

LEND-LEASE

P.J. - Lunoco. Tuesday, March 11, 1941.

At ten minutes of four this afternoon, President Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease Bill; <sup>thus making</sup> and H.R. Seventeen Seventy-Six ~~became~~ the law of the land.

Final action on this history-making measure was swift.

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The House of Representatives put its okay on the amendments adopted by the Senate. There was little debate - a quick vote, an overwhelming majority. Many opponents of the bill voted to sustain the Senate amendments. They took the attitude that since ~~the bill~~ <sup>it</sup> was sure to pass, they preferred it with the amendments <sup>- and wanted national unity.</sup> than without. There was a quick ceremony of signing by Speaker Rayburn of the House and Vice-President Wallace in the Senate.

Then the document was rushed to the White House, where the President read it hastily. It took him just fourteen minutes - then he signed it. So lend-lease and all-out aid to Britain is now a fact.

The fact was followed swiftly by implications in it - action to put the lending and leasing into effect. The President conferred with a group of congressional leaders, and promptly an ~~the~~ all-important disclosure was made. To lend and lease, you've

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got to have money. How much? Here's the answer. President Roosevelt is going to ask Congress for seven billion dollars to finance H.R. Seventeen Seventy-Six. He wants that amount of money for the building of armament which is to be ~~six~~ sent to the democracies - Great Britain particularly. Maybe more billions will be needed - probably will, if the war drags on. The seven billion dollars is for lending and leasing during the period of one year - or perhaps longer. The request for the money will go to Congress tomorrow - at noon.

Armament will start moving immediately - for the bill empowers the President to lend and lease Army and Navy war equipment already on hand. This - in addition to the seven billion dollars' worth that is to be manufactured. President Roosevelt indicated the shipments from existing stocks will not be so very large at the moment, but they'll increase to a steady flow. They're to be sent to Great Britain and Greece. The President refrained from saying just what kind of material will be sent, but the indications are that it will include warplanes - like army flying fortresses. Also - ships. There's a mention of torpedo ~~h~~ speedboats

of the mosquito fleet -- although the Navy has only thirty-two of them including those on hand and on order. No mention of destroyers as yet. They say guns and tanks will be sent - also foodstuffs.

BRITISH AIRCRAFT

More and more the question looms - Will aid to Britain get there in time? Will battle equipment, especially warplanes, arrive in time for that tremendous Battle of Britain which is expected this spring and summer?

Today an official government answer was given in the House of Commons - Yes. The statement was made by Air Minister Sir Archibald Sinclair. <sup>He</sup> ~~He spoke at length of American skycraft that Britain is receiving - right now. The British Air Minister~~ <sup>American built</sup> spoke of <sup>A</sup> fighter planes ~~built over here~~ in these words - "comparable to our own single-engine types." He praised the bombers, light and heavy, said many American built bombers were in action now, and showing the best kind of performance. He spoke of American aid in the air battle as already great, and on the increase. He referred to Nazi statements that help from the United States won't arrive soon enough to alter the issue. ~~xx~~ Regarding this, the Air Minister spoke as follows:- "Herr Goebels tells his German dupes that American help for Britain will arrive too late. But I tell the House," cried the Air Minister, "that these formidable aircraft, the choicest fruits of American design and craftsmanship - will get here in time."

Sir Archibald Sinclair contended that the Royal Air Force is now far stronger in comparison with the German air corps than it was when the great sky battles began last summer. He declared that since then the British have been building warplanes more rapidly than the Germans have been able to do.

SHIP LOSSES

It remains to be seen what significance may lie in today's announcement of British shipping losses. The London Admiralty <sup>gives</sup> ~~announces~~ a startling figure for the week that ended March Second - a hundred and forty-eight thousand tons ~~were~~ sunk by the Germans, <sup>twenty-</sup> ~~thirty-~~ nine ships. This is the fourth largest weekly loss since the war began. It's nearly twice the weekly average for February - seventy-five thousand tons.

20 { (The question arises, is that figure of a hundred and forty-eight thousand tons for the week an indication of what's coming? May we expect sinkings at that rate to continue? Or was it just an unlucky break for Britain ~~xxx~~ during that week - an exceptional case?) The week ending March Second was marked by one of the most destructive of German convoy attacks. The U-boats raided a big fleet of freighters, and fired their torpedoes with destructive effect. ~~That was one of the stories of the day, and it's the reason for the weekly figure of sinkings so high.~~ So we can reason that the sinking of <sup>twenty-</sup> ~~thirty-~~ nine ships, <sup>in a week,</sup> a hundred and forty-eight thousand tons, is an exception, the



result of a lucky Nazi <sup>break,</sup> ~~result.~~ And - the figure for succeeding weeks is likely to drop back to average.

