

JAPAN

L. J. - Sunoco. Friday, July 25, 1941.

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Tomorrow will be the day - the time for announcing action against Japan. So said President Roosevelt to a press conference at Hyde Park today. He refrained from revealing what the action would be, but general opinion is - that the United States will freeze the funds of Japan in this nation.

That's the ^{the} ~~the~~ same sort of action we've taken against the Axis powers in Europe. There's some supposition that an oil embargo may be imposed upon Japan, but the President refused ~~to~~ comment on that possibility.

He said the Japanese move into Indo-China was awakening America to a realization of the deadly peril of the international situation. But, added the President, the country is not yet fully alive to the danger that confronts the nation.

In Washington, one Senator told the newspapermen that the United States Navy and air force might be used to ~~check~~ check Japan, but other Senators expressed a different opinion.

We would first employ ~~would employ~~ economic measures, said they.

Combining the news in this country with that which comes from Britain, we can infer that Washington and London are preparing a joint plan. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden stated today that the Japanese acquisition of naval bases in French Indo-China constituted a threat to British possessions - the Malay States and Singapore. And London is talking of economic weapons to be employed in retaliation - embargoes of British and American goods. British economists point out how greatly the Japanese industrial machine depends upon supplies procured from the British empire and the United States.

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From ~~REBNEY~~ French Indo-China meanwhile, comes an official announcement that the French-Japanese agreement will be made public on Tuesday - the pact whereby the French are permitting the forces of the Mikado to take control of military bases of such strategic importance in southeastern Asia.

FOLLOW JAPAN

Here's a headline -- a Soviet military mission is coming to the United States. There has been a lot of confabulation of recent days between Soviet, British and American diplomats in London and in Washington. In the British capital, the conferring has been done by Roosevelt's special emissary - Harry Hopkins, the Lend-Lease Administrator. Hopkins has been talking things over with the Soviet military mission in London. The leader of that group is Red Army General Golikov - and he's the one who will head the Soviet mission to Washington.

Today Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles was asked about it. He replied with silence mostly. He said that, concerning the coming of the Soviet military mission, he could say nothing today. He emphasized the word "today."

It looks like closer collaboration between Washington and Moscow with reference to Japan and the Far East and the Nazi-Soviet war in Russia.

Tonight's news about that war is much the same. No ~~change~~ change in the battleline. Berlin continuing to give ~~an~~ accounts of the rounding up of isolated Red Army forces. Moscow says the Soviet line is holding fast. A late dispatch from Berlin makes the claim that the Red Army has lost twenty-five times as many warplanes as the Germans have.

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One ominous note comes from Berlin saying that if the Red Army uses poison gas, the blitzkrieg machine will respond in the same way. Berlin claims to see a hint of chemical warfare in Moscow stories stating that plans for poison gas have been found on German officer prisoners, the Germans respond that, of course, they've got chemical warfare plans - as every other nation has. and if the Red Army uses this as a pretext for beginning that type of warfare, the Germans will meet them - ~~poisn~~ poison for poison, gas for gas.

Turkey gives us a report that the Nazis may ~~try~~ try a new line of attack against Soviet Russia - via Turkey. Meaning - a German push through that nation to the Turkish-

Soviet border, ~~has~~ ^a drive against the Red Army ^{through}
the back door.

In the West, the same story - increasing British
air raids. There's a ~~ix~~ late story from Berlin which claims
that a Nazi ace has shot down nine British bombers of American
make. These are described as the flying fortress type. The
German and British stories of plane losses are ~~to~~ the
usual contradiction.

TECHNICIANS

At Montreal today arrived twenty-four American technicians, the first of a group of volunteers on their way to Britain. They ^{are} ~~is~~ to operate the radio locators, about which there has been so much talk - the latest thing in detecting the approach of enemy bombers. The group represents a wide variety of the genus expert. One technician admitted he is a couple of years under the age limit. He's sixteen. Another said - "Yes, and I'm a couple of years over the age limit." He's fifty-two.

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PLANES

During the past twenty-four hours there have been ^{three}~~four~~ mishaps to military planes flying from Patterson Field, Dayton, Ohio. Two of these resulted in the destruction of giant Lockheed Hudson bombers bound for Britain - the type of American built warplane that the British have been using so effectively.

The first bomber crash occurred last night - a tragic disaster. An eighteen ton Hudson took off from the air field at Dayton - it was flown by two United States Army pilots - in the flight ferrying command. This is the service that delivers American built aircraft to Canada - from there to be flown across the ocean. Not long ~~ago~~ after the take-off, there was wireless word from the bomber that the motors were sputtering, and that the plane was going into a nose dive. Witnesses on the ground near ~~xxx~~ Cardinton, Ohio ~~describe~~ describe the behavior of the great aircraft in these words:- "It seemed to weave in the air". Then it plunged to earth, explosion and fire, in which the two Army aviators perished.

That, happening last night, was a grave mishap in the ferrying service of bombers bound for Britain. Then another crash occurred today, and again it was a Hudson bomber. At Dayton it was taking off, when the plane went into what is described as - "a ground loop". It plunged, and burst into flames. But, there was no loss of life. The pilot and ~~co-pilot~~ co-pilot escaped.

These two crashes of ~~air~~ aid-to-Britain planes at so near the same time and same place would seem to have a ~~an~~ suspicious look, hint at - sabotage. But this notion is denied by Army officials. They say that investigation reveals ~~no~~ no sign of sabotage. They believe the two mishaps were simply a case of accident and coincidence.

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A United States Army transport plane crashed on the Dayton Field last night. A motor caught fire, and dropped from the ship. Two pilots and ~~xx~~ five enlisted men were aboard, and they all escaped with minor bruises. ~~That~~ ~~made~~ Accident number three.

