

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, Oct. 3, 1941.

A giant battle is in ~~progress~~ progress on the Russian front. The Nazis have launched a huge offensive, and this has been going on for forty-eight hours. We've known nothing about it. A new and monstrous conflict of war has been clashing with ~~giant~~ ^{vast} violence for two days - in secrecy - you might say, All behind the veil of censorship, almost complete concealment.

The new battle was revealed today - by Hitler. From the war front he went to Berlin and made a speech, and in this he gave out the first news of what he called - " ~~an~~ a new phrase". He said that the blitzkrieg machine had resumed its drive with powerful operations - "which", shouted Hitler, "will help to destroy ~~out~~ ^π enemies in the East".

The Hitler speech today was notable because the Nazi dictator gave his version of the reasons for the war against the Soviets - that sudden end of the Hitler - Stalin friendship, the blinding/surprise when the Nazis launched their sudden and unsuspected assault against the Red Army. There has been world wide speculation: Why did Hitler so abruptly and surprisingly turn on Stalin? Hitler today stated that the Soviets

had made a series of demands on Nazi Germany. He said that those demands were presented by Stalin's Foreign Minister Molotov, on a visit to Berlin.

Stalin's demands were as follows:- First - a free hand in Finland, Germany to allow the Red Army to take as much of Finland as it liked. Second, similar demands concerning Rumania, Stalin wanted to grab some more of that country. Third - the right to send Red Army troops into Bulgaria. Fourth - Soviet control of the Dardanelles.

Hitler said that Stalin demanded that he be allowed to establish military bases on those vital straits belonging to Turkey.

Hitler declared that he refused to grant these demands, whereupon the Red Army proceeded to mobilize heavy forces where they might readily strike at the Nazi power - near East Prussia, for ~~ex~~ example. This most pointedly concerned another phase

of the war. Hitler said that his general had informed him that they could not guarantee a successful invasion of Britain as long as the Red Army stood at their backs. In particular - the entire

Nazi Air Force would have to be used against Britain, and this could not be done as long ^{as} the Red Army stood there, threatening. So Hitler came around to the belief that ~~was~~ war with Soviet Russia was inevitable.

He ~~so~~ said today that he made the hardest decision of his life - to turn ^{and} to attack the Soviets. He stated that the Nazi command was astounded at the amount of military material possessed by the Red Army - vastly stronger in the equipment of war than had been ~~was~~ supposed. Hence the hard fight the blitzkrieg forces have had. Hitler wound up along that line by saying that he and his armies were saving the Western world from the peril of a red conquest from the East ^{--- from a} ~~a modern~~ modern version of a Ghengis Khan.

Such is the Nazi Dictator's ^{story of} ~~version of~~ why Germany turned ~~it~~ on Soviet Russia in an attempt to ~~knite~~ knock the Red Army out of existence. ^{today} And, Hitler boasted that Soviet Russia ^{is} ~~was~~ being destroyed, ~~would~~ ^{to} never raise its head again.

He made other ~~boarx~~ boasts - that Nazi Germany would defeat any enemy, which presumably meant the United States, if

we should go into the war. But the Nazi Fuehrer did not promise a quick ~~victory~~ victory to the Germans. He indicated that the conflict would be long.

The most immediate headline in the Hitler harangue today was the disclosure that a new giant Nazi offensive is in full swing. Beyond this, there is no war word from Berlin. The Nazi High Command is deep in silence. The only inkling we have is a military communique from Budapest. Hitler's allies, the Hungarians, announce officially that the blitzkrieg forces are driving the Red Army back everywhere between the Dnieper River and the Donets basin - that vital ~~is~~ Donets Area of coal and Soviet industry.

What do we have from the side of the Soviets? Moscow reports a series of victories. The defenders of Leningrad are smashing ~~forward~~ forward and Soviet marines have gained ^a foothold ^a on ^a Nazi-occupied island at the ~~entrance~~ entrance of the Gulf of Finland. *And, in the* ~~In the~~ far north Stalin's troops have broken a drive against Murmansk.

On the southern front, the Red Army reports brilliant successes. Axis units defeated. Some encirclements. The Red

Army claims to have trapped large enemy forces - the kind of encirclement of which the Germans usually are boasting.

