

LONDON

L.T. - *Senoco*. Thursday, Sept. 26, 1940.

In London today a call was heard, and it may sound strange if not sinister - a call for a dictator. No British Hitler, Mussolini or Stalin, however. The demand was for what they are calling - a dictator of the homeless. Meaning - the ~~people~~ people of London are asking for a stronger and more efficient ~~new~~ system of handling the human problem of a giant city under bombing. Quicker and better relief for those made homeless by the frightful destruction from the air. Prompter and more effective measures to safeguard the public that lives under the explosive rain from the sky. More ~~new~~ evacuations, improved facilities for getting people out of the city to safe places. Take away from the bombed capital of Britain all people, save those that are absolutely needed for essential work. In other words - the virtual ~~evacuation~~ evacuation of London, except for skeleton forces to conduct the necessary war activities.¶

The claim is that the handling of the human ~~problem~~ problem in London has been badly bungled. So British newspapers were charging today, and official sources admit a large degree of

inefficiency. This is explained by saying that the various agencies of relief are not coordinated, are operating independently and with a great deal of confusion. The newspapers are charging red tape. Here's an example printed in the London news Chronicle. It tells of a crowd of old people - bewildered, helpless. The London News account <sup>describes</sup> ~~describes~~ them in these words - "huddled in their pathetic shawls or threadbare coats, waiting for time bombs to go off before they could return home." Why should they have to wait there for the time bombs to go off? The London paper explains it this way:- "They are not eligible for evacuation, because technically they are not yet homeless."

In consequence of things like this, there is a loud insistent demand for a change. "Today the London Evening Standard issued the following blast:- "It has been nearly three weeks," says the paper, "since the full aerial war fell upon London. Three weeks ~~x~~ since various experts have had ample time to learn of the pressures of existing machinery. As far as external evidence shows, "concludes the standard,

"we are not much nearer the final solution than we were at the beginning."

With this kind of argument, the newspaper calls for what it styles - "a dictator of the homeless." It is pointed out that London, <sup>now -</sup> in actual fact, is a war front, a battleline in the war-of-the-air. In an ordinary military campaign, a city ~~at~~ the front is under military authority - army command. So, London ~~xxxxx~~ should have a similar unified kind of authority, a one man rule of bombing relief. The call is for an administrator who will have ~~absolutely~~ absolute power <sup>for</sup> of dealing with the human problem, and be responsible only to Parliament.

All these things were emphasized today by new bombing attacks launched by the Nazi Air Fleet. The same tragic story as we have been hearing day after day - bombs on London. ~~At~~ At the same time, the Royal Air Force story is the same as day after day - savage counter-attacks against German centers. Today the Nazis reported air raid alarms in Berlin and other German cities, as the British sky fighters blasted at enemy <sup>centers</sup>

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ centers.

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The latest from Dakar is that the French West African port is ready to fight off any new attack. And there are rumors that the British and DeGualle's French forces may make another attempt. ~~Dakar reports that a flotilla was seen today in the Atlantic, to the North. This naval force may be steaming for Dakar, or it may be bound for parts farther South. French equatorial Africa perhaps. The forces that ~~it~~ attacked Dakar disappeared in that direction, and maybe going to the equatorial province which some time ago declared in favor ~~it~~ of DeGualle.~~

The Government of Marshal Petain today jubilantly declared that the British ~~xxx~~ and DeGualle had abandoned the attempt on Dakar because they were driven off. The Petain regime sneers at the British-Degualle contention that the attack will discontinue so as not to shed the blood of 2 Frenchmen. The claim is made that two huge British warships were damaged, -- the battle Cruiser Resolution and Battleship

Barnham. The story tells that they were hit by shells from the French dreadnaught Richelieu which is disabled in Dakar harbor, but quite able to shoot -- they say. The Petain government reports that the ~~R~~Resolution moreover ~~it~~ was torpedoed by a French submarine, and the huge battle cruiser was listing as the attacking forces steamed away.

In London there is no joy over the Dakar affair.

