

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Warm doings this afternoon at the American Legion Convention in Milwaukee. You may recall that even as late as a year ago, there was loud and strong sentiment in the Legion against the sending of another A.E.F. But today ~~at~~ that convention, *with* ~~loud~~ cheers roared its approval of a set of resolutions expressing the exact opposite. The American Legion is ^{now} in favor of carrying the war to the enemy, if necessary, in our own defense, *instead of allowing war to come to our shores.*

Some observers were surprised ~~that~~ there was no debate on the floor. Evidently, all the fighting was done in committee. The National Defense Committee of the Legion includes several non-interventionists, including ^{such as} ~~for instance~~ Congressman Hamilton Fish, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, and others. ^{TR} The resolution, approved with roaring cheers by the entire convention, was an echo to the plea made on Monday by President Roosevelt. One clause ~~of the~~ resolution used the same words that the President used.

It is reported from Milwaukee that the question had been closely studied by a standing committee, which had been primed with confidential information from both the Army and the Navy. And, we learn, that ^{the} Committee, during its deliberations at Milwaukee, was advised by high officials of the Army and the Navy Department^s.

~~It's worth quoting~~ Some of the resolutions by the Defense Committee ^{are worth quoting.} The first expresses the confidence of the Legion in our government, our President, our War Department, and our Navy, and pledges the support of the ^{American} Legion.

Number Two reads, ~~QUOTE~~: "Our present national objective is the defeat of Hitler and all he stands for, and all diverting c^ontroversies must be subordinated to the main objective."

^{Then} ~~And~~ it adds: "We appeal for national unity on this national objective."

^{after that} ~~Then~~ follow two clauses asking Congress to withdraw the prohibition against sending our soldiers abroad. Clause Three ~~of~~

~~the resolution~~ reads: "The basic elements of national defense are the ability to carry war when unavoidable to our enemy, and thus prevent him from bringing war to us. This ability will require

removal of all geographical ^{limitations} ~~limitations~~ on the movement of forces and adequate provision for corresponding plans and materials."

The Fourth Clause declares that "if fighting is necessary to defend the United States, we insist upon being prepared to do the fighting outside of the United States."

So much for the resolutions of the Defense Committee, approved by the Convention without a dissenting voice being heard on the floor. It was followed by the report of the Foreign Relations Committee, as expressed by Past National Commander Ray Murphy of Iowa. That Committee asked the Convention to ~~express~~ ^{approve} ~~approval of~~ an endorsement of the foreign policy of the President ^{also} and Congress, immediate repeal of the Neutrality Act, and a recommendation that all America join in a united support of the government's foreign policy, to the end that the American way of life ^{shall} ~~might~~ survive in a world of free men. That's the wording of it.

Past National Commander Hanford MacNider of Iowa wanted to go even further. He begged the Legion to have, as he put it, "to have the guts to say what it means and that if this is our war, let's go to it." But the Legion did not approve that strong amendment.

Twenty-three years ago the American Legion put itself on record as unalterably opposed to any second American Expeditionary Force ever being sent out. For twenty-three years they stuck to it, until today.

Uncle Sam's warships are now definitely engaged on convoy duty. They are escorting and protecting not merely ships carrying our own flags, but all vessels freighting lease-lend supplies. So said Secretary Knox today at a press conference in Washington. All of which is no surprise; in fact it's in line with what the Secretary told the Legion at Milwaukee on Monday. He added these words to the reporters: "You must bear in mind that since the first World War many more methods than the convoy have been developed to protect ships, and we are employing all of them." Naturally, he refused to specify.

They asked him whether the Navy was also protecting merchantmen in other oceans, as well as the North Atlantic. That he declined to answer. They asked him whether he was going to mount guns on the merchant ships. That has not been decided, and anyway it would require an enabling act by Congress.

SHIPS

Anybody visiting New York these days will see an extraordinary sight. Father Knickerbocker's magnificent and world famous harbor is more crowded than it has been for twenty-three years. The official estimate is that freighters and tankers to the extent of some seven hundred and fifty thousand tons are lying at anchor in the base and at the docks along the New York and New Jersey sides of Hendrick Hudson's River. Within the last forty-eight hours, the ships that passed Ambrose Light, inbound, were as many as a hundred and four. There are one hundred Sandy Hook pilots at the disposal of shipping, and they're all working overtime, likewise the customs, public health and immigration inspectors.

