

L.J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, June 3, 1941.

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In Washington - there's likely to be a congressional battle over the "draft property" bill. That measure as now ^{drawn} ~~drafted~~ would give the President the right to requisition any and all private property in this country ^{— any} that he ^{might} ~~may~~ consider expedient for national defense. The angle that provokes the most discussion is the element of - time. There are two kinds of time limit in question. One concerns how long the bill, if passed, should continue, ~~for~~ how long a period should the presidential right to requisition private property be granted? The other - how long should the government hold private property thus taken over? Forever - or for a limited period? The bill ~~was~~ as now drawn has no time limit at all - neither of one sort or ~~in~~ of the other.

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Today, Congressman Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives, had a conference with ^{the} ~~President~~ ~~Roosevelt~~, and upon emerging from the White House, expressed himself in favor of modifying the "draft property" bill. He said he thought there should be a limit on the length of time the government could hold property that might be requisitioned. Meaning - that private possessions should not be taken over for all time, but only for the

duration. ^{To} ~~It should~~ be returned after the emergency is over.
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Under-Secretary of War Patterson spoke up in favor of passing the measure as ~~it~~ is. He used these words:- "In the broad form, just as it is." He admitted the bill was drastic, - "very sweeping and very strong," said he. "But," he argued, "it's needed in this war emergency." He told of several cases in which the government had been unable to acquire things it wanted for defense purposes. "One of these instances," said he, "involves a man who refused to give up his airplane. He said he preferred to use it for his own purpose, which, I understand, is amusement" - said the Under-Secretary of War. Adding, "he still has the plane."

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One supposition is that the "draft property" bill is designed to take over plants tied up by strikes. Assistant Secretary of War Patterson said the measure had not been drafted with that idea, but undoubtedly could be applied for that purpose. Under the "draft property" bill the government could take over plants put out of operation by strikes.

The indications are that the new and drastic piece of legislation will stir the largest debate in Congress since the Lend-Lease Bill. It is, in fact, a follow-up to the Lend-Lease Bill. Mobilize American industry for the defense of the democratic nations.

ADD DRAFT PROPERTY

Here's a dispatch just in from Washington. It's a presidential declaration on the subject of the "draft property" bill. The purpose of the measure is to give the government power that cannot be questioned, to make sure of the delivery of orders under the defense program. So says President Roosevelt. He was asked whether he thought ~~that~~ it was essential to give the government the right to take over property permanently, -for good. The President refrained from any comment on that question of a time limit. He indicated that he wanted a greater amount of authority for dealing with such situations as stubborn strikes that tie up important defense industries.

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WALL

I heard some interesting things today from a newspaperman just back from Nazi Germany. He is a free-lance correspondent; Carl Wall who is writing a series of articles for P.M. One astonishing thing he told was about the reaction of the German people to the string of victories the Blitzkrieg Armies have been winning.

Are the Germans enthusiastic about their military triumphs? Not at all, says newspaperman Carl Wall. He declares that the rank and file of Germans are not elated when the news of some new success of a Blitzkrieg comes flashing. They take it with a subdued air -- almost lugubrious. Asked about the British bombing of Germany, Wall said there's little damage to be observed in Berlin -- but a huge amount of devastation at the great North Sea ports -- like Hamburg and Bremen.

What about Germany and Russia? He stated that the German people have no enthusiasm for the tie between Hitler and Stalin. They dislike the Russian Reds -- and public opinion is hostile toward the Soviets. Wall told of a visit to the Lithuanian frontier where the Germans and the Red Army face each other. The Nazis are mobilized there in powerful force; and the air is one of tension and mistrust.

KNOX

2-0
Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox today called for what he described as - "a miracle". This - in the realm of shipbuilding. -
~~It's to~~ construct more freighters, more and more of them - for national defense and aid to Britain. "Bring about the miracle", cried the Secretary. He suggested a way of bringing it about, a competitive system in the shipbuilding industry. Competition in the construction of merchant vessels. Addressing a conference of naval shipbuilding experts, he ⁴proposed that a competitive system be worked out, whereby groups of workers in a shipyard, would run a race with each other, a construction race - see who could turn out a craft the more speedily.

