

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Last Thursday I said that in the question of the two Thanksgiving Days, I'd be neutral and celebrate both - eat turkey on the day the President proclaimed and also on the traditional day, which much of the country is observing - today. I remarked that on both occasions I'd make a customary reflection, giving thanks. Last Thursday I said that we Americans had reason to be thankful that we did not figure in the news, ^{that} I then proceeded to read - the war news. This was the usual assortment of ships being sunk, fights in the air, and sundry other hostilities.

Today it's difficult to repeat that giving of thanks quite so heartily. Of course we don't want to be in any war. But today the news tells of the Soviet invasion of Finland, and I suppose that most Americans have a feeling of regret that we cannot do anything effective to aid that brave little republic of the north.

FINLAND

(The Soviet invasion struck ~~most~~ frightfully, through the sky, a swift bombing raid against the Finnish capital - Helsingfors as it was called in the older Swedish fashion - Helsinki, as the Finns call it.) The city was altogether unprepared. There had been a couple of previous air raid warnings, which didn't amount to anything. So the people didn't take much notice, when the sirens shrieked again. In fact, the air raid warning was given only a minute before the bombs began to fall. The rain of ^{death}~~destruction~~ was all the more unexpected, because it was cloudy, the Red army planes could not ^{at first} be seen. The fearful crash of the bombs was the first indication. People stood stock still in the streets - too amazed and shocked to move and go hurrying to the air raid shelters.

The Soviet war planes dived down through the clouds and unloaded their high explosive. (Bomb after bomb rained down, killing, wounding, maiming - blowing buildings to pieces.) Air torpedoes smashed down into apartment houses, and ^{shattered them.}~~blew them to pieces.~~ Some of the bombs were incendiary, and set fire. The Red army planes may have been aiming at strategic objectives, like the airfield or railroad station, but in actual fact they bombed the heart of the city with murderous results. (Hundreds reported killed)

Tonight Helsinki is like a city of black doom. There's a blackout ~~of~~ necessity. The bombs burst the electric power connections. Yet there's light- from burning buildings. Most of the fires set by the incendiary bombs were quickly put out, but at last reports several of the city's large structures were in flame. The dark railroad station is crowded, women and children trying to get to the country - for fear of another air raid tomorrow. But the evacuation is slow, because of the shortage of trains - and so many refugees to move.

(As the Soviets struck through the sky, they also attacked by land, crossing the frontier. The Red army is reported to be invading all along the extended ~~frontier~~ ^{border from} above the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Finland.) The principal thrust is across the ~~border~~ ^{line} nearest to the Russian City of Leningrad, old St. Petersburg of the ~~years~~ ^R Czars. There, the land is what is called an isthmus. ~~There~~ ^{territory} neck of ~~land~~ ^{territory} between the Gulf of Finland, which is a long arm of the sea, and Lake Ladoga, a great inland body of water.

(Late reports tell that the Finnish army is resisting bravely, with heavy artillery fire.) The Reds have occupied some

bits of territory, from which the Finns withdrew to stronger lines.

The Red Navy is reported to have seized some Finnish islands.

So begins another war, and one of the most tragic. (It

remains to be seen how long the tiny military force of Finland can resist the huge hordes of the Red army.) We've been informed that the Finnish regiments are well equipped with modern mechanism of war, machine guns and artillery - though they would seem to have no great fleets of tanks or ~~swarming~~ squadrons of the sky. Their land is defensible, with thousands of lakes that form a natural barrier and with vast expanses of gloomy northern forest *that are* impassible to motorized equipment. [^] And, the Finns are determined fighting men, resolved to defend their independence against the hosts of Bolshevism. They bore up with amazing courage during the period of Soviet threats and brow-beating. And they can be counted upon now to put up a stout fight. But still - what chance have they against the Red ~~edimxxxxxxof Communismx~~ Colloss^us of Communism? The Soviet army is said to be not so good, but it out-numbers the Finnish battalions by perhaps as much as fifty to one.

No, the Soviets did not declare war. In fact, this

afternoon in Moscow spokesmen for Stalin were denying that they knew

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FINLAND

anything about the invasion of Finland. They only admitted it at Midnight Moscow time. The Red comrades might want to keep up the fiction that they're at peace. But war has been declared - little Finland declared it. Today, as soon as the country was invaded, the Finnish Premier proclaimed a state of war.

The latest: the rumor that the Soviets have sent an ultimatum demanding complete possession of Finland - under threat of utter destruction. Another rumor: the Finns asking for an armistice. Another:- The Finnish cabinet resigning.

