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for CT  
caught in  
rain.

Sept. 21,  
1938

L.T. SUNOCO Wednesday, September 21, 1938

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GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

It's mighty desolate around Radio City just now. The streets are full of umbrellas turned wrongside out -- and Lowell Thomas is marooned somewhere to the North. So I've been rushed in to pinch-hit -- or rather rain-hit for him. I've been a writer all my life till now -- and now I'm a broadcaster! Here goes!

L.T. - SUNOCO, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21, 1938.

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY.~~

No play ever written for the stage could have such acute and prolonged tension as the European drama. The plot shifts from day to day, almost from hour to hour.

At noon today all the tension seemed to have been relaxed. (A tragic message came from Prague. It was an official announcement at the end of a long and painful session of the Czechoslovak cabinet, and its words were: "Under irresistible pressure, from both the British and French governments, the Czech government has been forced to accept with pain <sup>the</sup> proposals elaborated in London."

In short, surrender, complete, humiliating, abject!

Surrender, but at least peace. From London we then learned:-

Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain has ordered an airplane to take

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him to the Rhineland, where he'll meet Chancellor Hitler.) One observer remarked: "After the surrender of Prague, that won't be much more than a social visit." He was wrong, that observer.

For subsequent messages from Germany indicate that ~~the people of the Reich are actually hungry for war, craving to take part in a gigantic national slaughter.~~ An army of almost half a million is encamped on the German side of the frontier and, judging from all reports, straining at the leash, longing to hear the command "Forward!"

Czechoslovakia is surrounded by armed enemies tonight. To the north, the Poles are practically mobilized, ready to march. One class of the army was to have been released yesterday, sent back to civil life. But a sudden decree ordered them to remain under arms. The Polish army is estimated today at one million six hundred thousand. Hungary to the south, the Magyars are lashing themselves to a warlike frenzy, huge multitudes massing in the streets of Budapest and crying: "Slovakia back to Hungary!" ~~The next day~~ But the most war hungry of all is the army of a hundred and ten thousand Sudeten Germans, frantically eager for

the word from their Fuehrer to advance.

Those aren't the only ominous signs. ( It looks tonight as though Hitler's appetite was growing by the meat it has fed upon, the meat of one concession after another. For it is openly announced that if he is not satisfied with the terms that Premier Chamberlain brings him tomorrow, he will unleash his *army.*) ~~battle thirsty fighters.~~

It was published, unofficially, that the terms were to provide for an exchange of populations, protection for people in the Sudeten areas who don't want to live under Nazi rule.

But that idea no longer satisfies the Fuehrer. For he wants all Czech troops and police out of that Sudeten area within a week.

~~In other words, those who don't want to stay behind and be subject to Brown Shirt brutalities and concentration camps, will have to fly for their safety, leaving all their goods behind them.~~

It is openly reported in Godesberg on the Rhine that this is one of the things that Hitler will tell Chamberlain tomorrow. He wants that Sudeten problem settled, disposed of and finally cleaned up by the end of this month. If England and

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France don't consent to that, he will unchain those hundred and ten thousand Sudeten Free Corps, who will sweep in upon the Czechs, preceded by thousands of Hitler's fighting airplanes, followed by the mechanized might of his land army.

Then the news from Berlin. When the word came of Prague's complete surrender, there was no particular elation. Instead of that, the Nazi big shots merely sniffed. Wait and see, they said. And here's what one of the government newspapers printed this afternoon: "The action of the Prague government is as ever too late." And it continued: "It does not matter what President Benes and his parliamentary committee may formulate. It comes too late." ~~The Prague government before replying, always has to ask somebody. We have known that game for months," said this Nazi paper. "But today it is at an end," and, it adds: "therefore we start."~~

Incidentally, I In Washington people in official circles are holding their fingers crossed over the European situation. It is reported that President Roosevelt himself, with all the inside information at his command, by no means regards the crisis as being at an end.

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Nobody in Washington would consent to make any comment whatsoever on Europe. They said that for one thing, events were marching so rapidly that it would be dangerous to say anything.

