

L.Y. - Lunoco. Thursday, January 30, 1941.

LEAD

Today's number one headline, of course, was the Hitler statement about the possible torpedoing of American ships. That was the highlight, as far as we're concerned, of the harangue the Nazi Fuehrer delivered in Berlin.

There were other points worth noting - like the Hitler hints of an all-out German offensive this spring. He indicated, more or less obscurely, that Germany would come out with everything for a decision. He used a colloquial German figure of speech, saying - "Our opponents will have their blue wonder." Blue is a symbolical sort of color. We say "Blue streak." Or - "once in a blue moon." The Germans say "Blue wonder" to indicate a stunning surprise.

Hitler got off some heavy irony in ridiculing British statements that he had made mistakes. "Some Englishmen^a, " he said, " has calculated that I made seven mistakes. He was wrong, " shouted the Fuehrer. "I calculated I made seven hundred and twenty four mistakes, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ "But he jeered, I also figure my opponents made one million eight hundred and twenty four thousand, three hundred and forty seven mistakes. I counted them ", he added.

47
 Where Hitler got that figure I don't know. Just ponderous irony,
 I suppose.

The Hitler phraseology became delicate and tactful when he spoke
 of Mussolini - a reference to the Italian Calamities in Greece
 and North Africa. Hitler spoke of these as "occasional lack of
 success." He put it this way - denying that Mussolini is ~~being~~
 defeated, knocked out:- "If occasional lack of success of our
 partner, " said the Fuehrer discreetly, "is going to convince
 them that Italy is going down - they are mistaken."

He said Nazi Germany is reckoning fully with American aid to
 Britain. Then it was that he talked about torpedoes. It's worth
 examining the Hitler words, though they certainly are ponderous,
 heavy as lead - as we get them. ~~Well~~, Germany is no light and
 airy language, and translation sometimes makes the Teutonic
 idiom ^{our perhaps none too perfect} clumsy, ^{sound} ~~indeed~~. Anyway, here's what we have of the Hitlerian
 pronunciamento. Speaking of the united States, he shouted;

48
 "Who ever believes that they will be able to help Britain, must
 know that any ship with or without convoy that comes to their
 help will be torpedoed. "It sounds a bit like vaudeville. But
 then, of course, there is that nazi u - boat fleet - which is

hardly vaudeville.

In Washington, the Hitler statement was immediately taken to mean that if American vessels, either warships or merchant craft, take part in transporting war materials to the British - they will be attacked. Senator George, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, put it in these words; "Hitler means that our vessels will be treated the same as vessels of a belligerent."

While the Nazi Fuehrer was speaking, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives was dealing with that very subject of american ships and the transportat of war materials to Britain. Specifically, the question of convoys. The committee adopted an amendment stating that the bill does not give the President the authority to use American warships to guard convoys bound for Britain.

It does not forbid him to do so, and the President has the power - as Commander - in - chief of the Navy.

49
Other amendments put a time limit on the Presidential powers granted by the bill - these to expire in June of nineteen forty three. Then - in transferring defense armament to other nations,

the President is required to consult with the experts of the Army and the Navy. Also, he's required to report to Congress at ninety day intervals, and explain transactions made under the authority of the bill.

With those four amendments adopted, the Committee proceeded to pass the measure, sending it to the floor of Congress for debate.

The vote was seventeen to eight. Of twenty five members of the Committee, fourteen democrats and three republicans, voted "yes". yes. Seven republicans ^{and} one democrat were in opposition.

When the bill gets to the floor of the house, it is going to face a lively fight - with the bulk of the republicans opposing, apparently. Today the republicans floor leader, Joe Martin of Massachusetts, stated that the amendments which the Foreign Affairs Committee adopted didn't mean much. He called them - window dressing. He said that he would support a bill to give the British a loan of two billion dollars - with no extra power to the President.

FOREIGN

The British capture of Derna today is described in a late bulletin. British headquarters at Cairo report ^S that the forces of General Sir Archibald Wavell occupied the Italian stronghold after considerable fighting. The garrison, ^A ~~of~~ less than ten thousand men, succeeded in retreating. Cairo ^{announces that} reports the British forces are following up their success, ~~and are~~ driving hard toward Benghazi - the Capitol of Libya. The capture of Benghazi would mean the full occupation of the Eastern part of the Italian province.

