

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

*Let's take the most vital news first so that if my voice goes it won't make much difference. The first cold line*

The situation of foreigners in Shanghai today is

nothing short of terrifying. (On a front of thirty-five miles around the City, Japanese and Chinese armies, numbering a hundred and forty thousand, are locked in a ferocious struggle. It has been going on now for four days, without cease.) It is estimated that already three thousand Chinese and one thousand Japanese soldiers have died. As for the civilians, people ~~who are~~ <sup>not</sup> fighting, in Shanghai itself one thousand forty-seven <sup>have</sup> perished and nobody knows how many ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> wounded. A city of three and a half million people is the center of fighting as deadly as any that took place in the World War. And (eye-witnesses report that the five weeks' battle of Shanghai in Nineteen Thirty-Two was sham warfare compared to what is going on now.)

*had in a year.*

The damage that has already been done to the property of foreigners is estimated at twenty-five million dollars. And of this Americans <sup>take</sup> ~~took~~ a large share of the loss. It is being predicted that when this latest Shanghai war is over, that famous International Settlement, the Paris of Asia, will be a thing of the past. And, one hears, though Japan will assuredly express the most polite regrets, there'll be no tears shed at Tokyo when Shanghai is eliminated as the center of foreign interest, foreign ideas, foreign influence.

The Japanese command has promised to respect the *where the Europeans & Americans live.* International Settlement, <sup>x</sup> Nevertheless, pieces of shrapnel and high explosive bombs rained down on its streets. And from all accounts, the worst is yet to come.

Uncle Sam and the European powers are doing the <sup>r</sup>utmost to evacuate ~~xx~~ all foreigners who wish to leave. But there aren't enough ships, there's a crying need for vessels to evacuate the refugees. It will take until the end of this week to remove the four thousand civilian Americans from Shanghai. The first contingent, women and children, were taken down the river today

to the Dollar liner PRESIDENT TAFT. They left with blanched faces and trembling limbs, shrapnel falling all around them and fragments of metal even falling on the tender that was taking them down the river.

The liner PRESIDENT HOOVER was ordered to be ready to leave Manila immediately with a company of Uncle Sam's marines to reenforce the American garrison at Shanghai. Detachments of ~~Uncle Sam's~~ leathernecks and blue jackets were landed today from the AUGUSTA, the flagship of the Asiatic squadron. Admiral Yarnell, Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, radioed orders to a couple of additional United States destroyers to rush to ~~Shanghai~~ Shanghai under forced draft. <sup>R</sup> Meanwhile, the French and the British were protecting their own. John Bull sent destroyers from Hongkong and battalions of the Royal Ulster Rifles as well as the Royal Welch Fusileers. The French have a battalion of the Foreign Legion under arms at Tongking, ready to sail for Shanghai at a moment's notice.

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The Japanese high command is sending reenforcements by the thousands to the mainland. All over Japan military



trains are carrying troops, guns, tanks and armored trucks to the seaports. The Tokyo Cabinet is in session all the time, and the Emperor himself is in constant conference with his Ministers and generals. Tokyo made it known today that the Foreign Office has ordered the embassy at Nanking to be closed. The members of the Embassy staff will leave China as soon as possible.

All this while, ironically enough, there's no such thing as an official declaration that a state of war exists.

Our own government in Washington is manifestly and keenly alarmed over the Shanghai situation. President Roosevelt has cancelled a cruise he had planned for the latter part of this week. The President today was in conference with Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, and later with Mr. Woodring, the Secretary of War,

BLACK

Senator Hugo L. Black of Alabama will definitely be the next ~~Associate~~ Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. That became manifest today when the Senate's Judiciary Committee rushed through the report recommending that Mr. Black's nomination ~~should~~ be confirmed. However, it wasn't unanimous. The vote was thirteen to four, with one Democratic senator voting on the side of the four Republicans against confirming Mr. Black's nomination.

~~Even~~ Senator Borah of Idaho voted with the majority, ~~at the last,~~ though he did offer some objections.

(The leader of the objectors, ~~of course,~~ was Senator Burke of Nebraska. He ~~tried to~~ <sup>ed</sup> insist that his colleague, ~~Mr.~~ <sup>Sen</sup> Black, be summoned before the Committee to answer questions, to tell whether it was true that he used to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan.) ~~Mr. Black also thought~~ Mr. Burke also thought the Senate ought to know what Mr. Black's attitude would be about the power of the Supreme Court to declare acts of Congress unconstitutional. Also, would he sit in judgment upon laws that he as a senator had hoped to pass.

All these objections were duly voiced in committee

but eventually it was a walk-over, as the figures show. ~~and~~

~~we may say~~ It's all over but the shouting.

