

L.T. SUNOCO - WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1941

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The war news tonight is nothing like as exciting as last night. No story to compare with the detailed account we had last evening of the sinking of the Bismarck. I am sure you all heard President Roosevelt's speech, or read it. I have some fairly important news to pass along to you, but nothing startling. So perhaps it won't seem too absurd for me to start out by telling you where I am.

Remember what happened exactly seven years ago today? That night I told about it on the air, one of the most amazing human-interest stories in all history. Just seven years ago today the Quintuplets were born. It had happened before, a few times in the past two or three thousand years. But no Quintuplets had ever lived more than an hour.

This time they have lived, And right now I am sitting on a little chair in front of a little table, in a little nursery in Callander, Ontario. Sitting beside me are Annette, Cecile, Emilie,

Yvonne and Marie. And you are very much alive too, aren't you girls?

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QUINTS:- Oui, Oui, Monsieur Thomas, etc.....

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L.T.:- Just a word more before I start to give you the news of the world, and then I'll come back to Callander after I get through with the news: Sitting around me here in the nursery are Papa and Mama Dionne, Doreen Chaput and Gertrude Provencher, the two nurses, Keith Munro, who looks after their business interests -- and that's a big job; their Aunt, Grace Diemers, who is also the cook; and another aunt, Alexandrie Le Gros, who helped them arrive in this world; Major Douglas Oliver, an Ontario official who brought me here. Oh yes, and I mustn't forget Miss Vezina, their teacher, who has given them a day off because it's their birthday. And others here are reporters from Toronto and North Bay, F. Darius Benham and Clark Kinnaird, Louis Sherwin from New York; Jack Painter and Jimmy Gleason from Movietone, and others. The nursery is crowded.

Dr. Roy Dafoe? No, the doctor is in a Toronto hospital tonight. He had a close call the other day, and his friends almost

gave him up. But, after an extremely serious operation, Dr. Dafoe is almost well. This is the seventh birthday of the Quintuplets, and tomorrow will be his fifty-eighth birthday; I believe he's

And listening to us. I'll bet he wishes he was here. Girls, have you anything you want to say to Dr. Dafoe?

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QUINTS+ (Dead silence!)

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L.T.:- Now let's take a look at the rest of the world. I'm afraid most of this news won't interest these little girls, and I won't blame 'em a bit if they get restless. But, the things I talk about may have a great effect on the world in which they are going to live, and we hope have many, many more happy birthdays.

First of all, the reaction to the President's speech.

Everybody in Canada is talking about it.

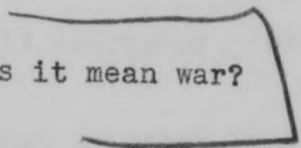
FIRESIDE CHAT

The world has had a day to think over the words of last night. The United States has had an opportunity to reflect upon the momentous utterance made by its president. The British Empire too -- for the fireside chat proclaiming national emergency concerned Britain as much as America. Here in Canada I can speak of the intense interest aroused -- a universal topic of conversation. It's the same likewise in London, Melbourne, Auckland, Capetown. Yes, and in every other capital all over the world.

As a fireside chat, it was a world-important declaration of national policy. The stern words that President Roosevelt spoke - declaring that the Nazi policy envisaged the conquest of all of this earth. Renewed promise that the United States will support Great Britain's war. Declaration that America will fight against any Nazi attempt to dominate the Oceans. That the Principle of Freedom of the Seas will be supported. Warning that any Hitler seizure of such strategic outposts as the Azores, the Canaries, or the Cape Verde Islands and the West African port of Dakar, will be considered as an act against the security of the United States and the western hemisphere, will be deemed -- an attack. These

pronouncements followed the declaration of full emergency.

And instantly comes the question -- does it mean war?



REACTION

Apparently the whole world was listening last night -- to President Roosevelt's declaration of full emergency. White House Secretary Steve Early indicated today that no other broadcast had ever been heard by so many people. In the United States, the Presidential Radio rating for last night -- was seventy. A survey estimated that it was heard by seventy percent of all possible listeners. More than sixty-three and a half million Americans lent ears to the full emergency address. In other nations? It is reckoned that twenty million more were listening -- in Canada, South America, and the British Isles. In Axis countries, of course, the listening was done by the few in power.

Today's response represents a pageant of world opinion. The Prime Minister here in Canada today spoke as follows :- "While it cannot be said that the President's statement was a declaration of war by the United States, it was," said MacKenzie King, " a clear declaration by the President to the citizens of the United States that the war has approached the Brink of the Western Hemisphere."

Across the ocean in Britain, the speech was hailed, hailed as a new assurance of still more important aid to Britain, a further

guarantee of eventual victory.

What about the Nazi side? Well you could hardly expect Berlin and Rome to hail any Roosevelt fireside chat, least of all this one. But, Berlin today did not indulge in any violent Nazi fulmination. The attitude of the Hitler people was somewhat subdued as if trying to gloss it over. Then Berlin repeats the menace, the threat previously uttered by the Chief Nazi Admiral - the statement that convoys or any similar measure to check the Nazi sea war, would be resisted by shooting.

