

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, Sept. 5, 1941.

GREER

~~still is~~

Today the reigning question was - what about the Greer? ^{would} What attitude ~~will~~ Washington take toward the submarine attack made on a United States destroyer? There's no better authority on that point than the commander-in-chief, the President. So let's take ourselves to the White House, to the press conference today - and let's pay close attention to what the President said.

It's only too obvious that some explosive incident might plunge this country into the war. And what kind of incident could have more explosive possibilities than an attack on a United States warship? The destroyer responded ^{by} ~~with~~ hurling depth charges at the attacking submarine - result unknown. So there are no ascertainable casualties, but the fact that a torpedo attack was made on a United States destroyer is grave enough.


The White House, the President's office, Franklin D. Roosevelt at his desk, facing a crowd of news writers bursting with questions. They want more facts about the Greer - the Navy story of the affair was so brief and terse. And what about the repercussions? Has it increased the danger of war?

The President stated that the Greer was carrying mail to Iceland, and was alone when the incident occurred. He indicated

that more than one attack was made, more than one torpedo fired. He did not say how many or during how long a period of time. He did not make clear whether the torpedoes were fired in quick succession or whether some while elapsed between torpedoes. The President said he did not know the nationality of the submarine, but of course it was undoubtedly a Nazi U-boat - one of the undersea craft that range the ocean in the battle of the Atlantic.

The President made clear his opinion that the attack was deliberate - no accident, no case of the submarine mistaking the Greer for a British destroyer. ^{True,} ~~the~~ the ship was one of the old ones, launched in Nineteen eighteen, and resurrected from the boneyard, the same type as the fifty destroyers that were turned over to Britain. So it might be suspected that the submarine commander might have mistaken the Green for one of those American built British craft. But that seems out. The President stated that the visibility was good, a clear day, no fog. The Greer, he said, was clearly marked with the American ensign. Moreover, her identification number was clearly marked on her sides. The submarine commander, seeing the destroyer, would necessarily recognize it as American.

The President added that most torpedoes are aimed visually, by means of eyesight -- through a periscope. He admitted however, that some torpedo shooting is done without vision - by means of sound. Submarines have listening devices with which they can locate the position of a vessel with a good deal of accuracy. By listening to the sound of engines, they can aim a torpedo without displaying a periscope. So that might possibly have been the case - and you couldn't tell the nationality of a boat by sound.

It makes no difference. No mitigation, no amelioration - said the President. To go shooting torpedoes blindly, by mere sense of sound, is just as grave an offense as a deliberate, knowing attack. We can't allow our naval vessels to be submitted to the danger of being torpedoes by submarines who shoot without looking. 

9
reply was - that we do not recognize that belligerent area. We do not agree to the blockade that Berlin has decreed. And we don't tolerate attacks on our ships in those waters.

So what are we going to do about it? The President told of one thing that is being done. Navy vessels are hunting for the submarine. And what will they do if they find it? The President allowed himself to be quoted on that subject. He used the word - "eliminate", and observed it was a good word. They'll eliminate the prowler of the deep.

The President explained the United States attitude by means of a parable. He said - imagine some school children on their way to classes, and they ~~are~~ are shot at by a prowler concealed in some bushes. And the father of the children takes the position that there's nothing to do about it, not even search the bushes, because the children were not hit by the gunfire. That, he emphasized, is not the position of the United States. The bushes are being searched, he said.

10
He was asked might this take the United States into war with Nazi Germany? Might the attack on the Greer be the beginning

of an undeclared state of hostilities? The President refused to answer the question - said it was too hypothetical.

So there we have the transactions at the White House news conference ⁺ today, and we find the President firm though calm about the affair of the Greer. And equal calmness is to be observed in Congressional circles. Both the interventionist lawmakers and the anti-interventionists express the opinion that the attack on the destroyer is the sort of thing to be expected - under the American policy of trying to keep the sea lanes to the United States free of axis warships.