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But, there'll be plenty of shouting on the floor of the Senate tomorrow. It's <sup>a</sup>foregone conclusion that the Senate will concur in the Committee's report by a large majority. But the opposing minority is going to be ~~plaintiff~~ <sup>loudly</sup> vocal. Senator Burke will probably repeat and amplify on the floor of the Senate what he said in Committee this afternoon. And Senator Copeland of New York gave us an idea, in no soft terms, of the protest that he intends to raise. He is rushing back from his mayoralty campaign in New York to Washington, <sup>rushing there</sup> especially to speak his piece about the appointment of his colleague Black to the Supreme Court. "It's an insult to the American people," <sup>Copeland</sup> declared to newspapermen this afternoon. And he explained: "No man who is either directly or indirectly connected with the Ku Klux Klan or ~~the~~ received its sympathies or support is fit for a place in any tribunal, let alone the Supreme Court of the United States."

Senator Burke <sup>insisted</sup> ~~declared~~ today that he knew of persons

in Washington who could testify that Mr. Black was initiated into



the Klan several years ago. <sup>H</sup> So it will probably be a stormy session in the upper House in Washington tomorrow afternoon.

The administration has the votes to assure the approval of

*Sen.*  
**Mr.**

Black as the new justice. But from the way words were

flung around today, it looks as though the much famed, traditional senatorial courtesy were likely to go by the boards for this occasion.

## TAXES

53 ✓  
Whenever I have to mention the word "taxes", I seem to hear the chorus of groans that goes up over the land. Be of good cheer, however, for there are tidings today to gladden the taxpayer. Uncle Sam's officials in Washington are preparing to make it easy for you. That is, if it's ever easy to pay taxes. ~~At~~ <sup>TR</sup> At any rate, they're getting ready a simpler form on which to file your returns. While that's good news for Mr. Taxpayer, it's also designed to help government officials, ~~to reduce the number of~~ <sup>There'll be fewer</sup> perplexed people who worry the collector's men around every fifteenth of March, asking to have things explained to them. They hope to devise a form that will need no explanation, at any rate for those ~~of the~~ <sup>with</sup> smaller incomes. ~~And~~  
They are even aiming to simplify the forms for those in the upper brackets, big companies, and so forth.

At the same time, the House of Representatives is hard at work on another tax measure. That's the one by which they hope to plug the leaks, loopholes in the law by ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> some rich people have been able to make amazingly small payments or even none at all.



## FLIERS

They haven't found those Russian fliers in the Arctic yet, but there's news of them. (A station in far off Moscow picked up a weak radio signal. It was so feeble that it was impossible to make head or tail of it. Nevertheless, it is believed to have come from Levanevsky and his colleagues, grounded on the ice somewhere near the North Pole.)

This news spurred the preparations that are being made at Fairbanks, Alaska, where Jimmy Mattern and other veteran pilots are getting ready to take off in a fan-wise search for those six wrecked Russians. It is ~~particularly~~ appropriate that Jimmy should be one of the rescuing pilots. ~~He is doing this~~ ~~particularly because of~~ <sup>after</sup> what happened to him in Nineteen Thirty-Three. That was when he was forced down in Siberia while he was flying around the world, ~~four years ago~~. The Russian fliers who rescued Jimmy in that emergency were Levanevsky and Victor Levchenko, who is also in Levanevsky's party today.

And another American flying ace who is going to try to find Levanevsky is Joe Crosson. If he is successful, he will add one more to a noble list of rescues that he has achieved ~~in~~ the Far North.

## AIRPLANE

Of course (the search for the missing Russian fliers in the Arctic is the most dramatic thing in the aviation world. today.) It gives a strong contrast to the undramatic way in which, without any blaring of trumpets, aviation is proceeding in its conquest of the North Atlantic. Shortly after seven o'clock this morning, a giant airplane was seen at Port Washington, Long Island, approaching swiftly from the southeast. It was the four-motored German Lufthansa airship, the NORDMEER. With no benefit of publicity, she had flown twenty-four hundred miles from the Azores in sixteen hours and twenty-eight minutes. And for part of that she had bucked into a storm which compelled the captain to fly twenty feet above the waves.

Meanwhile, at Botwood, Newfoundland, there was a plane of Imperial Airways, on its way from Southampton to Port Washington. That British plane was waiting for favorable weather to take off from Newfoundland. A few hours after the arrival of the NORDMEER? a Pan-American Clipper took off from Port Washington for Southampton by way of Bermuda and Lisbon.

