

L.T. SUNOCO - AUGUST 8, 1933

Good Evening, everybody:-

Tonight the beautiful city of Havana lies tragic beneath the tropical sky. The day was one of terrified quiet. Streets were deserted. Soldiers and police of the Machado regime toured the city from end to end, all day, with rifles ready, bayonets fixed. I spoke by ocean telephone today with an old friend of mine now in Havana, who gave me a first-hand account of the dramatic events that occurred last night.

For a long time Cuba has been seething with unrest. A strike was on in Havana, with two hundred thousand men involved in the walk-out. Then suddenly a rumor drifted around the city, a rumor that worked like an electrical discharge in a tense atmosphere. President Machado, the report stated, had resigned. The word spread like wild fire. People told each other with flashing eyes that the Dictator who ruled so long with a mailed fist, had finally stepped down from his throne. There was a wild movement in the streets. Hundreds of Cubans who for years have been bitterly opposed to the Machado government, started a celebration. They went marching, shouting and cheering to the Prado, and gathered in front of the presidential

palace. "Machado has resigned!," they shouted and cheered!

But Machado had not resigned. The rumor was false. The Dictator gave an unexpected answer to the crowd in front of his palace, the throng that was cheering his downfall. He called his military forces, police and soldiers. They came hurrying to suppress the demonstration. There were a few skirmishes, some sporadic shooting, and then the troops blazed away with their machine guns. Your morning newspapers told you what happened. A hail of bullets streamed into the rioting crowd.

My Havana friend told me on the telephone that forty people were killed.) He himself saw seventeen bodies heaped up in the morgue. They were piled like players after a football scrimmage.

After the blaze of the machine guns Havana lapsed into a deadly quiet of terror all day today. There was a hush in hotel lobbies and the usually boisterous bar rooms. Today the food supply was running low. Many stores were shut. Business of every kind today was paralyzed by the

widespread strike. Soldiers went around and with threats of violence ^{and} made storekeepers open their shops. They tried to persuade strikers to return to work. Several American newspaper men, especially photographers, were roughly handled by soldiers and the police. Steamships ^{arriving} ~~arrived~~ ^{today,} at the port, turned right around again and steamed out without leaving either cargoes or passengers. The Havana waterfront ^{is now} ~~was~~ deserted.

In an effort to meet the menacing situation, President Machado today demanded and got from his Senate a declaration of martial law for thirty days. The general feeling, however, is that if the A.B.C., as the elements opposed to the government are called, can hold out and keep up their resistance, the Dictator will probably resign. If he does, last night's tragic rumor will have come true.

N.B.C.

FOLLOW CUBA

The flare-up ~~of trouble~~ in Cuba is of acute interest to Uncle Sam. At the summer White House it was said that the President is hopeful that Cuba ~~x~~ can solve its own problems. Mr. Roosevelt has instructed Ambassador Sumner Wells at Havana to try ~~some~~ more mediation ~~and~~ see if he can't bring the rival Cuban factions to some arrangement. Ambassador Wells called on President Machado today and presented a peace proposal which includes the temporary retirement of the Machado government. The latest indications are that there is little likelihood of the United States intervening actively in the Cuban tangle.

N.B.C.

This afternoon through the balmy skies of the Azorés a fleet of airplanes came winging. Yes, Balbo has landed *on the other side.*

other side. His sky flotilla has made the jump from Newfoundland across the Atlantic. ~~to the Azores.~~ They soared aloft at dawn today, and by three o'clock New York time had covered the twelve hundred miles to the Azorés. They didn't land all together in one formation. As they reached their destination they divided into two groups. General Balbo with fifteen planes came down in the harbor of Ponta Del Gada. General Pellegrini, second in command, landed with nine planes at the port of Horta not far away.

They ^{have} crossed the ocean coming and going, and now all that remains is the hop to the nearby mainland of Europe and back to Rome.

GERMANY

The latest in that squabble between Germany and Austria is that the Nazis had informed ~~the government at~~ Rome that they are doing their best to keep enthusiastic Hitlerites in Germany from ~~indulging in~~ activities against the Austrian Government.

9 And so it seems that while Hitler turned down the protest of France and England, he has made an acceptable answer to Rome. Anyway, Great Britain has notified Berlin that ~~its~~ His Majesty's Government considers that what Berlin said to Rome fills ~~is~~ the bill and is satisfactory.

