

News Review of Current Events

KLAN ISSUE DOGS BLACK

Newspapers Claim Proof He's Life Member . . . Fleet Stalks Submarine Pirates . . . Japs' Big Push Starts

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Fiery Cross Haunts Justice

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT suffered what was probably the most embarrassing period of his entire political career as the whole country stormed over the publication of what was claimed as documentary proof that Hugo L. Black, recently appointed a justice of the Supreme court, was and is a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

The series of articles, copyrighted by the North American Newspaper alliance and printed in the newspapers which subscribe to its service, included reproduction of Black's resignation from the hooded brotherhood, allegedly turned in to the organization in 1925 but never made known to the public or to the Klansmen in general. It also contained reproduction of the minutes of a Klan meeting in the following year at which Black was said to have become a life member and was given a gold "passport," one of the highest honors conferred by the order.

Implications of the revelations, if they are true, are manifold. President Roosevelt asserted that he had no knowledge that Black was a member of the Klan when the appointment was made. He refused to comment further until Black returned from Europe, where he was vacationing. Black, hounded for a statement by the press, went into seclusion in London and refused to confirm or deny the accusations.

Opposition to the administration lost no time in making political capital of the situation. Senators who had been marked for political extinction because they had dared to oppose the administration on the plan to add six new justices to the highest tribunal found it the finest kind of defense ammunition. They pointed out that the President, in his opportunity to appoint one new justice of the liberal character he desired, had appointed a man who, if it were true he belonged to the Klan, was incapable of administering impartial justice to Catholics, Jews and negroes. Other senators declared they never would have voted for his confirmation had they known he was a Klansman.

It was admitted that since Black had already taken his oath of office there might be no means of correcting the appointment other than by influencing him to resign. This the President might do, it was believed, if Black did not deny the charges upon his return to the United States.

Showdown on 'Sub' Piracy

GREAT BRITAIN and France were massing the greatest destroyer fleet ever operated in the Mediterranean sea, to police it and safeguard neutral shipping from attacks by "pirate" submarines, as a result of the agreement signed by nine powers at Nyon, near Geneva. The powers signatory to the pact also included Greece, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Rumania, Bulgaria, Egypt and Russia. Italy and Germany had refused to attend the conference when Russia publicly accused Italy of operating the "pirate" submarines which sank two Russian ships, and threatened reprisals if Italy did not pay indemnity.

The principal provisions of the agreement, which Germany and Italy were invited to join, were:

1. Mediterranean shipping will be restricted to the regular ship lanes, which will be patrolled by French and British warships, in both the eastern and western stretches. If Italy agreed, she was to be allowed to patrol the Tyrrhenian sea.
2. Patrolling navies will attack and attempt to destroy any submarine which attacks merchant ships other than Spanish, without first giving passengers and crew opportunity to leave in lifeboats, as outlined in the 1936 London naval treaty.
3. Signatories expressly declare that they do not concede belligerent rights to either party in Spain.
4. Patrol ships arriving on the scene of an attack too late to prevent it will be authorized to attack any submarine in the vicinity, provided they are satisfied it is the guilty one.
5. These measures will be executed by the British and French fleets anywhere in the Mediterranean with the exception of the Adriatic. Eastern powers will protect neutral shipping in their territorial waters.
6. Signatories agree not to let any of their own submarines put to sea in the Mediterranean unless accompanied by a surface vessel, except in certain "exercise" zones.
7. Signatories will not permit foreign submarines in their waters unless in urgent distress or on the surface and accompanied.

It was plain that delegates knew that explosions might occur in half a dozen European capitals if their



HANDS ACROSS EUROPE
Jointly refusing to attend the anti-"piracy" conference, Hitler (left) and Mussolini once more show the complete accord of the two Fascist governments.

pact did not get into operation before there were any further attacks on shipping. They were embarrassed in conference by the Russian foreign commissar, Maxim Litvinoff, who insisted on naming Italy as the "pirate." Russia at first refused to sign, on the grounds that the second provision was no protection at all, merely requiring submarine commanders to be "gentlemanly" before sinking ships, and that it implied recognition of both Spanish parties as belligerents. Britain's Anthony Eden was reported to have convinced the signatory powers that it would be impossible for a submarine to sink a ship under those conditions.

China's German Strategy

JAPAN'S long-awaited "big push" in China was believed definitely "on" as the Japanese assumed virtual control of North Hopei, and made important thrusts into the Chinese lines at Shanghai, after the most terrible fighting of a month of undeclared warfare.

