

L.J. - Lunoco. Tuesday, Sept. 10, 1940.

Tonight again, London is being bombed - though at this hour it is impossible to tell how savage the attack may be. Late reports describe a night with the moon shining at times through clouds - broken patches of clouds covering the sky. Through these come the Nazi bombers. Thunder and crash, bursting high explosive!

The dark question is insistent - are the frightful bombing raids on London part of a concerted attempt to destroy the British capital, that city of great history and fame? Or are the Nazis striking savage blows to persuade the British to stop their night raiding of German cities? Berlin claims the raids are retaliation for the British bomb attacks. So is it possible that the two parties may decide to call off the night bombing? Apparently no large city has any defense against it. The ominous surmise may be that the end would witness the utter destruction of London on one side, and of German metropolitan centers on the other. So might they decide to call it off, and pursue a policy of sparing big cities - the policy of last winter?

The British maintain that their night bombing planes have struck at only military objectives - though how, in the darkness of the night, a high flying plane can *always* distinguish a military objective, seems a question. The Germans counter with accusations that the R.A.F. night flyers have been hitting at civilian centers.

One curious Nazi charge today tells of a kind of chemical paper dropped, a sort of phosphorous composition which sets fires, designed to set the fields of grain afire, says Berlin. Here's a later dispatch ~~fix~~ from London. It confirms this Nazi story. It states that the British air force is using a new ~~secret~~ secret weapon, which is described ~~ix~~ in these ~~words~~ words:- "A self-igniting leaf". That must be the phosphorous kind of sheets of paper the Nazis describe.

Today the Hitler newspapers were shrieking with rage against the British *l*ombing and demanding more ruthless reprisals than ever against London. The damage the British have been doing may perhaps be measured by the anger the Nazis

are displaying.

~~Today the Hitler newspapers were shrieking with rage~~

~~xxxxxxxthe British bombing andxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

From the British side we hear that R.A.F. planes once again have bomb^{ed} objectives in Germany. All of which might seem to indicate that neither side will relent, and that both will go ahead exchanging blows of sky fury and destruction.-

~~destruction to what untold extent?~~

The vast extent of London today presented great areas where no destruction was visible, where a car might drive a long way through London streets. But there were other huge areas reduced to wreckage, with a



7

Sept 10 '6

~~xxx~~ blasting and devastation from above - in residential quarters and in the heart of London itself. Buildings blown to pieces, streets piled high with fallen wreckage, streets ripped open by huge bomb craters, water mains broken.

Symbolically we have the mention of two famous churches - St. Paul's, which was almost engulfed in a fire that raged nearby, though saved by the fortunate direction of the wind. And a famous cockney church had a narrow escape, the church from which we have the familiar expression, "Born in the sound of Bow's bells."

Less symbolical but of more material importance, warehouses - huge warehouses of food. Some of them blown apart by bombs. This is admitted by the London Food Ministry, which ~~sxxxxx~~ states, however, that the city's food supply is unimpaired - no danger of a shortage because of the bombing.

8

Today witnessed a wholesale exodus from London - women and children going, such children as are left. A flight of women. If the air raids go on, the bombed city on the Thames will be a metropolis merely of men.

FOLLOW WAR

The major conflict in the sky is being accompanied by another clash - a minor sort of sideshow, but dramatic. ^{That} ~~it is~~

a fight with giant cannon, between the French shore and the British shore. (Today's German communique describes ~~it in~~ ~~these words~~:- "The first cross channel artillery duel.")

The Berlin bulletin makes a striking episode of war out of the exchange of long range shelling. It states that the heavy gunnery began when Nazi Big Berthas at Calais opened fire on a British convoy passing through the Straits of Dover. Berlin claims that in the barrage of shells, the convoy was scattered - one ship hit, and had to be towed away. Another set of fire.

While the Big Berthas were blazing at ^a ~~the~~ convoy, ponderous British artillery on the other side of the Channel opened fire on the Big Berthas, shooting all the way across the twenty-two miles of water. The Nazi guns replied, and the German high command claims today that after a two-hour duel one British battery was silenced.

This cross-the-channel gunfight would certainly seem to be the longest range artillery battle on record.

49

ITALY

Here's a denial from Rome - a contradiction of reports that two of the most distinguished members of the Roman aristocracy have been arrested for opposition to the war.