N.B.C.

MUSSOLINI

Here's something about Mussolini's teeth -- and I suppose the reflection is that you wouldn't want the Duce to bite you. Doctor Piperno, Mussolini's personal dentist, is in Chicago to attend the centennial dental Congress. He was asked about Mussolini's teeth, and he said the Duce has strong teeth -- powerful bicuspid's. He's a good patient and he takes it. That is, he takes it from the dentist, not from political enemies. He doesn't seem to feel pain. He commonly reads a book while the tooth doctor is drilling at his Napoleonic molars.

N.B.C.

MOTHS

One of the strangest shipments ever sent on any railroad has just been accepted by the Canadian National Express. The shipment consists of forty-four boxes of pine moth borers, all in the cocoon stage. They have just come over from England. These ^{new arrivals in Canada} ~~pine borers~~ have been infected with a parasite, a kind of bug that is death to pine moth borers. The plan is for the parasites to be spread far and wide and thereby help in the destruction of the pine moth borer which is ruining the forests.

HEARSE

It seems that out in California a hearse is on the
rampage. Not a Hearst -- a hearse. The Sheriff of San
Bernardino County has asked the police to be on the lookout
for the ominous vehicle. A former employee of an undertaker
disappeared with various things that did not belong to him, a
traveling bag, articles of clothing, a revolver, and last but
not least, the hearse.

expected. The bill was available to a search of returns to

their petition to have the names of any candidates related to the

ballot. Their only hope is to attack the election in the courts.

N.S.C.

ARIZONA

It looks wet in Arizona, as it has all along -- not climaticly of course, but with respect to prohibition. I learned directly by telephone from Phoenix that voting today was rather light. Polls will remain open late. Early returns indicate that it's a walk-over for repeal; and that Arizona is the twenty-first state to turn thumbs down on prohibition. Of course, that was all expected. The dries were not able to get enough signatures to their petition to have the names of dry candidates ^{even} printed on the ballot. Their only hope is to attack the election in the courts.

N.B.C.

FLORIDA

It's odd some of the tricks the Weather Man plays. Up here in the North we've had some mighty hot weather this summer, while down in Florida it wasn't nearly so hot. At Miami beach the highest temperature registered this summer was ninety-one degrees. On the same day the thermometer in New York hit one hundred.

And if you don't believe that it's cooler in Florida than in New York, just ask the Miami Chamber of Commerce.

Miami Chamber of Commerce.

OPERA

One of the summer's events that has had people in the show business talking, concerns the tuneful subject of opera. At the Hippodrome in New York during this off-season, an operatic troupe has been holding forth -- and doing capacity business. They've been packing the huge Hippodrome, which holds six thousand people. What's the answer? Why, low prices, grand opera with the tickets priced from twenty-five cents to a dollar.

At dinner at the Hotel Gotham last night I was talking with J. Leslie Kincaid, the Manager, and a couple of theatrical men, who told us that the opera at the Hippodrome was an eye-opener for the Moguls of the show business. It indicates that the public in large American cities will respond to operatic music pretty much as the people of Germany, France or Italy. They will go in droves, if the prices are low, as in Europe.

DISPATCH

New York. Fifty children from a Jewish orphanage in Brooklyn went to Far Rockaway Beach this afternoon for an outing.

Most of them went bathing. Suddenly a sand bar gave way and fifteen of the tots were hurled into the surf. Bathers, lifeguards and several policemen rushed into the water and dragged nine of the youngsters out.

Police of the Far Rockaway Precinct tell me that one was drowned, and six are still missing -- believed drowned. Five were taken to hospitals, suffering from submersion.

The New York Yankees lost a chance today to reach first place in the American League. After taking a double header from the Washington Senators yesterday, the slugging Yankees lost 5 to 1 in the Stadium here at New York this afternoon. Washington has a 2-game lead.

AX-MAN

It seems that the Ax-Man tried to get a job and was turned down. The Ax-Man is my old Alaska friend, Emil Hurja, who won't mind my telling a neat one which is going the rounds. Mr. Hurja is reputed to be Ax-Man for Postmaster General Jim Farley. In more dignified phraseology he is called the Director of Personnel -- which means that he is Postmaster Farley's right hand man in handing out patronage, jobs for deserving Democrats.