Also-a
~~There is still another~~ report that the Soviets will demand territory - Arctic ports, from Norway.

REACTIONS

So naturally

[^]The most immediate reaction ^{is in} ~~to the attack on Finland~~
~~was in~~ the Scandinavian countries. [^]~~Naturally,~~ ^{They all} for they too are
menaced by the spread of Red imperialism. At Stockholm today,
when the news came of the bombing of Helsingfors - there was a
swarming of young men to the Finnish legation, Swedish volunteers
wanting to enlist for the defense of Finland. The Scandinavian
governments and press are taking the gravest view of the Soviet
assault on the ^{in neighbor.} ~~small country.~~ But what can Sweden, Norway and
Denmark do about it - they themselves are so weak?

In London today

[^]The Soviet invasion was called - an indefensible act of
unprovoked aggression. And in the House of Commons, Prime Minister
Chamberlain spoke official British opinion. "The attitude of the
Finnish Government was unprovocative," declared Chamberlain.
"It is known," he continued, "that the Finnish note delivered to
Moscow was most conciliatory in character." Chamberlain added
that the Finns proposed that the dispute be arbitrated and offered
to withdraw their troops from the border facing Leningrad. [^]~~And he~~
~~summarized by saying it was hard to believe that the Red army assault~~
~~today was necessary, and he used these words:- "necessary to protect~~

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the Soviet union against a country as small as Finland.

(Britain is indignant, Britain stands in opposition to the use of force and brute aggression, but what can Britain do about it?) Finland is a Baltic country, and the Baltic Sea is in German control. Moreover, it's Allied policy to go easy with Soviet Russia. The Allies did nothing when the Red army invaded Poland, even justified it - although they had guaranteed Poland.

So Finland can expect ^{little} ~~nothing~~ more from London and Paris than expressions of sympathy.

Berlin is backing Moscow. Hitler supporting his partner, Stalin.

In Rome grave misgivings are being expressed tonight.

The Italians regard today's even[†] as another example of the menacing spread of Bolshevism in Europe. And the Italian response is scheduled to be - an intensification of the propaganda campaign against Communism.

At the Vatican, ^{deepest} anxiety for Finland. ~~is being expressed~~

The official Vatican newspaper describes the aim of the Soviets in these words:- "to impose Bolshevism on a peaceful, inoffensive country." And the papal editor makes this statement:- "the fate of northern Europe is bound in Finland's fate." Finland is a

But to
Protestant country. ~~the~~ the Vatican its downfall will mean a blow to
Christianity in general, and Rome expects that Pope Pius the Twelfth
will ask the Catholics of the world to offer prayers for the
preservation of Finland from atheism. Church circles are increasingly
alarmed by the threatening spread of Red Communism.

WASHINGTON

Of all the nations in the world, the one that is showing the most activity on behalf of the little northern republic, is our own. And of course we can only make diplomatic moves. Finland is far from New York and San Francisco, and our ^{material} interest in the region of the Gulf of Bothnia is ^{mighty little.} ~~small~~. It is nothing but high regard for Finland that animates the United States. (Of course, it may seem to put excessive emphasis on money matters to say - "well, Finland always paid ^{up} on its war debt." But the fact does remain that great empires repudiated their debts to the United States while Finland honored its obligation. So there's irony in the fact that we're giving to the Allies what may turn out to be decisive economic aid in their ~~next~~ war against Germany, although they defaulted - while we can do nothing effective for Finland.)

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All along our government has displayed its solicitude over the demands the Soviets were making on the Finns. President Roosevelt put in a plea to Moscow, asking Stalin's government to commit no ~~aggression~~ aggression. This was rebuffed with ridicule. And (yesterday, at the last minute, Washington sent to both governments an offer to mediate. The Finns immediately accepted. The Bolsheviks

rejected American mediation coldly.) There's one report that the United States informed both nations that if one accepted mediation and the other rejected, the rejecting nation would be considered as the aggressor. Today's invasion would leave no doubt who the aggressor is. *But all the world knows anyhow.*

When the news of the attack reached Washington, there was instant activity. President Roosevelt went into conference with Secretary of State Hull. There was talk that the Red army aggression might lead to a break between Washington and Moscow, severance of diplomatic relations. Prominent congressional figures spoke their minds. Democratic Senator King of Utah, for example. "Soviet Russia," he said, "is a brutal, semi-barbarous land governed by tyrants." Finland he described as "a liberal, democratic, Christian nation." And Senator King called for a diplomatic break between the United States and the Soviets. "I hope," said he, "that my country no longer will grasp the bloody hand of Stalin."

