

NEUTRALITY

P.I. - Sunoco. Friday, July 14, 1939.

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President Roosevelt's special message to Congress today is particularly interesting because of the form it took. The subject was - neutrality, about which there has been so much controversy and hullabaloo. The neutrality message was in two parts, one part written by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the other by Cordell Hull. The President's part was brief and merely told the lawmakers that his views were expressed in Secretary ~~of State~~ Hull's statement. In other words, the President let the Secretary of State do the arguing for him.

Now all that harks back to yesterday's White House blast against the United Press, because of a U.P. story which stated that the President and his Secretary of State were at odds about the wording of the presidential neutrality message to Congress. The report declared that F.D.R. wanted to use stronger words to Congress than Cordell Hull approved of - the Secretary contending that too much strength of speech would only antagonize Congress. This report President Roosevelt denied in a blazing statement - said that it was utterly untrue, ~~that there was any difference between him and Secretary Hull on the score of the special message to be sent.~~ He said,

7

~~moreover, that at that time it hadn't even been decided whether a message was to be sent.~~

Today, the United Press makes a reply to the Roosevelt blast in a statement by its President, Hugh Bailey. The reply declares:- "The information contained in the United Press story was obtained from government officials at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue." By both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, the U.P. President ~~mea~~ means - both the White House and Congress. And the statement ^{continues:-} declares:- "We regard those sources as reliable, and we regarded the information as news, and still so regard it." So there's the controversy.

(Today ^{Roosevelt} ~~the~~ President sent the much disputed message to Congress - and let Secretary Hull do the arguing for him. It seems like a rather theatrical demonstration of the President's contention - that there was no difference between himself and the Secretary about the wording of the message.) And that's no mere guess. We have a later statement by White House Secretary Steve Early, who declares outright that the twofold form of the message, with the President endorsing the Secretary's statement, is proof that there had been no disagreement about the strength or

48

weakness of language.

So let's see how strong or weak the language is.

Here is a key phrase:- ("The arms embargo," declares Secretary Hull, "plays into the hands of those nations which have taken the lead in building up their fighting power." He doesn't mention Nazi Germany or Fascist Italy, but he clearly means that they ^{are} ~~are~~ already armed to the teeth and that we therefore should not refuse to sell armament to the democratic nations - which are not armed to the teeth.)

The Hull statement points out the peril of the smaller nations. "In the face of the present universal danger," ^{he} ~~it~~ says, "all countries, including our own, feel the necessity of increasing armament. And the small countries in particular are dependent upon countries like the United States, which have the capacity to produce armaments."

49

He referred ^S to a very prevalent feeling that the arms trade is immoral. ~~"I must also refer," said he, "to the impression sedulously created, to the effect that the sale of arms, munitions and implements of war by this country, is immoral."~~ He argued ^S

against that in these words:- "~~As a matter of fact,~~" he contended, "almost all sales of arms and ~~amm~~ ammunition made in recent years by our nationals have been ~~made~~ to governments whose policies have been dedicated to the maintenance of peace."

And Secretary Hull repeated the contention that the present Roosevelt foreign policy is designed to prevent war from breaking out. ~~So he~~ Said ^{he}:- "The present embargo encourages a general state of war both in Europe and in Asia."

The Secretary took a fling at the isolationist group that has defeated the Roosevelt administration on the embargo issue. "Partisanship," said he, "should play no part in the determination of the foreign policy of this country."

Such are the highlights of the long statement. It is strong, though by no means violent, in tone. What effect will it have on the Senate? There was immediate comment by Senator Borah of Idaho, a leader of the isolationists who beat the President in the embargo affair. Borah said that today's neutrality message to Congress would have no effect on the

50
Senators who believe the sale of weapons to nations at war would tend to drag the United States into war.

FRANCE

Today was just about the greatest Bastille Day that France has known since the enraged Parisian mob tore down the hated prison of the Bourbon kings. (The Fourteenth of July, a national holiday of France, is always a time for a magnificent military parade in Paris.)

Today the parade was doubly magnificent - French and British. And that twofold character was the significant thing in these times of war peril, with Britain and France linked together. (Units of the British army and air force joined the French in putting on a formidable display of armed power.)

Along the boulevards marched picked units of the British army - the ^{ly}~~stament~~ Grenadier Guards, for example, with their towering bear skins and pompous drill. Historically-minded Frenchmen observed that the guard units which paraded today represented the guard units that ~~for~~ fought in the Battle of Waterloo a hundred and twenty-four years ago. It was at Waterloo, defeating Napoleon, that the guards in a memorable and decisive charge earned the honor of their present name - the Grenadier Guards.

51

SPY

Yesterday's Parisian spy story tonight assumes fancy thrills of romance // so dear to the Parisian heart.

