

HUGH GIBSON - SUNOCO. MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1943.

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described as the counter-quip courteous.

Davis's letter began by saying that before he resigned he would like to finish two ~~things~~ things he had undertaken. One was to complete and announce the general program for food production for Nineteen Forty-Four. The other was to hold three meetings in New York, Chicago and San Francisco, essential to launching a broad program for food education. After finishing those two jobs, he said he would like to be relieved of his present responsibility. Then he went on to say that he found that he had assumed a public responsibility while the authority is being exercised elsewhere, ^{only} not ^{the} over [^] broad food policy but over day-to-day actions.

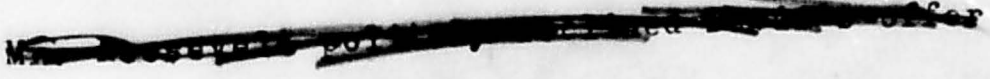
This of course has long been no secret to anybody in the United States, as it has been widely publicized that Davis was discontented with the position in which he found himself.

8 He went on to say that the President should have as Food Administrator a man who can whole-heartedly advocate and defend the program toward general subsidies which Mr. Roosevelt announced on June Fifteenth. Davis then used these words:- "I cannot do this for the reason ~~that~~ I do not believe such subsidies will be effective in controlling inflation unless they are accompanied here, as they are in England, by tax and savings programs that drain off excess buying power, and by tight control and management of the food supply." Davis then concluded with the words: "We do not have in this country anything approaching these conditions."

The President hinted pretty sharply that Chester Davis was quitting because he was unwilling to take part in teamwork. Then he explained that he had set up the Office of Economic Stabilization and authorized its director to settle all arguments between

the Food Administrator and the Price Administrator.
Mr. Roosevelt said that he knew of no better method
of coordinating the work of the food and the price
9 administrator^s, although he admitted that method does
require a willingness of both the administrators^{ors} to
accept ^{the} decisions of ~~the~~ stabilization director.

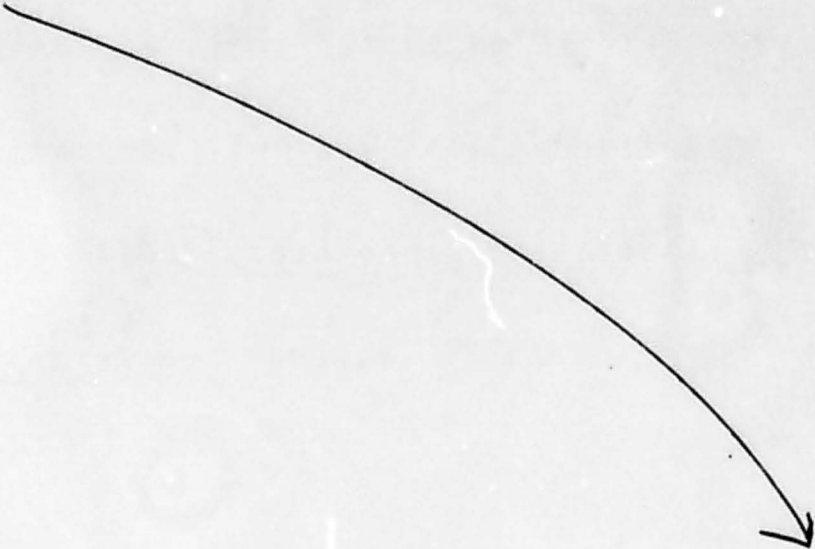
The President went on to say that he
agreed with Davis that we cannot effectively enforce
rationing and price control or stabilize the cost of
living without an adequate tax and savings program to
drain off excess purchasing power. He said he had asked
Congress in vain for laws to put such a program into
effect. Since Congress has not provided any such
legislation, he could not, the President said, sit back
and fail to advocate other measures such as limited
consumers subsidies.



It is to be inferred from the President's letter that he does not agree with the people who believe that food supply is the most urgent, ~~and~~ pressing and critical problem on the home front.

For his letter also contains these words:- "What I am concerned with is the objective of keeping the cost of essential foods down for the next twelve or fourteen months. That, it seems to me, is the immediate concern of the country."

Mr. Roosevelt politely declined Chester Davis's offer



to stay in office until he had completed the jobs he had outlined, including the announcement of the food production program for Nineteen Forty-Four. If Davis did so, the President said, whoever takes over as

Food Administrator would be called on to administer

a program which he had no part in determining. In short, you might describe the President's communication as a "Dear Chester" letter of cordial dismissal.

Judge Marvin Jones, whom the President picked

to succeed Davis, ~~x~~ used to be a Democratic Congressman

from Texas. He was Chairman of the House Committee on

Agriculture. Then he was appointed to the Court of

Claims. He has been on leave since January Fifteenth,

to become assistant to ^{Justice} Jimmy Byrnes, ~~as~~ Director of

Economic Stabilization. You may recall that he

presided over the highly censored international

conference on food at Hot Springs, Virginia.

COAL

The prime consequence of what has happened ⁱⁿ ~~to~~ the coal industry is that everybody is unhappy. The miners are furious because the War Labor Board would not allow them a ^a rise in pay. The ~~mine~~ owners are sitting on cushions of thorns because, although they own ^{the mines} ~~them~~, they do not have them. Harold Ickes, as Government Custodian of the mines, has the unenvied position of being between the frying pan and the fire. That is what he intimated to the Ways and Means Committee of the House today. Conditions, he added, are chaotic because, after all the bickering, there has been no permanent solution of the problem,

The Committee asked him whether the present truce until October Thirty-First ^{did} ~~would~~ not justify him in turning the mines back to the operators? He replied that he ardently hoped his own operation of the pits would ~~be~~ exceedingly brief. But he added that there

is nothing in the situation at present to justify that hope. He offered one consoling assurance: there is no intention on the part of the administration to nationalize the coal industry.

