the school of the nation. We foresaw this moral degeneration and therefore are not surprised by it. But those who believe that this dominance of militarism is a sign of strength are mistaken. Strong peoples have no need to suffer such rubbish as the Italian press indulges in with foolish delight. Strong peoples have themselves in check. Nationalist and militarist Italy shows that she has herself not in check. A little war of conquest is celebrated as a Roman triumph."

STRENGTHENING WPA

IT is perhaps too late to come close to fulfilling the bright promises of the work-relief undertaking, but those who fear the consequences of this major failure of the Roosevelt Administration will welcome news that Army engineers have been called into the WPA operation.

The WPA staff consists principally of political appointees and social service workers. Admitting that many of them are men and women of ability and sincerity, they are still political appointees and social service workers, and, for the most part, not chosen for their experience in handling works projects.

On the other hand, the Corps of Army Engineers has a long and honorable record in planning and directing useful and wealth-creating public improvements. Wasteful projects of the leaf-raking type should have had sledge with these Army engineers sitting at the elbows of Mr. Hopkins and his sub-administrators.

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

THE other side of the earth presents a picture which would be funny if it were not filled with such tragic possibilities.

Watch the newsreels any day, anywhere, and you'll know what we're talking about. There is a dreadful sameness about these scenes. Men massed and marching for battle; men saluting; men with guns—everywhere. Overhauling and dominating them are one or two individuals: the pathetic Haile Selassie, playing at being an emperor; Mussolini posing pompously before Caesar's statue; Hitler, declaring himself The State in front of 300,000 of his subjects; English warships speeding to Suez; the streets of Paris filled with soldiers.

The world is insane again, insane with listening to a few men who are drunk with the thought of power. And so we read in our papers that war will be waged because these men must "save their faces." And they will save them, mind you, at the expense of millions of lives, of untold destruction and of irreparable waste.

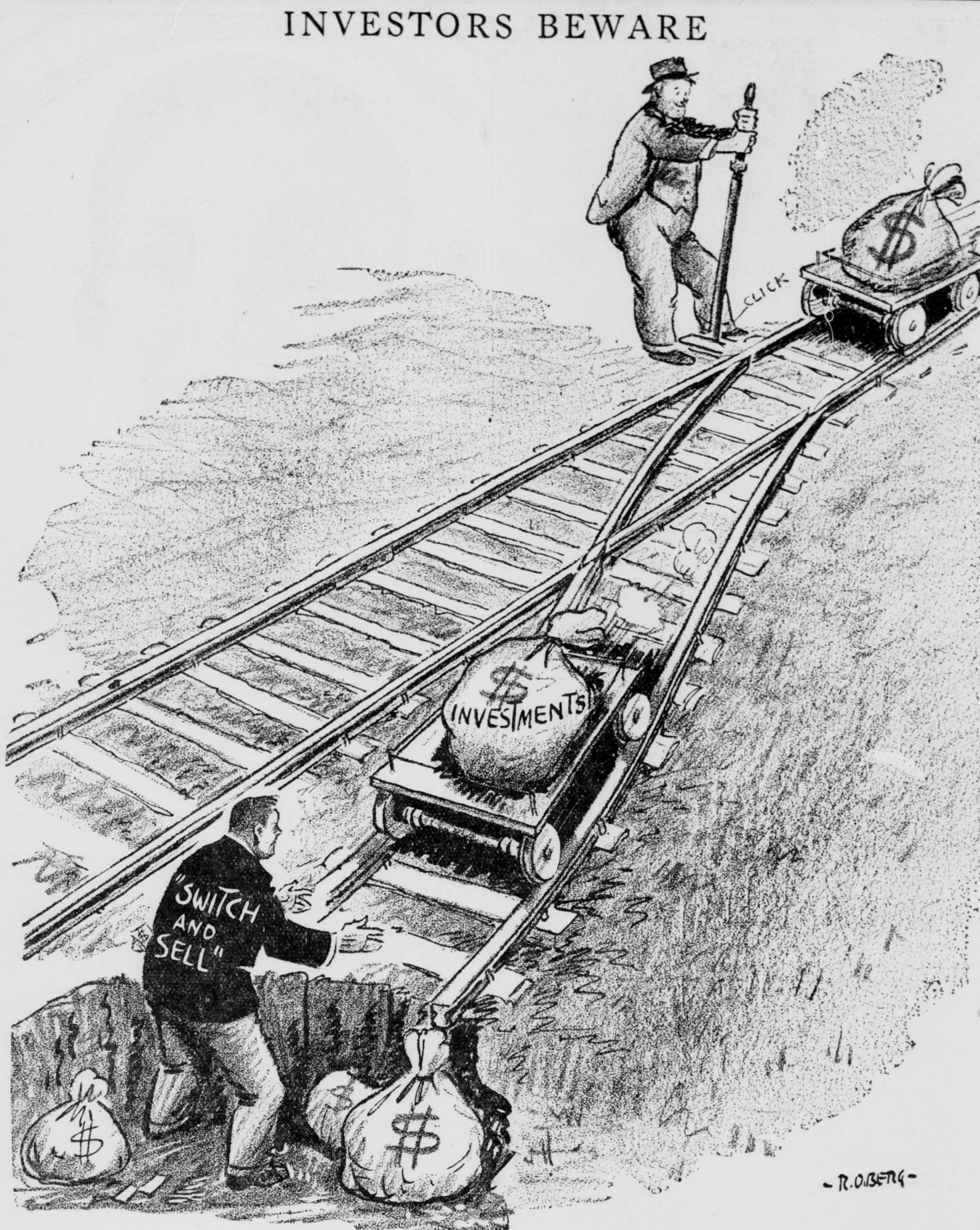
These pigmy mortals strut—exactly as their prototypes have always done. Like small boys showing off, they mass their troops and think because the cheers are loud and the drums beat at their coming that war will make them mighty. Neither forethought, intelligence, logic nor common sense dictates their actions.