Berlin says: - ~~we don't~~ know ^{no} anything about it. Nazi sources today declared they had no knowledge of the attack on ^{the} U.S.S. Greer. And the Hitler people are making remarks about the incident being not at all clear, rather ~~exgme~~ vague and inconclusive. Japan, a most interested spectator, ~~is~~ gives us the opinion that the incident should not bring the United States into the war - unless it's used by either side for that deliberate purpose.

WAR

The situation around Leningrad is a good deal clearer tonight. Today's Berlin claim is that the Blitzkrieg forces are within artillery range of the city and that the bombardment of the birthplace of Bolshevism has begun. However, not against Leningrad proper, but is aimed at military objectives on the outskirts. And one military objective is named. A Russian town with a German name - Sch~~l~~isselburg. That's a strategic place, and it ~~is~~ vividly clarifies the situation - a glance of the map tells a lot.


Sch^llüsselburg is an important railroad junction a few miles east of Leningrad, and is on the shore of Lake Ladoga. The Geography is fairly simple. There's a narrow neck of land between Lake Ladoga and the Gulf of Finland. That neck of land, running north and south, is called the Karelian Isthmus. Leningrad is at the southwest corner of the Isthmus - it's on the Gulf of Finland. So if the Nazis, driving east, have reached the shore of the Lake at Sch~~l~~isselburg, it means that they've driven a ~~is~~ line of encirclement across the southern border of the Isthmus, and have cut Leningrad off from the rest of Soviet Russia.

The Berlin dispatch does not claim the capture of Sch~~l~~isselburg. It merely states that the place is under

artillery fire. They're bombarding the railroad line there - the last link of rail communication left to Leningrad. They say they've been bombarding it for two days. So that's what Berlin meant when it claimed that the last Leningrad railroad was cut - they had it under cannon fire.

Berlin does not make clear whether the Blitzkrieg army will try to storm the second largest city of the Soviets, or whether they will put it under siege. The defense are immensely powerful, a triple line and it might be too costly to storm the fortress.

The Soviets admit that the Germans are within artillery distance of the outskirts of Leningrad and are bombarding it. -
but today's Moscow dispatch tells of fierce Red Army counter attacks, the Nazis driven back, four villages recaptured. This



3
counter-attack is said to have been accomplished by what they call the people's guard - the proletarian masses of Leningrad defending their city. The people's guard is described as being led by ~~heavy~~ heavy tanks in furious counter-attacks against the Germans.

All of this is to the south of the city. To the north are the Finns. Their line extends across the northern end of the Karelian Isthmus, and they're driving ahead. The latest is - Finnish cannon within range of Kronstadt, the great naval base of Leningrad. Famous for centuries as a fortress of the sea for the Russian Czars, famous too as a hatching ground for the Bolshevik Revolution - Kronstadt tonight is bombarded by Finnish guns, so we are told.

Far to the South, the central sector of the vast batteline, the story still continues - driving Red Army attacks. Moscow tells of Nazi positions captured, German units annihilated. Berlin too describes the fury of the Red onslaught, and guardedly ^sadmits that Soviet troops have broken through in places, making advances of as much as fifteen miles. But Berlin ~~saying~~ claims that this is because of the flexibility of the defense and maintains that the counter-attacks are always defeated in the end.

4
Moscow gives us a Nazi personality dispatch. It states that Hitler's propaganda minister is ill - Goebbels. Moscow contributes the diagnosis that Goebbels is suffering from hysterical fits. That hardly sounds like news, he might just be making a speech.

London ~~xxxx~~ tells of a British submarine victory at the expense of the Italians. Ships torpedoes, merchant vessels and warships. A big cruiser said to have been damaged.

And in London Today there was a call for an invasion of Italy. George Gibson, Chairman of the Trades Union Congress, proposed a landing in Sicily or on the Italian mainland. This important British Labor leader stated that the British Air attacks to help the Red army are not doing the trick. So he wants an invasion of the continent. Of Italy in particular.

