

C.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Sept. 11, 1941

CHURCHILL

There was an uproar in the British House of Commons today, with insulting remarks hurled at Prime Minister Churchill. The abuse emanated from a Communist M.P., named Gallacher. And it all had to do with charges made against the London Minister of Aircraft Production, Colonel John T. C. Moore - Brabazon.

A week or so ago we had a London headline telling how the Minister of Aircraft Production had been accused of not being altogether friendly towards Soviet Russia. At a Trades Union Congress, a speaker charged that Lieutenant-Colonel Moore-Brabazon had expressed the following sentiment- he hoped that in the Hitler-Stalin war, the Nazis and the Reds would exterminate each other. In other words, he didn't want to see the Red Army win the war.


The argument came to a head in Parliament today, when
Gallacher
Communist M.P. ~~Extinger~~ demanded that everybody in the British Government who is not heart and ~~mind~~ soul in favor of the fullest aid to the Soviets, should be ousted.

Whereupon Prime Minister Churchill arose and spoke in defense of the Minister of Aircraft Production. He stated that

the remarks attributed to Lieutenant-Colonel Moore-Brabazon had been made at a private gathering -- then had become public and had been misinterpreted. Whereupon he was asked to quote the correct version of what the colonel really did say.

Churchill said no - he declined the suggestion. Then came a revelation - the first news that we've had of Royal Air Force planes serving with the Red Army. -- Churchill related this in d efense of Colonel Moore Brabazon, and said: "He has been all the while ardently at work, as I know from personal observation, sending hundreds of fighter aircraft to Russia -- many of which have already got there."

And this was important news. Having defended his minister of Aircraft Production, Churchill took a fling at Gallacher, Communist M.P. "I do not think," the Prime Minister said scathingly, "that I should be



prepared to seek guidance on policy or conduct from the honorable gentleman - who was notorious for having changed his opinions whenever ordered to do ~~■~~ so by a body outside of his country."

That was a jab at the way the Communist Party line has been known to shift, ~~xxxxx~~ thereby producing peculiar somersaults on the part of the comrades.

Gallacher, M.P., thereupon launched a Parliamentary tempest. "I demand a withdrawal of that insulting remark by the Prime Minister," he shouted. And he flung a torrent of abuse. "It is a dirty, cowardly action on the part of the Prime Minister," he yelled. "It is blackguard. It is a foul, dirty lie." The Red M.P. virtually exhausted his adjectives, and was supported by shouts from labor members.

Churchill ignored the outburst, Parliamentary proceedings went on, - and later Gallacher M.P. made an apology, having cooled off.

The proceedings in the British Parliament ended this evening with some interesting remarks about the United States. Captain Alec Stratford Cunningham-Reid, a conservative M.P., made the statement that British Propaganda in the United States

should be intensified. Why? To fight against the increase of isolationist sentiment in the U.S.A., said he. He made the following statement: "The American^SFirst Committee last month indreased its membership from ten million, four hundred and fifty thousand to something just over fifteen million," said the member of Parliament. "Even for a country with a population as large as that of America," he argued, "The organization is extremely large."

WAR

The War news continues to tell of what appears to be a culminating struggle at the middle of the battle

line in Russia. The Red Army counter-attacks look like an all-out offensive. Moscow tells of slashing advances, and Berlin dwells upon violent and sustained assaults - the Soviet forces driving insistently and with great power.

It seems to be clear that the blitzkrieg forces have been driven back in places, though Berlin insists that the Germans still hold firmly such key points as Smolensk and Gomel.

The siege of Leningrad goes on meanwhile.

Apparently the Nazis are not trying to storm the powerful fortifications. They've got the city beleaguered, and are hammering it with artillery and bombing planes.

In the Far North, the Soviets claim a victory over German and Finnish forces driving in the direction of Murmansk. The Soviets are protesting to Bulgaria and it looks as if the Bulgars would join Germany in the War.

The Nazis are still having their trouble with conquered peoples. The up-shot of the strike in Oslo is the

execution of two union leaders, as the Hitler commanders use savage repression to crush the discontent among the Norwegians.

The British report huge bombing raids against Fascist Italy - with cities like Milan, Turin and Palermo blasted by high ~~ex~~ explosive, immense damage done, great fires raging.

In Japan the signs increase that the moderates are getting control of the Mikado's government. The Emperor is taking a personal hand in the shake-up of leadership. We hear that the Premier, Prince Konoye, has stated that he will resign rather than pursue a policy that will lead to war with the United States.

ROOSEVELT

One ingenious news game today was, trying to guess what the President would say tonight. The one thing certain is - he will make declarations concerning the foreign policy of the United States. Which immediately makes it highly dramatic - the international situation being what it is.

The radio speech will concern such matters as the torpedo attack made on the United States destroyer GREER, the sinking in the Red Sea of the American freighter STEEL SEAFARER, and the torpedoing in the North Atlantic of a Panamanian steamship operated by American owners. Presidential Secretary Steve Early stated today that the address will be a cold factual statement on the international situation. "The speech will mean what it says," he declared. "It will be written in English - English that will not need translation," he added.

The President cancelled the White House news conference scheduled for tomorrow. Steve Early explained the cancellation by saying that ~~later~~ tonight's radio pronouncement will contain all the news - so there'll be no need for the President to talk to the reporters in the morning.