WAR

Hitler's armies tonight are victorious north and south. *That*

is,
The high command announces that the Battle of Russia today is an operation of the largest scale, *and that* In the north, where Hitler himself is believed to be, the panzers have crashed through the Russian lines into a park on the outskirts of Leningrad, a park which the Red armies had strongly defended. German propaganda reporters have sent word that between the Nazis and the Reds there's only a narrow strip of country, almost devoid of trees or any other sort of cover. The Russians have dug in. German shock troops, they claim, threw over tank obstacles, and took position after position, with hand-to-hand fighting with Russians concealed in bunkers and trenches.

And the latest from Berlin is that the armies of the south are crashing into the Crimea, and have isolated the great Russian naval base at Sebastopol. The armies of Marshal von Rundstedt and Marshal von Bock are driving a pincers movement around Kiev, and expect to effect a junction in a few hours. In fact, the very latest unofficial report from Berlin is that they have already joined forces, snapped the pincers shut, and trapped a quarter of a

million ^{Red} ~~Soviet~~ soldiers in an area the size of New Jersey.

Here's the story that comes from Moscow. The Soviets claim to have pushed the Nazis back at Leningrad, recaptured ^{ing} an important village of strategic value. They also announce the hurling back of two Nazi attacks on the island of Oesel in the Baltic, not far from Leningrad, with the sinking of two German cruisers, a destroyer, five transports filled with troops, eighty small craft, and thousands of men.

On the central front, Moscow claims that Marshal Timoshenko has been fighting an eight-day battle, at the end of which he drove the Germans back to Yartsevo, thirty-five miles northeast of Smolensk. But the Russians ^{say not} ~~don't say~~ a word about the fighting in the Ukraine, ^{are} and they ~~are~~ silent about what's going on in the Crimea, a significant silence.

DESTROYERS

The people of Stockholm had the fright of their lives today. A series of explosions broke out in the beautiful harbor of the Swedish capital. One after another, great concussions shook the buildings in the city and the numerous islands that go to make up the place known as the "Venice of the north." Many of the Swedish people probably thought that they are already, against all their efforts and wishes, involved in Hitler's war.

When they learned the truth about the explosions, it was grave enough. Three of the most modern destroyers of the Swedish Navy ~~have been~~ blown up, sunk, a total loss. More than a hundred sailors of the Royal Swedish Navy ~~were~~ either killed or injured.

But it wasn't any part of the war action. There is no official explanation yet, but unofficially it is reported that one of the destroyers was loading torpedoes ^{that} and they were improperly handled.

One fourth of all of King Gustav's destroyer flotilla.

UNION NOW

3

Another British voice is raised in favor of the Union-Now idea that's being championed over here by Clarence Streit. Leslie Hore-Belisha, Ex-War Secretary in the British Cabinet, said he hoped the Roosevelt-Churchill Eight Points would be a prelude to common citizenship of Britons and Americans. He recalled that Churchill had offered complete union and common citizenship to the French just before they yielded. Hore-Belisha declares that there's far more reason for common citizenship with America. The Declaration of Independence, he said, should be replaced by a Declaration of Inter-dependence.

POWER STRIKE

The strike

Kansas City breathes more easily tonight. ~~The~~ black-out
lasted only four hours, that is, the complete black-out which kept
even the hospitals dark. The power company restored at least
partial current just about four o'clock this morning, and that
thanks to stout cooperation by the authorities. Not only the police
moved firmly and promptly, but the State ~~swung~~ into action.
Governor Donnell of Missouri sent out quick orders for a couple of
battalions of the Home Guard to assemble and stand by. The Home Guard
recently organized to take the place of the National Guard which is
out on military service.

The authorities declined to take the strike in good part,
being apparently quite indignant that the Union men should have *turned*
~~blacked-out~~ *off current* even the hospitals. The chief of police declares that
if any person dies as a result of that black-out, he is in favor
of filing charges against the heads of the Union, possibly as *being*
accessory to murder.

Those were four exceedingly difficult and anxious hours
among the doctors and nurses. One baby was born with a most

difficult operation on the mother, the only light being provided by an emergency generator of the Fire Department. The strike leaders not only threw the switches but stood guard over the switches to prevent anybody from reinstating the current. The lives of other children and grown patients were in grave jeopardy during those four hours. Some surgeons had to perform most delicate operations by candlelight.

