

WAR

R.I. - Sunoco. Friday, Nov. 22, 1940.

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Today the Italians took their ^{most} dramatic set-back in the attack on Greece. This was bluntly announced in Rome, labelled - "bad news." An official bulletin stated that the Greeks captured Koritza, ^{and} that Italian losses had been - "severe." Koritza, on the Albanian Greek frontier, was the military base from which the Fascist army launched one of its attacks - an attack that got nowhere, and was followed by a Greek counter-attack. Koritza was almost isolated, when the Italians today withdrew and the Greeks marched in.

This news was also announced in Athens, where it was received with the wildest jubilation. Crowds thronged to cheer the Greek strong man, General Metaxas. They shouted and sang patriotic songs. ^R One report from Athens tells how the news was received in a camp where Italian prisoners were held. Some were anti-Fascists - and they cheered, ^{also.} This Athenian detail might seem to indicate disaffection in the Italian army, of which there has been some hint from other sources - that the Italian people don't like the war.

London is gratified by the news, though with some

reservations. The British assume that Mussolini will have to throw heavy forces into Albania, in an effort to retrieve the campaign. London realizes of course, that the Nazi blitzkrieg machine stands within easy striking distance, and one British surmise is that tonight the fall of Koritza, as an Italian reverse, may hasten a Nazi offensive - the long threatened drive that might have Turkey ^{and} ~~in~~ The Near East as its objective.

One odd story from the Greek War area tells of the sad fate of some Italians taken prisoners by Albanian rebels. They were motorcycle troops who were trapped by the insurgents. A barber was summoned and he shaved half of the head of each prisoner, leaving them a sorry sight to see - hair on one side of their head, the other side naked.

The bombing of Britain is still concentrated on the Midlands tonight. London states that right now one industrial city is being blasted by a rain of high explosive. The city is not named. It's part of British policy not to identify places attacked - save in exceptional cases. London itself is being bombed sporadically - and tonight we get some rather startling figures

about the damage that has been done in the British capital. The figures concern the East End, the area near the docks -- slum sections. When the bombing began, there were twenty-three thousand buildings in the East End -- stores, houses. Of these, twenty-two thousand have been hit and damaged. In other words, two out of three buildings -- that proportion damaged in two and a half months of air-raiding.

In the House of Commons today, a suggestion was made for a Christmas armistice. A Labor M.P. stated that he would make an attempt to have the war stopped during the Yuletide holidays. He said he was going to ask Prime Minister Churchill to take the necessary steps.

The idea of the Labor M.P. is that the belligerent nations shall agree to a forty-eight hour armistice from December

Twenty-Fourth to December Twenty-Sixth. It remains to be seen how Winston Churchill will take the suggestion. It rather reminds one of Henry Ford's World War inspiration - "getting the boys out of the ~~the~~ trenches by Christmas." But the fact is that during the first year of the World War the armies on the Western Front did have something of an unofficial armistice - on their own.

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The United States today got an apology - from Spain.

The Madrid Government expressed its regrets to ~~the~~ United States

*Weddell,*  
Ambassador, this because of a demonstration by students in front of the American Embassy yesterday. The students were whooping it up to celebrate reports that Uruguay had declined to lease naval bases to the United States. Just why Madrid students should get so excited about Uruguay is hard to understand. But then there are reports that Spain is getting ideas about Spanish-America -

even to the extent of a dream of reestablishing the Spanish Empire of long ago. Visioning ~~ing~~ <sup>are</sup> memories of Cortez, Balboa, *Magellan, Coronado,* Pizarro,

It sounds like castles in Spain, (but then the Madrid students did stage a demonstration and the United States today received an apology.)

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today made some important statements about the amount of aid the United States can give to Great Britain. In the press conference at Hyde Park, the President indicated that aid to Britain is approaching its maximum - about as much as we can do. He said that to talk about delivering armament to Britain at a much faster rate than we are doing now is to indulge in glittering generalities - which mean nothing.

There are two phases to the question- the amount of armament that we are able to manufacture and the proportion of this that the British get. How much for them and how much for us.

The President indicated we are now producing about as fast as we can. He said that we've got to have more time to develop plants and production facilities, before we can send any more, ~~to~~ ~~Britain~~. He told the reporters that if they could show him a way of turning planes out more speedily - okay. And he added that you can't place an order for planes on one day and get <sup>them</sup> ~~the planes~~ on the next.

