

L.J. - Sunco. Monday, Feb. 17, 1941.

BRITISH AID

The Senate of the United States today <sup>began an</sup> ~~opened one of~~  
~~its most~~ historic debates, ~~the general~~ discussion on the British  
~~The ball was opened by~~  
Aid Bill. ~~It opened quite fittingly with a speech by~~ Senator  
Barkley of Kentucky, leader of the Democrats in the Senate. <sup>opened</sup>  
<sup>on the</sup> ~~His~~ theme ~~was~~ that if we don't help Great Britain and the other  
nations now fighting to defeat Hitler over there, we shall some day  
have to surrender or defeat him over here.

That ~~sentiment~~ was disputed by Republican Senator Robert  
Taft of Ohio. <sup>who</sup> ~~Taft~~ declared that if what Barkley said were true,  
a declaration of war would be the only logical step. Senator Barkley  
protested. <sup>that sen. Taft</sup> ~~Taft, he said,~~ was trying to put words into his mouth.  
He believed that, on the contrary, the British Aid Bill would help  
to keep war away from American shores.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with the Democratic leader  
was Republican Senator Austin of Vermont, ~~xxxx~~ assistant leader  
of the G.O.P. senators. It was noticed that both Austin and  
Barkley brought up all the points that had been made against the  
bill, and tried to destroy them before the words are out of the  
mouths of their opponents.

While this was going on there was a ~~most grave and~~  
weighty conference <sup>on</sup> at the White House. <sup>The</sup> President ~~Roosevelt was~~  
taking counsel with Harry Hopkins, his personal emissary to  
Great Britain, <sup>and with</sup> ~~also~~ the Secretaries of War, Navy, Treasury,  
Agriculture, and the Director of the Budget. When that conference  
was over, a light was shed on it by Claude Wickard, Secretary of  
Agriculture. He let drop a significant remark to reporters, using  
these words:- "Food is very necessary, don't you think, for  
British defense?" Vice-President Wallace, who was present,  
approved that food suggestion, not in words, but with silent  
consent. Later the Vice-President said that it looks as though  
Britain eventually will need vast quantities of corn, wheat,  
meat and other provisions.

In the Senate debate, Senator Wheeler of Montana  
~~came to bat once more, repeating the charge that he had made~~  
~~before.~~ He reiterated that we have not a single airplane in the  
United States with modern equipment for combat service abroad.  
Senator Austin came back with a quick retort. "If Wheeler's  
charge is true," said Austin, "all the more reason why Congress

should pass the British Aid Bill.\*

Senator Wheeler, who is leader of the opposition to the bill, then made another accusation. He declared that the proposal to ship food to Britain as well as ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ arms and ammunition, was nothing but an attempt to curry favor with the farmers.

ARNOLD

Congressmen heard some startling statements from Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold. He told them to the Judiciary Committee of the House, which began hearings on some of the practices of labor unions and how they were affecting the defense program. One statement made by Arnold is that in order to join the Glaziers' Union, a man has to pay an initiation fee of one thousand five hundred dollars! ~~That's what the Union leaders get from every new member, says the Assistant Attorney General of the United States.~~ Then he gave an instance. He told of one project where glaziers were needed, many of them. Only twenty union men were available on the spot. So the authorities had to bring in a hundred and seventy non-union glaziers <sup>who</sup> ~~They~~ were forced to pay two dollars a day to the Union.

Then he told the attitude of the Department of Justice. "If the workers want to pay two dollars a day to the Union, that's all right," says Arnold. "But if they want to form their own union, we think they should be permitted to do it."

He told the Congressmen that the defense program is being hampered by labor union practices concerning the distribution

of food and housing. And he pointed out also that this affects housewives, affects the purse of everybody. For instance, in lower Manhattan, it costs a hundred and twelve dollars more to unload a car of food and vegetables than elsewhere. That cost, of course, ~~ix~~ has to be passed on to the consumer. Then he cited cases where a labor union either alone or in combination with other groups, has maintained artificial fixed prices to consumers. He cited other cases where labor and other groups have tried to keep more modern and efficient methods from being used.

Such are some of the facts told to the Congressmen by the United States Assistant Attorney General.

MRS. ROOSEVELT

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt gave utterance to a significant warning today. It is time, she said, that people began thinking about doing without a lot of things as for instance new motor cars, aluminum kitchen utensils. Take the money you were going to spend on a new car, said she, and buy government bonds. Because motor car factories and aluminum factories are being turned over to making defense materials anyway. <sup>so it will</sup> ~~So it will~~ be a good idea <sup>said she</sup> if people get used to thinking of doing without. When the time comes, she added, the government will tell people when and where to pull in their belts. But, <sup>right</sup> ~~now,~~ let's get in the frame of mind so that we shall be prepared to meet that emergency when it comes. <sup>Such is her</sup> ~~suggestion.~~

## TAXES

In Washington there <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ an organization called the National Economy League, and today it gave birth to an idea: ~~The idea is~~ to pay for our gigantic defense program with a new income tax, a special defense tax of ten per cent to fall alike on the poor and the rich, the sick and the well, the just and the unjust. Ten per cent from everybody to be collected at the source.

