

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

It's yes and no whether German demands have already been served on Greece. Bulgaria and Switzerland report yes. Berlin today denied the story that Germany has served demands on Greece - to end the war with Italy. This is a negation of the story that the non-aggression pact between Turkey and Bulgaria was followed by immediate Nazi action to put an end to the Greek-Italian War. London is inclined to believe this - no demands, as yet. But the word from the British capital is that Hitler will soon tell Greece to open negotiations with the Italians.

The general British belief is that, with Turkey guaranteeing not to oppose a German advance into Bulgaria - it won't be long before the German blitzkrieg machine will stand on the Greek-Bulgarian frontier - at the rear of the Greek army. Then Berlin will serve an ultimatum, and London believes the Greeks may acquiesce. They've made a stupendous and astonishing fight

against Fascist Italy, but they could hardly hope to battle successfully with Nazi Germany as well.

London comment is, that ~~m~~ the Balkans are now out as a theatre of war, thereby checking British expectations of carrying the battle onto the continent of Europe via the Balkan area. It isn't clear how ambitiously the British staff thought of doing this, but maybe they figured on knocking out Italy and then attacking Nazi Germany in the Balkans. The British obviously do not like the Turko-Bulgarian treaty, though some think it may not mean so much - may not definitely signify that Turkey has guaranteed not to oppose a German advance into Bulgaria.

London today had the melancholy task of removing victims from an air raid shelter. A German bomb last night crashed down into a large shelter and exploded. There were many casualties, more than a dozen killed.

At the same time, the British Government gave out figures showing that the air raid casualties during the past month were lower than at any time since August.

In the Far Eastern situation, we find that Japanese peace talk is not being taken seriously - not in Washington anyway. The Tokyo offer to mediate in an attempt to end the war draws the following statement from Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles: "In the very critical world situation which exists today," he declares, "the government of the United States is far more interested in the deeds of other nations than in statements some of their spokesmen may make."

The Washington belief is that the Japanese peace talk is designed to ease the fear of war with the United States. Far Eastern reports tell of new Japanese naval movements in the waters off Indo-China and the Dutch East Indies.

BRITISH AID

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The attacking forces ~~xxx~~ had the floor in the debate on the Lend-Lease Bill today. Republican Senator Hiram Johnson of California, presented to the Senate the minority report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee - the contentions of the Committee members who voted against the bill. And speeches in opposition were made by Democratic Senator Clark of Missouri and Republican Senators Vandenberg of Michigan and Nye of North Dakota.

Senator Clark argued that the Lend-Lease Bill for all-out aid to Britain would weaken our own defenses - by transferring to the British so much of the armament that we produce. ~~Then the only thing we could depend upon would be a hundred per cent victory for Britain.~~ "We would", in the Senator's words, "gamble the whole of our national safety upon ^{the} one card ~~of a~~ complete British victory."

The opposition speakers dwelt upon the contention that we ourselves have not enough armament right now for our own defense. They cited figures to show that the Nineteen Forty production of warplanes in the United States came to two thousand eight hundred

and eighty-four. Of this Great Britain received one thousand, one hundred and ninety-four. Other countries got three hundred and seventy-four. The United States Army and Navy together got *only* five hundred and seventy-five planes.

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Senator Vandenberg made the following statement. "This bill," said he, "hands the President one billion three hundred million dollars of our existing army and navy and air equipment - the knock-down values to be fixed by him." This was along the contention that the limitation of a billion three hundred million dollars placed upon the armament the President may lend or lease, really doesn't mean anything - because it would be up to him to determine the money value on anything lent or leased.

The power the President would ^{*get under*} ~~give~~ the bill was constantly under assault. Senator Vandenberg said it would make the President what he called - "the Number One power politician of the world." This based on the argument that the bill would give President Roosevelt the right to use American armament in behalf of any nation in the world. The Michigan Senator waxed rhetorical when he said, "Not even Jove, with his monopoly on

lightning bolts ^{to} was more powerful on Mount Olympus."