^{TV also} Cairo reports an air raid on the Suez Canal. The dispatch says the bombs did no damage, and does not make clear whether the raiding bombers were Italian or German.

In Albania the Italians have been ~~counteracting against~~ the Greeks and claim ^{some} local successes. There ^{is} some surmise that the Fascist command seeks to take advantage of the death of General Metaxas, the Iron man of Athens, ~~They surmise that his passing~~ may cause some disorganization in the Greek command. Athens, however reports ^{all} counterattacks repelled and claims continuing successes in the push toward Valona - key city of Albania.

51
From France, ^{news of} reports a violent newspaper attack in Paris against the government of Marshal Petain. This is regarded as significant,

because nowadays editors in occupied paris take the German viewpoint.

^{at}
Negotiations have been going on between the Petain government and the Nazis, trying to establish what the Germans call - collaboration.

A German spokesman today stated that the Hitler regime is taking the more serious attitude toward the ousting of Vice-Premier Laval and Petain's continued refusal to take Laval back. Now Comes the

Parisian newspaper flare - up against Petain, with the supposition

that ^{it is all} ~~these are~~ inspired, by Germany. A sign - that there's no agreement in sight between Petain and the Nazis.

SENATE.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today heard some emphatic testimony given by James W. Gerard, who was United States Ambassador to Germany in World War days. He said that if the Nazis down England, they will embark upon a career of world conquest - striking first in the direction of Latin - America. ^{He pointed out} ~~He stated~~ that in Brazil there are two million people of German descent, and that thirty five percent of ~~the~~ Brazilian population is of Italian extraction. However, he surmised that victorious Germany would begin ^{first} by seizing Mexico.

The Nazis would grab the land below the Rio Grande. That brought the one-time ambassador to the statement that ^{he himself is} ~~he is~~ in favor of the United States getting in to the war. This ^{part} ~~transpired~~ in dialogue as follows;

Senator Hiram Johnson of California asked; "If the situation is as bad as you say, why don't we declare war against Germany now?"

Gerard responded; "I'm in favor of it, but, see no necessity of it."

He said that Germany has a grudge against us dating back to our part in the defeat of the Kaiser. He put it in these words; "Germany

hates us like poison - hates us from the last war," ^{because we} ~~turned the tide.~~

He was asked whether he thought there'd be a revolution in Germany

^{His answer was,} or Italy, ~~and said~~ "No", he didn't. He called the idea -

"Wishful thinking." He like[^] wise didn't think that Germany could be starved out. He reasoned that the Germans are in a better position than they were in the last war - when they^{with} stood the british blockade for four years. *TP Former Ambassador* ~~James W.~~ Gerard is all in favor of the lend-lease bill of all out aid to Britain. He called it "a lightning defense against a lightning war."

Late today the Senate Committee issued an invitation to Wendell Willkie to appear and give his views about the lend - lease bill. The Committee wants to hear willkie as its last witness - upon his return from his survey trip to England.

In Omaha, a Republican National Committeeman stated today that the case of Willkie is to be discussed at a G O P Conference this coming week end. The conference will consist of Republican leaders of twenty four States. They'll debate the stand the recent Republican candidate has taken in favor of the lend[^] - lease bill and the power it confers upon President Roosevelt. Some Republicans out Nebraska way are angry about it. "Willkie," said the commiteeman, "was a democrat before he came to us, and we want to be sure his conversion was complete."

CANNONBALL

54

Aid to Britain takes the form of a cannonball. We are told today that at the New York Town of Hastings-on-Hudson, the ancient projectile of the vintage of the Revolutionary War had been shipped to the British Government. A hundred and sixty odd years ago that cannonball was fired by a British Cannon in the battle of Monmouth. Since then it had been kept as a ~~momento~~ memento by Hamilton Cochran, a descendant of a soldier in the army of Washington. He now tells the British Government how his Great, Great, Great Grandfather, Colonel Nathaniel Scudder, was killed in the Battle of Monmouth. And he sends back the cannon ball to be used all over again, as he says "to be made into a modern projectile or bomb, and fired again in a better cause."

