

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight the world is wondering and worrying about Iran, which we once knew as Persia, the center of the great empire of the Medes and Persians. Iran tonight is the problem child of the nations at war. Nobody knows just what the government of the Shah is up to, just what the <sup>Iranians</sup> ~~Arabians~~ are meditating. British <sup>today</sup> newspapers reported ~~that there were~~ startling increases in the military establishment of Iran. One paper said that the ~~Iran~~ army had been strengthened from a hundred and twenty thousand to two hundred thousand. The LONDON DAILY MAIL reported <sup>S</sup> ~~ed~~ that the sinister von Papen, Hitler's Ambassador to Turkey, had <sup>S</sup> made a secret visit to the capital of Iran. If that is true, he presumably gave instructions to the thousands of German agents known to have filtered into the country in civilian clothes, with their uniforms in their suitcases. ~~mix~~ Military sharks

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are pointing out that once Hitler's armies control the southern Ukraine the way will be open to the Caucasus. If the Nazis can get the Caucasus before winter, the way to Iran will be open and *thus* the way to Iraq through Armenia and Kurdistan. T.E. Lawrence, in his book called "Oriental Assembly", pointed out that Iraq and Syria were geographically and historically indefensible from the east. In other words, once the Nazis have a foothold in Iran, it <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ go hard with the British oil fields in Iraq, and the pipeline to the coast.

As we've been hearing for several days, both ~~the~~ *London and Moscow* ~~British Government and Soviet Russia~~ made demands upon the Government of Iran to turn out the German agents and so-called "tourists" that have penetrated in civilian clothes. A report from London ~~sent~~ tonight is that Iran sent a reply, a reply which in diplomatic language is not wholly satisfactory. The messages from London and Moscow to Iran were sent on Saturday, and ~~these~~ were not quite an ultimatum. In diplomatic argot, the reply from Iran is being given detailed study in London and Moscow.

WAR

Just a few minutes ago, the Berlin radio opened a broadcast

with a loud fanfare of trumpets. It was a typical Hitlerian

*dramatization, the overture to*

~~broadcast~~, a special communique from the Fuehrer's headquarters

on the Russian front. The high command claims to have smashed

no fewer than twenty-five Russian divisions in the area around

Gomel; that's a hundred and forty-five miles north of Kiev.

Twenty-five divisions represent something like four hundred and

*thousand men.*

twenty-five ~~troops~~. The communique goes on to assert that they

included seventeen infantry divisions, two tank divisions,

one motorized division, five cavalry divisions, and two parachute

brigades. Gomel, the center of this battle of annihilation, lies

on the Dnieper and Soch Rivers, halfway between Kiev and Mogilev.

~~In short~~, according to the Nazi high command figures,

the Red armies have now lost <sup>five</sup> ~~two~~ million men!

A Nazi spokesman alleged that further south, the port

of Odessa is enveloped in flames, and the battered remnants of

Marshal Budenny's armies ~~are~~ doomed. The Reds made savage efforts

to hold the bridgeheads on the Dnieper - that's the Nazi phraseology,

"savage efforts." But the Nazis crushed them.

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Here's the Russian side of the story. The Red army has landed tanks behind the German lines and is throwing the Nazis back in a strong counter-attack on the front protecting Moscow.

At the same time, the Soviet high command officially admit~~ed~~ that both Odessa on the Black Sea, and ~~Xi~~ Tallinn on the Baltic, are seriously threatened. But the Red army spokesmen declare ~~that~~ both strongholds will be defended to the last man. They acknowledge that the German armed forces are striking powerfully at both ends of that eighteen hundred mile front. And the Russians realize that Hitler's generals are using every last ounce of strength to score a decisive success before winter. There's no attempt on the Soviet side to minimize the German advance. But the Reds deny that Marshal Budenny's armies have been crushed and claim that the Russians are resisting as strongly as ever all along the line.

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The government

made one quite concrete answer to the plea for aid to the Soviets. It came from Jesse Jones, the Federal

Loan Administrator. <sup>Who</sup> ~~He~~ indicated that his department <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ prepared

to lend money to Stalin to help pay for any war materials bought

here. Jones added, however, that there has been no definite

discussion of <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ loan to Moscow. But, he said, he imagined that if

Russia is unable to pay for what she needs, some way will be found

to help her.

FRANCE

More fighting between the British and the French. The news comes from Vichy. The Petain Government complains that the British are tightening <sup>their</sup> a hunger blockade around French Somaliland. ~~The~~ British warships are reported to have penetrated into French territorial waters off Djbouti, and shelled a French vessel bringing supplies to the French colony on <sup>that remote</sup> ~~the~~ coast of East Africa. The French in Djbouti have radioed the Petain Government that the British are trying to starve them out.

And Vichy also has dispatches from Ankara that the British have proclaimed a state of siege throughout all Syria.

ICELAND

American troops today caught their first glimpse of a Nazi fighting plane. One of Hitler's long-range bombers flew over Reykjavik for the first time since American forces joined the British in the garrisoning of Iceland. *The air raider didn't* ~~She did not~~ try to drop any bombs or *even make a* ~~make any~~ hostile gesture, ~~whatsoever~~. Just flew around, apparently taking a look-see until British ~~war~~ *gave* planes ~~flew up to~~ chase, ~~her off~~. *They* The German made his get-a-way under cover of a bank of heavy clouds.