~~Last night we heard about two prominent journalists arrested for taking Hitler money and serving Nazi policy in France. Tonight there are reports of more arrests, twenty in all. Two more French journalists included, and two Germans. The story takes a romantic slant of Nazi German intrigue in high French society.~~

French
~~Parisian~~ newspapers are telling of a beautiful

Austrian countess who had no difficulty whatever in getting into the Parisian smart set. She was a Hitler agent, spying out French military secrets. They say the police got onto her, but she has succeeded in getting back to Germany. She is said to have involved two prominent French society ~~xx~~ women in the spy gang. These two social figures of the ultra-ultra sets are said to have acted as -- paymasters -- passing out Hitler money to influential men in return for service in behalf of the Nazis.

TRIESTE

52

Today gives us an official Italian denial of the report that the seaport of Trieste would be leased to Nazi Germany. London and Paris ^{we} ~~has~~ been decidedly concerned about the rumor that Mussolini was turning over to Hitler part of the harbor of Trieste for commercial and military purposes - under a ten year lease. In Rome this evening, Fascist officials called the report - fantastic.

They admit, however, that there are negotiations to give Germany various commercial privileges at Trieste - preferential railroad rates, lower charges for the use of port facilities. These privileges had been granted to Austria before Hitler seized that country. Now, negotiations are on to revive them in behalf of Germany. So says the report from Rome.

CHINA

In Tokyo - demonstrations against Great Britain. Japanese crowds shouting their anger, as new negotiations are started to end that long lingering Japanese blockade of the British concession at Tientsin.

At Tsingtao, the Chinese city under Japanese control, there was an explosion at the British consulate. Two hand grenades tossed for a violent bang. Some damage, no casualties - Japanese apologies.

RELIEF

53
Now for W.P.A. strike news - emphatic words were spoken at the White House today. It's the rule that at White House press conferences, the President of the United States may not be quoted directly. Every so often, however, the President gives the newspaper men specific permission to repeat his words. That means emphasis.

Today, in talking against the W.P.A. strike, President Roosevelt gave the correspondents permission to quote just six words. Here they are - "You cannot strike against the government!" Thereby he expressed the most emphatic criticism of the relief *strikes* ~~workers who are striking~~ against the W.P.A. *He outlawed it.*

~~The President was reminded that in the past there had been strikes by workers on such government institutions as federal barge lines and the Tennessee Valley Authorities. F.D.R. replied that these were cases of subsidiary corporations run by the government, but the W.P.A. is a fundamental government operation - and therefore should not be submitted to strikes and walkouts.~~

You cannot strike against the government. *But they are striking.*

~~Today, President Green of the American Federation of~~

WHITE HOUSE

54

There seems to be plenty of reason for a bill introduced in Congress - a bill to put air conditioning in the White House. Washington weather is famous for its torrid warmth, and things can get exceedingly sultry in the White House - especially when there's a case of presidential heat under the collar, such as sometimes occurs when Congress begins to act up in a presidentially displeasing way. There's another reason too, cited by Congressman Izac of California, who has introduced the bill. He says he's not only thinking of the President, but ~~of~~ himself - his own comfort. ~~five~~

"I've had occasion to go over to the White House several times this summer," Congressman Izac explains, "and each time I was too busy wiping away perspiration and feeling uncomfortable to concentrate on the business at hand." In other words, air cool ~~conditioning~~ the White House for the comfort of Congress^{men}. I don't know how the President will respond to that angle - ~~but~~ he might feel like giving Congress something rather warmer than air-conditioning.

BRIDGES

Today in San Francisco, C.I.O. leader Harry Bridges was accused of having repeatedly attended meetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. The testimony was given by John L. Leech, who says that he at one time was a Communist leader. He's a witness at the proceedings to deport Labor Leader Bridges, who is an alien - an Australian; Deport him - on the grounds that he's a Communist.

55
Witness Leech explained that the Central Committee of the Communist Party admits only the most influential Communists to its proceedings. He swears that he saw Bridges at a meeting in Nineteen Thirty-Six. Again, at another gathering of the Communist Committee in that same year. Bridges, he says, was there when there was a discussion of the qualifications of candidates to be elected to the national and state committees of the Communist Party. He says there was a third meeting attended by Bridges, at which ²campaigns ^{was} ~~were~~ laid to agitate ₁ for the repeal of California's Criminal Syndicalism Law. The witness, moreover, maintains the C.I.O. leader was elected a national committeeman of the Communist Party - elected under an alias, a false name.

