

L.T.- SUNOCO. FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1939.

End of Hugh James'
Opening Commercial:-

.... And now, before you hear the voice of Lowell Thomas,
we have a visitor in the Studio. He is Martin Lewis, Associate
Editor of Radio Guide Magazine. Radio Guide has an award to
make. But let's ask Editor Martin Lewis to tell us what it's
all about.

"Radio
Guide" award
to LT.

June 16, 1939.

LEWIS

MARTIN LEWIS:- Ladies and Gentlemen:- For the past few weeks RADIO GUIDE MAGAZINE has been conducting its annual Star of Stars election. This election, the largest independent poll of America's listeners, annually determines radio's outstanding personalities and programs. I am very happy to be able to tell you that Lowell Thomas was voted the most popular news commentator on the air.

There were twelve commentators in the running. And you may be interested to know that the Sunoco News Voice of the Air received more votes than nine of the others all put together, and more than twice as many as his nearest competitor.

So, congratulations to you, Lowell Thomas. In behalf of the editors of Radio Guide, and the millions of radio listeners, it gives me great pleasure to present to you this medal. I hope it will serve constantly to remind you of the many friends who enjoy your excellent news broadcast.

L.T.'s Opening Remarks
on Broadcast

Many thanks, Martin Lewis, and millions of thanks to those millions of radio listeners you referred to. It's a good thing television is still around the corner. I am covered with blushes. Well, you've thrown me off my stride, but in a mighty nice way.

Now let's see what's going on in the world.

...the Japanese are so tremendously
...American citizens in the Far East...
...are being most polite about American rights. So what can we
do about it, when we're not hurt?
...Secretary of State Cordell Hull indicated that
while the State Department is closely watching events in the

CHINA

The late news about the Japanese blockade of the British at Tientsin has a significant sound. There are two dispatches that we can put together, and ^{then} draw possible conclusions, ~~from~~. One is from Washington, and it concerns the attitude of the United States toward this newest trouble on the China Coast. Will Washington support London in opposing the Japanese demands on the British foreign concession at Tientsin? Will there be a case of what is diplomatically called - parallel action?

The Washington word is - no, probably not. Why not?

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Well, for one thing, the Japanese are so scrupulously respecting American citizens in the Tientsin blockade. ^{They} ~~We have no concession in that north China city but we have soldiers there, and citizens. The Mikado's men are behaving with a high hand toward the British, pushing them around, blockading them in their own concession. But the Japanese~~ are being most polite about American rights. So what can we do about it, when we're not hurt?

Today Secretary of State Cordell Hull indicated that while the State Department is closely watching events on the

north China coast, Washington will take no hand in the affair - will leave everything to the discretion of American diplomatic officials on the scene. No action to support Great Britain - not as yet, anyway. Of course, it's understood that by respecting the Americans at Tientsin, Tokyo is playing its own game - following its own policy - and we have some hint of Tokyo policy. ^{It} Here's a dispatch from the Japanese capital. It speaks of possible American arbitration in the Tientsin dispute.

Or - possible French arbitration. ~~The~~ Japanese diplomatic sources declare that the Mikado's foreign office regards both the United States and France as being neutral ^{so far as} ~~of the~~ Tientsin ^{is} ~~concerned~~ ~~affair~~ - and therefore ~~would be~~ acceptable as arbitrators.

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And the ^{se} Japanese ^{diplomatic} sources describe the prospect of American or French arbitration in two words - "highly possible."

Tokyo newspapers echo this sentiment with details.

They speak of the Japanese attitude toward the American Consul ~~Embassy~~ at Tientsin, John K. Caldwell, The attitude is one of - "high regard." This high regard ^{for} ~~toward~~ American ^{Consul} ~~Embassy~~ Caldwell makes American arbitration the more acceptable. So say the Tokyo newspapers.

The situation at Tientsin grew more tense today. Being blockaded usually means being starved out - and that's the prospect which faces the British concession.) The food supplies were running short, though the Japanese have been allowing some small amounts to enter. ^{There was an ugly} ~~It was another~~ shock today when ^a ~~the~~ Japanese patrol opened fire on Chinese who were trying to take food into the British Concession. They shot and killed two ~~of~~ Chinese. You can imagine how the British felt about that.

~~And there are reports that the concession authorities had asked British warships to bring them provisions to Tientsin, though it was doubted whether the warships would venture up the river under the threat of bristling Japanese guns.~~

^(The dispute arose when the Japanese demanded that the British hand over four Chinese steamships.) It becomes more and more clear that Tokyo aims to get control of the concessions held by the Western powers on the China coast.) Tientsin is the point of 'showdown, with Japan putting pressure on Great Britain, as the greatest Western power ^{out there,} ~~on the China coast.~~ That larger aspect is what makes the whole thing so serious. Will the Western powers permit themselves to be ousted from their foothold of China, which they

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won a long time ago? The Japanese seem determined to find out.