## SPAIN

For a few days we had a respite from Spanish news. But they're at it again. As expected, those days of quiet were just another lull before another storm. General Franco's troops in the north battered their way, fighting hand to hand, into Reinosa. That's a manufacturing city, close to Santand<sup>ar</sup>, the main objective of the Rebel forces in the land of the Basques. Reinosa is virtually a suburb of Santand<sup>ar</sup>,

While the infantry and artillery ~~were~~ were blasting their way through on land, Franco's planes were bombing the surrounding country from the air.

Once he has his hands on Santada<sup>r</sup>, Franco will have practically the entire northwest coast of Spain. In fact, he'll ~~xi~~ have practically everything except some territory near Oviedo.



The weekend in baseball produced a series of upsets, with the front-running Chicago Cubs losing a double header to the lowly Cincinnati Reds, and the theoretically invincible New York Yankees ended the weekend by dropping their third straight to the tail end Philadelphia Athletics. The brilliant phenomonon Joe Di Maggio climaxed the upsets by making a couple of schoolboy errors one fly ball bouncing right out of his glove. I too ended last week on the radio by making an error, although I don't know that you would call that an upset. I got all twisted and said that the mighty Di Maggio hit a home run on Friday, when he didn't. In fact he didn't get a hit at all.

But the most startling weekend upset in my opinion occurred at Pound Ridge, New York at Fancher's Meadow. I and My Nine Old Men from Dutchess County won a soft-ball game. And the way we played, beating anybody would have been an upset. In fact, for either team to have won in the big doings on that Meadow -- would have been an upset. The papers of the country from coast to coast have been making fun of it today. And they made fun of it over the radio yesterday.

We did it for the dear old Pound Ridge Fire Dep't. They

deserved all the credit, and they also got the cash. They went out and sold tickets at fifty cents a head, ~~and they~~ <sup>and</sup> dragged in a crowd of ~~four or~~ <sup>around</sup> five thousand, ~~and they got~~ <sup>— more than at many a Big League game,</sup> the gate amounting to twenty-five hundred ~~d~~ <sup>d</sup> dollars. The local firemen advertised the thing far and wide as a monster baseball ~~game~~ game, ~~me~~ and it certainly was monstrous -- especially Heywood Broun, <sup>— and Hendrick Van Loon.</sup> Once again <sup>Broun, again</sup> the ponderous columnist had a pair of pretty feminine legs running the bases for him. But this time Heywood got a hit, and the cute pins twinkle-toed ~~as far as second~~ <sup>to first</sup> base. The line up of the Prehistoric Sluggers that faced me and my Nine Old Men was something to awe and frighten us. In addition to Heywood Broun they had ex-heavyweight champion Gene Tunney, columnist Westbrook Pegler, Connecticut Traffic Commissioner Mitchell Connor, opera and symphony composer Deems Taylor, big boss of the "New Yorker" Harold Ross, writer Fred Tisdale, sports columnist Quentin Reynolds, publisher Richard Simon, newspaperman Jack Pegler, Bring "Em-Back-Alive" Frank Buck, cartoonist H.T. "Caspar Milquetoast" Webster, historian <sup>Merchant Prince</sup> Hendrik Van Loon, Bernard Gimbel, ~~of "Gimbel's"~~, satirical best-seller J.P. McEvoy, and literary agent George Bye.

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How could we beat an aggregation of celebrities like that when all  
we had was the likes of <sup>^</sup> *Flyer Franks Hawkes, Col. Stoopnagle,*  
^ "How-to-make-friends" Dale Carnegie,

humorist Homer Croy, radio singer Frank Parker, artist McClelland  
Barclay, Comedian Ted Shane, archaeologist Gregory Mason.

58 k The play was something terrific. It took three and a half hours  
to finish the game. And the boys playing the out-field couldn't  
sit down because the whole baseball ground~~x~~ was a swamp. When you  
sat ~~down~~ you were in a puddle. The ~~mp~~ umpire was motion picture  
star Anna May Wong, and she admitted she knew less than nothing  
about baseball. They don't play it in China. ~~mp~~ Umpire Anna May  
Wong retired after nearly being knocked out by a line-drive in the  
*Homer Croy hit it and he had never had a*  
middle of the game. But the ~~mpire~~ umpiring didn't improve, because  
local fireman Lansden was afraid to call any against Gene Tunney,  
who was pitching. All we had on our side was the score-keeper.

59 So we won -- at least I think we did. When the score-keeper  
was consulted he replied:- "Oh you mean the score. Well to tell the  
truth ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> lost count of it along about the fourth inning. But I  
guess it was about fifteen to twelve -- that's near enough."

59 1/4 The baseball was so terrible  
that we, ~~the winners~~ have been  
challenged by the White House, and  
e-e-u-t-m.

in his hands before.