With such a tax, says the National Economy League, we ought to be able to bring Uncle Sam's business pretty close to a cash basis for Nineteen Forty-Two. <sup>Thus making it</sup> ~~And that would make it~~ unnecessary to do all the colossal borrowing that the Treasury has in view. Borrowing those billions, says the National Economy League, <sup>would</sup> ~~does~~ not postpone the burden upon us. It merely prolongs the period of sacrifice, increases the extent to which we have to be taxed just for interest. <sup>The idea being that</sup> If we pay cash at the rate of ten per cent every week or every month, <sup>would</sup> we <sup>^</sup> escape having to pay a tremendous interest on all those borrowed billions.

## USE TAX FOLLOW BROWDER

Another decision by the Supreme Court may have a direct effect upon everybody who travels in the United States. Eighteen states in the Union have what is called a "use tax." As its name implies, that means a tax on anything that is bought outside the limit of a state but brought over the state line to be used there.

One of the states having that tax is Iowa. It requires anybody who sells anything to be sent into Iowa to be used in Iowa, to collect two per cent of the purchase price.

The mail order houses of Montgomery, Ward and Sears Robuck, appealed to the courts and the Supreme Court of Iowa ruled that this "use tax" should not apply on mail orders. The Iowa Attorney General appealed, and now the Supreme Court of the United States agrees with him. The "use tax" is valid, lawful, constitutional.

In many western states where this "use tax" is enforced, it already has proved an unholy nuisance to travelers. In some states if you're driving, they stop you at the state line, measure the gasoline in your tank, and tax you on that. ~~Maybe the~~



~~sum is trifling, but it's a delay and a pest.~~

By today's decision of the Supreme Court, the same  
process could be done with your car. <sup>Indeed</sup> There appears to be no  
reason ~~on earth~~ <sup>holds</sup> why the officer who ~~held~~ you up at the state line  
couldn't charge you two per cent of whatever your car cost, <sup>just</sup> for  
driving it over the Iowa highways, or the ~~state~~ roads of any other  
state having a "use tax." That's what <sup>experts</sup> ~~lawyers~~ are saying today.  
They're <sup>are</sup> ~~just~~ pointing out that <sup>this is</sup> ~~there's~~ another step in the  
process of ~~making the United States like the Balkans,~~ breaking down  
the one-time principle of free trade and uninterrupted traffic  
~~anywhere~~ within the confines of the Union.

BROWDER

Communist Comrade Earl Browder is <sup>headed</sup>~~now definitely~~ for the penitentiary. He has lost his appeal, ~~the~~ Supreme Court <sup>has</sup> turned him down. The seven justices unanimously upheld his conviction for using a passport obtained by fraud. And that practically settles the matter. Browder still can file another petition asking the court to reconsider, but that the court does only quite rarely.

Associate Justice Murphy, having been formerly ~~an~~ Attorney General, did not take any part in this decision.

BULGARIA

A treaty of peace between Bulgaria and Turkey would ordinarily clear the atmosphere. Instead of that, it has plunged diplomats and newspapermen into a maelstrom of political guessing.

~~In technical language, that treaty is announced as a joint declaration of non-aggression.~~ Both Bulgaria and Turkey proclaim that their foreign policy is based upon ~~the~~ abstaining <sup>from</sup> of all aggression. ~~And its effect is to make observers puzzled and scratch their heads all the more.~~ <sup>So</sup> What does <sup>it all</sup> ~~it~~ mean?

For one thing, it is to be noticed that the news is given out at Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The most realistic interpretation appears to be that Turkey thereby promises to remain neutral even if Hitler's troops move across Bulgaria into Greece. One clause of the Turko-Bulgaria <sup>and</sup> declaration is that it is put forth without prejudice ~~to~~ engagements contracted with other countries. That seems to mean Bulgaria's understanding with Hitler and Turkey's treaty with Great Britain. Another article in <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ declaration states that the two governments are animated by the most friendly intentions toward each other and have decided to maintain and develop <sup>further</sup> ~~more advantageously~~ mutual confidence and

neighborly relations.

The diplomats also assert that that the declaration implies a guarantee to Turkey against invasion by Nazi troops, implies but does not state any such guarantee. So the gloomiest and perhaps the most realistic estimate of the declaration is that it guarantees the neutrality of Turkey, -- and enables Hitler to do what he pleases in the Balkans without let or hindrance by the Turks.

There is a later rumor from Europe that before entering into the declaration of Sofia, Turkey consulted Moscow and there learned that Stalin intends to keep his hands off the Balkan situation no matter what Hitler does.