SOVIET RELIGION

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The President of the United States has approached Stalin, the Communist Dictator of Soviet Russia, on the subject of religious freedom. Averell Harriman, President Roosevelt's emissary to Moscow, has urged Stalin to grant liberty of conscience in the Soviet Union. This was stated by ~~President~~^{Mr.} Roosevelt today.

~~It is~~^{the President} the third time, in quick succession, that ~~he~~^{he} has made a declaration concerning the Communist realm and the right to worship. The question has aroused a storm of controversy, with religious leaders protesting against assumptions that tolerance ~~xxxxx~~ toward faith is practiced in the Soviet Union.

Last night we had the President's remark about "an entering wedge." He hoped that a beginning had been made in the matter of procuring religious ~~x~~ freedom in Russia, and today he told a ~~xxxxx~~ White House News Conference that a practical step had already been taken. This, ~~was done~~ through the medium of the American supply Mission which, under the leadership of Averell Harriman, has been discussing with Stalin the problems of sending the completest aid to the Red Army. The President said that Harriman had been given specific instructions to lay the matter of liberty of conscience before Stalin. The President did not ~~xxx~~ reveal today just what

those specific instructions were, nor did he specify the exact time when Harriman got them from Washington. But he indicated that the instructions had been sent at a comparatively recent date.

Close political associates of the President are reported to have told the United Press that the idea was to make Soviet Russia and the policy of aid to the Soviets more acceptable to the Catholic Church and to other Christian and Anti-Communist elements in the United States. From one well informed quarter in Washington the suggestion emanates that President Roosevelt hopes ~~xxxx~~ that an understanding can be established between Moscow and Papal Rome - an ~~xxx~~ agreement between the Kremlin and the Vatican.

That's a spectacular idea, indeed - and it immediately brings to mind the mission of Myron C. Taylor to the Vatican. As a Presidential Emissary, *who is himself a Protestant,* Myron C. Taylor, made a quick and urgent trip to Rome to confer with Pope Pius the twelfth. Nobody knew just what it was all about, and there was all sorts of speculation--including the assumption that the Pontiff of Rome was asked to take a favorable attitude toward the British-American Policy of aid to the Soviets.

So now the question arises--was Myron C. Taylor's trip to

confer with the Pope connected with Averell Harriman's representations made to Stalin on the subject of religious freedom? President Roosevelt was asked about this today. He responded with neither an affirmation nor a denial, which rather strengthened^S the theory that it's ^{an} attempt to diminish the antagonism that exists between the Roman Catholic Church and the Bolshevik Regime.

What answer did Taylor get from the Pope in Rome? And what reply has Harriman got from Stalin in the Kremlin? We don't know. President Roosevelt was queried on both points today.. He said that the question of Rome would have to wait until the return of Myron G. Taylor, and that he could give no details about the Moscow talk until he had had a report from Averell Harriman.

All in all, it's a startling development--the President trying to get Stalin to grant freedom of religion. That--and the reported attempt to bring about an agreement between the Red Dictator and the Pope. How will it work out? ~~What will happen?~~ Will Stalin, with the Blitzkrieg battering, ^{will he} make sweeping concessions to religion and church? ^{also,} Would the Vatican accept them? And how will the American people feel about so violent a transformation? The answers to these questions ~~XXXXX~~ should be fascinating.

TANKER

~~XX~~ Another Panamanianⁿ merchant vessel ~~XXXXX~~[^] torpedoed--this one in the South Atlantic. The United States Embassy to Brazil reports that the seven-thousand ton tanker, I. C. White, was sunk four hundred and fifty miles off Brazil. Survivors have been rescued. We are told that the tanker I. C. White was American-owned, though flying the Panamanian flag. Yet this seems to be contradicted in some fashion by a New York story which states that the ship was formerly operated by an American oil company but later was transferred to the British;--about six months ~~XXXX~~ ago.

PRISONERS

Word from the English Channel is -- that there ^{has} been a delay in the exchange of prisoners. Something has happened to halt the dramatic transfer arranged by the British and the Germans. All day long the English Channel was in a state of strange quietude -- strange ^{for} ~~for~~ war time. A while of peace, — a ~~an~~ truce. This -- for the purpose of sending German prisoners across to occupied France, and bringing British prisoners back home.