SUBMARINE

(For the third time in a month - a submarine disaster!
Some jinks of misfortune seems to be dogging the boats of the
undersea. First our own SQUALUS, then the British THETIS, and
today the French PHENIX. The latest word from the French
Ministry of Marine is ~~a complete blank~~ ^{black - hope given up. For} in the Indo-China
waters of southern Asia the French submarine PHENIX has vanished,
missing for two days.)

Yesterday morning the submarine, with some sixty men
aboard, made a practice dive off the coast ^{north of} ~~near~~ Saigon, and
hasn't been seen since. The French Ministry of Marine has
abandoned hope for the sunken sub, which took its ill-fated dive
in such circumstances as to make any rescue seem impossible.
The French have no submarine rescue equipment at the ⁱⁿ Indo-Chinese
port of Saigon. The British have equipment at Singapore, but
it's the same sort of machinery that failed to save the men in
the THETIS - right outside of Liverpool, ^{and} moreover Singapore
is almost a thousand miles from the scene of the disaster.
At Manila, there's a ^s ~~recue~~ ^{rescue} chamber, the same as the diving bell

which saved the survivors of the SQUALUS - but Manila is
nine hundred miles from Saigon and it would take several days
to get the rescue chamber there. Too late to do any good -
the missing submarine has air for ^{only} twenty-four hours. Moreover,
no equipment would do any good out there. The French Ministry
of Marine points out that the south China sea is very deep,
with the shore sloping steeply to the depth^s. The missing
PHENIX must have sunk in at least three hundred feet of water,
a depth at which ^{rescue} ~~rescue~~ is impossible.

So there's no suspense to this story, no apparent
hope. It is ~~an~~ unqualified doom in those waters of the
tropical Orient. Three submarine disasters in a month -
with international antagonisms running high. There is sure to
be more talk of sabotage. But the probable answer is - just
misfortune.

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The Phoenix of mythology rose
from its ashes, But the French
Phoenix of the undersea will
never rise again - they say.

MEXICO

They had a bit of politics in a Mexican town last night. At San Marcos in the State of Guerrero, the municipal council was holding a meeting, with the mayor presiding. They've been having some hot politics down that way in Mexico, and today's dispatch relates that the mayor and the town councillors were massacred. Political rivalry led to the killing of the whole city government.

It sounds like politics getting a little too warm, even in the country of hot tomares.

NEUTRALITY

(In the Senate, the isolationists issued a manifesto today - a pledge against the proposal to take the arms embargo out of the ²Neutrality Law. That embargo is the thing the administration likes least - the part of the law that forbids American war materials to be shipped to another nation at war.)
The White House wants that embargo removed - so that some nations at war might be supplied with American weapons.

Today thirteen senators pledged themselves to what they call - "an uncompromising fight," ^{an} unyielding battle against the elimination of the embargo. (And in the list of the thirteen you see such prominent senatorial names as Borah of Idaho, Bennett Clark of Missouri, Hiram Johnson of California, Vandenberg of Michigan, LaFollette of Wisconsin, Walsh of Massachusetts, Capper of Kansas, Nye of South Dakota. These, with the others, make up a formidable list of isolationists.

RECOVERY

A new spending program is being planned in Washington, spending of a self-liquidating kind. The President said today that the administration is studying a new scheme to throw government money into a recovery drive. The idea would be to spend in such a way as to get the money back - use the cash to finance self-liquidating projects. Things liquidate themselves when they pay for themselves - such as roads and bridges that collect tolls until they're paid for, loans to ~~railroads~~ railroads for new equipment, loans that will be paid back, things like that.

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The President didn't state the proposed size of this new program of self-liquidating spending. But it's a major operation, and will involve plenty of cash. There have been rumors of special corporations to be formed by the government for financing, corporations that will sell bonds secured by the self-liquidating public works. The President said today he didn't think that would be necessary - government funds would take care of the new recovery spending drive.

TAXES

The House of Representatives today received the business tax revision bill, which abolishes the much assailed tax on undistributed profits. A House sub-committee okayed it yesterday, and the full committee voted approval today. So that sends the bill to the floor of the House for action - and quick action it's scheduled to be.

INCOME TAX

It's an old political custom to be euphemistic - using nice sounding words to express unpleasant meanings, noble words, euphemisms. Take that stately term - broadening the base. Shouldn't everybody want to broaden the base? Things stand up better when the base is broadened. However, when applied to income taxes, broadening the base means simply this - make more people pay income tax. Which doesn't sound so sweet - not so euphemistic.

Today President Roosevelt spoke about broadening the base - he thought it should be done, but not so very much. He thought income tax exemptions should be lowered, but only a little. He also thought the rates for incomes in little bracketts might be increased - a trifle. Altogether, today's presidential declaration for broadening the base does not seem particularly alarming - and anyway the present Congress isn't going to do anything about it, said the President. ~~He attacked~~

various newspaper editorials which seem to give the impression that increased income taxes might ~~cut~~ ^{pay} off the national debt.