WINANT

Today was a busy one at the White House -- heavy conferences.

The United States Ambassador to Great Britain was there for four

hours. He talked things over with ^{the} President ^{and then with} ~~Roosevelt and~~ Lend-

Lease Administrator Harry Hopkins. Ambassador Winant ^{who} ~~went on the~~

~~trip~~, is home to report to the government on British war conditions.

He did a lot of his reporting today, and it must have been extremely

interesting to hear. ^{all of which is} ~~That's~~ hardly a subject for publication,

however, and we're not told about the things the ambassador disclosed

to the President and the Lend-Lease Administrator. (Harry Hopkins'

views on getting aid to Britain are well known -- especially after

a magazine article printed today. Hopkins has a piece in the current

issue of Colliers. It's ^{now} titled "HITLER WON'T WIN ", and makes

specific declarations that the United States will see to it, that

lend lease aid is delivered across the embattled Atlantic.

FRANCE

The focus of the foreign news today was on France and French Syria. And the latest is that armed units of the French air force have been secretly shifted to Syria - also to Tunisia in North Africa. ^{War} ~~Fighting~~ planes have been transferred to those areas to fight against any attempt ^{on the} ~~against~~ French colonies.

A dispatch from Vichy states that this new movement of the French air force has been made with the permission of Nazi Germany - under the terms of the Franco-German armistice.

All day long today, Marshal Petain sat in conference with his ^{Cabinet} ~~Council of Ministers~~. We are told that the subject of their deliberation was - French Empire defense. Beyond that, there's no word of what decision Petain and his Ministers may have made. The news from Vichy is shrouded by censorship. We are merely informed that the Petain regime is determined to protect the French colonies with armed force, if necessary, and the following phrase is used - "singled-handed' defense."

That applies to the stories of German forces being in Syria, and that the French and Nazis will fight side by side.

The Vichy people issue a ^{positive} ~~general~~ denial, and today General Dentz,

the Commander-in-Chief in Syria, declared that not a single German has arrived in his province. He charged that the stories of German troop landings in Syria were propaganda reports circulated to give the British a pretext for invading that strategic French possession.

However, the rumors still persist. ^{Cairo} ~~A Cairo report~~ tells of large numbers of Germans going to Syria with Bulgarian passports. These alleged Bulgarians are taking things over, says Cairo.

From Turkey we hear that no German motorized forces have arrived in Syria - only aviators, technicians and military officers. And here's the latest - ⁻⁻⁻ it's picturesque. A Turkish ^{and} ~~bulletin that~~ [^] ~~report as follows:-~~ "Travellers from Syria reported ~~ed~~ tonight that French signs at the Aleppo airport ^{have} ~~had~~ [^] been repainted in the German language!"

ITALY

From Rome we have an indication that the meeting between Hitler and Mussolini was largely concerned with the possibility of American intervention in the war. We know to begin with, of course, that the Nazi and Fascist chieftains would do plenty of confabulating about the attitude of the United States. The story from Rome goes further and says that Hitler and Mussolini laid definite plans for what to do, how to cope with possible American intervention.

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The spokesman ~~is all this~~ is Gayda, the perennial mouthpiece of Mussolini. He goes on to hint that the Fuehrer ^{-Duce}~~Mussolini~~ conference ^{is}~~was~~ a prelude to another new attack to be launched by the Axis, powers.

RUSSIA

Soviet Russia makes another move which certainly seems to be significant. Moscow today withdrew its diplomatic recognition of the Kingdom of Greece. Greece conquered by the blitzkrieg machine. Stalin's Foreign Office says - We recognize you no longer. This follows similar Soviet action toward other victims of Nazi conquest - Holland, Norway, Jugoslavia. In the case of Greece, as in these previous cases, the Soviets explain their withdrawal of diplomatic recognition by saying - "loss of sovereignty."

