

6

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

46

The Number One event of the day in America of course was the radio address by President Roosevelt. It had been expected that he would make it an opportunity for an important announcement, the giving out of big news. His big news was a warning.^{TP} For several weeks the grapevine gossip has brought us word of a feeling of alarm among political leaders, not only in this country but in Britain. The alarm was caused by what they described as a spirit of complacency, a smug optimism over ~~the~~ continued resistance of the Soviet armies to the Nazi invasion. It was at this feeling that the President aimed the most grave and urgent sentence in his address. That was when he said: "I give solemn warning to those who think that Hitler has been blocked and halted, that they're making a very dangerous assumption." Then he continued: "When in any war your enemy seems to be making slower progress, that is the very moment to strike with redoubled force."

47

On top of this ^I it became noticeable that Mr. Roosevelt began to speak as though we were actually at war. For he said: "The task of defeating Hitler may be long and arduous." Then he continued: "There are a few appeasers and Nazi sympathizers who ~~xxx~~ think it cannot be done. They even ask me," said the President, "to negotiate with Hitler, to pray for crumbs from his victorious table." To which he added: "They ask me in fact to become the modern Benedict Arnold and betray all I hold dear - my devotion to our freedom, to our churches, to our country." ~~xxxxxxx~~ To which he added that he had rejected this ^{idea} ~~cause~~ and rejects it again. The President's accents were conspicuously ironic when he emphasized the phrase, "they ask me", with a heavy stress on the "me."

48
After that he went on to say: "I know that I speak the conscience and determination of the American people when I say that we shall do everything in our power to crush Hitler and his Nazi forces."

Our Navy, he said, can guarantee the freedom of the seas just ~~xx~~ as long as the navies of the British Empire and the

Netherlands and Norway and Russia exist. If those other navies are destroyed, Mr. Roosevelt averred, the American Navy cannot now or in the future, maintain the freedom of the seas alone.

This being Labor Day, of course all those remarks were working up to a plea to the Unions. "The enemies of freedom" he declared, "know that our American effort is not yet enough and that unless we step up the total of our production, the enemies will take heart in pushing their attack in old fields and new." He pointed out that the first acts of all dictatorships were to crush the Unions. So he called upon all working men and women in America to make the defense of America's freedom take precedence over every private aim and every private interest. "We must all", he said, "jointly dedicate ourselves with single-mindedness and sacrifice to the production and the working of freedom against the forces of insane violence which Hitler has let loose upon this earth."

Preceding the President on the air, on the same broadcast, was the voice of a British workingman, Labor Minister Ernst Bevin; and it was my privilege to introduce him to his American audience today along with other Labor Day speaks. Every working man throughout Great Britain calls him "Ernie". He started as one of

them and descriptions by American correspondents tell us that in spite of his Cabinet rank, he still is one of them. And it was most specifically as a British working man speaking to American working men and women, that Bevin took to the air. He too, pointed out that both Mussolini and Hitler had smashed the Unions everywhere in Europe. Then he asked the question, "Can you leave one section of the great working classes to fight this battle alone?" And he answered himself, "You know in your hearts your future also depends in victory over Nazism." Then he added, "Surely, the working people will not allow any disunity in their own ranks to hinder the final victory over this monster who would destroy them!"

The pleas for peace in the union world were soon answered by American labor leaders. On this one hour labor broadcast I also introduced President Green of the A.F. of L. who spoke from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Green declared that the American Federation of Labor disclaims all responsibility for continuance of the civil war within organized labor at a time when the national safety requires that labor be united. He then followed with some acid remarks, not mentioning the C.I.O. but clearly referring to it. →

by inference. He declared that the unions had been obliged to fight several anti-labor bills in Congress. Those measures, he charged, were aimed at labor because of the excesses of the rebel movement. Because of the Communist inspired strikes by some of its unions and because of the generally unpatriotic policies of some of its leaders.

Green then spoke glowingly about the army of workers who are making America the arsenal of democracy. At the same time he warned the Government and the public that thousands of defense workers are living under shocking conditions. He admitted that of course those conditions are due to ^{the} defense emergency. But he insisted that they must be promptly remedied.

51
Jas. Carey read the Labor Day message from C. I. O. President Phillip Murray who was too ill to be on hand in person. Sidney Hillman of the O. P. M. sat with me and spoke also — and we switched back and forth for two and three thousand miles at a time in the most elaborate Labor Day broadcast on record.

REACTION

Among the congressmen who applauded ~~the~~ President Roosevelt's utterances today, was more than one Republican. For instance, Congressman Michener of Michigan, Acting Republican Leader in the House, declared that the country would welcome the President's declaration that industry and labor must quit messing up the defense program.

52
Congressman Bender of Missouri said he agreed whole-heartedly with the President, that both industry and labor must subordinate their private interests to national defense.

The Democratic leaders who applauded the President commented on his refusal to compromise with Hitler. Chairman ~~Sol~~ Bloom of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, like his leader, talked as though we were actually at war, when he pointed out that the President reassured the country that he will not enter into a negotiated peace.

But Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota said it was the usual appeal to the fears of the American people and should be well received in Great Britain.

MEXICO

South of the border, down Mexico way, this was a particularly important Labor Day. The Thirty-Eighth Congress of the Republic of Mexico assembled at Mexico City and heard the first message from the new President, Manuel Avila Camacho. Mexico, he said, will leave nothing undone to cooperate for the security of the Western Hemisphere against aggression at any given moment.