In the money markets, there was one sensational consequence to the surrender of Prague. Czechoslovak bonds fell tumbling disastrously on every exchange. Until recently they had been considered one of the best investments in Central Europe. Early this year the eight per cent bonds were selling at a hundred and five. Tonight they were at fifty-two. ~~That's just an indication of what's going on.~~

## FLOOD

Of course, there's a flood story. The fact that I'm here, and not Lowell Thomas, is an indication that there's news of flood waters. A deluge far and wide.

At North Brookville, Massachusetts, a doctor and nurse were driving home after having successfully brought a new little child into the world. As they passed a spot near a dam, a sudden roaring sound split the air. Then came the noise of many waters rushing. The dam had burst and the torrent swept that motor car to destruction. The doctor was saved after a vain attempt to rescue his companion. But the nurse was swept to her death by that broken dam.

This was just one incident in the wet nightmare that grips a large portion of New England tonight. Through those northeast states, the inundations have poured over highways and railroad tracks, making them impassible, torn down steel concrete bridges as though they were matchwood. Whole cities and towns are isolated. Late this afternoon the total of dead had risen to <sup>12</sup> eleven.

You may recall that in Nineteen<sup>River</sup>Twenty-Seven, the normally peaceful Merrimac went on a bender and contributed to a flood that's historic in New England's memories. At noon today, engineers took measurements and reported to the Mayor of Lowell, Massachusetts, that the Merrimac is fast climbing to that high water mark of Nineteen Twenty-Seven. The police of Lowell, Massachusetts, were tearing



through the low lying districts in their radio cars, warning people to leave their homes at once.

In Boston, this morning it was announced that four inches of rain had fallen since Saturday. Elsewhere in New England the downpour was six inches, <sup>^</sup>six inches and still pouring! There'll be no let-up until tomorrow, says the head of the Boston Weather Bureau.

So many minor dams have broken that it is impossible now to make any count of them. Half of the business streets in Southbridge are under water, one-third of the entire city. Factories are inundated, thousands out of work. But the biggest threat comes from the area <sup>er</sup>borded <sup>^</sup>by the Connecticut River. At one o'clock this afternoon, the water at Hartford was four feet above flood level, and within eight feet of reaching an all-time high. The crest of the flood isn't expected until Friday. Folks living in the low lying sections had to leave their houses, <sup>and</sup>merchants were hustling their stocks up to second and third stories.

The most dramatic situation so far is that of the eight thousand people who live at Rockville, Connecticut. The chief of police this morning broadcast a proclamation throughout the city.

Said he: "Everybody get ready to leave down instantly the moment you hear a series of sharp blasts on the fire whistle."

And he added: "Those blasts on the fire whistle will be a signal that the dam at Lake Snipsic, from which Rockville gets its water, is about to collapse." All day, perspiring crews of workers were piling sandbags against the dam. There was such a shortage of workers that they were offered a dollar an hour.

And that isn't the whole of the flood story.

Next door to Connecticut, in what the New Englanders call "York States," the rivers are rising too, highways under water, state police out detouring the automobile traffic, families marooned, towns in which the only way to get about is by row boats.

Creeks and streams rising in the Catskills. The flat stretches along the lower Hudson River valley gradually submerged by the continuous downpour of almost tropical violence.

Elsewhere throughout the country, the waters have poured down from the heavens with equal velocity, and we may expect to hear of rivers overflowing, bridges wrecked, highways and railways inundated in other states.

## HURRICANE

On top of the menace of water, came the big wind. Before noon, Uncle Sam had storm warnings hoisted all along the Atlantic coast from the Virginia capes all the way to Eastport, Maine.

4 The center of the storm, which was of terrific velocity, was located far out to sea. But even the fringe of that hurricane was bad enough. It struck the southern New Jersey coast in the middle of the ~~fm~~ afternoon, tearing on its way northward. On the northern coast of New Jersey it uprooted trees, tore down power wires, cast destruction in all directions. At the mouth of the Delaware, the waves were so deadly that sea-going vessels had to go back and take shelter behind the Delaware breakwater. Shortly after four o'clock, the gale hit the center of Long Island and swept over the Sound to Connecticut, leaving a trail of wreckage behind it.

ARGENTINE

We aren't the only country suffering from high winds.