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The ~~last~~ ^{word} is that President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull ~~are~~ ^{have been} conferring with the Finish Minister to Washington, discussing the plight of Finland.

And there's a late report from Washington that the President may call in the congressional leaders and ask for their advice in deciding what course to take toward the Red government of the Soviets.

DIES

Today Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the meeting of the Dies Committee in Washington. The reason - the hearing was getting around to the subject of the American Youth Congress, which has been accused of being controlled by Communists. The First Lady of the Land has on occasion addressed the Youth Congress, entertained its leaders at the White House, and defended them against the charge of being an outfit under Red domination.)

Indeed, the statement has been made that in these Youth Congress doings, Mrs. Roosevelt has unwittingly been used by the ^{Reds} ~~Congress~~ for their own propaganda.

~~The First Lady came to the hearing right after some vivid testimony had been given. A negro witness testified that a resolution by the Communist Party in Nineteen Thirty proposed to establish a negro republic in the south. The witness himself directed agitation among negroes in Detroit - agitation for the plan to turn the south into a black ^{nation} ~~republic~~. He became disillusioned with it all, and today he stated that the Communist Party was just using the negroes for ^{its} ~~their~~ own purpose ~~is~~ - to promote a proletarian revolution in the United States. He said the~~

~~black republic agitation could only hurt the negroes. "It could only lead," he declared, "to race riots and victimization of the colored people in the south."~~

~~It was right after this that~~ Mrs. Roosevelt entered the Committee room. She was immediately asked to sit with the Committee, but she declined. She said she was there only as a spectator and wanted to see how the Youth group got along at the hearing. And she sat down between two leaders of the Youth organization.

At noon recess she took six of them to the White House for luncheon. When the Committee resumed the hearing, those six were half an hour late. The First Lady herself returned to the session at four o'clock.

(The German-American Bund Feuhrer, Fritz Kuhn, will be sentenced -- next Tuesday. This is announced by Judge Wallace. Conviction on all counts leaves Kuhn liable to a maximum prison term of thirty years, but he won't get that much.) He has no previous convictions, and that normally means a sentence much lighter than the maximum.

When the jury announced the verdict ~~of~~ on all five counts, the Bund Fuehrer took it stoically. But he was pale and grim of face as they took him off to the Tombs.

DEWEY

This evening we have the prognostication of an important political event, said to be scheduled for tomorrow. The NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM declares it has word that tomorrow District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey will be formally asked to get into the race for the presidential nomination. And the asking will be done in large and imposing style. To the District Attorney's office will go a ~~large~~ delegation of New York Republican leaders, headed by Kenneth Simpson, member of the National Republican Committee, and William S. Murray, New York State Chairman. And among the delegates will be ~~in~~ nearly every county chairman in the New York Republican organization - that's the expectation. ~~(The heads of the Dewey-for-President Committee say it will be the most impressive demonstration of support for a candidate since Eighteen Ninety-Six, that was the year when William Jennings Bryan stirred the ^{Democrats to} ~~democracy of the nation to~~ flaming fervor.)~~

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The imposing delegation will wait upon District Attorney Dewey and ask him to ~~in~~ make a formal entrance into the race for the Republican nomination. What will Tom Dewey reply when that question is popped to him? The word is that he'll say - Yes. ~~in~~ ^{And then} the Dewey boom will be on.

FOOTBALL

So far as this broadcast is concerned, there haven't been any football games this year. For months now the war in Europe has overshadowed everything else, and I don't believe I've mentioned a single game. Well, here it is Thanksgiving, or is it? At any rate, here are a ^{couple} ~~few~~ rather important end-of-the-season scores:-

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Texas A. & M. has been riding rough-shod over teams ~~in the Southwest this Fall~~ ^{— undefeated.} This means that a team often tightens up at the end of the season, and takes it on the chin. Well, this afternoon Texas A. & M. collided with the University of Texas, and the champions didn't get licked. Instead they hammered Texas ^{U.} ~~University~~ to the tune of 20 to 0. So Texas ~~A. & M. will be~~ ^{Aggies now become} a leading candidate for one of the big Bowl games.

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How about Tennessee? They played their old rivals from Kentucky today. And Tennessee came out on top 19 to 0. They still have another game on their schedule, and if they win it, in the eyes of many they will be considered the Number One candidate for the Rose Bowl.

And now let's talk about a bowl of Thanksgiving
cranberry ^{is} ~~r~~ sauce, or, Hugh, would you rather talk turkey?

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