As for the proportion of armament that the British get and that we get, <sup>the</sup> ~~President Roosevelt~~ indicated that it would remain

about the same -- fifty-fifty. We'll have to be shown, he added, how it would be possible to provide the British with more than half of what we make.

The question was raised about the likelihood of extending credits to Great Britain. ~~Today~~ To do this the Johnson Act would have to be repealed by Congress - the law which forbids the granting of credit to any nation that has defaulted in its war debts. Thus far President Roosevelt has never given any indication that he thinks it might be necessary to change the law and permit Britain to borrow and buy on credit. Today he stated that the government, in its plans, is not considering any such thing. The question of British credits is not under official discussion as a likelihood. The same thing, he added, goes for suggestions that United States warships should guard British convoys part of the way across the Atlantic.

The President revealed that he had asked General Pershing to become United States Ambassador to France, but that Pershing had been compelled to decline - on doctor's orders.

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~~United States~~ Ambassador to the government of Marshal Petain.

Because he and Petain are old and intimate friends - comrades since ~~the~~ World War days, when Petain was the hero of Verdun and Pershing was the Commander-in-Chief of the A.E.F. Pershing was anxious to go, but he's far along in years - and ~~his~~ is under doctors' orders.

He consulted his physicians, and they told him-No. They said his health would not permit him to assume the duties of an ambassador. So Pershing informed the White House with deep regret

that he felt he had to take orders from <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ doctors rather than

from his President. (~~At today's press conference there was no hint~~)

~~of who might be appointed to France. Ambassador Bullitt has handed in his resignation, but it has not been accepted - and he technically still remains ambassador.)~~



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C.I.O.

The C.I.O. did the expected today. The delegates at Atlantic City elected Philip Murray President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The nomination was made by John L. Lewis - keeping his promise to resign as head of the C.I.O., if President Roosevelt were reelected. Lewis hailed Murray with these words:- "an industrial statesman."

Taking part in the nomination ceremony was Sidney Hillman, the C.I.O. Vice-President who has been at bitter odds with Lewis. But the two forgot their quarrel, and joined in friendly unison - calling for the election of Philip Murray. The vote was unanimous, by acclamation.

Whereupon the Convention was addressed by its new President - the tall, white-haired veteran of labor. Philip Murray began life as a mine boy in Scotland, and for years in the United States has been a leader of the United Mine Workers and an important figure in the C.I.O. One salient thing in his address was a rejection of President Roosevelt's plea for labor unity - that the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. join forces and reunite. New President Murray joined with ~~the~~ retiring President Lewis in opposing this.

He rejected what he called - "a shot gun agreement." These were his words:- "I offer a mild protest against the use of governmental pressure to force a shotgun agreement with the American Federation of Labor," said he.

Later deliberations at the Convention produced some ominous remarks in the direction of Henry Ford. A statement was made by the head of the C.I.O. drive to organize the Ford factories. He stated that the drive would be pushed vigorously and added:- "If Henry Ford wants a strike we will be prepared to give it to him soon."

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Today in both Houses of Congress grave and portentous words were spoken -- words of warning, words of alarm. In the Senate and in the House of Representatives the respective majority leaders informed their colleagues that the worst might be about to happen -- the roof might come down on their heads. <sup>And</sup> That was no figure of speech expressing a national peril. It was the literal truth. There was imminent danger ~~that~~ the ceiling might come tumbling down on the learned heads of the lawmakers.

The lofty halls of both the Senate and the House require repairs, the ceiling a bit shaky. <sup>so they've</sup> ~~So the Senate and the House have~~ got to move -- ~~take other quarters~~ until the repairs can be made. They decided today to assemble in new quarters on Monday.

The Senate will hold its sessions in the old Supreme Court chamber on the second floor of the capital. It won't be the first time that the Upper House has gone into session there. It was, in fact, the Senate Chamber from Eighteen Nineteen until Eighteen Fifty-Nine, half a century. There were staged the famous debates of times past, like the Webster-Hayne debate. There Clay and Calhoun waxed eloquent in renowned orations -- <sup>long</sup> ago! Now once more the Senate returns -- temporarily.

The House of Representatives is moving to the New House Office Building Caucus Room.

