

P.J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1940.

In the realm of aid for Britain, here's today's ^{first} outstanding fact. Unless the British get financial assistance from the United States, they will ^{be able to} place no more orders for war materials in this country. This was officially stated by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau to a congressional sub-committee. London will have to have credits, a loan, or a subsidy. ~~an outright gift of money.~~

Otherwise Great Britain is unwilling to place any more war orders with American manufacturers. British orders already placed over here come to between two and three billion dollars. The amount of assets which London has in the United States ^{totals} ~~amounts to~~ between four and five billion. One problem is - how to convert such assets into money, dollars.

As the British see it - they'll have to get American financial help, or they can't buy any more. Secretary Morgenthau, in talking to the congressional committee, repeated his previous statement that the Johnson Law must be observed - the congressional act that forbids the granting of loans or credits to any nation that has defaulted on its war debt. The Secretary added that he, as head of the United States Treasury, would make no effort to find a

7
way to get around the Johnson Act - would not look for a loophole. It's up to Congress to decide about the law - whether to keep it or repeal it.

~~After testifying before the sub-committee, Secretary Morgenthau had a conference with President Roosevelt, and they discussed the British contention that they must have money or they can't buy any more. ^PThe President and the Secretary also ~~talked of~~ discussed ways of speeding up the manufacture of war supplies for Britain.~~ It was disclosed in Washington today that President Roosevelt has had an urgent representation from Secretary of State Cordell Hull ~~on this subject~~. The Secretary is said to have stated that Great Britain will face a dangerous crisis during the first six months of the coming year - unless the United States immediately steps up the delivery of its war materials. The Secretary of State also presented ~~ixx~~ a picture of the coming British crisis to the members of the Defense Commission. That, they say, is why Defense Commissioner Knudsen made his recent declarations - saying that the armament building program is lagging, and that new prompt action must be taken. This in turn has led to

surmises that President Roosevelt might declare a state of full national emergency; ^a state of limited emergency is already in effect. The suggestion is that full emergency be ~~declared~~ ^{invoked,}

based on the contention that American industry must be placed on a war basis - if sufficient aid to Britain is to be ~~accomplished~~ ^{given.}

Here's the latest! - and, sensational it is! It comes ^{from} ~~the~~ ^{from} President, ~~Roosevelt~~ - a project to lend or lease war equipment of the United States ~~Army and Navy~~ to Great Britain.

The President made the statement this afternoon. He thrust aside the idea of extending credits or loans to Great Britain, making gifts in dollars. He dismissed notions of financial aid to Britain. He stated that the best British defense was also the best American defense, and said he was trying to get the dollar— sign out of aid to Britain.

So what's his plan? The President said that the administration is considering a project whereby the British would no longer place war orders in this country. The United States would take over such war orders, finance them, pay for them. This country would build the equipment of battle that Britain needs,

and then would lend the armament to the British - lend or lease. Britain could use these war supplies until the war was over, and pay us a reasonable amount for the use - rental. Then the machinery of war would be returned to the United States - handed back. Such of it as might be destroyed would be replaced. Britain would manufacture and turn over to use whatever might have been lost.

This is the solution that ^{the} President ~~Roosevelt~~ sees for the dilemma of credits or loans to aid Britain. ^{Not to} ~~Don't~~ advance the money with which to buy over here; but, build the armament they need, and lend it to them. ~~It would be~~ Lending our own government war equipment! - certainly a sensational proposal! One wonders how far the President ^{could} ~~can~~ do it under his own emergency powers - and how far the sanction of Congress would be needed. Anyway, it's one of the most important proposals to have been put before this nation in a long, long time.

COMMITTEE

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And, It looks as if there might be a battle of committees - on the subject of getting or not getting into the European war. Today in New York the formation of a non-interventionist organization was announced. It's called - the No Foreign War Committee. It's leading spirit is an Iowa newspaperman - Verne Marshall, editor of the Cedar Rapids Gazette. Two years ago, Verne Marshall's newspaper won a Pulitzer prize for a crusade against political graft and corruption.

The new Committee declares a special war on William ~~Allen White and his group~~ Allen White's Committee to Aid the Allies. Editor Verne Marshall says that William Allen White and his group are sincere, but ^{are} ~~they're~~ being used by people who want to get us into the European conflict. He ^{says} ~~declares that~~ he's in favor of aid to Britain - but within the limits of the Neutrality Act. The No War Committee is to be supported by public subscription, and ^{is} ~~is~~ appealing to leaders of a hundred organizations representing churches, business, labor, youth, students, women, and so on. The program calls for an intensive campaign of publicity, newspapers, radio, billboards, mass meetings. So it looks as if there ^{might be} ~~will be~~ a duel of committees.