The center of discontent is in Pennsylvania. There, more than seventy thousand miners are still staying home. In Alabama, only eleven thousand out of twenty-two thousand, went back to work. Before the government turns the mines back to the operators, the government must be sure that the miners will go back to work and stay at work.

As for the stock of coal on hand, that picture is not any too rosy either. The hard fuel mined since April First is twenty-three million tons below what it should have been. There would not be enough to keep the wheels of the war effort turning but for the policy ~~his office has maintained in the~~

~~factories~~ of encouraging factories to build up their
stock piles. It was reported this morning that one-half
3 of the blast furnaces in the Pittsburgh district were
shut down.

INVASION

Strong formations of American heavy bombers have begun raiding Nazi positions in Greece. American Liberators operating from bases in the Middle East, bombed the great ^{air}aidromes near Athens. They also dropped leaflets telling the population of Greece to be of good cheer

because liberation is at hand. This was the second attack on Greece in four days. Last week the Liberators paid a visit to Salonika, where they met very little resistance from Nazi fighter planes. But as they approached Athens, large swarms of both German and Italian interceptors took off to meet them.

In spite of this
~~The Axis defenses did not do any good.~~ Our Liberators dropped their bombs on their targets, shot down at least seven enemy planes, and probably fifteen.

In fact, the raid was officially described in a preliminary report as a smashing success. Hangars were left in flames and the whole surfaces of the airdromes appeared to be covered with bursts. Several enemy planes were smashed on the ground.

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Meanwhile, heavy Wellington bombers of the Royal Air Force paid a night visit to Naples. The darkness did not bother them, because their way was

lighted by the red glow of Mount Vesuvius. Other British planes took off from Malta and raided Gerbini in Sicily.

We also learn - and this comes from Radio Rome - that an Allied air force attacked Reggio Calabria, at the toe of the boot of Italy.

Dispatches from London now talk about the ^{naval} ~~war~~ squadrons in the Mediterranean as the British invasion fleet. A bulletin from Berlin, by way of Stockholm, declares that some of Uncle Sam's men-o-war have steamed through the Straits of Gibraltar and joined that British invasion fleet. The London Admiralty already has a force of warships there amply sufficient to handle the Italian battle fleet, in case it can be brought to action ~~compelled to leave its harbors~~. So the United States battleships would be just so much velvet. In fact, the Italians believe that they have joined the British

in order to ~~supply protection for~~ ^{cover} landing operations.

Rome talks about the zero hour being at hand and expects a landing on either Sicily, Sardinia, or the mainland of Italy.

Stories from different parts of Europe talk about huge movements of troops. The French radio, controlled by the Nazis, announce^v that ninety-six divisions of German troops ~~have~~ ^{sent to positions where they are} ~~been moved so as to be~~ ready for the attack. Of these, forty divisions are in France, Belgium and Holland; sixteen divisions on the French Mediterranean coast; fifteen in the Balkans; and fifteen in Italy. So says the French radio. At the same time, the Nazi generals have ten divisions in Norway.

All in all, this would mean one million, four hundred and forty thousand effective fighting men, that is, providing the divisions are at full strength.

~~Then there is a report that the Italian~~

PACIFIC

Here is a piece of news Lowell Thomas would like to be hearing, if he can listen in.

The forces of the United States are now so strong in the Pacific that they hold the initiative.

This is official. The Senate Committee on

Appropriations heard the news from the Deputy Chief of Staff of the United States, Lieutenant General

McNarney. He said further that the tide of Japanese

though this the Japanese deny.
aggression is ebbing. The Nipponese high command is

practically withdrawing its forces toward the home

declared McNarney.
bases. The tide began to turn when we recaptured the

island of Attu. As the Deputy Chief of Staff put it,

our high command is now in a position to call its own

shots. He announced to the Senators that the coordinated

operations of our land and air forces are rapidly

bringing us toward a final victory. Then he admitted

that maybe he had been a little premature in using

the word "rapidly."

~~He said further that our aerial war has been~~

~~stepped up and we are beginning to soften up the
Japanese.~~

All this is particularly interesting, coming after the recent statement from Secretary of the Navy Knox that one of the most powerful American fleets in history is getting ready for action.

General McNarney's confidence about aerial war was expressed just as the Navy announced that our air forces in the Pacific have been ~~stepped up~~ stepping up the tempo of their attacks. They made seven more raids on Kiska in the Aleutians. That makes a total of sixteen in three consecutive days. The reasonable inference from that is that our high command is about to start an all-out attack to drive the Japs out of *their* ~~its~~ last remaining toehold in those North Pacific Islands.

~~Turning our eyes to the south, we learn that our~~

SUBMARINES

3/27
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1/2
~~Now for a piece of news that Lowell Thomas~~
~~will be glad to hear if he happens to be listening~~
~~in somewhere up in the air over South America.~~ Good
news from the Pacific war front! Our Navy Department
tells us that our submarines in the Pacific have sunk
eight more Japanese vessels, one of them a destroyer.
They include also one large transport, three medium
size cargo ships, one small cargo ship. one mine layer,
one small schooner. Besides that our pig boats damaged
seriously one large Jap transport and two medium
size cargo vessels. The Navy adds that these sinkings ~~had~~
have not been mentioned in any previous dispatches.
This news means that our underwater raiders have sunk
two hundred and sixty-nine Jap ships altogether. In
addition they have probably sunk twenty-nine and damaged
fifty others.

and now, Hugh James.