At about the same time, the Chinese, heeding at last the advice of German officers generally conceded the "brains" of the central army, began a strategic retreat to the "third area of defense" mapped out by these same officers after the Shanghai conflict of 1932, which was conducted under identical conditions.

Apparently the Chinese plan of retreat was to withdraw defending troops from the range of Japanese naval guns in the Whangpoo and Yangtse rivers. The Chinese were reluctant to leave positions which they claimed had been held against the Japanese invasion, but the German advisers finally won them over to the theory that these positions had been held at a cost far out of proportion to their importance.

The first strategic stage of the Chinese fighting in Shanghai—as planned by the German officers—was to slow down and harass the landing of Japanese reinforcements; the second, to divide the Japanese lines, and the third, to deprive the Japanese of the use of their naval guns.

Realizing what is going on, the Japanese command has ordered rapid advance no matter what the cost, in an effort to change an orderly retreat into a complete rout. As a result, the Japanese for the time being are the heavy losers in men, rather than the Chinese.

No Help for Munitions Ships

ANY American merchant vessels which carry arms or other implements of war to China or Japan will do so at their own risk, President Roosevelt warned shipping concerns. This policy applies to all of the articles listed in his proclamation of May 1, 1937, when he invoked the neutrality act against both parties in the Spanish civil war.

The President's order also forbade any government-owned vessel from carrying war materials to China or Japan. Unless war is declared he has no control over other American shipping, but he warned shippers that if ships carrying such cargo are bombed or attacked they need expect no action on the part of the United States.

Copeland Loses in Primary

TWENTY-ONE arrests were made as violence dogged the polls in New York city's most spirited mayoralty primary in years. Senator Royal S. Copeland, who ran for the Republican nomination although he was supported by Tammany Hall, lost the honor to Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia, fusion candidate for reelection. Copeland made his bid for the G. O. P. nod by bitterly opposing President Roosevelt, but the stamp of Tammany precluded his nomination. The Democratic nomination was captured by Jeremiah T. Mahoney, who had the backing of Democratic national chairman James A. Farley.

'Keep Us Out of War'

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, anxious over conditions in Europe and the Far East, cut his vacation short and returned to Washington to discuss developments with his cabinet. After discussing the situation with Norman H. Davis, his European ambassador-at-large, and Bernard M. Baruch, and getting reports from the State department, he was said to be convinced that there was a real possibility of implication of the United States in a foreign war. Baruch called Europe a tinder box, ready to explode at any time.

In an address before an outdoor meeting of Dutchess county (N. Y.) citizens President Roosevelt had said, "World conditions are pretty serious. I am glad to say . . . that we are going to do everything we can in the United States—not only the people of the United States but the government of the United States—to keep us out of war."

Headache for the League

AT GENEVA, the Chinese delegation framed an appeal against Japanese invasion, to be presented to the League of Nations. The appeal, which urged peace-loving members and non-members to join in action against the "aggression," invoked Article 17 of the League covenant, which would invite Japan to sit in on the council of reply.

The Chinese statement charged that since mid-August Japan has thrown 60,000 troops into the Wosung-Shanghai area.

"The intention of Japan . . . cannot otherwise be interpreted than to dominate Shanghai . . . and to attack Nanking, the capital," the statement said. It also declared that the Japanese blockade of the entire Chinese coast was illegal.

Eiji Amau, Japanese minister to Switzerland, made it plain that Japan had no intention of returning to Geneva to sit at any council board that discussed the Far Eastern hostilities. Nippon resigned from the League after it had judged her the aggressor in the invasion of Manchuria in 1933.

\$300,000,000 in New Money

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MORGENTHAU has agreed to issue \$300,000,000 in cash against an equal amount of the treasury's "sterilized" gold. The move was believed to have been made because of recent weakness in the market for government bonds and a 16 per cent decline in the stock market over a period of about four weeks.

In addition, the open market committee of the federal reserve board announced that it had authorized the twelve federal reserve banks to buy additional amounts of short term government securities.

In some quarters, the treasury's move was interpreted as an about face by the administration, reversing its year-old policy of trying to prevent an untimely inflation.

Loyalists Ready to Pay Up

IT WAS reported in Geneva that the Spanish loyalist government and the American government had agreed upon \$30,000,000 as a settlement for American claims arising out of the Spanish civil war. This, it was understood, would cover every kind of damage suffered by American business in Spain since the beginning of the war, including confiscation and appropriation of private property for military purposes, as well as material damages.

In voluntarily offering a settlement while the war is still going on, the Valencia government shattered revolutionary traditions. It was believed that the loyalists were anxious to emphasize the fact that they are not the revolutionary government, but the real government of Spain, and consider prompt payment of claims one of the best ways of keeping the respect of other nations.