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Anyway resentment was expressed today -- resentment over what the London dispatch openly calls -- a fiasco. There's a demand that there be an investigation of the blunder.

~~Criticism ~~now~~ centers on General DeGualle, ~~is~~ leader of the ~~Free Frenchmen.~~ They say that he miscalculated and was deficient of political sense. The complaint goes on to include high English officials who recommend that the DeGualle adventure be tried. They are named as personalities close to Prime Minister Winston Churchill. A parliamentary debate on the subject is threatened. Some go so far as to liken the Dakar affair to the Norwegian fiasco which caused the~~

the overthrow of Prime Minister Chamberlain. The London

comment however is that there is likely to be no direct  
fire on Churchill -- because he simply can't be replaced.

~~From a viewpoint on this side of the Atlantic it's not~~

~~difficult to understand that the British are sore about the~~

~~rather absurd failure. <sup>and</sup> But~~ Dakar is not Norway -- it's

a mere minor misadventure.

EMBARGO.

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President Roosevelt's embargo of scrap iron is certainly no surprise. In the cards for weeks. It's the timing which may or may not be significant. Everybody understands that the embargo is directed against Japan. True, the Presidential proclamation today declared that the purpose of the move was to conserve supplies of scrap metal for our own use. However, Great Britain is exempt from the embargo - can still get our scrap iron. And Japan is the only nation seriously affected. The Far Eastern Empire has ~~not~~ depended heavily on American sources for its stock of metal. And it happens that just now Japan is embarking on new ventures.

The invasion of French Indo-China by the Mikado's men is being pushed forward, and our own Secretary of State has protested against it. Today Japanese warplanes dropped bombs on the port of Hanoi, and then two thousand troops were landed. Tokyo describes the landing as - "Peaceful procedure." Merely in accordance with the agreement made between Japan and the French government - France granting important military privileges

to the Far ~~XXXXXX~~ Eastern Empire. Peaceful procedure in accordance with a negotiated agreement - yet bombs were dropped in preparation for the landing.

Moreover, there are insistent rumors that Tokyo is about to line up with Germany and Italy. They say that Japan is going to make a defensive alliance with the two axis powers, if the United States and Great Britain start collaborating in the Far East - particularly if the United States fleet should be granted the use of Singapore, Britain's far eastern Gibraltar.

There are repetitions of the report that Germany and Italy are working to establish a vast front - including Spain, Soviet Russia and Japan. Today Berlin reports that Spain is about to sign. And Japan, they say, may join a far flung axis front against Great Britain.

Only a few hours before today's scrap iron embargo, the United States advanced a twenty-five million dollar loan to China - which China will use in its war with Japan. This new loan, in addition to others, brings the total of American loans to China at war, to a total of seventy million dollars. All of



which puts emphasis on the element of timing in today's Presidential embargo, which stops the shipments of American scrap iron to Japan.

The White House today virtually admitted the far reaching significance of the action. Along with the announcement of the embargo, Presidential Secretary Steve Early made this statement: "The President," said he, "has been continuously in consultation, mostly by telephone, with the Secretary of State, on the Far Eastern situation." In addition to this, there have been rumors that the President has called an important meeting to discuss Far Eastern affairs, a meeting consisting of Congressional leaders and Vice-president Garner. Indeed, it has been said, the Vice-president's rather unexpected return from his Texas home to Washington was in response to a Presidential summons - to discuss the Far East. White House Secretary Early was asked today about these reports but refused to make any comment.

There's a domestic political angle in the Washington talk and rumors. Recently, there was a statement by Congressman Martin of Massachusetts, Republican National Chairman. He took

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a campaign fling in these words:- "We can expect scare after scare from now until November, " said he.

Today, shortly before the Scrap Iron Embargo was announced, the press ~~wires~~ wires carried a statement by Samuel F. Pryor, Jr., Eastern Manager of the Willkie presidential campaign. He said he had information that President Roosevelt was, as he said - "About to bring out another crisis" - to take the people's mind off our domestic problems," declared <sup>Leader</sup> Republican Sam Pryor. He added that the supposed crisis would concern the Pacific Coast. And its purpose would be, in his words, "to offset Wendell Willkie's success in the West."

