

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

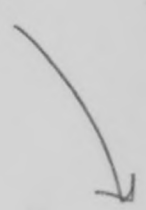
Today the President sent his price-control-and-tax message to Congress - a message that put forth just about the most sweeping and leveling proposal ever presented by any American President. If Congress carries it out, and turns it into law, it will mean that few Americans, after all taxes are paid, will have much more than enough to cover the so-called necessities of life, and pay some debts.

President Roosevelt today used these words:

"Our standard of living will have to come down."

And he explained:- "We cannot have all we want

if our soldiers and sailors are to have all they



need. We shall have to live our lives," he continues, "with less in the way of creature comforts than we have in time of peace." This he calls:- "the equality of sacrifice", and he adds that it is more true to call it "an equality of privilege."

There are seven points in his program, and terrific taxation is the first. Not only corporation profits but personal profits ^{to} ~~must~~ be kept at a low level. "No man," says Mr. Roosevelt, "should have more than twenty-five thousand dollars a year after all his taxes are paid."

Next he deals with rationing. This ~~must~~ ^{to} apply to all essential commodities of which there is a scarcity. But he adds that for most of the basic necessities of life ~~it won't~~ ^{rationing will not} be necessary.

~~However,~~ ^{As} to wages, he says: "We must stabilize the remuneration received by individuals for

their work. However," he adds, "the War Labor Board will continue to give due consideration to inequalities."

And those who work more than forty hours a week should continue to be paid time and a half.

His next point is prices. Ceilings are to be placed on all prices to be paid by consumers, retailers,

wholesalers and manufacturers for the things they buy,

ceil^{ings} also on rents in all areas affected by war

industries. The President wants this to apply also to

farm prices, and that's where he ^{will meet} ~~s going to run afoul~~

~~of~~ opposition in Congress. ~~The hundred and ten per cent~~

~~parity limitation should be reduced to a hundred per~~

~~cent, he declares,~~

He then demands that all Americans should buy

War Bonds until it means rigid self-denial. ~~that~~ ^{Meaning}

a substantial reduction for most of us in our scale of

expenditures. But he adds that the buying of Bonds must be kept voluntary as long as possible. No compulsory buying as yet.

The President relieved the anxiety of a good many people in one respect, ~~I mean~~ those who own property with mortgages. They will not be required to buy Bonds to the extent of defaulting on the mortgages and losing their property. At the same time, he wants all instalment buying, all credit, to be discouraged.

The heavy taxation, he believes, will keep down inflation and the spiraling of prices. ^{TP} His pronouncement that nobody should make more than twenty-five thousand a year net, will affect roughly some ^{fifteen} ~~fifty~~ thousand persons, including himself. There are ^{said to be that many} ~~roughly fifty thousand~~ people in the country who reported incomes of more than fifty thousand a year.

Several Congressmen promptly voiced opposition to individual points that the President made. Farm bloc leaders immediately objected to reducing the ceiling of farm prices to parity. One Congressman said the only way to keep down the profits of corporations would be to tax all of the companies' earnings over a certain return on invested capital. Congress has consistently refused to do this up to now. And several Congressmen were frankly disappointed because the President was against any law to restrict the demands of labor.

There have been warnings that extremely drastic taxes would be inevitable as the war continues. But a good many people still cherished the hope that the adjustment would be gradual. So, as reports from different sources indicate, the whole country tonight is talking about the sweeping severity of President Roosevelt's program. Tomorrow evening

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we are to hear a fireside chat on the subject, from the President. The exact hour has not yet been decided, but it will be some time in the middle of the evening.

RATION

There may be an investigation by Congress into the rationing business. President Roosevelt today received a telegram from Governor Wills of Vermont, who used these words:- "The cross-purpose announcements originating in Washington from the many governmental agencies, are disruptive of national morale." Governor Wills was talking specifically about gasoline. And he added:- "The American people are not children who have to be frightened. It is respectfully suggested," said the Vermont Governor, "that until policies have become more than hazy dreams, no further public announcements should be made."

People in the agricultural states have been pointing to conflicting announcements concerning sugar. The Secretary of Agriculture has urged housewives to do all the canning they can, but the Price Control Administrator has cut down the sugar ^{ration so low} ~~allowance without~~

~~which~~ ^{that} canning ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{may be} impossible.

However, it was the gasoline situation that provoked a resolution in the House ^{today - a resolution} asking the Speaker to appoint a committee of five Representatives to investigate.

^H The resolution was introduced by Democratic Congressman Weiss of Pennsylvania. He too made the protest that "conflicting and confusing orders, emanating from Washington, undermine the morale of the people."