SAILOR

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The F.B.I. investigates all sorts of cases - kidnapping, espionage, and banking affairs. Today, however, J. Edgar Hoover's F.B.I. sleuths are looking into something quite different<sup>t</sup> - a sea story, shipwreck, marooned on a desert island. The tale is told by an American sailor named O'Brien, a tale of desperate adventure. <sup>H</sup> He tells how he set sail from Puerto Rico in a small catboat - he and two other men, an American and a Puerto Rican. They navigated in fair weather until they were off the island of Desecheo. There, a sudden squall hit them, and the boat capsized. O'Brien and the other American were able to swim to shore, but the Puerto Rican was lost. <sup>H</sup> ~~They were aboard~~ <sup>there they were on</sup> a barren bit of land, no food, no water. They contrived to catch some sea birds. These they cooked and ate as long as the matches held out. Then they dined on the sea birds raw. As for water, they found small puddles of rainwater here and there, and drank from these. Then the puddles of rainwater ran out, though they hunted for them eagerly. In the search, O'Brien's companion was lost. In crossing a small inlet <sup>on the</sup> ~~from~~ <sup>now</sup> shore, high breakers ran in and swept him away. So, there was a single ~~solid~~ solitary sailor left alone,

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and he had to drink sea water. He tied his shirt to a pole, and flew it like a flag, hoping to attract passing ships. He arranged strips of canvas on the ground to spell out the wireless distress signal, hoping that a passing airplane might spy it, — — a call for help.

A steamer went by, and then another. In each case O'Brien said he thought he saw them slowing down, but they went on and vanished. Finally, after days there was a hum of motors in the sky. A United States naval plane on patrol flew over, and it spotted the distress signal made of strips of canvas on the ground. The plane circled low and dropped emergency rations of food to the marooned sailor. Then off it went and sent ~~x~~ a Coast Guard cutter to the rescue.

The F.B.I. is interested in the sea story because the IIsle of Desecheo is a United States military reservation. They are particular about such places nowadays. Also, they want to check on the loss of O'Brien's two companions. To the F.B.I. ~~men~~ it's just another case, this story of shipwreck, ~~and~~ marooned on a desert island.

FIGHT

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Tonight the lightweight championship of the world will be at stake in a bout between Titleholder Lou Jenkins and Challenger Pete ~~Leppo~~ <sup>Lello!</sup> This is of much consequence in the world of boxing, but there's another angle as well - and just as dramatic.

The ~~champion~~ champion's manager was taken into custody today by detectives of the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. Manager Hymie Kaplin is well known in the fight game. He scored quite a managerial triumph when he took the rather non-descript Texas lightweight, Lou Jenkins and managed him into ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> lightweight champion <sup>ship</sup> of the world. Hymie was ~~hailed~~ <sup>beak -</sup> hailed for his sagacity when the long horn ~~big~~ <sup>big</sup> buster from the southwest knocked out the then-champion, Lou Ambers. It was all very satisfying to the managerial heart.

Today Hymie Kaplin left his home at Forest Hills to attend the weighing in ceremonies of Lou Jenkins and Pete Lello - see that the weights were all right, <sup>and</sup> give an interview to the sports writers and the newspapers. Hymie was on his way when the Brooklyn detectives grabbed him. The District Attorney ~~was~~ taking

him into custody for questioning. Nothing to do with prize fighting, however. The sport concerned was a different one -- the pastime of kings, queens and aces, pushing the pasteboards. Not so sporting, either. In other words -- a huge card sharp swindle.

A gang of card sharpers have been operating for the past ten years -- operating with golden success. They are said to have swindled a long series of victims for a total of four million dollars. And that's a lot of card s harping, a monstrous amount of tricking around with the kings, queens and aces.

The Brooklyn District Attorney today discloses that his office has a list of thirty-eight suckers, with evidence. These thirty-eight gullible individuals lost a total of seven hundred thousand dollars. One case in particular is now to be prosecuted, the case of a Manhattan business man who got into a friendly game of cards with the sharps two years ago. He dropped eight thousand in a hurry.

All of which is one angle in the story of tonight's prize fight for the lightweight championship of the world. Champion Lou Jenkins will be in there fighting, but his Manager Hymie Kaplin is, -



well he won't be there managing. Lou will have to get along with strategists of lesser importance. And now for a strategist of major importance -- Hugh James.