

C.I. - Lunoco. Friday, Feb. 28, 1941.

46

There's an insistent rumor that Bulgaria is about to join Nazi Germany in a formal alliance - become a partner in the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo combination. A dispatch from Budapest says that the ceremony of the signing of a formal pact is to take place at Vienna - probably on Saturday. Vienna itself chimes in with the same kind of report - political circles there declaring that Bulgaria will sign up with the Axis shortly. Possibly tomorrow. Berlin, queried on the subject, refused to confirm these reports - but Berlin also refused to deny them.

47

From the Balkan kingdom itself, comes little or nothing. Today, all communications with the capital city of Sofia were broken off. An explanation was given - a heavy Balkan snowstorm. But it's to be noted that in the past <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ severence of communications has been the means of hiding some important development. And rumors continue - that German troops are pouring into Bulgaria.

47

As London sees it, the Balkan situation is rapidly ~~becoming a crisis~~ coming to a crisis. And in the British capital the opinion is expressed that there may be concerted action against

the Nazis - action by Great Britain and Turkey. This belief is  
*encouraged by*  
~~contained in~~ reports about the conferences that Foreign Secretary  
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Anthony Eden had with the chiefs of the Turkish government.

There's some supposition that British troops of the Near Eastern  
Army, may be sent to Turkey. And we hear that the Foreign Secretary  
is going to Greece - to offer the Greeks an arrangement to keep  
them in the war.

DODECANESE

The British have evacuated the island they seized from the Italians in the eastern Mediterranean. We supposed, naturally, that they would establish themselves there, for a foothold in the Dodecanese archipelago which is an important strategic base for the Italians. But no, London today announces that the British forces have retired. The London indication is that the affair was more of a raid than an occupation. Its purpose being to put out of commission an Italian sea plane base on the island.

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From France comes an official statement that the supply of bread will be exhausted in five or six weeks. Farmers are implored not to hoard wheat.

## FAR EAST

In the Siamese dispute France got a second set of proposals from Japan, and has just replied to them. The government of Marshal Petain gave a flat-turn-down to a previous Japanese plan for settling the dispute between French Indo-China and Siam. And the word was that France would stand pat on that. Japan as a mediator could hardly be called impartial, taking the side of the kingdom of the white elephant. Japan seemed to identify Siam's interests as her own. Something mighty peculiar about the whole thing; so complained the French, and they took a firm stand.

Now Japan comes along with a second set of terms. Reports from French sources indicate that these are much like the first -- requiring France to turn over about the same large amount of Indo-Chinese territory to Siam. So they can't be any more acceptable to the Petain government. But the latest is that the French have sent a reply, phrased in conciliatory language -- hoping to avoid an open break. We are not told whether it is yes or no, but it's probably no. A later report from Shanghai indicates the French are yielding.

DEBATE

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In the Lend-Lease debate today, Senator George of Georgia made the charge that the opposition is staging - a filibuster. This has been in the wind all along, that the Senators hostile to the measure for all-out aid might resort to tactics of talking it to death. Well, there's plenty of talk - whether or not it be a regular filibuster. The conversation is getting more and more contentious and disputatious. Tempers running short, angry remarks flung about. ~~the snappy stage.~~

Today Senator Wheeler, leader of the opposition, made his address to the Senate - and we all know how bitterly the Senator from Montana can phrase his jibes and sarcasm. <sup>well</sup> Today he applied the following description to the Lend-Lease Bill:- "A legal and constitutional monstrosity full of deadly fatal poison for the future of our country." He denounced it as a measure to take us into war, and harked back to old times in the New Deal to produce his epigram of <sup>the day.</sup> today. "The forgotten man of Nineteen Thirty-two" <sup>he</sup> <sup>cried</sup> "is destined to be the unknown soldier of Nineteen Forty-two."

Things got hot, with interruptions and flaming dialogue, when the lawmakers got around to memories of the New Deal purge of

of Nineteen Thirty-Eight. Senator Tydings of Maryland brought up the subject - he was one of the intended victims of the purge that failed. Speaking of what he called "dictatorial ~~pe~~ tendencies" in President Roosevelt, he said:- "Only two years ago he went about the country trying to tell the sovereign people who should represent them in this legislative body."