The Governor of Missouri displayed no appeasing mood. He told reporters that he would insist on the men returning to work and submitting their claims to mediation. Then he informed Mayor Gage of Kansas City that the state would not put up with such conduct as that black-out.

It was eventually broken by strike-breakers working under the protection of ^{Police} ~~cops~~ and Home Guards. The power Company moved cots and blankets into their plants and brought food in, to feed the workers so that they wouldn't have to leave the premises. Even so, there was fear of sabotage. The chief of police threw six of the strike-breakers into ^{sail,} ~~the sneezer,~~ but the Union organizer was released on two hundred dollars bail, after a few hours.

Passengers on the trolley cars had experiences that were annoying though not perilous. When the power was shut off, not only did the cars have to stop, but the electrically operated doors couldn't be opened. So the passengers had to crawl out through the windows.

ELECTION

The whole country is justifiably interested in the results of yesterday's New York primary. Of course there wasn't any contest worth mentioning on the Democratic side. But there is plenty of gossip about the smallness of the plurality the voters gave to Mayor LaGuardia. And here's a statement from Fiery Fiorello himself. He said he has kept silent hitherto for he was in a delicate position, not being an enrolled Republican. "However," he says, "now that the Republican nomination has been offered, I accept." He then made it clear that ~~ix~~ it will not be a campaign of silence. When a reporter asked him about that small primary vote, he said he didn't think it mattered.

Late figures show that he has a plurality of almost twenty thousand, most of it coming from Manhattan Island. LaGuardia lost the two big boroughs of Queens and the Bronx.

BASEBALL

The great American baseball drama of September becomes more and more harrowing. As the clock stands now, Our Bums, the Brooklyn Dodgers, are holding their own, a lead of one and a half games over the St. Louis Gas House Gang. The Dodgers were in Pittsburgh where the Pirates gave them a fight, but ^{our Bums} ~~the Bums won,~~ an "our Superbag" if you prefer, won six to four.

However, those Cardinals had a grand party on their own home grounds. They had the Boston Braves for targets and took the first game of the double-header, six to one. The last I heard, at the end of the third inning in the second game the score was -- Cardinals two; Braves nothing.

WAR GAMES

There was an incident of high comedy in the U.S. Army war games in Louisiana. The Blue Army had sent out a suicide squad to bomb the headquarters of the Red Army and capture its Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General Ben Lear. Yes, the same Ben Lear who got so much publicity over the yoo-hoo episode.

The suicide squad had pretty good luck for a while.

Six of them
~~Certain men~~ succeeded in getting into the corridors of Red Army headquarters ^{where they} and set off two smoke pots. The smoke pots, of course, were tokens, representing bombs. ^{But} They didn't get ^{Gen.} Ben Lear, as he had left the building a few minutes before they got in. ~~But,~~

Q At any rate, they ^{did} set off the smoke pots. Dense fumes promptly filled the rooms occupied by high staff officers and even by the newspapermen. ~~Six~~ ^{+ six} of the raiders were about to escape to the

Blue Army, when they were arrested by Red military police. *Anyhow,*
~~It turned out then that their bombs were duds.~~

8
The umpires disallowed their feat, ^{saying} ~~said~~ it was illegal because they didn't wear the proper markings on their uniforms. They had also come into the place in a wrongly marked trucks. And as a reward the raiders and their commanding officers are liable to punishment for breaking the ~~umpire~~ rules.

RECRUIT

3/2
In Eighteen Ninety-Eight, shortly after the MAINE was blown up in Havana harbor, a young fellow named Niels Anderson, enlisted in the Navy at Chicago. He had a long and honorable career on Uncle Sam's men-o-war, served ^{ing} until Nineteen~~T~~Twenty-Nine, when he was mustered out as chief petty officer.

9
For a couple of years he has been living at a farm in South Haven, Michigan. But today he showed up in Chicago, at the same recruiting station where he had enlisted forty-three years ago. He said he wanted to enlist again. Just to be pleasant, the officer in charge put him through the ropes, had him given a physical examination. Now, Ex-Chief Petty Officer Niels Anderson is seventy-two years old. But after the physical examination, the Navy medicos declared he was in perfect shape, so off they sent him to the Great Lakes naval training station, a young gob of seventy-two.

2 1/4
And now a young fellow of considerably less than 72 — with a question for you.