

L.J. - Sunoco. Thursday, Nov. 27, 1941.

JAPAN

Today in Washington, Special Japanese Emissary Kuruso and Tokyo Ambassador Nomura had a forty-five minute conference with President Roosevelt at the White House. Naturally, there was tense interest among the Washington newspapermen - as why wouldn't there be, the way things stand between Japan and the United States.

Yesterday, Secretary of State Hull presented to Kurusu and Nomura the terms on which the United States insists - if there is to be any Japanese-American settlement. These terms, we understand, simply represent the American attitude all along - no aggression, no recognition of acquisitions gained by aggression, Japan to give up things ^{taken} ~~gained~~ by conquest and to renounce the idea of conquest. A strong stand - and today the reports from Tokyo were pessimistic. The official Japanese news agency characterized the dark prospect in these words, "little hope of bridging the gap in Japanese-American problems." The impression given by Tokyo would seem to be that there is mighty small chance of a settlement that would avert the imminent peril of war in the Pacific.

Just as ominous was the word from Indo-China, where all

signs are said to point to a Japanese invasion of Siam. Heavy-
~~reinforcements have been landed in Indo-China, and Japanese~~
~~troops are reported as massing on the Siamese frontier.~~

A move in that direction would, of course, be the strongest
kind of Japanese defiance - a warlike answer to the American
terms handed by Secretary Hull to Messrs. Kurusu and Nomura in
Washington.

Today

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So today newspapermen flocked to the White House and
waited for the two Japanese representatives to emerge. When they
did, there was a barrage of questions, which did not, however,
elicit an abundance of answers - diplomatic secrecy. There
was one interesting bit of coincidence, which has a significant
sound - significant of an idea in mind, a predominant thought.
So great was the crush of newspapermen thronging around the
two Japanese, that Messrs. Kurusu and Nomura were separated.
They were not within earshot, couldn't hear each other, when
a newspaperman asked Kurusu, "When do you plan to go back to
Tokyo? Are you leaving right away?" To which the Japanese
reponded grimly, "My government has not ordered me back."

Meanwhile, another newspaperman was inquiring of Ambassador Nomura - whether he would have another meeting with either President Roosevelt or Secretary Hull? To this he replied: "I have not been called back by my government." It is to be noted that the two Japanese statesmen used almost the same words, although one was not aware of what was said by the other.

~~An interesting coincidence.~~ - Indicating that the idea of being called back is much in mind - the possibility of breaking off negotiations.

LIBYA

Today's headline from the battle of the desert told how troops of the main British drive have at last joined forces with the defenders of Tobruk. ~~On the very day that the news of the great Imperial offensive was announced, London told us that Tobruk was about to be relieved - immediately. Yet a long week of bitter fighting was to take place before the event occurred.~~ There are two principal points of interest. ~~in today's story.~~ First - the surprise drama of it. Second - what it means.

The picture shows us the desert in the dim light of dawn - vague visibility across the immense expanse of sand. A mechanized unit of the Imperial offensive appeared, they were ~~with~~ advancing on the wide battlefront south of Tobruk, the great theatre of action where the major clash of the tank forces has been going on for days. They were on the move, and on the alert - then on the dim horizon of dawn they saw dark shapes, ominous shapes of warlike meaning, tanks! Nazi tanks, they thought, a panzer unit ^{of} and General Rommel's army which has been battling so fiercely. ^{so they} ~~The~~ unlimbered their guns, and were about to open fire. [#] Actually, they were ready to shoot, not at Nazi panzer units - but ^{at} their own comrades from Tobruk. In the nick

of time, they recognized that the distant tanks at ~~Tobruk~~ daybreak represented a detachment of the Tobruk garrison that had been fighting its way for days, trying to join forces with the main army of the Imperials. So instead of a tragic mistake, of British guns firing at their own people, there was a shouting of joyful reunion.

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The news made a jubilant British headline, ~~(and there was a quick surmise - that this relief of Tobruk meant that a line had been established between the long besieged stronghold and the main Empire Army, a military line separating the Axis forces, cutting off one section.)~~ However, later in the day qualifications were expressed in London. A British army spokesman explained that the junction of forces of the Tobruk troops and the main offensive did not signify that the siege of Tobruk had been lifted. He said that, while the detachment from Tobruk had fought its way through, there were still pockets of German and Italian resistance around the stronghold, and that these would have to be cleared out, before the ~~way was clear and open - the~~ siege of Tobruk ~~ended.~~ *would be over.*

The London military spokesman added that the mechanized forces that had broken out amounted to advance ~~elements~~ elements,

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not the main forces. Naturally, the British in Tobruk will continue to hold the place in strength. They are still there, and the ~~xxx~~ task of relieving them is still going on.