A tornado swept over the southerly part of the Province of Buenos Aires in the Argentine. Fourteen killed, twenty-six wounded, -- while in our latitudes the North Atlantic hurricane was blasting along.

MOUNTAIN FOLLOW HURRICANE

In Honduras, old Mother Nature played a prank of a different kind. An entire mountain disappeared. It didn't blow its head off like Krakatoa or Mt. Pelee, but sank into the earth.

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*It was*  
~~the~~ a mountain ~~called~~ *Diabo Blanco* on the Gulf of Fonseca.

That's on the Pacific side. There were no casualties, but the *wind* phenomenon threw the natives nearby into a panic, ~~for that~~

The mountain vanished with a terrific noise and under huge towering columns of smoke. It was like a gigantic *demon* ~~levit~~ disappearing *infernal* into the fires ~~of hell~~ in a medieval mystery play.

LOS ANGELES

Eight  
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There was excitement in Los Angeles today where the American Legion is in convention. Excitement is a mild word, for it ended in a young riot. The boys were having their fun lighting bonfires in the public streets. They lighted one of them over a manhole right in the heart of the business district of the city. The gas in the manhole caught fire and blew up, shooting flames high in the air. Bystanders were burned, and ~~fx~~ five of them had to go to the hospital. When the firemen arrived at the scene, the fun-makers rushed the engines and started to pull the trucks to pieces. Then the fire fighters answered with streams of water from their hoses, and the merry fellows got wet.

Police cars reached the scene and then the jolly boys began to take the policemen's automobiles to pieces. That was a bit too much for even Los Angeles hospitality. Another police car came tearing up loaded with tear gas bombs. Then the laughter of the cut-ups turned to tears.

We learn that Chicago guaranteed the Legion a hundred and fifty thousand dollars to bring the next convention there!

PRIMARIES

The Democratic primary election in Massachusetts has resulted in a political sensation. The ~~gix~~ victory of former Governor Jim Curley is being acclaimed as one of the great come-backs. Twice in succession he took a licking. Today his plurality over Governor Hurley is estimated at more than forty-two thousand. On the Republican side the victory of the successful candidate is overwhelming. The vote for Leveret Saltonstall, ex-speaker of the House, is over three hundred and twenty-two thousand; his nearest rival got forty-seven odd thousand.

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But (the primary contest that had most eyes upon it was the fight of New York's Democratic James J. O'Connor against the candidate backed by President Roosevelt.) Today we have an inveterate organization Democrat nominated as the candidate of the Republican Party. (On the Democratic side he lost out to the President's candidate, Mr. Fay. But he was also a candidate in the Republican primary -- and won. The outcome will probably be that Congressman O'Connor will run in November as an independent Democrat and a Republican and hope to win by

a combination of Republican and anti-New Deal votes.)

At the White House, reporters learned that Mr. Roosevelt was most pleasantly surprised by the victory of his candidate in New York. Last night he was prophesying that O'Connor would win on the Democratic side and lose on the Republican. What happened , of course, was the exact opposite.

Republicans are rejoicing over the returns from Wisconsin. To be sure, Governor Phil LaFollette won the renomination of his own Progressive Party. But the ~~the~~ total vote of the Republicans in the primary was far ahead of the Progressives. The G.O.P. thinks it has good reason to hope for victory in November.



## RAILROADS

58 1/2  
President Roosevelt's hopes of settling the railroad crisis has struck another snag. His committee of six were all set to draw up a plan to help the roads out of their financial troubles. But the six had to quit before they got a good start. Today at the end of a few hours' discussion, they said in effect: "It's no use, we can't do a thing until the railroads settle the squabble with the unions -- the controversy over a fifteen per cent wage cut for railway employees."

So there the railroad problem remains, just where it was last week, just where it was eighteen months ago.

MEXICO

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Bad news for people who own property in Mexico. Up to now a measure of consolation was offered them when their land was seized by the government. According to the Mexican Agrarian Code, they were supposed to be permitted to keep fifty hectares, something like a hundred and twenty-five acres. But that provision on the code has been killed by the Mexican Supreme Court.

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~~According to the same decision, all future appeals to the court against seizures by the government, will be thrown out.~~

and now good night.