

L.J. - Sunco. Tuesday, Feb. 4, 1941.

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Senator Wheeler of Montana made some sensational charges today anent the United States air force. He said he had his information from what he called "an absolutely reliable source," information that the United States has not one single modern military plane. Not one war plane, declared the Senator, with such vital features as self-sealing gasoline tanks, armour protection, ^{and} ~~or~~ sufficient fire power. Some have one or two of these features, but not one has all three;-- so he declared.

Wheeler gave the following figures:- In Nineteen Forty the United States produced two thousand, eight hundred and eighty-four military aircraft. Of these nineteen hundred and thirty-four were sent to Britain. Three hundred and seventy-four went to other countries. Adding and subtracting, the figures indicate that our own military forces acquired only five hundred and seventy-six; *one fourth of the total.*

Wheeler then launched this blistering ~~xxxxxx~~ attack:-

"During eight years in which the Administration had a subservient ^{he} declared, Congress, it was issuing many belligerent statements but had nothing in the way of fighting planes to back them up."

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President Roosevelt immediately came back with a counter-attack. He said that Senator Wheeler's statements would be highly satisfactory -- to Hitler. *But he didn't expand on the subject.*

DEBATE

In the House of Representatives, the argument over the Lend-Lease Bill continues - pro and con, for and against. In favor of the bill spoke Representative Richards of South Carolina. He described himself as a former isolationist, but said he had changed his mind. He argued that he could not be accused of being - an Anglophile. He said Great Britain had shown a lack of appreciation of American efforts in the last war; he called that - "one of the darkest pages in the United States-British relations."

Then Congressman Richards argued this way:- "I don't want it said that Richards, because of his dislike for Great Britain, should cut off his nose to spite his face." And he summarized with the idea that helping Britain is helping ourselves.

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Congressman Gifford of Massachusetts, a Republican took a fling at Republicans in Congress - for opposing the bill. He criticized the G.O.P. leader, Congressman Hamilton Fish.

On the other hand, Representative Voorhies of Ohio ~~xxx~~ spoke scathingly of the powers that the bill confers on the President. "He can take or seize anything, anywhere, and give it to any foreign country - notwithstanding any other law," said the

Congressman. There ^{also} were others who carried on the attack in this vein.

While the Washington lawmakers were hammering away with pro and con, they received a message from seven southern governors - very much on the pro side. The governors of South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Virginia sent a round-robin telegram urging that Congress puts its okay on the Lend-Lease Bill.

SENATE COMMITTEE

The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate heard some more testimony today concerning the Lend-Lease Bill.

Dr. Charles A. Beard is one of the leading historians of the nation. He says that the measure would involve us in the war. "It is," he added, " a bill for waging an undeclared war."

Professor Beard denounced the huge powers that the bill would confer upon the President, said no other President had ever asked for such a thing.

Senator Hiram Johnson engaged the Professor in a philological discussion of - words. "Which should it be - isolationist or continentalist?" The Senator suggested that people who want to keep the United States out of Europe's conflicts should be called - "continentalists". The Professor thought - yes, it was a good word.

Another witness was Major George Fielding Eliot, newspaper and radio commentator on military matters. The Major was summoned by the administration forced in favor of the bill. He suggested that, instead of concentrating all the power in the President, there might be a joint congressional committee and council of national defense. He pointed out that during the Civil War we had a committee consisting of three senators and four representatives, which did, want the Major

called -- a great deal of good. This commentator on military matters said the United States could not be invaded, at least for what he called -- "Some time". He dismissed the invasion threat, but pointed out that the balance of power in Europe is threatened. For the first time since Napoleon there's a possibility of one nation getting control. That, he said, would present a difficult problem to the United States.

Still another witness was General Robert E. Wood of Chicago. He was Quartermaster-General of the United States in World War days. and is now head of the "America First Committee." He predicted that the Lend -Lease Bill would put us in the war in ninety days, and declared it was a threat to national unity --because eighty-five percent of the American people are opposed to getting into the war.