On the other hand, Spring is at hand, the weather is clearing in the North Atlantic area - more favorable ~~weather~~ for attack by U-boat, surface raiders, and bombing planes. Spring is the time marked for a redoubled Nazi attempt to cut the British shipping line<sup>s</sup> - the intensified campaign announced by Hitler. So maybe that's the reason for the jump in the figure for sinkings. In fact, London, in giving out the report, adds that Germany is now making what London describes as - "a supreme effort."

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Whatever may be the case, it's apparent that if the sinking of a hundred and forty-eight thousand tons in a week should continue, it would mean the <sup>gravest</sup> ~~greatest~~ kind of crisis for Britain in the war. If the Nazi sea campaign should go on with that kind of success, Britain would have to make the most drastic efforts to check it. And what about the United States? We would be faced with the problem of what to do - how to help. It is to be noted, however, that London speaks optimistically of new devices of

protection against the menace. London speaks of counter-measures  
in these words "particularly successful."



BOMB

The attempt to assassinate the retiring British Minister to Bulgaria today was an outrage of fantastic violence.

When Bulgaria joined the Nazi-Fascist Axis and German troops poured into the country, Great Britain severed relations with the Bulgarian Government -- and British Minister George Rendel prepared to take his departure together with the other members of the British Legation Staff. The party left Bulgaria for Turkey and today arrived at Istanbul -- old Constantinople. They went to the Pera Palace Hotel, the smartest hostelry in the city. They had a lot of luggage with them, trunks and suitcases. <sup>These</sup> ~~They~~ were piled up in the hotel lobby.

Minister George Rendel gave an interview to the press. He told the newspapermen that the Bulgarian Government had shown him all courtesy in expediting his departure. He expressed his appreciation, and said that his trip had been a pleasant one. The interview ended, and the British Minister started for his suite in the hotel. At that moment there was a frightful explosion. It occurred in the stacks of luggage that the British diplomatic party had brought along, the trunks and suitcases ~~had~~ piled in the lobby



of the hotel. The whole front of the building was blown out.

Three persons killed, <sup>a dozen</sup> and others injured, <sup>including four British</sup> ~~The British Minister~~  
<sup>diplomats, minister</sup> ~~unhurt~~ <sup>obviously</sup> escaped ~~uninjured~~ -- in what was a bomb plot directed against him  
 and the others of the British Legation Staff.

The explosion was caused by two bombs in suitcases among the British luggage -- two huge bombs. This was indicated by what

was discovered later. In another suitcase was found a third bomb -- it weighed two hundred and fifty pounds. Nobody knows to whom the

suitcases belong<sup>ed</sup>. Apparently they were placed by the bombers in the

Legation baggage, <sup>and that</sup> ~~Apparently~~ this was done before the <sup>diplomatic</sup> ~~Legation~~

Staff left Bulgaria. Time Bombs. Did the plotters expect them to

explode while the party was still in Bulgaria? Or after the British

had got into Turkey? On the train perhaps? Or at Istanbul? These

questions cannot be answered. We only know that a bomb outrage of

the most startling kind was perpetrated on the British Minister and his

staff, as they went to Turkey from Nazi controlled Bulgaria.

## MURDER

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A melodramatic murder case in the depths of Africa today startled the aristocratic world of British society. At Nairobi in Kenya, Major Sir Delves Broughton, Baronet, was arraigned in court for the murder of the Earl of Erroll. Both the victim and the man accused are top flight bluebloods in the ranks of the British nobility. The Earl of Erroll, of ancient Scottish lineage, was the hereditary High Constable for Scotland. Major Sir Delves Broughton is the Eleventh Baronet in his line. His title dates back to the Sixteen Hundreds and was one of the original baronetcies granted by King James the First. Both men had been involved in marital tangles. The Earl of Erroll was named in a divorce trial in New York a dozen years ago. As a result of this, he himself was divorced by his wife, the Countess of Erroll. Major Sir Delves Broughton, was divorced <sup>from</sup> by *She was a noted big game hunter. He later* his wife last year, <sup>and</sup> remarried. Both men had been living in Africa, Kenya, where the baronet is a great land owner.