MILITARY SERVICE

The War Department Bill for keeping the men in the Army is being modified. Last night the news told us how Secretary of War Stimson had sent to Congress a Bill for a congressional declaration of a state of emergency. This, under the law, would permit the Army to keep national guardsmen and ~~xx~~ selective ~~x~~ service men for the duration.

Today, the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate ordered a modification of ^{the} ~~be~~ resolution sent by the Secretary of War. It is phrased in terms too broad and general they think. Too much scope in a simple resolution that the nation is - "gravely imperiled," as the War Department formula phrases it. A general proclamation of that sort would carry with it a long list of implied powers. It could be interpreted to confer upon the ~~per~~ president an indefinite amount of new authority. That's the Congressional reasoning. So the Senate Committee is rewriting the bill to make it cover only the point at issue - which is to enable the Army to keep the men for more than a year. It is to be a sort of declaration of limited emergency - to accomplish that one purpose - and nothing else.

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Committee member Senator Josh Lee was asked whether the bill would permit national guardsmen and selective service men to be sent out of the Western Hemisphere ~~xxx~~ and the possessions of the United States. Will it eliminate the ~~fx~~ restriction forbidding another A.E.F.?" "It will not", replied the Senator from Oklahoma. "The Western Hemisphere issue will not be mentioned."

~~In the House of Representatives, Chairman May of the Military Affairs Committee said today that he thought the resolution sent by Secretary ~~of~~ of War Stimson Yesterday, was broad enough to permit the men to be sent anywhere. It was phrased in such general terms. So that's another reason for rewriting the measure - the no-A.E.F. issue.~~

Senator Downey of California comes forward with an ^m_A amendment to give the selective service men a bonus to stay in the army. He proposes that they should get an extra thirty dollars a month for their period of service after the term of one year and a still more generous proposal for paying the men was made at a hearing by the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives ~~xxxx~~ today. Pay them a hundred dollars a month,

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instead of ~~be~~ ^{the} present twenty-one dollars. That was suggested by Frank Murray of South Bend, Indiana, who is president of an organization called - National Parents of Selectees. He wants Army pay to equal that of civilian defense workers. Of the hundred dollars a month - sixty dollars to be held out and paid in instalments to the ~~soldiers~~ soldiers after they leave the service.

The president of the parents of selectees had some rather startling things to say about the reluctance of the men to remain in ~~the~~ ^{the} army for more than the term of a year. He declared that he knew of one group that would, in his words - "Go on a slow-down strike or just disappear." He also made a remark about letters written by soldiers to the president - protests against being kept for more than a year. "The reason the president hasn't received more letters on this subject, # he said, "is because the boys in the service and their parents live in a state of fear of what would happen, if they write." He argued that ~~that~~ the country is in less danger now than when the Selective Service Bill was passed - this because of the war between the Nazis and the Soviets.

WHEELER

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The President today stepped into the Wheeler-Stimson
controversy, and he did so without any prompting or pushing. At
a press conference, a Presidential statement is given most frequently
as an answer to a question. And today it was certain that the
newspapermen would ask about the statement made yesterday by
Secretary ~~of~~ War Stimson, ^{when he} ~~he~~ charged the Montana Senator
with subversive activity approaching treason. This - because
Wheeler sent a ~~one~~ million postal cards urging people to write to
the president in opposition to our ^{re} going into the war. He mailed
them free of charge, under the Congressional privilege of franking.
And some of the postal cards went to men in the Army.

Today the President did not wait to be asked about the
Wheeler-Stimson argument. Before the ~~republican~~ reporters could
bring up the ^{subject,} ~~subject,~~ he spoke of it himself. On a piece of
paper, he had a couple of notations. These were titles of two
editorials which appeared in New York papers today. The president
referred to these titles, one of which was -"Mr. Wheeler goes too far."
The other read - "on Dangerous Grounds."
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The editorial headed, "Mr. Wheeler goes too far", is in today's New York Times. It reads in part as follows:- "The soldier as a citizen," says the Times, "has a right to vote. He has no right to attempt in his capacity as a soldier to influence or intimidate the President or Congress."

The other editorial, "On Dangerous Ground", is in today's New York Herald-Tribune, and one paragraph says: "This newspaper does not believe that Senator Wheeler is a traitor. It has, in fact, consistently supported his right to talk freely on the issues of the day. Nevertheless, the editorial goes on, "anyone who carries a discussion of national policy directly to the members of the armed forces, as Senator Wheeler has done, is assuredly treading on most dangerous ground."

These newspaper expressions are important because they express the opinion of the President. Referring to the titles of the two editorials, he said, in effect - "Senator Wheeler has gone too far and is on dangerous ground." He indicated, moreover, that he does not disagree with what Secretary Stimson had to say about subversive activities and treason.

It takes two to make a controversy, and you can always depend upon Wheeler of Montana to hold up his end of the argument - with a prompt return. His reply is as follows: "Of course, the President feels that anybody who opposes our involvement in war goes too far." To which he adds, "Those postal cards were only sent out to ask people to request him to keep the promise he made that he would not take this nation into war."

It isn't the first time that there has been a Roosevelt-Wheeler controversy, and this one is right up to previous standards of sharp argument.

ALUMINUM

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The aluminum drive is producing some amusing anecdotes. Take the case of one smart New Yorker, who has decided to cut down on his drinking. He's using national defense to help him do it - using that patriotic cause in two ways. When the aluminum collector came around he chipped in with a couple of aluminum ice cube trays, and remarked - "No ice, no highballs." "And I'm buying defense bonds," he continued, "So that I'll have less money to spend for liquor."

Patriotic and sober at the same time, which certainly is killing two birds with one stone.

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And now Hugh, thumbs up!