

L.I. - Sumoco. Tuesday, July 29, 1941.

CHURCHILL

Two headlines were made today by British Prime Minister Churchill. Addressing the House, he put the spotlight on two subjects of intense British concern - America and invasion.

Without going into much detail, he said the United States was close to war. With that familiar Churchill gift of phrase-making, he put it in these words:- "The United States is advancing in rising wrath and conviction - to the very verge of war." The Prime Minister added the caution, however, that the British people must not think that either the United States or Soviet Russia is going to win the war for Britain. Victory, he said, could be achieved only by prolonged effort of the whole British Empire.

Concerning invasion, Churchill did not make any definite assertion that the Germans would soon try their long expected attempt. He merely said the peril increases as autumn comes on and that Britain is prepared. These were his words:-

"The invasion season is at hand," said he. "All our forces have been warned to be at concert pitch ^{by} ~~at~~ September First and maintain the utmost vigilance meanwhile. We have to reckon with a gambler's desperation," the Prime Minister explained - referring to the

^{notion}
~~expectation~~ that desperation might well cause Hitler to risk everything in an all-out blow against Britain.

The occasion for the Churchill address to the Commons was the question of a unified ministry of production. There has been a demand for a sort of production dictator to take control of the manufacture of war equipment in Britain. The Prime Minister denied the need of any such change, and refuted charges that ~~British war~~ production is lagging. He said it is going ~~very~~ well, Britain becoming stronger all the time. ^{Indeed he} ~~He~~ spoke optimistically of increasing British air power, and of shipbuilding in the Battle of the Atlantic. ~~He said~~ ^{is} That Britain ~~was~~ forging ahead in that huge and desperate struggle against the German sea campaign.

While the Prime Minister was saying this, Berlin was jubilantly reporting a big battle between U-boats and a British convoy. It was an all-day conflict between the ^{provokers} ~~provess~~ of the undersea and a heavily guarded swarm of merchant vessels. ^{attacks}
Berlin claims that the U-boat sank nineteen freighters for a

total of more than a hundred and sixteen thousand tons, also a British destroyer and a corvette -- ships guarding the convoy.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, meanwhile, was making an announcement pertaining to British peace aims. He said that Britain does not seek the economic ruin of Germany. That nation will have to be curbed, to prevent German aggressions in the future; curbed in a military way, but not crushed economically. "I say that", explained the Foreign Secretary, "not out of any love for Germany but because a starving and bankrupt Germany in the midst of Europe would poison all of us who are her neighbors. This is not sentiment," he added. "It is common sense."

Eden referred once again to the possibility of a Hitler peace offensive and reiterated the British determination not to listen to any suggestion of ending the war.

WAR

The news from the Russian war front is concentrated on the Smolensk area tonight - that wedge which the blitzkrieg drove through the Stalin Line more than a week ago. Berlin claims that large Red army units trapped in the Smolensk drive have been smashed - the greater part of them put out of commission. A late Berlin bulletin claims that in the Smolensk encirclement the Germans destroyed twenty ^{railroad} Soviet trains of about twelve hundred cars.

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Moscow repeats its accounts of blitzkrieg attacks repelled, and of Red army counter-attacks launched with success. In the Smolensk area, a Nazi mechanized regiment was cut off and smashed by a Soviet counter-stroke. And Moscow adds that new Nazi air raids against the Soviet capital have been beaten off.

JAPAN

From French Indo-China, we now have an official announcement that Japan has been authorized to move forty thousand troops into the southern part of that French colony. This, of course, indicates Japanese occupation in large force. (Today the Japanese press was full of attacks on the United States. It's described as the bitterest press campaign that Japan has ever launched against this country.)

In Washington today, there was some evidence of a milder attitude towards Japan. Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles assured ~~Tokyo~~ Tokyo that Japanese vessels will not be seized if they put into American ports. This assurance affects a number of Japanese ships off our Pacific coast, not daring to venture into American harbors apparently.

Here's the latest:- President Roosevelt has just stated that the Far Eastern situation is so dangerous that he thinks it will be inadvisable for him to discuss it. (He told that to the White House news conference this afternoon. Asked about the crisis with Japan, he responded - "Too dangerous to discuss.")