The story had it that the Mussolini Government is staging a round-up of many persons who are against the alliance of the ~~XXXXXX~~ Fascists and the Nazis, are opposed to Italy's part in the conflict, and are predicting defeat. These elements of war opposition were said to include some of the most prominent of Italians, and two foremost names were mentioned - Prince Torlonia and Prince Doria.

Both of the most ancient nobility, whose families trace their descent back a thousand years or more. One is half American. The other - half English. Prince Torlonia, who is a son-in-law of former King Alfonso of Spain, has an American mother - the former Elsie Moore of New York. The mother of Prince Doria was Lady Emily Pelham Clinton, ~~XXXXXX~~ daughter of the Duke of Newcastle. His wife is Scottish - a one-time nurse whom the Prince married.

Today Rome denies that either of these two eminent personalities have been arrested for talking against the war,

50

ITALY--2

but Rome admits that there has been a round-up of many persons who have been expressing themselves as being out of sympathy with Fascism and against the ~~xxxx~~ partnership of Italy in the conflict with Great Britain.

CONSCRIPTION

Tonight a joint committee of the Senate and the house of Representatives is working on the Conscription Bill - trying to fix up the law so that it will be satisfactory to both houses. There are of course two major points at issue, two clauses in which the Lower House ~~xi~~ bill differs radically from the measure produced by the Senate.

51

Today, one of these points of difference was the theme of a declaration by Wendell Willkie. He spoke outright against the Hamilton Fish Amendment, declared that it should be eliminated from the ~~xxix~~ Conscription Bill- that lower house amendment which provides for a sixty day period of voluntary enlistment before the draft would go into effect. The Republican candidate spoke in these words:- "I hope", said he, "that, as a result of the conference between the House and the Senate conferees on the selective service amendment, the Fish amendment is eliminated."

So spoke the G.O.P. standard bearer - although Congressman Hamilton Fish, sponsor of the sixty day delay idea, is a Republican. And his amendment was carried with the help

of a large Republican majority. It remains to be seen how far the decision in Congress will be ~~and~~ affected by today's Willkie declaration against the delay amendment.

The other point^t at issue concerns the age limits. Twenty-one to thirty-one in the Senate Bill, and twenty-one to forty-five in the House version. They'll have to harmonize that in some fashion, get together on the ages of the men to be conscripted for ~~xxii~~ military service.

52
Sheppard
Shortly after noon today, Chairman ~~Sheppard~~ of the Senate Military Affairs Committee stated that the conference was ~~x~~ making progress but that it was unlikely ~~that~~ the job of drafting the final form of the bill would be completed today. He was right - tomorrow is more likely.

FOLLOW CONSCRIPTION

The peace group staging ~~anti-conscription~~ anti-conscription demonstrations in Washington, went to court today. The organization called "The American Peace ~~Mobilization~~ Mobilization" planned to hold an all-night prayer meeting on the steps of the Capitol, - prayer against conscription. But the police refused permission. So today, ten members of the group filed a suit in the United States District Court, asking for an injunction. Two of the ten members are clergymen. One is the Reverend Owen⁶ A. Knox of Detroit. The other - Rabbi Moses Miller of New York.

The complaint charges that the Washington police mistreated the peace advocates, broke up their meetings, and threatened them with arrest. (~~Forbade them to distribute handbills and leaflets, or wear buttons and badges pleading their cause.~~)

RADIO TIME

53

The controversy over Presidential radio time is settled - at least so far as the next F.D.R. broadcast is concerned. The argument has raged around a delicate point - what is and what is not political? It is the custom of radio systems to give the President of the United States free time to address the nation. The Franklin D. Roosevelt fireside chats, for example. But, on the other hand campaign speeches are supposed to be paid for.

(~~Regulations provide that both of the major parties shall receive equal favor, and be treated alike. Of late, the Republicans have been complaining ~~ix~~ loudly that the recent free ~~xxxxxx~~ presidential radio talks have been political and the time should have been purchased.~~)^{TF} The controversy proceeded to focus on an

address which President Roosevelt will make before the Teamsters Union - tomorrow night. Should that be free or bought and paid for?

The question was settled this afternoon - by the White House. Presidential Secretary Steve Early announces the time for tomorrow's address will be purchased - on the line. The radio hour will be bought by the ~~Dem~~ Democratic National Committee.

That should answer the question - whether the speech will be political or non-political. ~~If not, there~~ here's a ~~further tip from~~ Steve Early. ~~He~~ states that the President's address before the Teamster's Union will probably constitute what he called - "The Labor speech". The labor speech ~~is~~ of the Third Term Campaign."