In Rome, Fascists spokesmen took a serious view. They said that the Presidential address constituted a tacit declaration that the United States would enter the war sometime in the future.

The Vichy government of France showed a tendency to play down the White House pronouncement. A Vichy spokesman described it in these words, "A defensive speech intended for Pan-American consumption."

In Washington, Congressional opinion divided along the familiar lines -- isolationist on one side, aid to Britain advocates on the other.

Senator Wheeler of Montana, the non-interventionist leader, called the presidential speech, a virtual declaration ~~of~~ of war.

Senator Wagner of New York spoke his approval of the proclamation by the President; Senator Peopper of Florida said:-
"He served notice on the Dictators that England shall not fall."

But what about the public -- the hundred and thirty million of us? The response of the American People was tremendous, - though how it was divided between yes and no we cannot say. Presidential Secretary Steve Early declares that the White House Offices today were swamped with a tremendous flood of mail and telegrams -- pouring in all day long. Thus far it has been impossible even to count them -- let alone tabulate the division of opinion.

There was a quick reaction in the affairs of labor -- and naturally, since some of the most powerful of the presidential utterance concerned labor disputes in the strike situation.

At Charleston, South Carolina, today, a labor holiday was called off -- because of the fireside chat. Six thousand union men were scheduled to stage a one-day work stoppage as a protest against conditions in Charleston defense projects. The Union

leaders changed their minds after listening last night. They cancelled the labor holiday with this statement:- "The President said all rights ~~xx~~ gained by organized labor would be protected, and our action was taken immediately in response to that pledge."

In the battle of Crete, Berlin announces today that the resistance of the defenders has been broken. Specifically the Germans claim the capture of the City of Canea, the capital of Crete.

And the German claim to Canea has some measure of confirmation in a dispatch from British headquarters at Cairo which tells us that the Allied Defenders of Crete have made another withdrawal from the Canea area.

As for the sea and sky battle around Crete it still goes on, though with less magnitude and fury. Berlin today claimed bomb hits on a heavy British cruiser and a destroyer. Also -- a tanker set on fire by bombs.

London counters with a report of Axis ships sunk on the road to Libya. "A large liner of about eighteen thousand tons hit by two torpedoes, and may be considered sunk, with about three thousand enemy troops aboard. Another Axis vessel, a supply ship, torpedoed. Also -- a large oil tanker, And, a more striking item, a French tanker that was steering for Libya, escorted by an Italian warship.

BISMARCK

Berlin today states that the entire crew of the Bismarck went down with the ship, including Admiral Luetjens -- Germany's Number One sea fighter. The number aboard the pride of the Nazi navy? About fourteen hundred. All lost -- So says Berlin.

London has already stated that there were few survivors of the fifteen hundred aboard the Hood, when that great ship exploded. Which would bring the combined British and German losses to twenty-nine hundred. That much destruction of human life in the startling epic of the ocean -- that began with the clash off Greenland.

CALLANDER - ENDING

Now let's come back to Callander, back to the nursery of the Quintuplets from which I am broadcasting. This has been a busy day for these five little girls. It began with mass early this morning, when their Parish Priest, Father La France came to the nursery. They have a little chapel which I visited a moment ago with Nurse Chaput. Crowded into that chapel this morning were all the members of the Dionne family: Papa and Mama and the twelve children; also Judge Vakin, their senior guardian, and the Chief Catholic Chaplain of the Canadian military forces, Bishop Nelligan.

Presents? You never saw so many. And not that they needed any! Because they already have the attic of the hospital filled with clothes, toys and everything under the sun. Anyhow, this week presents have been arriving from all parts of North America. Many from youngsters of their own age, others from childless women who seem to have adopted the Quints, and , many from men.

Papa Dionne brought them a live butterfly in a bottle. And, I think they were more excited over that than anything else.

And, I'm sure Marie, Cecile, Yvonne, Annette and Emilie sitting here beside me would like to have me tell of what they are giving. For on their birthday they are doing something for others.

Outside the nursery here is parked a big khaki-colored automobile. On each side of it is a huge Red Cross. For the Quintuplets, out of their own money, have bought and equipped an ambulance which they today gave to the Red Cross.

There isn't time for me to describe Callander, the home of the Dionnes, the nursery, the crowds constantly coming and going, the five little beds in the room just next to where I'm sitting; their bathroom with the little washbasins just about a foot from the floor and so on; their school room next to that; and everything else. But I am sure you have all heard and read about these.

There's just time for me to tell you that the Quints are in grand health on their seventh birthday. And they are as charming and well-mannered as any children you ever saw. I've fallen for them --HARD.

Perhaps you would like to know how they are dressed. They have on cute little blue-and-white -flowered dresses that were also a birthday present -- Sanitized Chinese legendary print similar to one bought by Mrs. Roosevelt to help Chinese Relief. And they're wearing flowers and have pretty ribbons in their hair. Girls, would you like to help me and this broadcast with one of those folk songs that you've been singing to me? Will you lead, Annette?

(SONG)

L.T.: Now I think I'll go and get one of those famous Quintuplet stones and take it back to Hugh, who is going to be married soon. Then maybe some day we'll have quintuplets in the States!