

PRESIDENT

P.J. - Sunoco. Friday, June 20, 1941.

The President's message to Congress today was phrased with ~~uncompromising~~ uncompromising severity. It marks another step in the embitterment of relations between the United States and Nazi Germany -- how long a step, time will tell. The President denounced the sinking of the Robin Moor as an act of what he called - an international outlaw. He said that Hitler was trying to intimidate the United States, bully us in^{to} stopping aid to Britain. He charged that Nazi Germany was out to drive American commerce from the seas. This to be followed by ~~the~~schemes of further world conquest.

The message to Congress voiced a stern defiance. "We are not yielding and we do not propose to yield."

The President stated the American case of the sinking of the Robin Moor in clear sharp terms. The German U-Boat^s Commander did not take adequate means to save the lives of the crew and passengers -- ~~such provisions of safety as are required by~~ such provisions of safety as are required by international law. The fact that no lives were lost was entirely an accident, said the President. The rescue of the survivors mere good luck. "This chance rescue," declared

the Presidential message," does not lessen the brutality of casting the boats adrift in mid-ocean."

What are we going to do about it? The next step will make it amply clear. President Roosevelt expressed it in these words "The government of the United States holds Germany responsible for the outrageous and indefensible sinking of the Robin Moor. Full reparation ~~of~~ for the losses and damages ^Suffered by American nationals", continued the special message to Congress, "will be expected from the German Government."

The phraseology of the message was scathing, blistering. And next will come a protest to Berlin of the stiffest kind.

In Congress the Presidential message was received with vigorous applause by administration legislators. Senator Pepper of Florida cried "Adolf Hitler must be destroyed, or eventually he will destroy us." Representative Knutson of Minnesota said "It's a curtain-raiser for a declaration of War."

N.H.,
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Tonight off Portsmouth, a scene of tense drama is being enacted. For today an American submarine sank in those waters off the New England coast. The O-Nine plunged for a practice dive and failed to reappear. It's one of the smallest and one of the oldest subs in the navy. The story, breaking this afternoon, left doubt about the amount of safety equipment aboard the boat. ^{TP and} There is so much that's in doubt -- harrowing uncertainty. The main thing we know is ~~the~~ that the rescue forces of the United States Navy were mobilized immediately today and converged upon the scene where the O-Nine went to the bottom. ~~The rescue work~~ The rescue work directed from Portsmouth - so let's go to that submarine base, and inquire. Let's switch over ~~from~~ and hear from the Navy Yard at Portsmouth. (Note: This last is the cue. Their cue will be: "We return you now to N.B.C. in New York)

SUBMARINE

Well, they seem to have the diving bell ready, the same kind that was used in the rescues from the Squalus, and the hope is that the diving bell ipic **can** be repeated in the case of the O-9, and that once again lives will be saved.

FORD

Today the Ford Motor Company signed with the union - the ~~automobile~~ automobile workers union affiliated with the C.I.O. The announcement of the agreement was made simultaneously by Edsel Ford, President of the Company, and ~~Philip Murray~~ Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O. Under the provisions of the contract, the U.A.W. is recognized as a spokesman for all employees. All Ford workers are to become members of the Union. The company will check off union dues. The rate of pay will be at least equal to the highest of other similar ~~companies~~ companies. This is a milestone in industrial relations - Ford signing with the union.

RUSSIA

There is still no clarification about the state of affairs between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. The General appearance still is that Hitler is putting violent pressure on the Red realm of Stalin, in a drastic effort to obtain huge concessions of some sort.

The most pertinent news today is about Finland, stories that the government at Helsinki has ordered all men from eighteen to forty-four years old to register with the military authorities. They are to report immediately, and must hold themselves ready for army service at any time. Stockholm reports that Helsinki is beginning to assume the appearance of a deserted city. Thousands of Finns have left the capital - women and children in particular.

All of this, of course, tends toward the assumption that Finland expects war between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, in which case Finland would be a highly strategic point from which the Nazis would strike. They are known to have heavy forces of troops ^{now} in this little northern republic, and the natural course of action would be to drive south against Russia's number two city, Leningrad.

London is still perplexed by the Russo-German puzzle.

Today again the Beaverbrook press came out in support of the

Soviets. An article in the evening standard states the

following:- "If Germany goes to war with Russia, we ~~shd~~ should

recognize our interests in sustaining Russian resistance. We

should attempt to make our friends, the Americans, understand

too!" ^{So} _^ says the newspaper owned by Lord Beaverbrook, who

stands so high in the Churchill government.

In Russia, itself, all is cloaked in blank secrecy and censorship. There's no inkling for confirmation of the rumors that the Soviets are mobilizing. Red Army ~~is~~ maneuvers are being held, but their significance can only be guessed at.

There are ~~is~~ statements in the Soviet Press ~~is~~ which might hint at trouble with Nazi Germany - or they might not.

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Today's United Press dispatch from Moscoow emphasizes the complete calm in the Soviet capital, no excitement, no public concern apparently about Nazi Germany. Instead, the attention of the Communist press today was focused on something else, something far different. Soviet journalism concentrated on an event that little concerns this present-day world of ours -

something that recalls the times of long ago - the wars of
long ago. They've opened the tomb of Tamerlane.

TAMERLANE FOLLOW RUSSIA

At the fabulous city of Samarkand in Central Asia, they've opened the tomb of as terrifying a conqueror as this world has ever known. Tamerlan^e~~a~~ - Timur the Lame. He was a destroyer of nations and of men six hundred years ago, a great, great, great grandson of the Môngol Conqueror, Genghis Khan, an even greater destroyer of nations and of men. Tamerlane made himself Lord of ^S~~L~~amarkand, from which city, then so splendid, he issued on raids of fearful conquest.