53
He said it that way: —
~~Those were his exact words,~~ "at any given moment."

Mexico's new President then spoke words that will be words of good cheer to quite a number of people. He announced that an agreement with the United States on several vexatious controversies is about to come to a full and satisfactory conclusion. He did not speak specifically about the dispute over the expropriation of foreign oil wells. At the same time he made it clear that the agreement will cover oil among the long standing quarrels.

Then he offered a proposal in the field of international politics. He suggested that all the Americas should sign a treaty promising to abandon conflicts among themselves. Evidently President Camacho was referring to the hostilities now going on between Peru and Ecuador.

He spoke scornfully of both Communism and Sinarquism, which is the name of the pro-Nazi movement in Mexico. He also appealed to the capitalists to invest once more in his country. He assured them that they would be treated fairly. At the same time, Mexico is not going to abandon the gains made by the labor movement.

WAR

Today ^{began} ~~it begins~~, the third year of Hitler's war. He passed it at Fuehrer's Headquarters on the eastern front, the place from which all the official communiques come to us. From there the little orator, the ex-corporal, once illustrator of picture post cards, ^{and horse painter,} directs the fighting of an army ^{of} somewhere between four and five million men. Four and Five million soldiers! - more than one hundred times the little force of thirty-five thousand with which Alexander the Great conquered the most powerful empires in Asia.

Though the exact location ~~is~~ of Fuehrer's Headquarters is a strict military secret, we are told that it is hidden in a thick forest somewhere in eastern Europe. No enemy bomber pilots can see it from above because it is invisibly camouflaged. The woods around it literally bristle with archies, and a double line of sentries from Hitler's own bodyguard protects him. ^{TP} In the middle of the encampment is Hitler's private train. Around him is a corps of advisors, field marshal, generals, adjutants, army group commanders, and Nazi party officials. And there this curious, baffling, hated little man directs the greatest mass carnage and destruction ever let loose

Impetuous

57

in the history of the world, giving orders to generals who were educated and responsible officers when Hitler himself was only a corporal and dispatch rider.

Today's news from that war is that the Red armies are counter-attacking vehemently. That isn't merely a claim from Moscow, the Nazis themselves admit it. The Bolshevik forces at present are not just defending themselves, they're on the assault in one long offensive all the way from Leningrad to the mouth of the Dnieper River.

Although the Nazi spokesmen admit the force of these counter-offensives, they insist that they were beaten off with terrific loss to Stalin's armies. The Moscow mouthpieces declare that Hitler's panzer columns have been slowed down both in the north and south. On the central front, says Moscow, the Red army group is pushing the Germans back.

Curiously enough, the Nazis talk about the tremendous number of tanks that the Reds are throwing into the fight. Some time ago, Hitler had announced that most of the Russian mechanized equipment had been destroyed.

56

Of course all this is ^{puzzling} ~~pretty vague~~. Neither side uses any place names, tells us anything about the exact position of the armies, ~~on either side~~. Berlin reports rather vaguely that a steel ring of Nazis is throttling Leningrad tighter and tighter. In the next breath they report rains that were regular cloudbursts, which made many of the Russian roads virtually impassible.

And here's the gist of a radio message broadcast from Helsinki, ^{where it was} ~~It~~ announced that certain foreign newspapers and radio stations have been putting out rumors that the Finns were disappointed and ^{were} negotiating ^a peace with Russia. To that the Helsinki radio adds the curt sentence, "These rumors are entirely unfounded."

From London the tale is of air raids over Germany.

Prime Minister Churchill is reported to have remarked in private conversation that the British would give the Germans bombs for breakfast, bombs for lunch, bombs for tea, and bombs for dinner. "Perhaps," added the Prime Minister, "we will have a few bombs left over for a night-cap." Something like that has been going on in the last couple of days. The British and the Russians

57

have been have been coordinating their airplane raids, delivering

concerted mass attacks. As usual, the German propaganda office ^H ~~made~~ ^{makes}

light of the raids, but even so ~~were~~ were unable to conceal the evident

fact that Germany suffered the worst night since the war began.

^{TP} The Germans, for their part, paid a visit to Hull, The English port on the North Sea. According to the Nazis, their raiders left ~~much~~ large fires behind them. The British admit that it was the strongest attack that any British place had endured in several months.

PLANES

From Ankara, Turkey, we have a story that British and American planes, which are arriving in great numbers in the Middle East these days, will be sent across Iran to Russia. And it is stated that these planes will be manned by R.A.F. pilots, together with flyers of the Russian air force. Besides planes, great quantities of other war materials are on their way to Iran, according to this story.

RUSSIANS

There seems to be a good deal of mystery about the party of Russians coming to Washington by air. They landed at Nome, Alaska, early this morning in two big seaplanes, to refuel after flying across the vast Steppes of Siberia: At The Soviet Embassy in Washington, a spokesman said there was no information about the mission that could be made public.

GASOLINE

Tomorrow we here in the East face again the hard fact of gasoline restrictions. The authorities let up over the weekend, and allowed everybody to have and use all they wanted. The holiday death toll indicates that many drivers paid little attention to the pleas heaped upon them from all sides -- this is, particularly the plea not to drive fast. Even a proclamation by the President failed to prevent a prodigious total of deadly accidents. This Labor Day weekend set up an all-time record.

As the office of the Petroleum Coordinator and also the Sun Oil Company have pointed out, speedy driving is wasteful driving. You get your best mileage around thirty-five and forty miles an hour.

If you are listening to me in your cars -- take it easy folks. What's the hurry? If you go slower you'll get there just as soon. Maybe a lot sooner. A lot. How about it Hugh?