All accounts of the desert battle show the Imperial Army bringing up reinforcements to score a final victory in the long and violent conflict. The Germans and Italians ~~are~~ doing the same.

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The British express full confidence that they will keep hammering successfully until they win the great mechanized clash of the desert.

AMERICAN TANKS

Secretary of War Stimson today spoke on the subject of American-made tanks used by the British in the battle of the desert. He said that their performance has been - satisfactory, this on the basis of preliminary reports. The War Department, he added, is waiting for further details.

The statement by the Secretary was made in response to ^{word} reports that American-made tanks used in the desert battle have been shown to have grave defects. The first reports from the British Army of the Nile were enthusiastic in praise of the speedy war machines manufactured in the United States. Then later we had British comment on the development of ^{certain} ~~mechanical~~ trouble. American-made tanks have treads of rubber, while the British types have metal treads. Rubber showed itself to be superior at first, but then began to go bad - the rubber not standing up under the intensive wear and tear of the desert sand, grinding and grinding away. So, said the British story, metal tank treads were being hurried from London to the Near East, to be put on the American-made tanks - ^{to supplant the} ~~instead of~~ rubber.

Later, a more melodramatic story was published.

It stated that tanks made over here proved to be defective - because of the riveting. We were told that when a shell scored a hit, the parts of the rivets inside would go flying like bullets. This version described the riveted tanks as - "death traps." And it went on to say that work was being stopped on tank production in this country - so that plants could change over from riveted types and start making welded tanks.

This account was ~~was~~ denied today by Secretary Stimson. "It's basic premise is inaccurate," said he. He pointed out that most European tanks are riveted - just like the ones that we've been sending over. He added that ^{OWZ}~~the~~ Army has been developing welded tanks for some time, and is now ordering them - this in the normal course of things. He stated that we'll go ahead building riveted tanks, so as not to delay production - while changing over to the welded types.

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RUSSIA

In Russia the battle for Moscow goes on as before -- with the Nazi forces progressing slowly in their attempt to encircle the city. The news is meager today and is indefinite as usual. Berlin announces a break-through -- with the Panzers piercing the Red Army line. Driving to the rear of fortified positions, and capturing fourteen villages. This would seem to be a sizeable break-through, a plunging advance. ~~But~~ We are not told just where it happened, but the surmise is -- south of Moscow, a drive launched *from Tula.* ~~through Tour~~ That's a critical sector where the forces of the blitz have penetrated to a considerable distance east of Moscow. Berlin likewise tells of advances to the north of the city, and they announce the capture of Klin.

The Soviets, on their part, admit that the campaign to encircle Moscow is making head way. ^{They} ~~and~~ describe the situation as increasingly grave.

There was a blast of red in the London House of Commons today, when a Labor member proposed an amendment to King George's recent address to Parliament. This Labor member deplored the fact that His Majesty did not suggest plans for ending the capitalistic system in this world.

Always troublesome

Member of Parliament McGovern of Glasgow denounced the Atlantic Charter, the Eight-Point program, devised by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill in their memorable meeting on the ocean. He described that Atlantic Charter in the following words: "One of the grossest pieces of deceit in modern times." And he said that the American idea is to use British soldiers to reestablish the financial system of Wall Street in Europe; He cried that both the United States and the British Government really desired the destruction of Soviet Communism. ^{Then he} He took a fling at the British Prime Minister, declaring that the Churchill state of mind was akin to that of dictators, rather than a hundred per cent anti-Fascist. "Churchill," he shouted, "has been anti-Communist and has been opposed to Russia through thick and thin." He added that Churchill would like to see Soviet Russia

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and Nazi Germany destroy each other - "cancel themselves out,"

Then this always cantakerous M.P.
as he said. ~~And he~~ came to the following inspiring conclusion:

"The only way Russia could be saved," said he, "would be by ending the capitalist system throughout the world."

In behalf of the Churchill Government, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden argued against the red blast issued by McGovern. He defended the attitude of the United States, and described the Lend-Lease program in these words:- "The most unsordid act in history." And Anthony Eden added that under the Lend-Lease, Great Britain is not piling up any huge debt owed to the United States - as was the case in the last war.