Another Governor expressed himself on the subject. Governor Broughton of North Carolina ~~He~~ feels that if gasoline is to be rationed to anybody, ^{it should} ~~it is to~~ apply to the whole country, not merely the people on the east coast.

^{The Office of Price Administration}
~~The O.P.A.~~ today laid down rules for people who want to buy a new motor car. To obtain permission for that, you have to prove that you need a car principally

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to get to and from work, either because you live some distance away from your job, because buses are over-crowded, or your physical condition makes it a hardship to walk, or other unusual circumstances.

R.A.F. - Rostock

The British answer to ~~Adolph~~ Adolph Hitler's threat was a fourth heavy raid on the Baltic seaport of Rostock where Heinkel planes are made. Said to have been the most devastating raid of all. The British Air Ministry followed up the raid with special observation flights, and the aerial photographs taken by the reconnaissance pilots show that the raids caused such destruction to the huge Heinkel factory that it was left in a state of chaos and ruin. Some of the photographs show the main railroad station packed with people, waiting for the next train, apparently for any train to take them away from Rostock. The Air Ministry adds that photographs from many parts of the city show what the people are leaving behind -- vast ruin, much of which is still concealed by dense clouds of smoke from fires raging in Rostock.

The British bomber crews found huge fires still burning from the previous raids. Whereupon they

spread and increased these fires with more tons of high explosives.

The German High Command in admitting that much destruction occurred at Rostock, says nothing about the destruction of the important Heinkel airplane works, which was the main R.A.F. objective.

HITLER

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Fuehrer Hitler singing the blues, has made the whole world speculate about him today. The latest comes from London. The Churchill Government spoke through the mouth of Lord Chancellor Simon, who ventured the ~~xxx~~ guess that the Nazi top men are about to pull off another purge. There are forces arising in Germany, said ^{the} ~~Simon,~~ Lord Chancellor, ^{forces} which are not subservient to Hitler's will, and ^{that} ~~certainly~~ ^{Hitler's latest oratorical effort} ~~this last speech~~ indicated that he is not entirely

satisfied with the internal condition of his country. ^{Which perhaps could be said about the leaders in every country.} The reaction of Russia was one of "I told you

so." Soviet officials point to ^{the} ~~that~~ ^{as} speech, the first the Fuehrer ^{has} ever made with a defeatist tone, and say it proves what the Reds have been saying, that the tide of war has turned. The Russians point out that Hitler, instead of promising his people a quick victory as he did two months ago, can now promise them nothing but

another winter on the eastern front.

In Washington, Senator Cotton Ed Smith remarked that Hitler is about through; and Senator George of Georgia declared that the speech indicates clearly that Hitler no longer expects to win the war this year.

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Congressman Cartwright of Oklahoma was reminded of the plight of Grandpappy Morgan, a dweller in the Ozarks. Grandpappy was late for supper, so they sent his grandchild to look for him. Grandson found him standing in the bushes, and said:- "Gettin' dark, Grandpa."

To which Grandpa replied:- "Yep."

"Supper time, Grandpa,"

Again he answered, "Yep."

"Ain't you hungry, Grandpa?"

"Yep."

"Wal, ain't you coming home, Grandpa?"

"Nope."

"Why ain't you comin' home, Grandpa?"

To that the answer came:- "Standin' in a
b'ar trap."

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This afternoon, while talking to Lord
Beaverbrook, who is rated as one of the most powerful
men in the British Empire, I asked him what he thought
about Hitler's speech. In return he put a question to
me. His question was:- "If Hitler actually were so
pessimistic, would he be telling us about it?" And,
Lord Beaverbrook added: "Hasn't ~~xx~~ one of our weaknesses
long been" -- speaking of British and Americans and
Canadians and Australians -- "hasn't one of our
weaknesses been a tendency to interpret everything
so that it will seem favorable to us?"

Let's hope we are not fooled by Hitler
and Goebbels this time.

RUSSIA

The latest from Russia is that the Soviet army has been adopting the commando tactics begun by the British. One Russian commando raid almost came to grief; it walked into a trap. This was in the north somewhere, the dispatch doesn't tell us exactly where. It may have been on the Baltic coast, west of Leningrad, or the Arctic coast of northern Finland, west of Murmansk. At any rate, a detachment of Red marines landed on a strip of coast held by the enemy, carried out its ~~reconnaissance~~ ^{raid}, and was intercepted by a large force of Nazis. The Russians were surrounded and in a bad way until a flight of Soviet planes appeared, swooped down and attacked the Nazis at almost treetop level and put them to flight with machine gun fire. The marines then made their way back to the coast and escaped aboard ships of the Soviet northern fleet.