The story of the killing goes back to January Twenty-Fourth. On the night of that date, Lord Erroll and Sir Delves and Lady Broughton attended a gay party at a country club much frequented by the British officer caste. When the festivities

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were over, the Earl drove Lady Broughton to her home in his car, left her there, and drove away. Major Sir Delves Broughton drove a friend home, and then departed for his own place. The next day, the Earl of Erroll was found shot to death in the front seat of his car, which was parked on a lonely road in the African bush country.

The case was first believed to be suicide, but then a pathologist said - No, not possible. He based his opinion on the nature of the wounds, and reconstructed the crime as follows. The Earl of Erroll, said he, had been shot twice in the head as he sat in his car. The crime had been committed by somebody outside of the car, who had held a pistol close to the victim - so that there'd be powder marks to give the impression of suicide. The killer had thereupon driven the car and the victim along a lonely road in the bush and ~~it~~ left it there. The investigation of the case pointed to Sir Delves Broughton, Baronet, and a clue was found in the absence of two pistols that had formerly been on his mantelpiece. ~~These two pistols are still~~ missing. All of this led to the arraignment today of the Baronet, in an African courtroom - a startling affair for the aristocracy of Britain.

## ARSON

Today in New York, a seventeen year old girl was arrested, put in jail -- because of her love for beauty. She loved it so much that she set the house on fire.

Mildred Godfrey is a prize pupil in a Brooklyn high school on the subject of home-making - the house beautiful. The right colors for the walls, the curtains, and sofa pillows, harmonious kind of furniture to soothe the sensitive soul. But when she went home, what did she see -- it was awful. The taste her parents displayed in the way of chairs and tables, colors and wall papers, was something fierce. The chandelier didn't match the picture frames. The flowers didn't match the tablecloth. It was definitely not the house beautiful, as described in the high school course in interior decorating. So Home Sweet Home jangled on the nerves of modern Mildred, depressed her, made her stamp her foot and grit her teeth. She tried to persuade ma and pa to change the furniture - become the mater and pater and get something smart and esthetic - with just a touch of modernism perhaps. But they wouldn't do it. Ma and Pa thought the Five-and-Ten dishes and the plush sofa were quite okay. So what did our Millie do? She set the house on fire.



Today, in tears, she told the police how before going to school she touched a match to two mattresses in the bedrooms, the bedspreads had always been a fright. Her idea was that by burning up the household furniture, they'd have to get something new -- more in the line of beauty. The FireDepartment wasn't so enthusiastic about the idea; the smoke-eaters ate a lot of smoke in putting out the flames. Well, it was all very tragic for Mildred - especially as the furnishings of a jail cell are not so beautiful either.



## MUSIC

Let's have a bit of musical criticism. Dimitri Mitropoulos, the Greek symphonic conductor, has been having quite a success of late. He directs the Minneapolis Symphony and recently in New York aroused acclaim as guest conductor with the Philharmonic. Upon his return to Minneapolis, a concert was arranged in his honor. Not exactly the loftiest kind of symphony -- in fact a performance by the Boogy-Woogy Club of the University of Minnesota. That outbreak of swing was staged last night and today Conductor Dimitri Mitropoulos gave his musical criticism.

The concert consisted of a jive band playing and student jazz singers getting hot. They had a special composition in honor of Conductor Dimitri Mitropoulos. The chorus went, "Beat me, Dimitri, with a Beethoven bass." Beat me, Dimitri." The maestro

58 1/2 whose favorites are Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, listened with an amount of pleasure that can be judged from his comment afterward - "superficial, monotonous, and very crude", said he. And he comes forth with the following bit of critical philosophy, <sup>which</sup> ~~It~~ certainly does apply to the current variety of strenuous and laborious swing players. <sup>the Maestro</sup> "Funny music," says Mitropoulous, "is all right - so long as you play it funny. But when you take it seriously," he adds, "it's no good."

59 Now, having done with Mitropoulous, let's go on with Bacaloni - the Italian comic basso. Greek and Italian - sounds like a war. But it isn't - just music. Bacaloni has been the reigning sensation in the world of opera this season, in New York, <sup>at</sup> the Metropolitan. The greatest sensation since Chaliapin, they are saying. I heard Bacaloni today, and it was a spine-tingling, <sup>side-</sup> <sup>splitting</sup> experience. What an actor, what a singer, what a comedian! Cy <sup>Cald</sup> Sandwell, the aviator, writer and radio headliner, was sitting next to me. Said Cy: "This man Bacaloni is funnier than Mussolini."

59 1/4 And now Hugh.