

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Before I plunge into the news I want to thank six of my friends for taking my place these past four weeks - for making it possible for me to visit other lands for the first time in seven years. The six men I refer to being those brilliant gentlemen, Valentine Williams, Upton Close, and George Sokolsky; and Homer Croy and Julian Bryan who were on together one evening. And Edward Tomlinson who was on for a moment last night and has generously offered to help me out again.

Also I'd like to thank my Sun Oil - Blue Sunoco sponsors, and the N.B.C. for making my European jaunt possible.

MUSSOLINI

It's a thing of common knowledge that Benito Mussolini, Dictator of Italy, is a cool-headed realist. When he's in action before an immense crowd, making one of his red hot speeches, he blazes with fervor, boils with ^{the} super-heated rhetoric of the Italian language, shouts imperial visions, and defies the world, rattles the sabre, and makes the eagle of Rome scream to the heavens! Anybody who has a private discussion with him, however, perceives a very different sort of Duce - Mussolini the cool-headed, with an ice cold cranium of shrewd sense - realism focused on actualities. That's the kind of Mussolini I talked with in Rome a couple of weeks ago, when we had a chat about ^{Ethiopia, Rome and} his celebration of Empire Day. And, twice over, that's the kind of Mussolini who now has talked to William Philip Simms, Foreign Editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers.

In an interview at that ^{same} stately Palazzo Venezia, Simms of Scripps-Howard drew some shrewd and incisive reasoning from the Duce. Mussolini talked about the world-wide-armament-race, the competition in building swollen equipment of the machinery of

war. He made a prediction about what would happen if the armament race kept on and on. The common prognostication is that the competition in the machinery of battle will lead to the catastrophe of war. But Mussolini visions ~~it~~ another possibility. He forsees that the armament race may lead to a catastrophe - of depression, another colossal worldwide slump.

The Duce puts it this way - sooner or later the armament race will have to stop. They cannot go piling up war machines forever. The money will run out. They won't be able to bear the staggering burden. Then what will happen? Millions of workers are now employed in building armament. So, if the armament building were suddenly to stop, there would be a terrific crisis of unemployment. That would mean an economic crash, a greater depression than ever before.

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That was Mussolini's approach, as he told William Philip Simms for the Scripps-Howard newspapers of the United States, that ^{himself} ~~he~~ was willing to discuss a limitation of armament. Mussolini's record shows him a master builder of the weapons of

war, but he's quoted in today's NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM as an advocate of arms reduction. And he has precise ideas about it. He says it would be futile to think of disarmament - sudden and swift. That ~~is~~ by throwing those millions of workers suddenly out of jobs ^{we} would immediately create the depression which he fears. ^{The Duce} suggests a graduated process, a limitation of the weapons of war - by degrees, a bit at a time, so as not to dislocate economic affairs by an abrupt change. ^P In all of this, Mussolini thinks of the race of the war machines, not so much as a war danger, as an economic danger.

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So he proposes a great conference for the limitation of arms, the nations getting together to slow down the process which will lead to a calamity of depression. He says that Italy will back up ~~xxxx~~ any such disarmament discussion - will give full support.

Whom does the Duce suggest to call this conference and sponsor it? Here's where the Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor scored a beat. To William Philip Simms, Mussolini made the suggestion - that an arms limitation conference should be called by President

Roosevelt. He declared that the nation best qualified to
summon such a
~~call the~~ meeting is the United States. The statesman best
qualified - the President of the United States.

So there's another idea tossed into the tangle of
world affairs - a trial balloon let loose from Rome.

BALLOON

A balloon burst into flames, and blazing hydrogen shot a storm of fire. That sounds like news of a month ago - the HINDENBURG. But this time it's no such monumental disaster, though it ^{was} a historic balloon that today blew up in flames.

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It happened in Belgium, where they were preparing for another up-to-the-sky ascent by Professor Piccard, renowned explorer of the stratosphere. The high altitude balloon being groomed was the same as Professor Piccard used in his historic flight in Nineteen Thirty-Two when he broke all dizzy records by soaring to an altitude of nearly eleven miles. They were inflating the big gas bag for a test flight today. In the car below was a heater. A high wind blew the gas bag and the car into a tangle and the heater set fire to the hydrogen. With one giant whiff, the end came to the most famous of stratosphere balloons!