BURMA

Favorable news from Burma for a change tonight.

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The Japanese have been driven out of a sector they had captured on the eastern Burma front, the sector from Taunggyi to Hopong. ^{Said to have been} ~~They were~~ driven out by the Chinese troops under ^{the American} ~~our own Lieutenant-General, Uncle Joe~~ Stilwell, ^{whom} Old Army men ^{refer to} ~~who served under him~~ describe ~~him~~ affectionately as "Vinegar Joe."

The recapture of that sector came at a convenient time. It was pulled off just as the Japanese were advancing with a strong division toward the important railroad junction at ~~a place called~~ Thazi, ~~a center of~~ ~~communications to the~~ south of Mandalay. If they had taken it, the Japanese would have outflanked the whole Allied defense front in central Burma. ^{TP} ~~So~~ ^{The} successful action by Vinegar Joe's Chinese army, ^{we hear,} cut the communication lines of the Japanese. ^{And in this he} ~~He~~ was helped by American volunteer pilots who shot down five Japanese planes.

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A ~~later~~ dispatch from the Burmese front is not so good. It reports that a Japanese mechanized division has worked its way around the eastern end of the battleline and, advancing fifty miles at high speed, has driven to a point within a hundred miles of Lashio, the terminus of the Burma Road. ^{Putting} That puts them ~~in a~~ ~~dangerous position,~~ northeast of Mandalay.

PHILIPPINES

For the first time since April Twenty-Second, we have a War Office communique on the Philippines. General MacArthur, from his headquarters in Australia, reports that the uncrushable defenders of Corregidor withstood their two hundred and fiftieth air raid. The latest being an attack by Japanese dive bombers, while the Jap artillery cut loose from the mainland, bombarding Corregidor for four hours. The men of Corregidor once again replied with sharpshooting long range fire that silenced the Japanese guns, broke up an enemy troop concentration in Batan, and set a part of Jap trucks afire.

General MacArthur also tells us that the United States Army contingent on the island of New Caledonia is under the command of Major General Alexander M. Patch, Jr., Evidently, he's a born soldier, for the records give his birthplace as an Army post in Arizona.

SERBIA

The Serbian guerilla leader, General Mikhailovitch, is going to ask for supplies under ~~the~~ Lend-Lease ~~Act~~.

The report comes not from Washington, but from London, although the exiled Jugoslava Government is represented in both places.

Mikhailovitch and his Chetniks, as the guerrilla bands are called, have been giving the Nazis more trouble than the people of any other occupied country. ~~As a result we learned~~ ^{we heard} last week ^{how} the Germans arrested Mikhailovitch's wife and children and threatened to shoot them if the General didn't surrender, ~~but he~~ ^{to all} ~~of which the Serb leader~~ ~~has~~ paid no attention, ~~to that~~. The Nazis even claimed to have captured him, but that is denied in London.

~~Anyhow the Nazis~~ ~~They~~ publish still further advertisements in the Belgrade newspapers, threatening the families of all guerrilla fighters. ~~R~~ The Germans admit that in some districts the Chetniks have done enormous and irreparable damage.

~~~~~ 0 ~~~~~  
An amusing report comes out of Jerusalem, where

the Yugoslav refugees publish a weekly newspaper. The

*story is that the*

^ Italians sent a special request to the guerrilla leader

asking him to release Italian prisoners. Mikhailovitch

consented, on condition that the Italians pay him in

gasoline. The trade terms are, one can of gas for every

Italian private, five cans for every officers under the

rank of colonel, fifty cans for each colonel. The story

says nothing about generals. *Perhaps* ~~Presumably~~ a general is

*more of a than*  
not considered ~~an asset, but~~ a liability *than an asset!*

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## ELECTION

The Canadians are voting today and breaking all records for election figures. Not that they are voting anybody in or out of Parliament. All this concerns that plebiscite to decide whether the MacKenzie King government may draft the men of Canada for service overseas.

At the last general election, Prime Minister MacKenzie King and his party were voted in on a promise that none but volunteers could be sent across the ocean. And now that issue is up to ~~the~~ all Canadians from coast to coast. And they have been flocking to the voting booths all day -- particularly in the Province of Quebec. The Quebecois have been reputed to be averse to fighting anywhere outside the Dominion. But, when the votes are counted we'll have the final verdict of the people of Canada from Halifax to Herschal Island.