Czechoslovakia Loses a Saint

THE "little father of Czechoslovakia," Dr. Thomas G. Masaryk, founder of the republic, died in Praha. He was eighty-seven years old. It was the efforts of Dr. Masaryk in the great capitals of Europe during the World war which made possible the creation of his country. Its people revered him as the symbol of their liberty, the patron saint of freedom. He was their first president, serving first in 1918, and being three times re-elected. In 1935, with old age coming upon him, he resigned his office to Eduard Benes, his colleague, who was at his bed when he lost the battle against the death he philosophically considered "the common enemy of mankind." He once said: "If it must come I shall at least know I died fighting it."

Nazis Too Busy to Fight

ADOLF HITLER, German dictator, struck what might have been a cheerful note, in conference with foreign government representatives at the Nazi rally in Nuremberg, when he declared that Germany is too busy to become involved in any war. He said that the plans which he and other Nazi leaders have for the country would take from 20 to 40 years to complete, and that war might be disastrous.

When King George Received the Big News from America

Samuel Morse, inventor of the electric telegraph, had only one ambition as a young man and that was to become an artist. He studied under Washington Allston, then the greatest painter in the United States, and with Allston went to London in 1811. There he met Benjamin West who, although an American, was president of the Royal academy, and a great favorite with the king, who later made him Sir Benjamin West.

West was actually at work on a portrait of the king when the latter was handed the Declaration of Independence. Morse heard the piquant story from West himself, says Ernest Greenwood in "From Amber to Amperes." Here it is—as related by Morse:

Turning to the picture of the king, Sir Benjamin West said: "Do you see that picture, Mr. Morse? Well, sir, the king was sitting for me when the box containing the American Declaration of Independence was handed to him."

"Indeed!" I answered, "and

what appeared to be the emotion of the king? What did he say?" "Well, sir," said West, "he made a reply characteristic of the goodness of his heart," or words to that effect. "Well," he said, "if they can be happier under the government they have chosen, then under mine, I shall be happy!"

Morse stayed four years in England where he achieved considerable success as a portrait painter. Then returning to his native country, he afterwards became president of the national academy and an eminently successful painter, his sitters becoming so numerous that he was unable to meet and fill all of his orders. It was during his return voyage to America in 1832, following a second visit to Europe, that Morse got his conception of the telegraph. Twelve years later—May 24, 1844—he gave a public demonstration of his invention, sending a message from Washington to Baltimore.

The rest is well known history.

—Kansas City Star.

The Scales

WHAT goes up must come down. Or if you wish to put it in more scientific language: Action is equal to reaction and in the contrary direction.

This is the law of compensation. It is the one fixed, immutable law of life and it applies to everything, everywhere. It cannot be evaded or avoided. The working of it may be immediate or it may be a matter of centuries, but if we keep ourselves aware of it we may be saved disappointment and disillusion.

The extent to which we try to restrict that law is absurd. We speak of balanced budgets, balanced rations, and the balance of trade; but we quite ignore balanced lives and balanced sociology; so, in the end, Nature takes the job off our hands, with the consequent upheavals and disturbances.

We work or play to excess, we indulge our appetites and our senses to repletion, perhaps to gluttony, and when we suffer during Nature's work of restoring balance, we rail at fate.

In monarchy and republic we allow our thirst for power and for money to overbalance our lives, both individually and socially, then blame God and man for the chaos which attends the restoration of balance.

In all the affairs of life we may evolve philosophies and devise systems; but just so long as they are out of balance, individually, socially, industrially or governmentally, just so long will the scale teeter up and down to our discomfort.

If as individuals our lives are out of balance, the structure as a whole must also be out of balance; and in time that balance must be restored—by us or by THOSE WHO FOLLOW.—Ray S. Ayers in Detroit News.

A Worthy Object

WILL power is the mental experience exercised in bringing about a desired end. Therefore, I say that a man must necessarily have a worthy object in view to bring out the best in him—that a man must see more than a salary to be more than a salaried man. A man must see the position of ownership, partnership, management, or increased award, in order to awaken his will power.

The man who does good to another does even more good to himself.

Funster Ought to Have Recognized His Fellow

Jones de Vere Jones decided it would be fun to spend a day in the country. Back to Nature, and all that.

Meeting a farmer in a field he thought to have some fun with him.

"Good-morning," he started. "I must say I admire your part of the country."

Then he noticed a scarecrow in the middle of the field.

"And is that one of the oldest inhabitants?" he went on, pointing to the scarecrow.

"Naw, zur," came the slow reply. "That be no oldest 'habitant. Just a visitor like yourself."



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