112

I hadn't intended to say anything about that ball game at Fenway Park in Boston today, the game where the NINE OLD MEN were to play against a team led by the Governor of Massachusetts. ~~But~~ Clem McCarthy and Bill Stern were both there doing a play-by-play broadcast. But, so many telephone calls have come in, asking how the game turned out that I'll give the gist of a wire that just came from those four stars of the NINE OLD MEN, Colonel Stoopnagle, Paul Webb, Humorist Ted Shane, and ~~Former~~ Heavyweight Champion of the World Eddie Eagan. They say the game was stopped in the sixth inning with the Nine Old Men leading by a score of eight to three. Stoopnagle ~~pitched~~^{pitched} until he was relieved by Walter Johnson, ~~who~~, by the way was supported in the outfield by two of Smokey Joe Wood's sons. Sounds like youth to the ~~SEE~~ rescue of the NINE OLD MEN.

SQUALUS

I've been working today on motion pictures of yesterday's dramatic news story - the SQUALUS. At Movietone Newsreel the job was to look at the film, cut it, and ^{add the} ~~put~~ commentary, ~~on it~~ and I've seen few motion pictures quite as vivid and revealing. Two great pontoons rising in a boil of foam - lifting the bow of the ill-fated submarine. But because of a breaking of lines, the flooded after-part of the SQUALUS sank, and that threw the bow up and above water, where it appeared like a tragic ghost. The submarine standing upright, and then plunging stern first to the bottom. Telltale and revealing pictures!

But what's the latest about the salvage job, which must now be done all over again? Nothing to tell, save that nothing was done today. Bad weather, stormy sea, too rough for divers to be sent to determine whether the SQUALUS was damaged yesterday by its second plunge.

HILL

The great Leominster automobile mystery has been cleared up.

For one thing you pronounce it Lemister,
~~another~~ They found what caused motor cars to run uphill.

I told yesterday how autos left to themselves at the bottom of Lowe Street hill, would start running up the slope of their own accord - for no apparent reason. All sorts of explanations for this Massachusetts mystery were propounded, the favorite one being - magnetism. ~~It was supposed that there was some sort of magnetic lode stone in the hill, the power of which pulled the cars up the slope.~~

57
Then along came the local Leominster schoolmaster, Dwight W. Davis, head of the high school. He said to himself; ~~automobiles without power can't run up a hill. But they were running he saw them. So he asked: "Is it a hill?" Yes, he could see it was, a hill, an upward slope. ~~and~~ he tried it out with a spirit level. ~~He put the~~ ^{But he put a spirit} level on the running board of his car and let the auto roll up hill. The spirit level showed it was downhill, a downward slop of several degrees.~~

What's the answer? Illusion, an optical illusion!

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HILL

RETAKE

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WSDA 204
HILL - 2

illusion I ever encountered - but it is an illusion." He explained it by saying that the fields adjoining the road slope upward, and the road seems to follow the fields, but it really doesn't - it just appears to. So there's the solution to the mystery of cars rolling uphill - they were really rolling downhill.

58
The snow cruiser has been designed by the experts of the Army Scientific Laboratory in Alaska, and today the engineers are making the details. The ship to navigate the polar ice cap will be fifty-five feet long, fifteen feet high, and fifteen feet wide. It will be driven by two, two hundred horsepower diesel engines that will it navigate on, runners, skis, or just wheels, wheels with rubber tires. But what wheels and tires! Each pneumatic tire will be ten feet high and nearly three feet wide. The snow cruiser will look like a huge armored tank. It will accommodate a crew of four men with luxurious quarters, will carry food supplies to last at least one year, will have a scientific laboratory aboard, and will even carry a five passenger airplane.

This monster will have a cruising range of five

ANTARCTIC

How would you like to cruise around on the Antarctic ice pack? Cruise in what? Why, a giant polar snow cruiser. Admiral Byrd is going to like it - galivanting around the South Pole in a great liner of the ice.

58

The contraption is being constructed for ~~Byr~~ the Byrd Antarctic expedition, scheduled to start out next fall. The snow cruiser has been designed by the experts of the Armour Scientific Laboratory in Chicago, and today the engineers made public the details. The ship to navigate the polar ice cap will be fifty-five feet long, fifteen feet high, and fifteen feet wide. It will be driven by two, two hundred horsepower Diesel engines. What will it navigate on, runners, skis? No - just wheels, wheels with rubber tires. But what wheels and tires! Each pneumatic tire will be ten feet high and nearly three feet wide. The snow cruiser will look like a huge armoured tank. It will accommodate a crew of four men with luxurious quarters, will carry food supplies to last at least one year, will have a scientific laboratory aboard, and will even carry a five passenger airplane.

58 1/2

This monster will have a cruising range of five

thousand miles, and will speed along at as much as thirty miles
an hour. Fancy that leviathan dashing around on the icefields
of the South Pole! Wouldn't it astonish the South Pole birds
and the beasts ~~there~~ - if there were any birds and beasts there?

But there isn't a solitary living
thing inside that continent of ice.
Not even a Byrd - not yet! And
solong until Monday.

59

59 1/4