51  
Senator Wheeler thereupon made a remark to Senator George, who now is leading the fight for the administration. Wheeler reminded George that he too had been one of the legislators whom the President had tried to purge. George replied that he had forgotten all about the incident.

Senator Chandler of Kentucky flung a warning at Senator Wheeler, telling him that he might be purged out of political life because of his opposition to the Lend-Lease Bill. President Roosevelt might go after him. "He may get you some time," warned Chandler. "From all the fears you have expressed, you haven't got a chance."

Wheeler responded bitterly - "When I haven't got a chance," he snapped, "there will not be a Senate."

The way the lawmakers are wrangling and flinging taunts at each other is illustrated by another passage of dialogue, which is also an example of the peculiar phraseology they use in the Senate. George of Georgia ridiculed the Wheeler assertion that under the Lend-Lease Bill the President could place the value of one dollar on a million dollars' worth of armament. "I say he cannot do it," shouted George.

"And I say he can," Wheeler shot back. <sup>Adding —</sup> "The Senator doesn't need to get excited."

"I'm not excited," George retorted, "and I don't want to get into a personal argument with the Senator, because I like the Senator."

To which Wheeler jeered:- "The Senator hasn't acted like it." And that got a laugh from the galleries.

*the ubiquitous*  
In Washington Mrs. Dilling was arrested again today.

She's the lady who once wrote an angry book against the Reds and is now heading a demonstration against the Lend-Lease Bill -

a demonstration of mothers. She and some thirty other women were

picketing the office in the capital of Senator Carter Glass, *who*

*is* ~~He~~ strongly in favor of the United States getting into the war.

*and the mothers* *with*  
They wanted to present to him an American flag, ~~They claimed that~~

~~the gentleman from Virginia~~ claiming that the Senator has a

British Union Jack hanging in his office. Replace it with the

Stars and Stripes - that was the demand of Mrs. Dilling and her

group of mothers.

The police intervened to eject the pickets, and there

was some lively excitement - pushing and screaming. It ended with

the arrest of Mrs. Dilling and another woman. *They didn't present the flag.*

Later, the secretary of Senator Glass announced that

there is no British Union Jack hanging in his office - although

every member of the Senator's office-force does wear an aid-to-Britain

pin, which bears the Union Jack. The Senator himself came forward

with a sharp rejoinder. Carter Glass is famous for his scathing

53

53



remarks. He said he was going to ask the F.B.I. to investigate the crusade of mothers, and find out whether they registered as foreign agents. "I likewise believe," said he, "that it would be pertinent to inquire whether they are mothers. For the sake of the race I ~~devotedly~~ devoutly hope not!" added the gentleman from Virginia, with that old-fashioned Southern chivalry.

CANADA

54

Canada, quite naturally, has taken particular note of various statements in the debate on the Lend-Lease Bill - those statements which have pertained to the Dominion. Canadians have been observing the charges made by senators like Wheeler of Montana and Nye of North Dakota - that Britain has to pay cash for wartime supplies procured from Canada, while the United States is asked to lend, <sup>or</sup> lease, ~~or give~~.

This subject came up in the Ottawa Parliament today.

54

One member referred to the statements in the American Senate that Canada, to use his words - "was making Britain pay on the barrelhead for supplies." He demanded of Prime Minister MacKenzie-King whether the Ottawa government intended to deny this - to make a rebuttal, and the Prime Minister said - No. He explained that any such formal denial or rebuttal would give the opposition in Washington an excuse to say that Canada was interfering in American domestic affairs. "It is very well known in the United States," declared MacKenzie-King, "that we're partners of Britain in this war. We must," he added, "rely on Americans themselves not to be misled by such statements."