The transfer was to have been effected today. The British brought their quota of German prisoners to a channel port and embarked them on a transport. But then at the last minute the London war office ~~said~~ said -- there was a delay. Just what the reason is we don't know. The ~~exchange~~ exchange will presumably take place tomorrow, and meanwhile the British are keeping their batch of German prisoners aboard the transport on which they are to sail.

UNREST

Occupied France is having two kinds of terrorism, anti-Nazi and anti-Jewish. In Paris, six synagogues were dynamited, the doing of plotters of the extreme right.

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Meanwhile, ^FThe death sentence imposed upon the man, who shot Laval has been commuted. Paul Collette - who used pistol fire to demonstrate his opposition to the policy of collaboration with Nazi Germany. He was tried and sentenced to be executed. Laval asked that the extreme penalty should not

be imposed - and in this request he was joined by ^{Marcel} Deat, the French ~~Raxia~~ Fascist leader who also was hit by bullets in

Collette's pistol fire protest. Today Marshal Petain commuted the ~~xx~~ death sentence - prison, instead.

WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie issued a blast today - and he fired it at the administration. Willkie also took a fling at the isolationist wing of the Republican party. But that's hardly news. Last year's Republican candidate is always hammering at those G.O.P. leaders who oppose the White House foreign policy. But a Willkie attack on the Roosevelt administration - that's something else again. It's news.

In fact, the erstwhile Republican standard bearer speaks out to answer those Republicans who accuse him of being a mere stooge for the White House. Willkie's reply is in the form of an article in the American ~~Mag~~ Magazine, published today. He speaks as follows:- "I have no connection with the administration and am in disagreement with many of its domestic policies - and disgusted with its methods of handling the defense effort," he writes. He says the defense effort has been conducted in what he calls - "~~xxxx~~ "a faltering manner". And he makes the accusation of - politics. I am sickened by the amount of sheer political fenagling going on when the very life of our country x is at

stake", writes Willkie.

He flings at Democratic National Chairman Edward J. Flynn the word "duplicity". Sometime ago Flynn said:- "We Democrats are willing to adjourn politics for the duration." Willkie retorts that Flynn's Democrats have not adjourned politics, and are working at the political game twenty-four hours a day.

So far as the Republicans are concerned, Willkie's article in the AMERICAN Magazine calls upon the G.O.P. to clean house.

Well, it's a sad ^{old} story -- you just can't please some people. Last night I invited my Nine Old Men to attend the seventh game of the World Series. I realized there might be no seventh game, but it was the best I could do.

All day I've been blasted by their rude replies. These concentrate on the fact that in the last dozen World Series, only three went to seven games. And the suspicion is expressed -- that I issued the invitation because I probably wouldn't have to make good on it.

Here's an appreciation from Colonel Lemuel Q. Stoopnagle, our short stop - who is so rotund he invariably stops right short when a ground ball comes his way. Colonel Stoopnagle, our short stop who can't stoop!

"Stoop" wires:- "I'll be glad to accept provided you promise not to invite me to the eighth game, as I am not only going to pitch that one myself, but I'm also going to catch it," Now that, Colonel, sounds ~~with~~ a bit sarcastic.

And listen to this one from Paul Webb, the Hillbilly cartoonist, our bearded DiMaggio, who plays the outfield for the Nine Old Men. As an outfielder, he is nearly ⁻ always out

Yet he has the effrontery to telegraph as follows:- "Thanks for your kind invitation to the seventh game", he writes, "in return I want you and the Nine Old Men to be my guests at the Louis-Nova fight last Monday. Joe Louis has promised to sit one round out with us during the contest."

Author and Humorist Homer Croy also accepts, and adds:-
"But there is one catch, so far as I'm concerned. Am leaving tomorrow for Arizona -- so could you arrange to have the seventh game played yesterday?"

SERIES

Today's game having been washed out, the only World Series news we have is that both managers are undecided about the pitchers they will use tomorrow. Joe McCarthy says that for the Yanks it will be either right-hander Donald, or the young left-hander Russo. For the Dodgers, Lippy Leo Durocher has been controlling his lip. He won't say whether it will be his young speed ball star, Higbe, or his portly veteran, the staunch and imperturbable fat Freddie Fitzsimmons.

And now the staunch and imperturbable Hugh James, with a suggestion for Sunday.