Today's ~~statement does not declare definitely~~ whether or not ~~presidential radio talks during the rest of the~~ campaign will be paid for. But the ~~probabilities, as indicated,~~ are - yes, probably they will.

MAINE

Here's something I don't have to tell you - that the Democrats and Republicans are disagreeing completely about the meaning of the election in Maine. (Every four years for many decades the country used to ring with the slogan, "As goes Maine, so goes the nation." The preemptory certitude of that axiom has been dimmed considerably during the New Deal Era - with Maine going Republican and the Democrats winning by landslides. But just the same, the Pine Tree State still retains its priority - as having its statewide election a couple of months in advance of the national battle in November. So the Maine vote is perennially interesting, although it is no longer of such crucial significance. - ~~"As xxx Maine goes."~~ Everybody knew it would go Republican this year, the only question being - by how big a vote?

When the final figures were tallied up today, the G. O. P. shouted with triumph. Maine going heavily Republican, more heavily than in Nineteen ~~Thirty~~ Thirty-six - the last time the President was elected. Republican spokesmen declared that the increased G. O. P. percentages in Maine indicated a national trend, which in turn indicated a Willkie victory two months from now.

The Democrats of course disagree. Representative Drury of Virginia, Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, answered by scouting the barometric significance of the commonwealth at the tip of the northeast.

"Probably no state," said he, "is a more inaccurate index of national political trends than is Maine," said the Virginia Democrat.

TIP

At last reports tonight, Ethel Gaff of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was still waiting - waiting to find out. Her perplexity concerns Henry Ford.

Ethel is nineteen years old and a waitress. She presides at a set of tables in ~~XXXXXX~~ a Fort Wayne restaurant. Yesterday, Henry Ford and a party stopped at that same restaurant for ~~XXXXX~~ lunch, and Ethel waited on them. What proceeded to happen may or may not have a political significance. Henry Ford was returning from his conference with Wendell Willkie at ~~XXXXXX~~ Rushville, Indiana. Ford in conference with the Republican candidate - that was political news, as we heard last night. What significance? What portentous implication? We don't know, but the astonishing thing that happened at Ethel's table may be a clue - or again it may not.

When the luncheon was over, the motor magnate paid the check. Nothing astonishing about that. If you or I were lunching with Henry Ford, we wouldn't be at all offended if he ~~xxx~~ happened to grab the check and fork out the cash. The amount of yesterday's luncheon check was \$4, not extravagant for a party of several. Henry Ford paid it with a fifty

dollar bill. Whereupon the luncheon party promptly got up and departed - Henry Ford leaving the change. And did that astonish Waitress Ethel Gaff! The change came to forty-six dollars. And Ethel wondered - was it a tip? Or did Henry Ford just forget the change from a fifty dollar bill?

57
There's a dilemma to haunt the soul of a ~~xxxxxx~~ nineteen year old waitress, but there are larger implications - political. If Henry absent-mindedly forgot the change - was it because he was so preoccupied with the result of his conference with Willkie? You can see possible political meanings in that. You can see still deeper meanings in the other supposition - that maybe Henry Ford, after his conference with Willkie, gave a waitress a forty-six dollar tip.

All day today Ethel Gaff waited to learn the solution of the mystery. Her concern was this - whether or not she'd have to hand ~~xxx~~ back the forty-six dollars, all except maybe a quarter for a tip.

SONG

I know that this is the year Nineteen Forty, when everything is presidential and political - with Democratic and Republican soothsayers scanning heaven and earth for any small sign of campaign meaning. Nevertheless, I insist that there's no political or presidential meaning in the following bit of news.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., son of the President, has turned song writer, and today the news is flashed that one of his songs has been accepted for publication. Young Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., wrote the lyrics. Well, there doesn't seem to be any election year or third term meaning in that simple headline - but listen to those lyrics. The chorus of the Rooseveltian ballad goes this way:

"I'll spend the rest of my life right by your side.

I'll spend the rest of my life with you.

I'll do all the things you like best.

And always forget all the rest.

And never never make you blue, my dear."

It sounds rather like what Thomas Jefferson used to call "continuous tenure of office." But remember - it's Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. who concocted the poetry, and not

SONG--2

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Sr. If the President had written that lingering song, it would be just too political for words - if not music.

9
9 1/4
And now maybe Hugh wants to burst into song; a blues song. I mean a NU Blue song. So I'll just take a line from young Franklin D's song. The one that goes like this: - "I'll do the thing that you like best," I'll say so long until tomorrow.