HUNGARY

The people of Hungary are already beginning to feel the consequences of becoming part of the Nazi Reich. Up to now, a Hungarian has been able to buy whatever he wanted, provided he had the price. Today a decree was issued in Budapest ~~sixing~~ stopping the sale of shoes, motor car tires and all leather goods. *This to be* ~~That's~~ only temporary, *and merely* it is announced, because the government is about to take an inventory of everything in Hungary. After which, when a Hungarian wants to buy something, he'll have to show how badly he needs it and then get a certificate from the government before any shop will sell it to him.

R.A.F.

British warplanes over Poland! That's the startling headline  
released by the Air Ministry in London today. <sup>This</sup> It establishes a new  
record in long distance flight for warplanes. Up to now, the  
furthest that a British bomber had flown was <sup>in</sup> a raid on Danzig.  
~~That in itself is quite a feat,~~ <sup>was</sup> a round-trip flight of sixteen  
hundred miles. But the flight of bombing aircraft all the way to  
Poland and back <sup>means</sup> ~~brings~~ <sup>saunt</sup> a round-trip of eighteen hundred miles.

The bombers dropped no bombs on Poland. They flew over  
Cracow and another Polish city, <sup>to showe them with</sup> ~~and let fall no lethal missiles but~~  
pamphlets, <sup>a</sup> propaganda ~~raid.~~

HOOVER SPEECH

There is much discussion today in Europe as well as in this country concerning President Hoover's eloquent appeal urging the American people to hurry up and do something to stave off famine and plague, the starvation and spread of contagious diseases that his representatives on the spot say will sweep through Europe during the coming months. Mr. Hoover proposes that an experiment be made with Belgians, to prove whether or not his plan is sound; also that all the feeding be done through soup kitchens so there will be no question of feeding Germans, and that two-thirds of the food be given to children.

There are many today who are saying that even from a selfish military standpoint it would be wise to supply some food to the democratic people's who have been over-run by the ruthless Nazi machine, -- help keep them alive and give them heart and strength to rise up against their suppressors when Hitler's high-g geared war machine starts to crack. But, "over-riding all this", Mr. Hoover placed special emphasis of humanity. Said he, "The greatest teacher of mankind did not argue and debate over the ideology and the sins of the two thieves. In fact he thundered scorn at the priest and the Levite who passed by. And then continued the man who

once before fed millions, "that teaching gave to mankind a new vision and part of that vision was mercy and compassion."

Ex-President Hoover believes that the starving of Europe can be fed without the Germans deriving any benefit therefrom. He urges that we simply make the test, and then decide.



JAPAN

57  
Puzzling words from Tokyo. The Vice-Foreign Minister of Japan made a statement in the lower House of the Japanese Parliament that sounds like a threat, a threat to the United States. But it's an obscure sort of threat, as veiled and cryptic as most declarations by one of the Axis powers.

Vice Minister Ohashi told the members of Parliament that it was regrettable ~~that~~ the United States had started discussing the South Pacific on the basis of what he called false reports that Japan is about to move southward. Then came the warning: "If attempts are made to stifle Japan, then Japan will be forced to take appropriate counter-measures."

A Member of Parliament ~~then~~ asked the government how about threats from the Philippines? The Vice-Foreign Minister replied that Japan gravely is concerned regarding the Philippines as Japan's friendly neighbor, and therefore Japan desires they will not endanger Japan in the future. To which he added the ominous but cryptic words, "We are making efforts to that end."

What ~~those~~ efforts could be is open to the widest and wildest kind of conjecture.

58  
It may or may not be important that these words come from Tokyo on the same day as the announcement that Japan and Soviet Russia have entered into negotiations for a trade treaty.

A Japanese spokesman declared that most of the problems at issue between the Soviet and Japan were being amicably solved.

## STORMS

The hurricane story from Spain grows every hour. The worst storm that has swept the Iberian peninsula in thirty years. At latest reports the score stood - thousands homeless, hundreds injured, and at least seventy-eight known to be dead. But official estimates are that when the count is all in, there will be more than two hundred dead and a thousand injured. Flames are adding to the terror of the storm and flood.

To make matters worse the devastated areas are incommunicado. San Sebastian, which used to be the summer capital of Spain, a place of luxury and extravagance, is one of the cities marooned. There are rumors that thirty thousand are homeless in San Sebastian; with fires raging uncontrolled. It is also reported that the Madrid Government has had to send troops to help fight the flames.

ADD STORMS

*late today*  
A bulletin that came ~~in just an hour ago~~ brings word  
*a historic old town built by the Romans*  
that nearly one-third of Santander, on the Bay of Biscay, has been  
guttled by flames. There are ~~now only~~ *normally* sixty-five thousand people  
living at Santander, and tonight half of them are homeless.

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