This puts a check in Professor Piccard's plan to make a tremendous ascent into the ^{rarified regions,} ~~stratosphere,~~ all the way to ninety-eight thousand feet, nearly twenty miles into the sky! ^{That} ~~high he hoped to go.~~

Today at Lakehurst, New Jersey, men went probing into a mass of charred and twisted wreckage. They dug into the fire-scarred remains of what had been the world's greatest and proudest airship. And, they took out a blackened object - thing that had once been an instrument of precision, an important unit in the imposing array of ultra scientific devices with which the giant HINDENBURG had been navigated. The Board of Federal Investigators today dug out the pressure-indicator of the HINDENBURG.

This follows the expert testimony of Lieutenant-Commander Anton Heinen, who gave the Board a possible theory of the cause of the disaster. Heinen, the German expert who has been in this country since the war says he believes that hydrogen may have seeped through the envelope of the pressure indicator and got inside the instrument. The indicator charged with electricity, would have set the hydrogen afire. He says that all along he has thought that the instrument to register the pressure of gas might cause calamity.

So today the investigating board searched the lugubrious wreckage and took out the indicator, burned and warped. They are studying it now for signs that the explosion may have started there

CASEY JONES

In Chicago a singer sang a song -- and left out the last line. And an old lady smiled with moist ^{-eyed} gratitude.

The singer chanted one of the most famous of popular American ballads -- Casey Jones -- the lyric about ^{the} a brave locomotive engineer who was killed in a train wreck back in 1900. Remember:-

~~The~~ "He mounted ^{to} ~~with~~ the cabin with the orders in his ~~hand~~
And started on that journey to the Promised Land."

The old lady in question was the widow of Casey Jones. She's journeyed up from Jackson, Tennessee, to Chicago, attending the Fourth Annual ¹⁴ Folk Festival. She always hated ~~that~~ ³ last line of the Casey Jones song. ~~She has always~~ said it does her a heartless injustice.

In Chicago today she declared: "I have always honored my husband's memory and have never even thought of re-marrying. But the Casey Jones song has haunted my whole life ever since the beginning of the century. I've avoided hearing it whenever possible." And all because of that last line.

So let's see how that last line goes. Here's the way the Casey Jones song ended:-

"Mrs. Casey Jones was a sittin' on the bed.

Telegram comes that Casey is dead.

She says, 'Children go to bed and hush your cry'n,
Cause you got another poppa on the Frisco Line."

But that ending of the song was left out when it was sung today with Mrs. Casey Jones listening. The singer just omitted it. He stood there silent, his mouth shut. He just let the orchestra play out that distressing last line. And, the widow of Casey Jones was happy.

AIRPLANE

Two big planes took off today, one from New York, the other from Bermuda. And this afternoon both landed, one in Bermuda, the other in New York. One ~~was~~ British, the other American, the two nations pioneering a sky route between New York and Bermuda. They made successful flights and did their pioneering in fine style. *Tan American and Imperial airways.*

There's quite a logical pattern in the news about the auto ~~we~~ union and Henry Ford. The United Automobile Workers of America are deep in plans to organize the factories of the motor master. And they sound a slogan, which has a snappy ring. "Unionism versus Fordism," they cry. It seems to be a battle of "isms." What do they mean by "Fordism?" Let's look at it from the viewpoint of wages and hours. We are told that Ford workers now have six dollars a day and an eight hour day. And what's the meaning of the unionism which is opposed to that? The workers' organization is demanding eight dollars a day and a six hour day.

So there you have it ~~is~~ ~~xx~~ neatly packed in a nutshell.

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Unionism versus Fordism. Not six dollars a day and an eight hour day; but eight dollars a day and a six hour day. It's all as trim and pat as the verbal patterns in a textbook of logic.

Meanwhile, the convention of the American Federation of Labor has done its sword sharpening against the C. I. O. -- the sword being sharpened with money. The A. F. of L. today voted to raise a ~~xxx~~ big fund, a war chest to finance the fight against John Lewis and his C. I. O. Battalions.

FRANCE

A hundred and twenty-four ships were tied up in France today, seventy-four at Marseilles and fifty at ^{Havre.} ~~Havre~~. A maritime strike with the crews abandoning the vessels. Ships small and large, but not the largest. It's of interest to American travelers that the Normandie is not held up. With a full passenger list she'll sail ^{for America} according to schedule tomorrow.