HALIFAX

51 { Secretary of State Cordell Hull today defended the visits that British Ambassador Lord Halifax paid to the heads of the Congressional committee^s considering the lend-lease bill. These visits have been denounced as lobbying -- attempts to influence American Legislative leaders. The Secretary of State argues to the contrary -- that Lord Halifax was merely paying courtesy calls, quite in accordance with established precedence.

EUROPE

The war news tells us that the British in Libya have captured a city with a name famous of old, Cyrene - built by the Greeks, a North African metropolis in the time of the Roman Empire, a place of famous ruins. Well, today Cyrene is not much of a metropolis. It's forty-five miles ^{west} ~~east~~ of Derna, the most recent Italian stronghold that has fallen. So the seizure of Cyrene means that the British are still continuing their swift advance toward the capital of Libya - the City of Benghazi.

In East Africa - ^{more} ~~continuing~~ British successes, advances in Eritrea and Ethiopia. In the House of Commons today, the British Government formally committed itself to the cause of Haile Selassie, the King of Kings. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced that the London government will support the reestablishment of an independent Ethiopia, with Haile Selassie back on his own throne as the Lion of Judah. (And the Foreign

~~Secretary added that British forces were helping Haile Selassie's Ethiopian tribesmen who are in revolt against the Italians.~~

The question of war aims came up in the House of Commons

today - but no clarification. In response to a parliamentary question, a spokesman for the Cabinet stated that His Majesty's Government could not at the moment state its ideas about an eventual peace - "not in a position to do so," said the spokesman.

Here's another question that made its appearance in the Commons. What about the possibility of Great Britain turning over American possessions to the United States? The Under-Secretary of Colonies was asked whether the London Government would give assurances that no British colonies would be leased or sold without consulting Parliament. The assurance was not given. The Under-Secretary said no such 'guarantee could be made. ^{It all} ~~The question~~ came up because of questions now being discussed with the Governor of the Island of Jamaica, who is in England. Was Great Britain considering the lease or sale of Jamaica to what was called - "a foreign power," ^{meaning} ~~"Foreign power"~~ of course ~~could only mean~~ the United States? The Under-Secretary dodged a reply to that one. ~~From all of this, it~~ isn't clear whether there is really any idea of ^{Uncle Sam} ~~the United States~~ acquiring British possessions. ^{all this} ~~The transaction~~ in the Commons may have been merely academic.

WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie, ~~making his observations in England,~~

did some rapid-fire visiting today. First he called on Irish Premier, deValera of Dublin. Then he was received by King George in England. Well, aviation does make travel rapid these days.

Willkie said that he and President deValera had, what he called - "a very long talk." ~~he said~~ they discussed various questions relating to the war, but ^{Willkie} refused to tell just what.

At Buckingham Palace, the defeated Republican candidate spent thirty-five minutes with King George. It was an audience late in the afternoon, rather unusual. The chat with the monarch was following by tea - King George and Queen Elizabeth doing the entertaining.

DUCHESS

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Here's an official denial of a story that has been repeated far and wide - the tale about the Duchess of Windsor having had her face lifted. The beautifying procedure is said to have occurred between Christmas and New Year's. And the operation is reported to have been performed by ^a Dr. Shorell. *this afternoon* The whole thing was categorically ^a denied by Captain Vyvyan Drury, aide-de-camp of the Duke of Windsor. He says that the Duchess has not had her face lifted, and that they don't know anything about any such doctor as the one who is supposed to have performed the operation.

CUBA

The sensational political event in Cuba has all the qualities of a lurid stage play. You could hardly concoct a more melodramatic series of events of state.