The President scoffed at the idea. The national debt, being as

GAMBLING

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It looks as if trouble were brewing for the gambling fleet off the California shore. At the three mile limit, within ~~xxx~~ view of Los Angeles and Santa Monica, vessels are lying - floating gambling houses, ~~where the stakes are high as the dice roll and the roulette wheel spins.~~ A maritime Monte Carlo.

Word of all this has got officials buzzing in Washington. Today, there was a conference of representatives of the Department of Justice, the Coast Guard, and the Commerce Department, and the subject of the discussion was - what to do about the California gambling fleet?

The Number One floating palace of chance on the sea is an elaborate craft called the REX, and behind this there's a bit of history. ~~(The story goes back to the rum running days of the prohibition era. With the coming of repeal, an ace-high bootlegger turned to that other forbidden pursuit - gambling.)~~

A former bootlegger

He opened a floating gambling house far enough from the shore to be out of the reach of the law - he thought. But the law reached out, and the gambling ship was closed down. There was a appeal to the courts, and after a legal battle the courts

decided in favor of the gambling ship - it was legal. That happened recently, ^{So} ~~in~~ the casino on the water opened up again, and has been operating in golden style. ~~Gambling in the most glittering and palatial fashion - all in the Canfield and Monte Carlo tradition.~~ Speed boats bringing the customers from the shore; ~~speedy craft dashing across the three miles of water.~~ Customers of the wealthy and ~~the~~ spending class - lots of motion picture people from the film colony. All the excitement of high play, craps, roulette, card games, slot machines - the green tables and the shaded lights; ~~and~~ all one hundred per cent legal - backed by an official court decision.

It was too good - not too good to be true, but too good not to excite competition. Other gambling impresarios hurried into action, and other boats were rigged up as gambling houses, not all of them so palatial. The Bureau of Maritime Inspection in Washington has reports of old fishing barges made over into gambling houses. Over-crowded conditions aboard, as the gamblers from shore throng to the maritime Monte Carlo to risk their money.

Suppose a wild Pacific storm should hit the over-crowded gambling fleet! That's one thing to be thought of, ~~as~~ ~~as there's a conference of~~ officials of the Department of Justice, the Coast Guard, and the Department of Commerce, *confer.*

But storms or no storms, they don't like the idea of that

California Monte Carlo at the three mile limit. So the *world today* *is that* officials are planning to apply the marine inspection laws.-

~~are these laws being violated by the gambling fleet? So~~

Trouble ~~is~~ brewing for the gambling fleet.

PICKET

At Kansas City today a man announced that he's not going to join the union. He's Raymond Carter, who has a little jewelry shop. It's a one-man affair - Ray is both employer and employee, both capital~~ist~~ and laborer, all by himself. Maybe he can't see much sense in joining the union - he might have to go on strike against himself, or sign a union contract with himself. But that's not the real reason.

Ray's shop is being picketed; and the union picket is Miss Carol Harris, a young lady picket. She parades back and forth in front of Ray's jewelry shop, and has been doing it for six months - ever since December of last year. Carol knows the beat so well that she reads books while picketing, she peruses four or five volumes a week pacing back and forth - thereby ~~improving~~^{enriching} her education.

Ray, the non-union jeweler, enjoys having his place picketed by Carol, the union girl. "It's a lot of fun having Carol around," Ray said today - "she's a very sweet girl."

Some while ago, Carol's feet began to hurt from the daily march on the hard pavement. When Ray heard of this he had a carpet

spread out on the sidewalk for her to picket on. That made people laugh, and Carol didn't like the passers-by laughing at her. So Ray dutifully removed the carpet.

"The only thing she let^s me do for her," said Ray today, "is to telephone the beauty parlor for appointments - and I'm always glad to do this." Sure, if you're going to be picketed you might^t as well be picketed by a beauty.

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Today Ray had to make a final decision about joining the union, and he said "No." If he did, Carol would stop picketing. ~~Wouldn't it be just too romantic if a labor dispute like this should turn into wedding bells! After a few months of married life a man might say to his wife "Start picketing again!"~~
He picks her. But she just pickets.

CYCLIST

Today William Bailey started on his way from Burlington, Vermont, bound for Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He's riding a bicycle, and he's eighty-six. Bill took up bicycle riding rather late in life, seven years ago - when he was seventy-nine. He figures he has pedalled about twenty^{thousand} miles since then. The bicycle jaunt from Vermont to South Dakota is about two thousand miles. Bill is going to Sioux Falls to visit a relative he hasn't seen in sixty-five years. ~~This may be~~

This may be the motor era, but to Bill it's the bicycle age - plenty of bike and plenty of age. *And so long until Monday.*

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