

L.T. -- SUNOCO-MARCH 20, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm in Colorado tonight - to be more exact, I'm on board a train in the Denver Union station. A Union Pacific train called the Pony Express. One minute after I finish broadcasting, and while Hugh James back in New York is saying so long for me, aboard this Pony Express I'll be pulling out of Denver for Cheyenne, Wyoming. How has the war affected this mile high state? A lot of which is more than two miles high? Well, Colorado seems to be war minded enough, all right, it seems to be about 100% that way, but Colorado is not the sort of state that ever lagged behind in anything. Governor Ralph Carr who is sitting beside me tells me that Colorado has developed a defense council that beats all these western states and that every man, woman and child is being enlisted to do some sort of war work.

MACARTHUR

And how goes the war tonight? Well, the news tonight is dominated by two names, both beginning with A - America and Australia. Our own General MacArthur today issued his first statement as Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United Nations in the Southwestern Pacific. He declared that President Roosevelt ordered him to Australia to organize an offensive against Japan. The primary purpose of this, he continued, is the relief of the Philippines. So there you have two angles - the President envisioning a great offensive and MacArthur thinking of his comrades in the Bataan Peninsula.

In Washington the President today echoed this - he said that this country is doing everything possible to relieve the Americans and Filipinos in Bataan, but the President added that the supply task is difficult; complicated by those great distances and by the present shortage of shipping. Out in Australia the Prime Minister today told the United ~~State~~ Press correspondent Francis McCarthy that it's

the American plan to use Australia as the springboard for an Allied offensive against Japan. That in the Australian view is the meaning of the MacArthur appointment. Prime Minister Curtin of Australia revealed today that the naming of the American general as supreme commander was actually proposed by Australia and he added that President Roosevelt agreed instantly and then he added this phrase, "British acquiescence," said he, was a good deal more tardy. He stated that it was only natural that Australia should now turn to the U. S. for aid. We are depending on America, said the Prime Minister of Australia, our nations have much in common, ~~and~~ and he went on to explain that the great land of the southern hemisphere could not depend on the power of Great Britain as a shield against Japan. We realize, he said, that Britain cannot fully protect the far flung empire. He even went on to voice Australia's doubt about Britain's war policy. He said that as far back as the time of Munich the defense proposals drafted by the late

AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister Chamberlain did not sufficiently consider the British Dominions, and that state of mind continued, he added. And he argued also that the Australians had opposed the campaign in Greece and that they were right about it. He said that Australians were puzzled to see reinforcements poured into the British Isles too; where they felt there was little danger of attack. Then he focused today his criticism on Prime Minister Churchill. All of us admire that brilliance of Churchill, he said, although we sometimes have doubted the wisdom of some of the decisions he has imposed and feel that some of them have been dictated by political rather than strategic considerations. This is all the more pertinent because of a misunderstanding right now between the Australian government and Churchill. The trouble concerns Richard G. Casey who, until now, has been Australian Minister to Washington. Churchill has just appointed Casey to the London War Cabinet with the rank of Minister of State

to Cairo. Australian Prime Minister Curtin isn't at all keen about this shift and he said today that he was surprised at the speed of the appointment surprised that Winston Churchill should insist on it in the face of the reluctance of Australia.

NEW BRITAIN

On the war side the U. S. Army announces that two of its big bombers, flying fortresses, scored another direct hit on a powerful Japanese cruiser off New Britain Island. It's not indicated whether this was the same bombing success that was announced yesterday. The Japs are said to be moving two great fleets of transports guarded by heavy cruisers and airplane carriers - moving that Armada toward Australia. This might mean the much expected invasion of the southern continent with swift work from MacArthur. However, another dispatch tells of a Jap invasion fleet moving against Port Moresby - the key point on the vast island of New Guinea, north of Australia. And this may be the real explanation - a major effort to seize strategic points on the New Guinea coast. Last night we had the supposition that the Japs were trying to thrust across 110 miles of ferocious jungle and mountains on New Guinea, aiming at the south coast of that island near Port Moresby. Today we hear that they

NEW BRITAIN

THEY DON't intend to go all the way across. They are trying to seize a broad, fairly clear, almost unknown valley to the north of Port Moresby and there establish air bases in New Guinea to enable them to use air power at short range to cover an assault by the sea route.

BURMA

The word from Burma echoes General MacArthur's declaration in the Philippines - attack the Japs. The time is surely coming for an counter-offensive says Lieutenant General Stilwell, the new American Commander of the Chinese Armies in Burma. Our happiest day he added will be when we see American and Chinese troops together in Tokyo - Americans and Chinese. However, he gives us a word of caution. The Allies must be patient in regard to counter blows said he. The Chinese have been complaining that the British have not permitted them to send enough Chinese soldiers into Burma for the defense of that country. America's General Stilwell was asked about this, but he refrained from comment. On the Burmese battle front Chinese troops are in action today. They clashed with the enemy in the Sittang sector some 40 miles south of the key point of Toungoon, north of Rangoon.

TREATY

London tells us today that Soviet Russia has renewed a pact with Japan. A treaty concerning fishing rights. The question of Japanese fishing in the waters of Soviet Siberia has long been a source of argument between Tokyo and Moscow. It has been governed by one year treaties and every year there have been a lot of negotiations with renewal usually and so with this year. The fisheries' pact expired December 31. Since then Soviet and Japanese negotiators have been wrangling about renewal. It was concluded today - signed on the line - and of course it has intimations concerning larger things than fishing. It might be an indication that the Soviets and Japan have no great expectation of going to war immediately. On the other side of the immense Russian dominion the Red Army reports more successes tonight. President Roosevelt today proclaimed April 6 Army Day. We are engaged in our greatest war, said he, a war that will leave none of our lines wholly untouched, and the Presidential

PRESIDENT

Proclamation gives us these words. In times of peace we do not maintain a vast standing army that might terrorize our neighbors and depress our own people, but whenever a tyrant across the seas has threatened our liberties, our citizens have been ready to forge and use the weapons necessary for their defense, thus speaks the President in proclaiming Army Day, April 6.