They are funny, these dictators—but not half so funny as the millions of creatures calling themselves men who follow their bidding like slaves. So that Mussolini may "save his face" a world can be destroyed, a civilization wrecked and thousands of happy homes ruined forever. Does it not seem choking, incredible, frightening, that for such paltry reasons these things can occur?

The United States faces a tremendous responsibility, the responsibility of keeping freedom alive upon the earth. Long ago our forefathers dedicated themselves to this cause; to it we must now dedicate ourselves anew, never forgetting that freedom can be preserved only where people are permitted to govern themselves and dictators are unknown, and where peace, not war, is the chief objective of all citizens.

The cause of peace is the cause of free speech, of a free press, of human liberty, of constitutional government.—Senator Borah.

Preaching is doomed. In five years people will sit in their homes and have their choice of listening to, and looking at, any one of perhaps six of the finest preachers in the country.—Dr. B. C. Clausen, Pittsburgh.



Forum of The Times

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

Censuring C. C. C. Activities

By a Nature Lover

When the Civilian Conservation Corps was sent into the woods with its axes, its picks and shovels, and its educational pamphlets, lovers of the great outdoors sat back comfortably and concluded that America's wilderness areas were at last to be made safe for the bull moose, the red squirrel, and the future generation.

But it develops that this sigh of relief was a little premature. Few organizations have a more alert interest in our wilderness heritage than the American Nature Association; and this group, speaking in the current issue of "National Magazine," asserts that our primeval forests are actually endangered by activities of the outfit that was supposed to protect them—the CCC.

This isn't the CCC's fault. The point is that one of the jobs given the CCC has been to build roads through the forests; and the "Nature Magazine" article protests that no one in Washington seems to realize that if you build enough roads into a wilderness, and dot it with hotels and camp sites, it very speedily ceases to be a wilderness. If The Times will permit me, I will quote a few lines.

"The Cascade crest in Washington has been literally riddled by roads of the CCC," says the article. "To the north and west of Mt. Adams truck trails have opened up an unsurpassable wilderness country; the headwaters of the Selway are invaded by

myself intrigued again by your latest contribution on that most timely topic—War.