Member of Parliament McGovern of Glasgow is an Independent Laborite. ~~He is~~ one of a party of three, so Parliament proceeded to snow under his motion to amend the Royal speech ^{to} ~~and~~ make it include a Communist plan to abolish capitalism.

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TUNNEY

Here's a report on the physical fitness of the American people. It comes from Lieutenant-Commander Gene Tunney, former heavyweight champion. Right now Naval Officer Gene is Director of the Physical Fitness Program of the Navy, and for the past couple of months he has been touring recruiting stations from coast to coast.

In his report issued to the press today, Gene points to the fact that the armed services have been rejecting about fifty per cent of recruits, because of physical defects. Which is much higher than the rejection rate in the last war.

What's the reason? Tunney says that, first and foremost, we are not getting as much habitual muscular exertion as we used to. He points to the automobile as typical -- we don't walk so much any more. We ride. The youngster today doesn't walk to school as much as he used to -- family automobiles or school busses have taken a lot of the leg work out of education. Boys used to chop wood as a regular family chore. Now they -- some of them -- use the shop stroke in tennis and that's all. They don't stoke the furnace in the household basement the way they used to -- more furnaces are automatic. Stair climbing is one of the best of exercises. It also has become almost obsolete among large sections

of the population in cities. We take the elevator. Amusements have become more sedentary. Young fellows used to go for hikes on days off from work, and, they'd organize games of baseball. Nowadays, they go to the movies or lounge around listening to the radio. Listen Gene, are you trying to undermine newsreels and newsbroadcasting?

DECEPTION

Today a jail in Iowa received a new convict - "a pure, hard working girl." It seems odd that in a state like Bible-reading Iowa they should send a virtuous and industrious maiden to the hoosgow. However, here's the surprising part of the story: the pure, hard-working girl is a forty-two year old farmer - whiskers and all. *The old rogue,* ~~This corn belt farmer has been convicted of having carried on fifteen romances, in which he played the part of the innocent and dutiful damsel.~~

At the town of Mt. Etna, named after a volcano, lived Farmer Justain Butman, who had quite a volcanic idea, ~~As he plowed the fields and cultivated his crop, he conducted sentimental correspondence with lonely gentlemen and rooked them for money,~~ a neat little gyp game. His scheme was to get in touch with matrimonial agencies by letter, and represent himself as a young woman desiring marriage. In that way he'd get the names of various prospective husbands who had likewise approached the matrimonial agency on the subject of wedding bells. He'd write to ~~these~~ *them,* ~~prospective husbands and~~ always described ^{ing} ~~ed~~ himself in those touching words - "a pure, hard working girl." He stressed the purity part

of it - the old rogue. The lovelorn correspondence would develop into a proposal of marriage, and a coy acceptance. Farmer Butman in accepting ^{always} ~~the proposals of marriage~~, asked for carefare - railroad transportation. Well, what prospective husband would be so flinty-hearted and stingy as to expect a pure, hard working girl to pay her own ~~expense~~ carfare to her own wedding? ~~Thixxwarked~~ ~~over fifteen times~~ ^{So} and Farmer Butman collected eighty-four dollars. ^R In fourteen out of the fifteen times the scheme worked without a hitch - matrimonial or otherwise. Of course, the pure, hard working girl failed to show up for the weddings. It would hardly have done for Farmer Butman to have appeared - whiskers and all. So prospective bridegrooms were sadly disappointed, but they took it on the chin with resignation, charged ^{ing it off} ~~it~~ to experience, and blamed ^{ing} it on the perfidy of women. Farmer Butman was adding ^{and historic} to the already dubious reputation enjoyed by lovely woman.

In the last of these love affairs, however, something went amiss. It was all because of the heart throbbing sentiment of ^a ~~the~~ prospective bridegroom. ^{who} ~~He~~ was too much in love, ~~Davey Jones~~ of ~~Portage, Wisconsin~~, ^{and} sent ten dollars to bring his bride to ~~the~~

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Portage, Wisconsin.

~~wedding~~ Then he grew so eager for the pure, hard working girl

that he couldn't wait. He hopped a train and hurried to Mt. Etna,

Iowa, to take her fondly in his arms. And whom did he find? Instead

of an innocent blushing bride, it was Farmer Butman, ^{the old rogue,} stroking his

beard. You can imagine the situation! There was a painful scene,

as a result of which Farmer Butman was locked up - and sentenced to

six months in jail.

So that's how today in Iowa the prison doors closed on ^{that}

a pure, hard working girl.

A sweet and lofty theme
gone wrong. But now you put
it to rights, Hugh.