Today we are given the official story of ^{that} ~~an~~ American warship aiming a depth bomb at a Nazi submarine. It turns out that there were three depth bombs, and they were aimed at what might or might not have been a Uboat. An official account of this was given to a congressional committee by Secretary of the Navy Knox a couple of weeks ago. At that time we had a report of what he said, but it was vague and fragmentary. Today the testimony of the Secretary of the Navy is made public, and ~~it makes~~ rather an exciting little story. ^{it is. TP} "One United States destroyer, operating off Greenland," related Secretary Knox, "heard the S.O.S. of a steamer and proceeded to the location and picked up sixty of the survivors. While engaged in this act of mercy," he continued, "the operator of the listening equipment reported to the captain that he thought he heard a submerged submarine."

"The captain," said the Secretary of the Navy, "immediately turned toward the direction indicated and dropped three depth charges. In doing this," argues Colonel Knox, "he very prudently exercised the right of self-preservation. For, had there been a submarine there, his destroyer might have been sunk."

The Secretary of the Navy added that it was by no means certain that a Uboat was anywhere in the vicinity. "The listening equipment echo," said he, "might have been received from a whale or a large fish, or a cold current - something which is frequently experienced."

WILLKIE

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Today Wendell Willkie made comment on the anti-war rally that has been called in his home town, Elwood, Indiana. The sponsor of the rally is Elwood's Mayor Bonham, and he explains his purpose in these words:- "To demonstrate the antipathy of the home of Wendell Willkie toward war." ^WWillkie's enthusiasm for aid-to-Britain is well known. ^{But he} ~~He~~ isn't irked by the anti-war doings ^{at} ~~of~~ Elwood.

Today he spoke of Mayor Bonham in these terms:- "A nice sort of fellow who has a right to his views." Then he added, "I have no doubt that there are a number of people who feel the way that guy does, and that's their privilege. It's what makes America great," said he. So Willkie's home town will have its anti-war rally on Sunday, with the blessing, if not the actual participation, of its celebrated son.

CONGRESS

In the House of Representatives, a fight flared today against the bill authorizing the government to seize plants tied up by strikes. A coalition of Republicans and dissenting Democrats sent the bill back to conference. A majority of two hundred and fifty-five to a hundred and fourteen disagreed with the provisions authorizing the ~~seizure~~^H seizure of factories. This battle ~~may~~ delayed the consideration of the new tax bill - three and a half billion dollars to be raised by increased taxation. It was scheduled for debate today but was put off until tomorrow.

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- House Republicans, meanwhile, are banding for a fight in the Military Affairs Committee against the bill to permit the army to keep selective service men for more than a year. The Republicans announce that they're going to back a substitute proposal which would keep in service National Guardsmen and reservists - but not soldiers inducted by conscription.

PRICE CONTROL

Congress is scheduled to receive a presidential message on the subject of price control. The communication from the White House will be sent tomorrow, and will request legislation to enable the administration to impose restrictions on prices. This was stated by Democratic leader Senator Barkley, after a conference with the President. The purpose of the legislation will be to prevent the prices of merchandise from spiraling, and getting out of control - stop a price inflation.

Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes, in a broadcast ~~last night over a wide network of radio stations~~ issued a warning to motorists. ^{Stating} ~~In effect this warning stated~~ that unless motorists voluntarily reduce their consumption of gasoline by one-third, compulsory rationing will be inevitable.

There is plenty of petroleum, but there is a shortage of tank ships to carry it. This -- because of the transfer of many tank ^{ers} ~~ships~~ to the service of the British.

Oil Coordinator Ickes praised the oil companies for their complete cooperation -- praised them for their efforts to offset the loss of ~~these~~ tank ships by substituting other methods of transportation -- more costly transportation.

^{Then he} ~~He~~ stated that in spite of repeated warnings and ^{appeals} for conservation of petroleum, the public demand for gasoline in the Eastern states last week was a million and a half gallons higher than in the preceding week.

A meeting of the marketers of heavy fuel oil was held today in Washington to determine what curtailment of ^{fuel} ~~oil~~ consumption might be possible. Studies are being made to see what savings can be accomplished by converting industrial fuel oil units and house oil

burners to the use of coal.