"Black Shirt, Black Skin," by that famed radio commentator, Books Carter, gives every promise of being as thrilling a narrative as its immediate predecessor.

That opening chapter, for instance, painting as it does in vivid fashion the dictator's mental torture in those awful hours before the

die is cast and a nation is again led on the bloody path to war is, to my mind, a beautiful piece of literature. It gives us a new slant on what is going on and opens up a vista of still more tragic days to come. A warning, indeed, if America needed any to stay out.

Here too, is an insight into something to which few of us have given much thought what with our natural sympathies for the underdog.

NOT A PAT-A-THUMP ON THE BACK

By Times Reader

My hat is off again to The Times. Having just finished Walter Millis' "Road to War," and not yet having recovered from the thrills of that amazing series of articles, I found

Questions and Answers

Include a 3-cent stamp for reply when addressing any question of fact or information to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Information Bureau. Legal and medical advice can not be given, nor can extended research be undertaken. Be sure all mail is addressed to The Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, Frederick M. Kerby, Director, 1013 Thirteenth-st., N. W., Washington, D. C. THE EDITOR.

Q—Name the author of the proverb, "What you are speaks so loud I can not hear what you say."

A—It is a paraphrase from Ralph Waldo Emersons "Letters and Social Aims." "Don't say things. What you are stands over you while, and thunders so that I can not hear what you say to the contrary."

Q—Why are dead birds seldom found on roads or in woods?

A—Because they disintegrate rapidly, and are eaten by predatory animals and insects.

Q—Do all elephants have tusks, and if a tusk is broken does it grow again?

A—Tusks are merely elongated incisor teeth in the upper jaw. When broken or extracted they are never replaced. Tusks grow on both sexes of the African elephant, but seldom grow on the female of the Asiatic or Indian species. In Ceylon only about 1 per cent of either sex have tusks.

Q—What is the maximum size of the barracuda in the southern waters of the United States?

A—The maximum is about eight feet long and 40 pounds in weight.

Q—Give the source of the quotation, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

A—"What Rules the World," a poem by William Ross Wallace.

Daily Thought

The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.—I Samuel ii, 7.

THE bad fortune of the good turns their faces up to Heaven; the good fortune of the bad bows their heads down to the earth.—Saadi.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—Senator Borah is planning a speech which will take the hide off Herbert Hoover. He is convinced that Hoover is one of the greatest obstacles to Progressivism within the Republican Party. . . . Father Coughlin has given definite assurances to Borah that he will support him for the presidency. . . . This, together with the recent flirtation between Borah and Townsend, makes the Idaho Senator the most potent contender the G. O. P. has. . . . President Roosevelt recently received an Indian luck charm from a British Army officer who wrote that its mate was in the possession of Queen Mary. The State Department, is returning the gift, said, in effect: "The President is not permitted by law to receive gifts from foreign sources, even if its counterpart does bring luck to Queen Mary."