In France, the anti-Nazi disturbances are still continuing. Today's news tells of the shooting of four persons by terrorists. Three German Army men were attacked, shot and wounded. The fourth victim is

victim is

^ an important Frenchman who favors collaboration. He's

57
✓ a former Communist leader who turned against the cause

of the ~~Reds~~ Reds when the Hitler-Stalin pact was made.

Since the fall of France, this former Bolshevik has been a

supporter of collaboration ~~with~~ with Nazi Germany, and today

we hear ~~at~~ that he lies wounded after an attempted assassination.

It seems like dipping into Ancient History to read President Roosevelt's magazine article - published today. Yet it tells of events of only four years ago -- happenings that were the biggest of exciting headlines at the time. The Supreme Court fight, the White House plan to change the highest tribunal, the violent debate over what was called - the bill to ~~sp~~ pack the Court. It was the number one dramatic thrill of the New Deal - until the international crisis and the war came along to push domestic questions of economics and the Constitution into the background.

In the COLLIERS article, the President describes the Supreme Court affair in these words:- "Among the most important domestic achievements of my first two terms in office." So he thinks the court fight that he lost was well worth while.

He reviews the series of anti-New Deal Court decisions, culminating with the tossing out of the N.R.A., and goes on to say that, if the Court had been permitted to continue in this way, it would have been a grave danger to American Democracy. This nation might have been compelled to resort to some other kind of Government - if the President had not done something about the Supreme Court.

This is the deliberate judgment of Franklin D. Roosevelt after time and new events have made the whole thing a matter more of history than of news. The President indicates that his intervention was decisive. Yet we know, of course, that his Court Bill was defeated - he lost the Congressional battle. So what's the presidential reasoning on that? That question will be answered in his next article. The first of the series ends with that quality of suspense beloved by magazine editors. The old thriller technique:- Heroine lashed to the railroad tracks, the locomotive comes roaring, and the story ends - "To be continued next Sunday."

TAX BILL

the
The Senate has just passed a tax bill. The vote occurred a minute or two ago, turning the giant taxation ~~into~~ into law. The vote was fifty-seven to five. The bill now goes back to the House where committees will have to harmonize the two versions, the Senate version and the House ~~version~~ version. The provision for joint income tax returns by husbands and wives is eliminated from the Senate bill. There was too much opposition. The idea has been shelved. It was taken out of the present bill but will be brought up later on when another tax measure ~~is~~ is introduced.

Important labor news -- the ~~rxx~~ railroad men have voted in favor of a strike. More than a million members of nineteen railroad brotherhoods took a ballot, and today it's announced that ^{they've} ~~they're~~ authorized their leaders to order a strike on September the eleventh. ^{TP} A general ~~rxx~~ railroad walkOut would be an enormous affair, but today's strike vote does not necessarily mean that it will occur. Under the law, President Roosevelt has the power to delay the threatened strike for sixty days - while a federal commission studies the dispute and makes recommendations for a settlement.

LINGO

8
On this program some days ago I read a letter quoted in the news as an example of weird grammar and cock-eyed syntax - an amazing mix-up of the English language. This now brings a response - from Brazil of allplaces: I have a letter from J.E. Millender, Vice-president of an electric light company at Porto Alegre. He says he heard the broadcast of the remarkable specimen of English, and sends me another to match it. It's a letter written by a local Brizilian, in English - a complaint because the electricity had not been installed. It goes this way.

8 1/2
"Dear Mr. Millender: Hoping to your permission, I have to start a question and to importune you on account of the electric light. My lovely wife is waiting for the light. I have bought her one of your electric smoothing iron - and now she wishes to smooth. Dear Sir - have you ever heard once the sing-song of wives when the whole day is stormy? If yes, then you have a cognizance of the quarrelsomeness what my wife has to me because she has the wires, electric lamps and smoothing iron in the house, and she cannot use them. And now the matter is this - if you are unmarried, you should be forced to marry my good wife, then I should be convinced that you would immediately

order all your workmen to my street for put posts and wires."

Yes, that too is an exhilarating example of English as she is spoken, down in Brazil.

And now an example of English as she is spoken by Senor Hugh James.