AFRICA

In the North African war, the British are still attacking - pushing on past the border of the Italian Province of Libya. Cairo reports what it calls "steadily increasing pressure." And the British state that they have captured several more ^{Italian} military posts ^{and} ~~of the Italians~~ ^{are now attacking the Libyan seaport of Bardia}. The mechanized attack has been slowed up, first by sand ^s storms and then by rain storms, those two single ^{ular} opposites. But now the rain ^{has} ~~is~~ ceased and the speed of the British moves can be increased.

In the House of Commons today Prime Minister Churchill described the battle as -- "still in progress." Then he repeated words of caution -- ~~that caution of~~ ^{as to} how far the British Army will ~~go with its victory~~ ^{go,} whether it ~~would~~ ^{will} drive deep into Libya. ^P In Parliament Churchill was asked whether there would be any official flag-flying in London to celebrate the victory. Churchill's reply was terse:- "Better see how we get on," said he. The Prime Minister of Great Britain does ^{nt} ~~not~~ seem to be a believer in victory celebrations. ^{He uttered} ~~Yet of~~ the following philosophy:- "I do not recollect," said he, "that we had any important occasion for rejoicing in the last war, but people seemed to be quite pleased the way it ended."

2
The British had a warning today on a familiar theme -- invasion. ~~The warning was given by~~ ^{From} Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft Production. He declared that the invasion attempt might come before spring. He described a large number of indications that the Nazis ~~were~~ preparing industriously for an attempt to land. He said the Germans ~~were~~ straining every effort to create the hugest ^{accumulation} ~~kind~~ of air power -- obviously planning a supreme blow to end the war by Spring.

In the war of the sky the British Air Force took the spotlight today -- with ^a ~~the~~ [^] ~~the~~ ^{deep} ~~in~~ [^] ~~Germany~~ [^] ~~Germany~~. The R.A.F. planes struck savagely on the great industrial city. Raining down bombs -- incendiary and high explosive. Here's a vivid bit of description:- "A full moon made the town look from the air like a brightly lit map," says the London communique. "It was easy to recognize the city laid out in the seventeenth Century with the geometrical precision and form of a vast chess board." So the R.A.F. bombs struck down at that chess board in the moon ^{light}. The report tells of heavy explosions, and fires breaking out and leaping high.

3

The Naval crisis in France took a new and sensational turn today, when the ousted Foreign Minister was released from arrest. And shortly afterward -- he had a conference with Marshal Petain. It was a case of direct German intervention. The release of Laval was at the personal ~~in~~ insistence of Hitler's Ambassador, *Abetz*, who conferred with Petain. Not only that, Petain thereupon met Laval, and we're told that the two discussed the political situation in France. Just what this new development may mean is not at all clear, but it hardly seems possible that Laval could return to great influence in the Petain government. Not after the way the old Marshal dismissed him and ordered his arrest.

As for the inner meanings of the Laval crisis, ^{the} United Press tonight gives us a story from Vichy, ^{It} ~~in~~ answer ⁵ ~~to~~ the question, what was the cause of the quarrel between Petain and Laval? We're told that there was a heated scene between the Marshal and his Foreign Minister, a bit of excited dramatics in which Petain accused Laval of intriguing to get control of the Vichy government. The ~~xxx~~ story is that Laval was trying to oust Petain from real power, and tak^e over ~~the power~~ for himself. Specifically, he wanted

4

to ~~take over~~ ^{assume} several other cabinet posts in addition to the one he held -- ~~the~~ Foreign Minister. ~~He~~ ^{Wanted} to take over the Minister of the Interior, which meant the control of the Secret Police. And it isn't difficult to perceive the significance of that -- ^{the} Secret Police.

This version puts the Laval affair in the category of a personal struggle for power -- no question of pro-Nazi or anti-Nazi. No conflict between Petain and Laval because of the pro-German leanings of the Foreign Minister. And indeed, today's report ^{informs} ~~tells~~ us that Marshal Petain personally told Hitler's Ambassador that the quarrel had no bearing on the relations between Germany and conquered France. He is said to have explained that the dismissal and the arrest of Laval was simply a personal matter -- based on Laval's intrigues to get control.