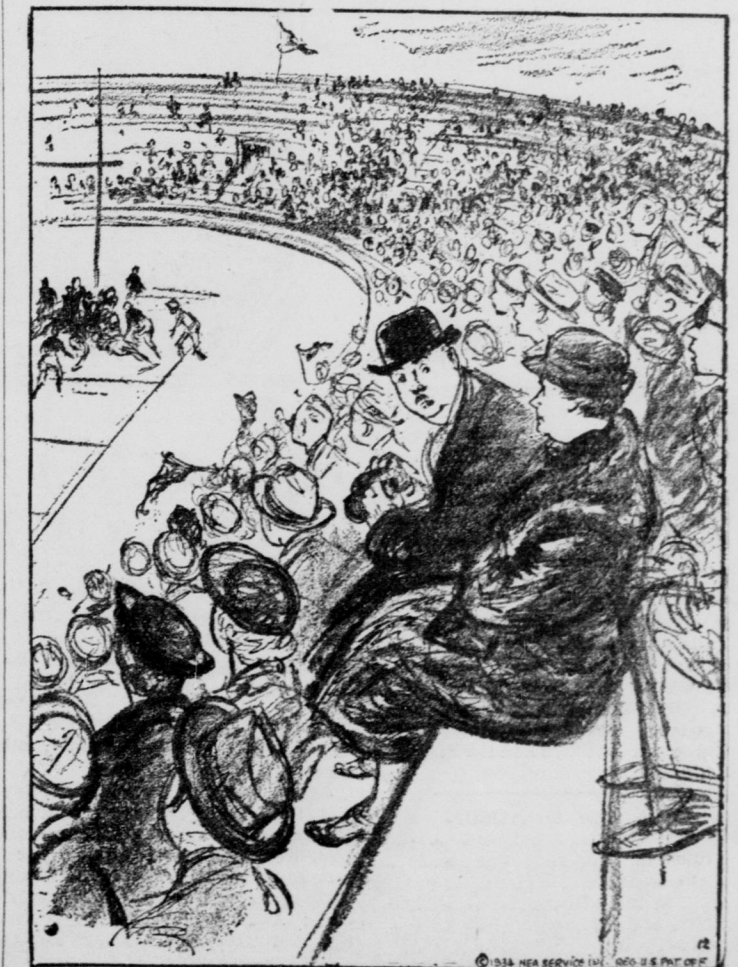
JIM FARLEY is in a unique position to gauge the reaction Jouett Shouse gets from his Liberty League radio broadcasts against the New Deal. He can simply count the mail Jouett receives. After one recent broadcast, Jouett got a mere handful of letters. . . . Nevertheless, general business of the Liberty League is booming. It has just added a new suite of rooms in the National Press Building. . . . Office space in Washington has become so scarce that the newly appointed Bituminous Coal Board had to set up temporary headquarters in a hotel. . . . The Navy Day stamp, due from the presses by Oct. 27, has Big Jim Farley on the horns of a dilemma. Irish partisans are urging that the picture of John Barry be put on the special stamp as the Father of the United States Navy. Hotly opposed to this are Scotchmen who insist that the honor belongs to John Paul Jones. Jim has tried to pass the buck to the Navy Department. . . . The election of Iowa's J. Raymond Murphy as National Commander of the American Legion means a big shake-up in personnel of headquarters staff at Indianapolis.

MRS. ROOSEVELT has been counseling with close friends regarding the widespread criticism about her public activities. She is much concerned over the volume of the unfavorable comment and is asking her intimates what she should do—disregard it or retire from the limelight. . . . The raising received by Rep. Wright Patman at the American Legion convention was the only mauling he was subjected to by the veterans. The day before, at the convocation of the 40 and 8, he was given the "silent treatment" when he rose to talk. . . . Although Congress is in adjournment, from dome to sub-basement, is being overhauled and refurbished. . . . The august Supreme Court is considering employing a press relations assistant. For the first time in history, the Court's new building has several press rooms, but the correspondents are urging a special tache to act as liaison man between them and the justices. . . . Among those who wrote to Miss Mary O'Reilly, assistant mint director, congratulating her on the President's order extending her tenure of duty, was Ogden L. Mills, Hoover's Secretary of the Treasury.

ONE thing to be remembered about the Italian march into Ethiopia is that Addis is not in the mountains but at the foot of them. When the Italians really get in to the mountains their trouble begins. . . . American military experts estimate that Mussolini may be able to take Addis Ababa in relatively short time, but it will take two or three years actually to subdue the country. The estimate is based on the French campaigns in Syria and the Rift and the Spanish campaigns in Morocco. . . . The State Department has been seriously handicapped in getting accurate news from the Ethiopian front. News from the American Legation depends almost entirely upon Emperor Haile Selassie, and he in turn depends upon tom-toms and signal flags. There is no telegraph or radio connection with the Ethiopian armies. . . . News from the Italian front has been heavily censored.

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SIDE GLANCES By George Clark



"Oh, maybe the coach doesn't want to put Wilburn in until our goal is in danger."