In preparation for the speech, the President had a conference with leaders of Congress today - both Democrats and Republicans, they were in the White House for an hour and a half and when they emerged they were non-committal. "We discussed the President's address, it will speak for itself," said Administration Leader Senator Barkley. Democratic Senator Connally of Texas had this to say: "It will be an outstanding utterance on the foreign situation, and will receive the approval of the American people."

Republican leaders ~~xxxx~~ Senator McNarry and Congressman Joe Martin refused to make any statement.

Such is what the Congressional leaders had to say officially. On the side, however, we hear that some of them have revealed that the President will not ^{ask} ~~ask~~ Congress for new legislation. This bears directly on reports that he would call for the repeal, or at least the alteration, of the Neutrality Act. That, of course, would involve new legislation.

Another person at the Conference is reported to have described the address in these terms: "Not very belligerent."

On the other hand, there are rumors that the President will proclaim that the United States will safeguard shipping to Iceland by ~~any~~ and all means. Which would mean - with Naval action, if necessary.

After his conference with the leaders of Congress, the President had a long talk with Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Soviet Ambassador Oumansky. There is some surmise that the President talked to them about the radio address he'll make tonight. Also - that they discussed aid to the Soviets.

In particular - the American supply mission that is going to Moscow. Headed by W. Averell Harriman, the mission is scheduled to leave tomorrow or the next day.

Tonight's broadcast by the President appears in the news from Rome - the Vatican. Reports in church circles stated that Presidential ~~emissary~~ emissary Myron Taylor has given to Pope Pius the Twelfth an account of what the President will say.

~~Another Vatican report is that Emissary Taylor has been discussing relations between the United States Government and the Papacy - in case the United States enters the war. Today~~

~~was still another conference between the President~~

So - there's no reason for any restriction of sales of gasoline. The Committee makes its recommendation in these words, "We believe that present restrictions should be lifted - and that the public, with the clear understanding of conditions, would cooperate in carrying out an effective program of conservation."

Such is the congressional verdict on that famous oil crisis - no shortage of oil, no shortage of transportation.

If we're to interpret this as a complete recovery of the oil industry after the loss of twenty per cent of its American tanker fleets, I feel that this is a great tribute to the Petroleum industry - and stands out as one of the largest achievements in the history of industry.

Assistant Oil Coordinator Davies, however, insists that because of insufficient surpluses on hand, there is still danger of an Eastern oil shortage.

G. MEN

It was disclosed in Washington today that three G.-Men in the New York area of the F.B.I. have been dismissed from their posts. The only reason given is the familiar formula - "for the good of the Service." This news follows publication of highly sensational stories about the alleged doings of a whole lot of F.B.I. men and attractive young women" models, show girls, - the G-Men and the cuties. F.B.I. headquarters in Washington, while admitting dismissal of three agents, denies the flamboyant reports. "The story is absolutely fantastic," stated F.B.I. chief J. Edgar Hoover today. "There isx nothing whatever to it."

~~"Fantastic" is the word all right. There's a tone of spectacular melodrama about the whole thing.~~ The story was printed by the New York Daily News today, and told of parties in a fashionable mid-town New York apartment house. Thirty F.B.I. men are said to have been questioned, and fifteen girls. Chief among the latter is one who claims ~~a well known name~~ Von Luckner. She says she's Paula Von Luckner, a cousin of the jovial German Count who commanded a sea raider during the World War,

and afterward toured the United States and became a popular favorite.

The story goes that this Paula Von Luckner acquired an excessive case of sunburn, and went to a hospital to be treated. As reference for her financial responsibility she named a G-Man. Then further, she represented herself as a government agent. She failed to pay the hospital bill and this led to an investigation, and the disclosure of the association of G-Men and cuties.

Tales of gay entertainment - with a more sinister suspicion. The daily news today phrases the question in these words:- "Whether shapely blondes and brunettes might have been engaged in the mata-hari business with G-Men as stooges?" Mata-hari, of course, was the famous spy of World War days, the beautiful exotic dancer who was executed by the French. Well, it certainly does sound fantastic to talk of beautiful spies having dealings with G-Men - getting information from them at merry parties, persuading them to talk about their work.

Such is the tale that is emphatically denied in Washington. "Absolutely fantastic," says J. Edgar Hoover.

SPIES

In New York's espionage trial, it was disclosed today that F.B.I. men were in radio communication with the Nazi Gestapo in Hamburg until as recently as four days ago. There certainly must be some Red faces among the ~~Hitler~~ Hitler chiefs of under-cover work:

It's a beguiling thing to imagine what the conversations must have been like, with a G-Man representing himself as a secret agent over here and talking with the big espionage boss in Hamburg. What would the sinister Hamburger have to say? Well, here's an example, as entered in the evidence today. From the German Gestapo headquarters came the following message:-

"Need urgently from all friends monthly production of airplane factories, exports to all countries, ~~xxx~~ especially France and England, number type, date of delivery, by steamer or air, armament, number and payment, cash and carry or credit, et cetera."

They didn't want to know much, did they? And of course the F.B.I. men proceeded to answer the complicated questioning with full and authentic information. ~~Yes!~~ Oh yes!

And ^{now} something absolutely authentic - from you, Hugh!

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