Just about an hour after this Republican blast appeared on the press wires, the Scrap Iron Embargo was announced.

WILLKIE.

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Wendell Willkie made a campaign pledge today. He promised something he'll do if he's elected President, or rather - if he's elected Great White Father.

The Republican standard bearer made this campaign pledge to Chief William Spotted Crow and Chief John Middle Bull. By this time it should be apparent that this electioneering story concerns Indians, Redskins, Aborigines. It appears that the great x tribe of the Sioux is not satisfied with the way the New Deal is running Indian affairs. So when the Willkie train stopped on its way to Omaha today, the two leading chiefs of the Sioux made an appearance - and what an appearance it was. They stalked forward in full ceremonial regalia, feathers and all. They announced that they represented what they called "The great Sioux nation."

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Chief Spotted Crow produced a pipe of peace, presumably to indicate there was no intention of scalping the candidate for the office of Great White Father - or even of voting against him. Chief Middle Bull, who may or may not be a descendant of Sitting Bull, proclaimed that the great Sioux nation was being wronged

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by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Chief Spotted Crow said he'd like to make the Bureau of Indian Affairs eat Crow, and Chief Middle Bull said, "That's no bull."

In response to these campaign arguments, Willkie responded with a pledge - that if he's elected Great White Father he'll name a new federal director of Indian Affairs.

Today Willkie was following a schedule of - a speech a minute. At various stops he addressed assembled crowds. Most of these did not consist of such stately personalities as Chief Spotted Crow and Chief Middle Bull. The candidate made remarks more appropriate to John Smith and Joe Doakes. He ~~at-~~tacked such subjects as the depression; ~~he~~ stated that the great depression which began in nineteen twenty-nine was still continuing, and declared it was the fault of the New Deal that the depression was lasting so long. And he added a warning:- "If the United States," said he, "doesn't get off the road of bankruptcy quickly - this great democracy will pass."

LEGION.

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The American Legion always celebrates Armistice Day with fervor. It's new Commander celebrates Armistice Day doubly - it's his birthday. Milo J. Warner was born forty-nine years ago - on November eleventh. He was a soldier in France, when the Armistice was signed - November eleventh. At that time he was in the Hospital, wounded. His injury was the result of a bombing raid. He was a Captain in the front lines and went out on those missions of desperate hazard. He was so seriously wounded that he was under Hospital care until six months after the war ended. Now he's elected National Commander of the American Legion - a veteran ~~birthday~~ ~~whose~~ whose birthday is Armistice Day.

RESCUE

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There was a dramatic test today of that eternal thing called - "Mother Love." Near a dock in Brooklyn lives Mrs. Mary Satterlee, who has three small children - aged five, four and eighteen months. The three babes toddled down to the end of the pier and were playing there, when one toppled off and fell into the water, the youngest, eighteen months old, a little girl. The other two screamed. The mother heard them and ran out onto the pier, where she saw the child in the water - drowning.

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The dramatic part was - Mrs. Mary Satterlee could not swim, not a stroke. So there was the old dilemma of mother love, and it worked as it has worked from time immemorial. Without ~~hesitation~~ hesitation the mother who could not swim leaped into the Bay and grasped the drowning child. By all the laws of probability they both should have drowned. The water was thirty feet deep and a swift tide was running - a tide that carried them away from the pier and into open water. Yet somehow the mother who could not swim kept herself and her child afloat. A providential thing was this - fifty feet away there were some rocks jutting out of the water.

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And the tide carried them to the rocks. The mother  
crawled onto the ledge, and there remained exhausted,  
unable to make another move, the child still clasped in  
her arms. When people came and gave quick aid,  
Mrs. Satterlee said: "I don't know how I kept afloat. I  
never swam a stroke in my life. All I could think of was  
my baby."