However all this may be, Laval was today released from custody -- at the ~~insistence~~ ^{insistence} of ~~the German~~ ^{Hitler's} Ambassador, and ~~Laval~~ thereupon had a conference with Petain.

WINDSOR - 4

The Duke of Windsor today made a statement about

^ a question that has been discussed a good deal. Is it possible

that he might become British Ambassador to the United States,

to succeed the late Lord Lothian? He was asked about ~~this~~ ^{it} and

^{that} replied [^] the post had not been offered to him. Would he accept it

if it were? Yes. He said he certainly would accept - "if,"

he added, "if I thought it was in the interests of our two countries!"

Meanwhile there's a report from London that Lloyd George, Britain's

World War Premier, has been offered the job of British Ambassador

to the United States.

But here's the latest. Lloyd George has declined;

~~the appointment~~ won't take it. So says a London dispatch just

off the wire.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor departed from our shores this afternoon - bound for the Bahamas. The ailing tooth of the former Wallis Warfield of Baltimore is getting along all right - after the dental operation.

As for the former Edward the Eighth, it's a case of his golf game. The Duke has rather excelled in royal graciousness during his stay in Florida, and today he gave a description of a golf game he played yesterday. He characterized it in these satisfactory terms - "one of the most enjoyable rounds of golf I ever played." In this you might imagine that His Royal Highness won the game, ~~of golf~~, but on closer inspection we observe that he carded an eighty-nine. ^{Par for} ~~The par~~ of the course is seventy-one, and the two gentlemen he played with carded a seventy and a sixty-five, respectively. So that's what the one-time monarch of the British Empire calls - "enjoyable." ^{But looks who} ~~We'd call it not so~~ ^{he was playing with!} ~~hot, but then the other two gentlemen were~~ Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead. ^{in their own right} ~~And they certainly are~~ a couple of dukes ⁱⁿ the game of golf.

~~Just before he left, the Duke made a statement about~~

FLIGHT

Today at Dayton, Ohio, a man far along in years putte~~ed~~^{ed} around in his workshop - Orville Wright. Today was the Thirty-Seventh Anniversary of that memorable occasion when the Wright brothers first flew a plane over the sand dunes at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. At Dayton, home of the Wrights, there were civic ceremonies - a solemn wreath laid on the grave of Wilbur Wright. In all the ceremonies Orville ~~Wright~~ took no part today. He refused to attend a dinner planned in his honor in New York. He told the reporters he had no comment to make, on this Thirty-Seventh Anniversary of the stupendous exploit achieved by him and his brother. Orville Wright merely putte~~ed~~^{ed} around with tools and lathes in his workshop - still mechanical minded, still experimenting.

In Chicago, some figures were given out in connection with the Wright brothers' anniversary. The Air Transport Association of America made an announcement of things that have happened since that day at Kitty Hawk thirty-seven years ago, an announcement expressed in figures. In thirty-seven years of flying, the number of passengers flown by plane comes to a

hundred million. The number of passenger-miles flown amounts to five billion. (Most of this has happened in the past decade and a half. Air transport in this country didn't really get going until Nineteen Twenty-Six, while the Wrights made their historic flight on December Seventeenth, Nineteen Three.)

In Washington, President Roosevelt today presented the Collier's Trophy - awarded for the greatest achievement in American aviation during the year. This year the Collier's Trophy was won not by any single person - but by the Commercial Airlines of the ~~United~~ United States.

DRUNK

I'm going to end this broadcast with an appropriate bit of news. It's enough to make anybody stop talking. At El Paso, ~~the~~ a defendant was brought to court for being drunk. The judge imposed a fine of forty-five dollars. The defendant didn't like that one bit, as who would - ~~started~~ and started telling the judge what he thought of him.

3 1/2
His Honor responded by adding another fifty dollars to the fine. The defendant burst forth anew, giving his opinion of the judge.

"That," declared His Honor, "will cost you another fifty. Have you anything more to say."

"Yes," responded the defendant, and he said some more.

"That," said the judge, "will cost you still another fifty. Please continue."

This time the defendant was silent. ~~Im~~ He figured out quickly that his oration had brought ~~the fine up~~ his fine up to A hundred and ninety-five dollars. He had a lot more to say to the judge, so much more that it might have cost him a million.

(So he held his peace and was taken away to the hoosgow until he paid the hundred and ninety-five dollars.)

Yes, that bit of news is enough to make anyone stop talking. ~~It makes me stop.~~ But I hope it won't deter Hugh James on the subject of Nu-Blue! ~~Sunoco.~~

1/4