Things began to happen in Havana when President Batista, Cuba's "iron man" gave an order most irksome to the command of the Cuban Navy. Various department^s of the government were under the jurisdiction of the naval officers, and these departments Batista ordered to be returned to civilian control. The Chief of the ^{Cuban} Navy ~~staff~~ protested. He is Colonel Gonzalez. In Cuba the fleet is commanded not by an admiral but by a colonel. Gonzalez was supported by the Chief of Staff of the Army, Colonel Pedraza. The controversy came to a crisis when President Batista summoned Navy Chief Gonzalez to the presidential palace. The idea being to work out a freindly agreement. But navy supporters of Gonzalez were afraid ^hat he would be detained -- kept a prisoner. So ~~they~~^y threatened to open fire on the presidential palace with the cannon of the Fortress of La Punta, a stronghold at the entrance of Havana Harbor. In the face of this menace, Batista allowed Gonzalez to depart. The Navy Chief returned to his command and got together with Army Chief Pedraza. According

to today's story they plotted to overthrow the Batista government and assassinate the president. Batista was not satisfied with the way his police were handling things and he removed Colonel Garcia, Chief of the National Police. Before he had appointed a successor Army Commander Pedraza assumed command of the police. And that left things in a pretty situation.

Batista, in ²~~the~~ most perilous ~~sit~~ situation, acted promptly and boldly. Apparently he justified his reputation as the Iron man. Last night he made a secret automobile dash to the military camp which was Pedraza's headquarters. The car was driven by an officer faithful to him. Batista sat in the rear seat -- in disguise. When they got to the camp Batista went to the soldiers, and made himself known. He called upon them for support, and they rallied to him. Army Chief Pedraza, who was at the camp, left the place to get in touch with Navy Chief Gonzalez. But Batista had him followed and arrested.

Next Batista ordered Gonzalez to give up his command of the Navy. Gonzalez, in the fortress of La Punta, refused. Whereupon Batista threatened to open fire with the guns of the other fortress across the harbor -- called Cabana. So that was the prospect -- a

cannon duel between Cabana and La Punta. However, the Navy Chief decided he'd better surrender -- which he did. Batista finished the job by issuing a drastic decree -- suspending all civil rights for fifteen days -- military dictatorship for that period.

It's now ~~Today it was~~ reported from Havana *that* the conspiracy to overthrow the government *has been* ~~was~~ suppressed *---with the iron* ~~the army~~ man in full control.

The latest:-- a number of the officers in the affair, including the deposed army commander, have flown to Florida.

LOCOMOTIVE

The City of Denver had a thrilling, blasting bit of melodrama today. A railroad locomotive exploded - the boiler blew up. And that locomotive picked a bad spot for staging its shattering exhibition - right in the city, ^{at} a crossing ^{where} ~~for~~ a lot of automobiles that were waiting for the train to pass.

It was a switch engine ^{that} ~~which~~ had picked up ten empty passenger cars at the Union Station. The locomotive was taking the string of cars to the roundhouse, rumbling along, approaching a busy crossing. Traffic ~~going across~~ was halted in the usual fashion. Then, just as ^{the engine} ~~it~~ got to the crossing, and was passing the standing automobiles - bang! The boiler blew ^{up} with a tremendous explosion; ~~it was~~ shattered to bits; fragments of steel ~~were~~ hurled hundreds of feet - like a cannonade shot at the waiting autos. Yet apparently nobody was killed. Twenty-seven persons were injured, not seriously for the most part. Even the locomotive engineer survived, ^{the} ~~his~~ boiler blowing up, right in his face. ~~but~~ ~~he~~ he sustained only some cuts and bruises.

VETERAN

At Portland, Maine, a federal court is going to hold a special session to make a man a citizen. That's unusual - must be some reason out of the ordinary for naturalizing this particular alien. *And* ~~Well~~, here's the story.

George F. Stuart is ninety-six years old. He was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and came to the United States early in life. During the Civil War he served as a soldier - all through the conflict. He believed that this automatically made him a citizen - the fact that he was a Civil War veteran. Of course it didn't. He was still an alien, although he didn't know it. Under this misapprehension he proceeded to vote, *and vote and vote. He cast ballot* ~~He has voted~~ in nearly every national election since President Grant went to the White House. ~~a whole string of illegal ballots.~~

Recently, the aged Civil War veteran ~~has~~ discovered his true status *— and all that illegal voting.* of non-citizenship. So at this late date he wants to set things aright. He has made application for citizenship. And a special session of the federal court is to be held to grant the appeal.

Granted says you! and what says Hugh?

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