MAGNESIUM

In New York today, a grand jury handed down indictments against a series of big companies - one of them is The Aluminum Company of America. A couple of the others are German. The charge is that the anti-trust laws have been violated and that national defense has been handicapped. How? By a combination, an international pool, that has restricted the production of Magnesium.

Most of us know from school chemistry what Magnesium is - ~~that~~² white metal ~~which~~^{that} is so inflammable. It burns with an intense white glare. ~~So~~ Magnesium is used to make photographic flash bulbs, incendiary bombs, and such. But that isn't the main point. Magnesium is also ~~an~~^{an} essential element in making alloys of aluminum- the kind of hard strong aluminum of which airplanes are constructed. ~~So~~ There's the big thing - aviation, that dominate factor in modern armament, air power.

Magnesium occurs everywhere - in rocks and sea water. But it has to be extracted - ~~and that's~~ a tricky process of chemistry. The German Chemical industry holds key patents in the fabrication of magnesium. Among the most vital of these are patents dealing with that outstanding characteristic of the metal - the way it

burns. Methods of controlling its high inflammability.

Today's grand jury charge is that American and German companies have employed the patents to restrict the production of magnesium.

And under the scheme in force, Germany has been permitted to produce five times as much of the vital metal as we have.

MISSOURI

56
The political scene in Missouri was lively today - with a march of three hundred indignant citizens to the State Capitol at Jefferson City. There the doors were closed against them.

It all concerns the November election in Missouri, which was the closest kind of contest;- for Governor. When all the Counting was done, it was found that Republican Candidate Donnell had a majority of thirty six hundred votes. The legislature, with a Democratic majority, refused to accept the verdict, refused to seat the Republican candidate. They ordered an investigation.

Today's march on the Capitol was a republican demonstration - three hundred men and women from St Louis voicing the demand that Republican candidate Donnell be installed as Governor. The Democratic majority had the doors closed, and made a motion to adjourn - and leave the crowd waiting there. They carried the motion, against Republican opposition - and then filed out of the Legislative Hall. They had to pass the crowd of three hundred, whom they had kept out. And were they booed! The Capitol of the Sovereign State of Missouri echoed a pandemonium of cat calls and bronx cheers.

57

~~CENSUS (Suggest that you use douglas Williams story. Will leave space for it)~~

This hardly seems news, the statement that - we're growing older.

The information, however, applies not to us individuals, but to

the average age of Americans. Statisticians working on the

Census tell us that the number of old folks has increased.

There are more people over the age of sixty five, the number

right now is nearly nine million. Ten years ago there were six

and a half million persons over sixty five. The increase is

attributed to the advancement of medical science.

When we come to youth it's a different story - fewer. In ten

years the number of individuals under five years of age has

dropped from eleven and a half million to ten and a half million.

The reason? - ~~the~~ decline of the birthrate.

So, the average age of the people in the ~~the~~ country has increased.

Ten years ago it was less than twenty six and a half years.

Now the average age is nearly twenty nine.

The proportion of women to men has become greater. Some think

there more females than males. That is'nt true, at least not in

this nation. Ten years ago for every hundred women there were

a hundred and two and a half men. That extra half a man sounds

58

interesting. I suppose we all ~~know~~ know some fellows like that - who rate about fifty percent - or, as I once heard an Englishman say of a fellow he didn't like -- he's every other inch a man. Medical advancement has halped the ladies especially, so now the percentage of excess males has declined. For every hundred women the number of men is a hundred and one and one-tenth. ~~So there we have~~ ^{one} - tenth of a man! ~~And~~ that's cutting the percentages fine.

58 1/2

So the American people on an average are older than they were! Well, as an individual I feel at least a hundred years old tonight as a result of the workout Benno Rybiska of the Hannes Schneider ^{Ski} school gave me today on Cranmore Mountain. The Chilean Ski team ^{has just} arrived ^{up here} ~~here today~~ and they ^{were} cavorted over the snow like two year olds.

~~And now~~ whether we are young or old let's fill up with Blue Sunoco ^{now} and head for the nearest Presidential Brithday Ball to do our part in the fight against infantile Paralysis.

59

~~But first, let's~~ ^{And, now for a} jump through the air - not on skis,

but by radio, from North Conway, New Hampshire to Hugh James in Radio City!

59 1/4