Now about Colorado and the war. Sitting with me in this Club Aar of the Union Pacific Pony Express are a number of old timers, men and women who have been in this mountain state, well ever since the old days when some os us lived in Colorado mining camps. Out of the window we can see snow capped mountains - those glorious lofty peaks of the Rockies that have made Colorado famous around the world and in the group here aboard the Pony Express with me is one old timer with a long gray beard, long hair down to his shoulders, his name is Tom Weaver, and as a parspector he has sought for gold all through these

~~glorious~~ and silver mines may shut down in Colorado. Mines out of which have poured so much of this nations wealth. Mines famous in song and story - like the Portland and the Molly Kathleen at Victor and Cripple Creek, and the Camp Bird at Telluride. Is that report true Governor Carr? If so, how come?

CARR:

It's this way, Lowell, an order from the War Production Board informed us the other day that any mine producing more than thirty per cent in dollar value, more than thirty per cent of gold and silver, no longer will be entitled to a preference rating in purchasing the explosives and other materials and equipment needed to operate, but it so happens that all of these mines have by-products, also turn out lead, cooper and zinc, which is so badly needed for war. But they cannot be produced without at the same time mining the gold and silver which appear in the same rock. Yes, the rumor you heard today is correct. If that order promulgated by the ^{War}~~AF~~ Production Board

LOWELL THOMAS

stands than nearly all of the mines of Colorado will have to shut down.

L.T.

~~Well,~~ what is that going to do to Victor and Cripple and other mining towns where you and I used to live, Governor?

CARR:

They are going to shut down Lowell, and many other cities of brick and concrete and steel, built at high altitudes will become ghost towns within a few months, and the Red blooded Americans who know no other work will be driven from their homes and be forced to work elsewhere, and there are many who think the results of such action would be as bad as the passage through these mountains of the ravaging, invading army. We have been holding meetings here in Denver and in Reno, Nevada to try and find some other solution to this problem. ^RAside from that mining problem and it's a huge one, everything out here is going smoothly. We're all in war work up to our eyes and

LOWELL THOMAS

Colorado's sons are pouring out of these mountains joining up, ready to do their part to win the war.

Also we are going to have the greatest sugar beet crop in history. The unusually heavy snowfall assures us of a huge crops of many kinds.

L.T. ~~Well,~~ thanks Governor and here's a question which should interest a lot of people including ypu and me. Men between forty and sixty four are called to fill a labor shortage in the war industries. Will that happen under selective Service. They are going to register on April twenty seven. Thirteen million men between the upper age limits. They are not liable to competent military service, but they will register whatever kind of skill and experience they have. So will they be summoned to work in the war industries filling gaps caused by labor shortages.

Today President Roosevelt intimated that the answer might be yes. He told reporters that this nation would probably face shortages of labor, not right away but perhaps by next fall.

LOWELL THOMAS

He explained that at present there is sufficient man power for the nation's expanding war plants, but he is inclined to think that with plants continuing to expand there may not be enough workers come Autumn, and what to do about it. The President said it might be possible to use some agency already established to procure sufficient man power, where upon one reporter spoke up and asked does that mean selective service. The President paused for a moment and then replied that he didn't know - in other words - maybe yes, They tell us that the registration of men from 45 to 64 will reveal hundreds of thousands of what they call hidden skill. The President said today that he himself was going to register.

Here's how they settled a strike today at Weekawken, New Jersey. A longshoreman's walk out. Company officials and union leaders were negotiating holding a debate standing on a dock with strikers lounging around near by. The company and union were getting no where rapidly, and it looked bad for

STRIKE

settling the walk out. At that juncture one of the striking stevedores shouted at them in a loud raucous voice, "Hell, this ain't any tea party, this is war." he roared. "Let's all shake hands and go back to work." And the negotiators promptly took the advice and shook hands and agreed to let state mediators decide the argument. And 258 longshoremen were on their way back to work. That's the kind of news item I like to put on the air for a change.

In the early years of this broadcast long ago, we used to have a Tall Story Club in which we paid homage to the tellers of the biggest whoppers. After a while the Tall Story Club was discontinued. Apparently because its members had run out of really large prevaricating lies. However, I always kept in mind the resolve to revive our mendacious fraternity if some new and talented teller of tall tales should arise - some master prevaricator and tonight's the night. We can open the creaking door of the Tall Story Club and admit a new member, a brother who today

RETAKE

TALL STORIES

told one of the biggest on record. Who is he? Let me introduce him, the Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the U. S. At the White House news conference today the President told the reporters how at a White House dinner a lady asked him just how did General MacArthur get from the Bataan Peninsula to Australia. It was a military secret of course, she wanted the inside story, so the President gave it to her, relating the following. MacArthur took a row boat, disguised himself as a Filipino fisherman and according to the President he paddles that boat from Bataan Peninsula and passed unrecognized through heavy concentrations of Japanese naval strength. Furthermore, according to FDR and his version General MacArthur rowed, yes, rowed the boat himself, 2,500 miles, right through the Japanese fleet and landed safely in Australia. That's what the President told the lady and the President adds ~~me~~ that he thinks the lady really believed it, which also sounds like a tall one. Anyway step right into the tall story club tonight Mr. President of the U.S. And now, Hugh, you tell one.