LINDBERGH

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Today, Colonel Lindbergh did not receive congratulations. He refused to receive them. Over in England, he hid himself away, plunged into secrecy, so that not even his closest friends could find him and say - "Congratulations!" ^{Yet the world over} ~~Yet~~ it's the pleasant old custom for a parent to receive cheery felicitations when a child is born. The announcement, "It's a boy!" is followed by handshakes - "Congratulations Old Man!" ^{still -} ~~Yet~~ it's only too understandable why the world's aviator of greatest renown should flee from the amenities that come with a new addition to the family, ^{flee} and hide himself away in secrecy. Only too dark and mournful is the memory of the first Lindbergh child - pitiful victim of one of the world's greatest crimes.

So deep has been the secrecy that the birth of the Lindbergh baby in London ^{at} ~~the~~ Coronation ^{time} ~~day~~ ^{only} was revealed by hints and clues. One such clue comes to light today. At the Lindbergh country retreat in Kent, a bulky crate was delivered - a vehicle, but not a thing to fly in the skies. No airplane was delivered to the country place of the Lone Eagle, it was something simpler, something primordial - a baby carriage. Baby buggy means baby -

a transparent clue to the fact revealed today, ~~that~~ that there are *now,*
once again,
~~not~~ two children in the Lindbergh family. There might have been
three, but dark fatality intervened.

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Likewise, it was observed that Colonel Lindbergh did
not attend the Coronation, although he was in London. Instead,
he visited a nursing home, ^{where he} has been a repeated visitor, ~~there~~.

It is revealed today that Mrs. Lindbergh is, ^{still} in the nursing home
but not under her right name. She is registered as - "Mrs.
Charles." So it was quite true when the secretary of the
institution made the statement: "There is no patient of the
name of Mrs. Lindbergh here, and neither has there been." Then
the newspaper men pressed him for information about -"Mrs.Charles",
to which the official responded in stately British fashion:
"The ruling of the Board of Governors is that no information
concerning our patients is to be given to other than immediate
relatives."

Such is the careful secrecy that surrounded the birth
of the Lindbergh baby. The Colonel, with his memories, was not
looking for congratulations.

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What's the nationality of the child? American, you'd instinctively think. But the baby was born in England. The question was discussed by authorities on international law today, and they were all agreed on the legal aspects. There are two different legal principles that apply to a child born of American parents in a foreign country. One is - the principle of blood. That means that the child takes the nationality of its parents. The other is - the principle of the soil. According to this, the child takes the nationality of the land in which he was born.

The law of the United States follows the principle of blood, and regards a child of American parents as an American. The British law follows the principle of the soil, regards such an individual as a British subject. So there's ^{the} contradiction, ^{the} clash of American and British law on this point. However, that contradiction ^{was long ago} ~~has been~~ compromised. Both ~~Britishers and Americans~~ Britishers and Americans recognize each other's point of view and agree that a child of American parents born in England shall have both nationalities until it's old enough to choose. Then the grown-up person can decide which he wants to be - an American citizen or a British subject.

EDWARD

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Over in Europe, two brothers today spoke on the telephone, and the younger they say tried to console the older. Consolation was needed, because that younger brother was conveying a harsh message. King George the Sixth spoke to the former Edward the Eighth about the question of guests at the approaching wedding - at which Mrs. Wallis Warfield will be the bride. Who will attend the nuptials of his Ex-Majesty and the woman for whom he renounced the imperial throne?

No British officials, not even their wives - so telephoned King George to the Duke of Windsor. This will exclude from the wedding some of the oldest and closest friends of Edward and Wally, such as the former Elsie de Wolfe of New York. She belongs prominently in the American set in London, where Edward liked to be entertained - that same smart Anglo-American circle in which he met Wally. The one-time Elsie deWolfe is now Lady ^{de} Mendl. Her husband is an attaché of the British ~~Embassy~~ ^{Embassy} in Paris. He will not be permitted to attend the wedding, nor will she.

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And then there's Lord Brownlow. He was Edward's equerry, both as Prince of Wales and as King. He and Lady Brownlow are

confidantes of the Duke and Wally. ~~Her~~ His Lordship is a British official, so neither he nor Her Ladyship will go to the wedding.

Such are the meanings of what King George told the Duke of Windsor today. In London it is described as ~~an~~ a final blow by Edward's enemies. They say the King was forced by government pressure to do it. And having to do it, consoled his brother as best he could -- consoled him -- as Edward restrained his wrath.

And so long until tomorrow.

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