The story goes that Secretary of Interior Ickes is not disposed to pass out jobs in his department according to the usual rule of political strategy. This has annoyed some Democrats who fought bravely in the big battle and feel they deserve a job. As an experiment Ax-Man Hurja, who didn't know Mr. Ickes personally, got a letter to him from Postmaster Farley. The letter recommended Mr. Hurja for a job in glowing terms. Emil Hurja then went to the Secretary and presented the letter, appealed for the job -- and was flatly turned down.

That's the yarn they are telling around Washington, although my good friend Emil Hurja says it isn't true, and I'll take his word for it.

ELLIOT ROOSEVELT

Somebody tried to hoax Elliot Roosevelt, the President's son. A package for him and his bride arrived at their Los Angeles Hotel with forty-five dollars due on it. Before paying the charges the desk clerk asked young Roosevelt about it. "Nothing doing", he said. The police were called and they found ~~xxxx~~ the forty-five dollar package contained marbles wrapped in cotton.

N.B.C.

NIRA

And now it seems that Nira is in the newspapers. Of course, she's been in the ^{headlines} ~~newspapers~~ with bells on for quite a while, ~~now~~.

This time it's the case of the newspapers getting together and formulating a code. It was submitted to General Johnson today.

The code provides for the ~~minimum~~ elimination of child labor under sixteen, except where newsboy work does not interfere with school.

White collar workers ^{are to} get a forty hour week. And I suppose that applies to workers in the business and editorial office. But the forty hour week does not apply to anybody who gets thirty-five dollars a week or more.

Officials made it clear that nothing in the code must interfere with the right of free speech as guaranteed in the Constitution. There must be no contract or licensing ~~provisions~~ which would prevent newspapers from being published freely and without restraint, according to the principle of the freedom of the press.

William Grant, President of the American Federation of

Labor announced today that he is considering a plan whereby the entire membership of the A. F. of L. will be recruited to check violations of the Nira codes.

The Foreign steamship lines announce that they are cooperating with Nira. They point out that industrial prosperity in the United States means better business for them.

The Harrison, New Jersey, works of the R.C.A. have increased the number of people they employ by eleven percent. Working time has been cut to a thirty-six hour week. This is a temporary arrangement to remain in effect until the code for the whole industry has been approved.

William F. McGrady, the chief labor advisor to General Johnson today flew by airplane to Uniontown, Pennsylvania, to address thirty-five thousand striking coal miners who did not return to work yesterday. Twenty thousand strikers are back on the job, but plenty of them held out because they didn't understand the agreement which was supposed to end the strike. The job of Chief Labor Advisor McGrady, was to explain it to them. Did he succeed in convincing that mass meeting of thirty-five

NIRA - 3

thousand strikers? He did. The men have agreed to go back
to work tomorrow.

N.B.C.

ADD NIRA

And Nira seems to be ~~moving~~ ^{dancing} along ~~into~~ ^{toward} Canada. Canadian industries are demanding something like our own recovery program. The movement began with the clothing manufacturers who are petitioning the Canadian authorities to sponsor a code which will guarantee proper dealings and fair practices.

sherwin

NIRA PRONUNCIATION

① I have always felt considerably at ease with that girl Nira -- until today. In the morning's mail came a scathing denunciation from Marcus Brayer of New York, who lambasts me as follows:

"I'll ask you most respectfully to stop giving me a pain in the ear with your pronunciation of N-I-R-A. The "i" comes from "Industrial" and I believe the best pronunciation would be "neara," and not "Nira" as you slaughter it, giving me a good stiff pain in the ear, not to mention the neck.

Well, that does make me a bit self-conscious when I pronounce the name of the young lady whose bright eyes *and* sweet smile are supposed to charm the country out of its troubles. But just the same, I think my pronunciation is pretty near right. "N-ara" is near, but NIRA is nearer.

NIRA

Katherine M. Jack of Trenton, New Jersey, sends
me a verse about Nira. Here it is. What do you think of it?

Nira, before you came, days were dire-a,
But now, you've brought our hearts' desire-a,
So our praise of you will never tire-a.

And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMIRE-A.