This may be the preliminary to the series of bombing raids by the Nazis over Iceland. In the past it has been part of the German method to make careful reconnaissance flights before trying *such* any ~~bombing~~ raids, *Anyhow it was* ~~and that's~~ the first and the closest that American troops have come to actual warfare.



The people of Canada were astonished this morning to learn that their Chief of State had taken a sudden and dramatic flight across the ocean to London. Prime Minister Mackenzie King took off early today from an airport in Eastern Canada, the first time <sup>he</sup> ~~he'd~~ <sup>had</sup> ever been in a plane!

By comparison with the meeting between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, this was a well-kept secret. A handful of government officials and the close personal associates of Canada's Prime Minister <sup>for some days that</sup> knew he was going, also a few correspondents in the press gallery at Ottawa. To everybody else in the Dominion and to ~~everybody in~~ the United States, it was a complete surprise.

During the last session of Canadian parliament <sup>Mackenzie</sup> King's political opponents hurled criticism at him because he hadn't gone to London. King replied that he'd go when the time came but he was not going to <sup>be stampeded</sup> ~~stampede~~ into it for grandstand purposes.

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It was predicted in Ottawa that one result of his visit to Downing Street may be conscription in Canada, conscription for service overseas. Some people in the Canadian capital believe that the British war cabinet is planning a land attack against the Nazis on the continent of Europe. For any such offensive as that the British

armies will need to be reenforced from Canada and that need will have to be met by conscription. So far the Canadian armies have been kept up to their quotas <sup>by</sup> voluntary recruiting.

KENT

King George's brother, the Duke of Kent, will be in the United States for less than four days. The State Department has just announced his itinerary. He will arrive at LaGuardia Field, New York, Saturday afternoon and go straight to Hyde Park. There he will stay with President and Mrs. Roosevelt over the weekend, and come to Washington with the presidential party on Monday. Then he will immediately fly to Norfolk, Virginia, to inspect the military and naval reservations there. Monday evening <sup>he</sup> ~~will~~ be the guest <sup>at</sup> ~~of~~ an informal dinner, at the White House. <sup>the Duke will</sup> Tuesday ~~he's to~~ visit an aircraft plant in Baltimore, and leave Tuesday evening for Canada.

DETROIT

The folks in Destroit deserve our sympathies tonight.

It seems curious to have to talk of the automobile metropolis as almost paralyzed by a transportation strike. But that's what has been going on all day. Everybody without a car has just been ~~swirled-plumb~~ out of luck, unless he or she could thumb a ride to and from work. ~~I Of course it was all right for people with cars, and most of them were pretty generous in giving rides.~~

*capital of motordom,*  
Not a bus or trolley was running in the ~~great city~~. Among the ~~people~~ *two hundred thousand daily passengers* inconvenienced by the strike were four hundred thousand factory workers. The Hudson Motor Company had to close down

two of its plants, and throw nine thousand employees out of ~~a~~ *work* ~~job until~~ settlement of the strike, in which they ~~are~~ *are* ~~really~~ not *directly* interested.

~~It's~~ *An* American Federation of Labor Union ~~that~~ is giving the party. The strike is one of those jurisdictional affairs, a squabble between the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. The transportation workers are Federation men, as also are some of the municipal workers. But there is also a rival C.I.O. union in Detroit, the State, County and Municipal Workers of America.

The A.F. of L. Union demands an absolutely closed shop in Detroit's municipally owned transportation system, sole bargaining rights, with a check-off, the Union to have sole use of the bulletin boards in the car barns and other places. The city authorities made no attempt to run any trolley or buses. The Mayor claimed that a city government has no right to make an exclusive contract with any union.)

There was a turbulent scene in the mayor's office this afternoon. The leader of the Union shook his fist in the Mayor's face and threatened to call out all the thirty-five thousand city employees if the strike isn't settled by tonight. Mayor Jeffries of Detroit apparently had both sides of the dispute on his chest, for the leader of the C.I.O. Union accused him of deliberately bringing the strike about so as to help the A.F. of L. The A.F. of L. accuses the C.I.O. of trying to raid its ranks, seduce away its members. The Mayor, meanwhile points out that the strike was called in violation of the Michigan state law, according to which a union should give five days' notice before striking, a cooling-off period, to give time for arbitration.

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In the case of public utilities, the law imposes a cooling-off period of thirty days. This particular strike was not voted until midnight last night and became effective at four o'clock in the morning. Accordingly, it is reported, people dependent upon trolleys and buses were given no warning, had no chance to make other arrangements for getting themselves to work.

## AUTOMOBILES FOLLOW DETROIT

The strike happened at a date when sour prophecies are running through the automobile capital. People who know what's what about motor car production are predicting that automobile production will be curtailed not gradually but drastically next year. That for one thing the motor car industry won't be able to get the materials necessary for making automobiles. That for another, the government wants to have both the men and the machines available for defense production.

We are told today that the manufacturers in Detroit are bracing themselves for a severe jolt.

NICHOLS

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A banker out at Englewood, Chicago, put out an unusual plea to his depositors today. He urged them to withdraw their money. As a matter of fact, he has been doing it since last April. At one time he had deposits of more than seven millions. Now there are only thirty-nine thousand in deposits left in that bank, and the President of the bank wants the customers to take it out. Under existing conditions, he says, he does not care to continue as the custodian of other people's money. He's a fervid New Deal hater. He wants to be on the sidelines while the country is going through what he prophesies will be the worst financial wringer in its history.

It isn't often you hear of a banker telling the public to take their money out of his bank!