The President would ^{be able} ~~have the power~~ to put us right into war, was the contention. Senator Vandenberg spoke of the authority the bill would give the President to repair British warships in United States navy yards. That, he said, would be an invitation to the Axis powers to send submarines ~~over~~ into New York harbor and airplanes over New York City - supposing for example that a British battleship were being repaired at New York. We'd hit ~~back~~ back at such submarines and airplanes - and that would be a plunge into the conflict.

There was an attack on the United States attitude toward Soviet Russia. The opposition pointed out that Secretary of State Cordell Hull at congressional hearings painted a terrible picture of aggressor nations, but he never mentioned Soviet Russia. Then shortly afterward the State Department withdrew the moral embargo that had been imposed on the Soviet Reds when they invaded Finland. This was accompanied by a bitter attack on Stalin and ^{his Communist} ~~the Soviet~~ regime.

An amendment was proposed by Democratic Senator

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Elleander. The Senator began by stating that he was ready to vote for the Lend-Lease Bill - at once. Then he said his amendment "would allay the fears of millions of American mothers." What he suggested was that the bill ~~to~~ state that no power is conferred on the President to send American soldiers or sailors beyond the limits of the Western Hemisphere and American possessions - neither the army nor the fleet to be used abroad. Such an amendment has already been rejected by the administration forces in the Senate. The opposition said today that they ^{would} support it.

President Roosevelt meanwhile is going ~~right~~ along on the assumption that the Lend-Lease Bill will be passed. He's building up an organization to administer it, and today he made an appointment. This has a new sound: - "defense expeditor." We've had administrators, coordinators, commissioners, and what-not, and now - expeditor. This functionary is to be stationed in London, as a kind of ~~xxxx~~ liaison man between British needs and American production - to expedite things. Who gets the post? Why, ^{Averill} ~~Admiral~~ Harriman, the financier, son of the famous railroad magnate. He's the expeditor.

JONES

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In all the talk about the danger of our getting into the war,
let's note something that was said today by the Secretary of
Commerce, Jesse Jones. ^{he:-} ~~He~~ declared:- "We are in the war.
At least, we're nearly in the war - we're preparing for it."

This statement was made before the Currency and Banking
Committee of the House of Representatives. It concerned a question
of money. The Secretary of Commerce was arguing for the speedy
passage of a housing bill involving a hundred million dollars.
He was asked whether the money was necessary. It was in response
to this that he said:- "We're in the war. At least we're nearly
in the war - we're preparing for it. When you do that," he added,
"you've got to throw money away."

BASIS

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Congress is making a move to authorize the fifty destroyer deal. ~~Of course,~~ the President ^{traded} ~~traded~~ the warships for naval and air bases on British territory, without consulting Congress. This was based on a legal opinion that Congressional consent was not needed. The lawmakers, however, seem not so absolutely and definitely sure of that. Maybe the destroyer deal should have the authorization of Congress. Maybe it needs congressional ratification - before the legislators vote the money. Because they're the ones who put up the cash.

The House Naval Affairs Committee has been considering an administration request for nearly a quarter of a million dollars and today the Committee sent to Congress a bill not only to appropriate the money, but also to put a congressional okay on the deal - ratification.

DEFENSE

There was congressional talk today about a possible scandal in the realm of national defense. Republican Congressman Maas of Minnesota, ~~who is a member of the Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives~~ urged that a special committee be set up to check contracts that are placed for national defense, to be sure that all is on the up-and-up. He spoke of inefficiency and favoritism in the placing of defense orders, and declared that a huge scandal might break.

The Congressman mentioned a case he said he knew of. A ten million dollar defense contract was delayed, he related, then was put through "the ~~ix~~ day after the firm seeking the contract took out a big insurance policy with a certain concern. The inference being that the Company couldn't get the ~~poliexpolityx~~ contract unless it bought insurance in the right place.

He refused to mention any names. The newspaper men asked him whether the insurance firm in the affair was the one with which the President's son, James Roosevelt, was formerly connected. The Congressman replied No, definitely No - it was another insurance concern.