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The Lame King subjugated the surrounding peoples of Central Asia in tempests of ruthless warfare, and then plunged down into India - golden Hindustan. He won ferocious battles, beseiged and stormed cities of untold wealth - slaying and looting. Then he smote the Turk - though the empire of the Ottoman Sultans was then in the growing vigor of warlike power. But the conquering Turks were utterly overthrown by the greater conqueror - the Limping Lord of M Samarkand. He was about to launch his devastation upon China, when he caught a fever and died.

At Samarkand they laid the crippled ^{monster} ~~monster~~ of war
to his final rest and peace. He was embalmed in musk and
rose water, and placed in a glorious tomb. To this day the
sepulchre of Tamerlane has stood in Samarkand - impressive,
beautiful, with a graceful dome and a tall minaret. The tomb
of Timur, called the Lame.

~~And~~ Today the word from Red ~~at~~ Moscow is that Soviet
scientists have opened the tomb ^{of Tamerlane in Samarkand,} ~~What did they find in it?~~

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They uncovered a marble slab weighing three and a half tons,
and under this giant slab a sarcophagus of marble. In this
kingly coffin, a skeleton. Today's dispatch from Moscow
tells that an examination of the skeleton reveals a striking,
stirring thing. One leg is shorter than the other - Timur
the Lame.

SHIP LOSSES

The British Admiralty today announced the losses of shipping for the month of May. The figure is - four hundred and sixty-one thousand tons. ~~Ninety-eight~~ Ninety-eight vessels sunk by the Nazi sea campaign, an average of over a hundred-thousand tons a week.

The total is less than that for the previous month, April. The difference between the ~~xx~~ sinkings in the two months is the greater because of a revision of the April figures which the Admiralty publishes today. The tonnage lost had previously been set at four hundred and eighty-eight thousand. Now it's revised - upward. A hundred thousand tons upward. In April, the Germans sank a tonnage of five-hundred-and-eighty-one thousand. That's the highest for the war, the blackest month for the British. It is to be noted that the Berlin claims give figures twice as high as those announced ~~x~~ by London today.

The British Admiralty report raises the total of sinkings for the war thus far to a figure approaching seven million tons - more than six million seven hundred thousand.

Since the beginning of the Nazi blitzkrieg at sea in March,

the ship ~~destruction~~ destruction has been at the rate of more than a half a million tons a month - making it altogether obvious that the combined shipbuilding capacity of both Great Britain and the United States cannot possibly approach that figure. Factual proof of what President Roosevelt said in his last fireside chat - that the building of ships could replace only a fraction of the sinkings, the way they're going.

London reports increasing success in the fight against the U-Boats. There are no ~~xi~~ figures given ~~on~~ of the number of submarines that have been sunk. That's veiled by official secrecy. On the other hand, the Admiralty notes that the Germans have a greater number of U-Boats in operation.

OIL

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President Roosevelt today issued an order concerning oil. He put all the products of petroleum under a rigid export control system. Hitherto, most petroleum products have been under such restriction - like high grade gasoline. Now - all of them. This measure goes into effect throughout the country, but for the present at least it will be used to embargo oil shipments from Atlantic ports only. Shipments to Great Britain, Egypt, and South America, however, are excepted.

Today's Presidential move is ~~not~~ designed to relieve the shortage in the Eastern States. It's a logical follow-up to the case at Philadelphia, in which a shipment of ~~lubricating~~ lubricating oil for Japan was held up.

The oil shortage is causing uneasiness in some Eastern States - the possibility of gasolineless Sundays, for ~~an~~ example. The uneasiness ^{is} ~~of~~ financial, and concerns gasoline taxes. These are an important source of income for the states. It is estimated that one dollar of every ten dollars of taxation in the United States is collected from gasoline. Sunday is the peak day for the consumption

of motor fuel, and it's also the high spot for the collection of motor fuel taxes. It is calculated that in New York State for example gasolineless Sundays would cut twelve million dollars a year from the total revenues of the State. Other states have ^{even} ~~been~~ higher gasoline taxes, and would feel still more severely any drastic cut in the consumption of the magic fluid. Consumption of the magic liquid that runs your car.

It may disappoint a lot of you folks with an inclination for romance, but I am compelled to announce that Billy Conn did not get married today. The wedding failed to happen though all was ready at the Church -- St. Philomena's Catholic Church in Pittsburgh. A crowd of five thousand, largely boys, was gathered to get a glimpse of Billy the Battler, who ~~was~~ so nearly ^{slapped} ~~tapped~~ the crown from the dusky brow of champion, Joe Louis. But the bridegroom and bride failed to show up.

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Billy Conn stayed at home. There he told inquiring newspapermen that he was not getting married today. And added glumly that it might be sometime before he would be wedded. Billy the Hibernian battler put it in these plaintive words:- "I'd love to be married today -- but I can't". Yes, a melancholy plight for the fist-fighting young Irishman, who so gayly ~~peppered~~ the tawny face of the brown Bomber in that bout for the heavyweight title.

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What happened? Why didn't the wedding occur according to schedule? We are not told. All that's revealed today is some more of the family angle. That was prominent yesterday, with the father of the prospective bride announcing his violent

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opposition to the marriage. Today, harsh words were spoken by the father on the other side of the fence. Papa Conn rose in Gaelic indignation because of what Papa Smith had to say about punching Billy unless he stayed away from eighteen year old Mary Louise. To that Papa Conn today responded thusly:-

"Smith might lick Billy," he roared, "But I'll be darned if he can lick me. He ain't never punched a Conn, and it'll be a sorry day ~~wh~~ for him when he tries". All of which would seem to indicate one of those Irish family situations.

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What do say M - Cross ?