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Then there's this important angle. Modern refinery practice makes it possible to increase or decrease within a wide range the percentage of gasoline or furnace oil or heavy fuel oil obtained from a barrel of crude oil. Therefore, if you save a gallon of fuel oil you help avoid a gasoline shortage. If you save a gallon of gasoline you help avoid a fuel oil shortage. By saving a gallon of any petroleum fuel you help the motorists, you help the home owner with an oil burner, and you help the large plants engaged in defense work.

It is apparent that the average person does not appreciate the seriousness of the petroleum situation. I talked with my sponsors, the Sun Oil Company over the telephone today and they tell me that it's even more serious than Mr. Ickes has pictured it. If you and I do not reduce by one-third, the amount ^{of gasoline} ~~of gasoline~~ we use, then very soon compulsory rationing will undoubtedly be put into effect.

*Might as well make it
voluntary, folks.*

CALLER

Today Mrs. Jordan of Reidsville, Georgia, saw the President. From a human and dramatic point of view, that's today's most important bit of White House news. Mrs. Jordan is seventy-five years old, and the doctors say that she must soon lose her sight. When they told her this, she said there was only one thing she wanted before she became blind - ~~she wanted~~ to see the President, while her eyesight was left. To fulfill this request they took her to Washington, and there she was disappointed, twice.

(Last week she made the seven hundred mile trip from Georgia to the national capital. A Georgia congressman inquired, and found that the presidential schedule would make it impossible for Mrs. Jordan to have an interview with him. On Thursday night the President left Washington for Hyde Park, and the seventy-five year old woman went to the railroad station, hoping to catch a glimpse of him as he went to the train. She missed him, however - disappointed.) President Roosevelt was told the story, and he immediately placed Mrs. Jordan on his list of callers upon his return to Washington, today. So there we have that human and

dramatic bit of White House news. The seventy-five year old woman, soon to go blind, saw the President - had a visit with him.

It was an occasion for the display of the presidential gift of sympathy and understanding - that Roosevelt charm.

They had a friendly heart to heart chat - about the South, about Georgia. President Roosevelt ~~congratulated~~ smilingly congratulated

Mrs. Jordan on having reared a family of more than a hundred

Democrats. And that's true - though she never had ^a ~~any~~ children.

of her own. She was married three times, a widow three times.

Her husbands had children by previous marriages - twenty-four

~~children~~ in all. So that gave her twenty-four stepchildren.

In turn, she has sixty-four grandchildren, or step-grandchildren,

or what? Fifteen great ^{step-}grandchildren. To cap the climax, a new

great, great ^{step-}grandchild was born last night - coinciding with her

invitation to the White House to see the President before she

becomes blind. ~~passes~~ into darkness.

STOCKINGS

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The Far Eastern crisis is having repercussions in the esoteric realm of women's fashions. Japan is the chief producer of silk for women's finery, and an economic conflict on the subject of French Indo-China would mean a shortage of silk - especially for stockings. How many pairs of silk stockings have American women been buying per year? The figure is ~~rather~~ startling. Forty-three million dozen pairs! Which means - almost a billion individual stockings. The threat of a shortage has caused a buying boom. ~~xx~~ All over the country, women are crowding into the stores to procure silk stockings, while they can.

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New York fashion experts say that the shortage will cause an increasing vogue of bare legs. Cosmetic firms are getting ready with such products as foundation cream for the shins and rouge for the knees. The girls will have to wear cotton and rayon stockings. Nylon is in favor, but that new kind of fabric is *because of defense needs,* decidedly scarce. The stylists are saying that the absence of silk stockings will cause skirts to be longer. If their underpinnings are not silken, the girls will want to cover them up more. This summer fashion has decreed that skirts be sixteen inches

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above the sidewalk. They'll be lower this autumn - thirteen inches above the sidewalk. And they'll probably descend even further than that - to the ankles maybe. All because the Japanese have taken naval bases in Indo-China!

Japanese ambition and
American ~~bees~~ knees.

9 1/4 And now to Hugh Far
a final wheeze!