FIGHT

The bout in Philadelphia last night for the heavyweight championship of the world, is not only in the sports pages of the newspapers today - but also in the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Three state senators ^{today} demanded an investigation of the affairs of fisticuffs in which Champion Joe Louis scored a two-round

knockout against Contender Gus Dorazio. The ~~Senate~~ lawmakers witnessed the ^{bout,} ~~doubt,~~ and didn't like it.

"We should investigate who was responsible for such a farce, ["] ~~of a fight,~~ declared Senator Haluska today, in an address on the floor of the State Senate. He says the fight was a fake.

"I am convinced," he proclaims, "that this man ~~xxxx~~ Dorazio took a ~~xi~~ perfect dive."

Well, how would a Pennsylvania lawmaker know ~~xxfixe~~ the fine points about a pugilist going into the tank. Would he have the expert knowledge to discern whether a Joe Louis punch was really sleep-producing? Or whether it was just a gentle tap, and the other fellow deliberately fell down. Senator Haluska explains that angle. "When I speak of a dive," he argues, "I know what I'm talking about because I spent ten years in the ring myself."

He doesn't mean that he ever took a dive when he was a pugilistic paladin -- he just knows about it. Anyway, Senator Haluska says Gus Durazio is a Palooka.

The state senators attended with tickets purchased at the box office at a cost of twenty-three dollars and forty cents. This is a theme of some comment by the Chairman of the Boxing Commission. He said:- "All this kicking could have been avoided with a couple of complimentary tickets," Annie Oakleys.

DIVORCE

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At Chicago today, Mrs. Marie Bulka, sued her husband for divorce and charged the following. Hubby, she said, is a member of the "I am" cult - and ~~she~~ thinks he's George Washington. Mrs. Bulka has a daughter by a previous husband - a good looking blonde. Her present husband, who is fifty-seven years old, told her that the pretty blonde is a reincarnation of Martha Washington - George's wife. Get the idea? Mrs. Bulka didn't quite agree with the ^{re} ~~ass~~umption of a marriage in a previous incarnation. ~~P~~ Hubby enters a denial. He puts it in these words:- "I did not tell her I was George Washington," he declared to the court today. "I said distinctly I was Abraham Lincoln, in slavery to my wife."

Well, Lincoln ~~freed~~ freed the slaves, ~~You know,~~
~~that other kind - not the husbands.~~ not the husbands.

DICE

At Fort Madison, Iowa, today, the county prosecutor authorized the operations of a present -day Carrie Nation. It isn't the curse of liquor, however, that arouses the ire of the lady crusader, ¹⁹⁴¹ ~~of the~~ [^] ~~present day.~~ *african golf.* It's dice, the galloping dominoes, ~~on you snake-eyes~~.

Some days ago, Mrs. W. R. Browning and her daughter Mary invaded one of the smart gambling joints at Fort Madison. Mrs. Browning had a hatchet. Mary had a hammer. Together they attacked the snappy green covered ^{dice} table, ~~for dice~~. What Mrs. Browning failed to chop-up with her hatchet, Mary pounded to bits with her hammer.

The police did nothing -- maybe they were in sympathy with the hatchet and hammer work. Then the modern Carrie Nation and her daughter raided another ~~xx~~ haunt of a luxurious crap game. Once more they hatcheted and hammered the dice table to bits. This time they were taken before the County Prosecutor. The mother explained her hatred of dice, and behind the explanation we can sense some deep human situation. She said, "I am desperately interested in seeing gambling driven out of town -- because of my daughter."

Did the daughter lose money in the gambling games? No, not that.

She's twenty years old, and has been twice married and twice divorced.

She used to work in one of the gambling places, employed there as a dice girl -- officiating at tables where the rolling bones spelled win or lose.

Today the Prosecuting Attorney said -- no prosecution. He gave his opinion in these words:- "As long as you attack gambling devices and other illegal equipment, destroy no other property and do not threaten ~~to~~ or injure anyone -- such raids are legal."

So now the modern Carrie Nation and her daughter have permission to go on -- with hatchet and hammer. ^{TP} And, Hugh has

59 1/4 permission to go on without hatchet and hammer.