ALFONSO

Today, a former kingdom was grieved and saddened by the death of the King it had expelled. \* (Word from Madrid tells of the impression made by the passing of Alfonso the Thirteenth, one-time

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monarch of Spain. He was, of course, curiously affable, debonair, democratic - one of the most likeable of sovereigns. Yet he lost his once great ~~popularity~~ popularity, and went into exile

when the results of a national election showed him that he wasn't wanted any more. His overthrow was followed by evil days for

Spain, disturbances that led to a savage civil war. So that perhaps <sup>made</sup> ~~led~~ many a Spaniard to regret the end of the monarchy. During recent

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days, when Alfonso in Rome was lingering in his last illness, Spanish newspapers published daily bulletins about his condition; and in many churches special masses were held for him, with prayers for his recovery.

It isn't often that a king in exile is mourned by his former subjects, who exiled him.

STRIKE

54

There was a scene of wild cheering in Lackawanna, New York today as the Bethlehem steel strikers voted to ~~okay~~ okay a proposed settlement of the walkout. The strike began Wednesday night, with the Union demanding that the Company change its labor policy and grant an increase in pay. The walk-out affected an important unit of national defense industry, and threatened to spread to other Bethlehem steel plans. Bethlehem has a total of one and a half million dollars' worth of defense orders. So today's agreement comes under the heading of important news - and it was rather spectacular.

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Three thousand strikers held a meeting, and the Regional Director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee presented the terms that had been worked out between the Union chiefs and the Company. He recited a three-point settlement.

First - every man returns to the job with full seniority. Second - The Company will sit at the conference table with the Union and begin negotiations on various grievances cited by the workers. Third - The National Labor Relations Board will hold an

election among the employees to decide what organization they want to represent them. No mention is made of a wage increase, ~~which is one of the strike demands.~~ That is one of the points to be discussed by the conference on the subject of grievances.

57  
The Union chieftain, upon reciting these terms, cried out to the workers, "You have won one of labor's greatest victories in this <sup>yl"</sup> ~~country~~ <sup>^</sup> ~~est"~~"

Then a vote was taken, the strikers deciding whether or not they would accept a settlement. It really wasn't a vote - it was pandemonium. A unanimous okay expressed in <sup>q</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>^</sup> Bedlam ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ of shouting and cheering and whistling. A band started to play, blaring loudly. But it couldn't be heard in the din of human voices. Thereafter, the crowd of strikers staged a parade of jubilation down the main street. They were joined by the pickets, who had recently been battling against the police.

57

## BIBLE

It's an axiom in the book business that the best seller of them all is the Bible. Is that still true? Yes - more than ever. In Washington the Census Bureau has just completed a survey of the output of books in Nineteen Thirty-Nine. And the figures show a huge increase in Bible sales. In the previous year, Nineteen Thirty-Eight, the publication of the Good Book amounted to five and a half million copies. In Nineteen Thirty-Nine the figures rose to nearly eight million.

TICKETS

58

I know I'll get a large response when I ask the following question: Have you ever, when out driving, been stopped by a traffic cop who tried to sell you some tickets to a policeman's benefit? No doubt you have, and very likely you have purchased a couple. <sup>I have,</sup> Perhaps you hadn't the slightest desire to attend the policeman's benefit, but you know how it is. Anyway, Dr. Michael J. O'Brien of New York knows how it is, and he's highly indignant about it. Dr. O'Brien, seventy years old, is described, not as a physician, but as a historian. He was driving along down in Florida at Hialeah, and he admits that he violated a traffic rule. ~~His complaint is that he had to pay a fine of ten dollars and costs, and the real reason was - because he refused to buy a couple of tickets. He was willing to buy one - but why two? That points to the culminating reason why the seventy year old Dr. O'Brien is so very indignant.~~

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~~He relates that~~ The cop told him the traffic violation would be squared, if the Doctor would purchase two one-dollar tickets for the Hialeah Firemen's and Policemen's benefit. "I told him," continues the Doctor, "that I would buy one ticket, but that I

couldn't use two." He said - "Yes you can. It's easy to pick up a babe."

That's what irked the Doctor - "easy to pick up a babe."

59  
And <sup>this following</sup> he makes <sup>^^</sup> the plaintiff comment, "And mind you, I am seventy years old."

All of which puts a new light on the moonlit subject of love and romance - the idea of ~~xx~~ picking up a babe for the purpose of being able to use two tickets for the Firemen's and Policemen's Benefit.

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Hard to believe isn't it Hugh?