SABOTAGE

There was increasing suspicion today that there was sabotage in the crash of the big bomber at San Diego, California. The quarter of a million dollar sky giant was built for Britain, and it plunged into San Diego Bay on a trial flight, ^{— five lives lost,} Today, an aviation official stated the indications ^{are} as follows:- "Witnesses," he declares, ^d "report the pilot was having difficulty with the elevators, which would seem to have jammed. Controls," he added, "just don't jam of their own accord - that is why we say there is good reason to suspect sabotage."

The next step is to draw the wreckage out of the water for examination. Today divers attached lines to haul up the massive plane. The controls will be carefully studied to determine if they had been tampered with, causing them to jam.

FIRE

There has been a good deal of talk about the immense fire disaster in Jersey City last weekend. The first thing was - suspicion. Was the twenty-five million dollar sweep of flames the result of sabotage? No - said the Jersey City local police and the F.B.I. It was undoubtedly an accident. Carelessness.

Today Daniel Casey, Public Safety Director of Jersey City, gave an official opinion of why the conflagration was so great, why it swept so far and wide, out of control. He said it was because of a twenty minute delay. The City Fire Department was not summoned until twenty minutes after the blaze was burning. Why? Because company employees tried to put it out. With a quick sense of duty, they jumped into action, and tried to extinguish the fire with their own equipment. They neglected to realize how inflammable were the masses of hay and straw in the cattle pens, and neglected also to note what a high wind was blowing. Their own fire fighting equipment was utterly insufficient, and the tempest of flame was ~~on~~ quickly on its way to widespread havoc before the Fire Department was called. The alarm went in -- twenty minutes too late.

HUGHES

It is taken for granted in Washington ^{tonight} that Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes will be succeeded by Attorney General Robert H. Jackson. The retiring Chief Justice, who is one of the most distinguished Americans of his generation, is returning to private life because of his age and health. President Roosevelt, in accepting the resignation, expressed the feeling of the nation in saying that he was - "deeply distressed." Charles Evans Hughes leaves a vacancy on the high tribunal which in some respects will not be filled - so great was the place he made ^{by his vast} ~~for himself by his great~~ learning ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ law, his judicial breadth and soundness and ^{his} splendid dignity.

The President now has two vacancies on the court to fill - giving him an opportunity to name a total of seven justices, more than any president since George Washington. The first President of course ^{all of} named the first Supreme Court. ~~and other members later~~

GEHRIG

Tomorrow at all the baseball parks of the American League - flags will be flown at half-mast. An expression of mourning, as the funeral of Lou Gehrig is held. A well deserved tribute to a memorable and tragic figure in the sport that this country calls its national game. Lou Gehrig, the great first baseman and champion batter - the Iron Horse. Colleague of Babe Ruth in mighty achievement ^{with} ~~on~~ the New York Yankees. Stricken at the height of his prowess, victim of a rare and incurable malady. At his funeral - a distinguished list of pallbearers, headed by Mayor LaGuardia of New York.

CADETS

Everybody knows, of course, ^{that} we have a democratic army.

Meaning - you'll find every kind of man in the ranks. Here's an example. At Gunther Field, Alabama, there's a unit of aviation cadets which includes the following personnel:- a golf professional, a stage comedian, a life guard, five lawyers, a jeweler, a window trimmer, a fencing teacher, four credit adjusters, a sales promotion manager of a distillery, three radio announcers and an undertaker. That outfit ought to be able to accomplish almost anything!

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Sounds like the lineup of ~~the~~ ^{my} Nine Old Men who are playing a benefit ball game against a team of Senators and Congressmen - 8 1/2 men at Griffiths Stadium in Washington this ^{coming} Saturday.

BERMUDA

In Bermuda today, the A_ssembled voted on a question connected with the establishment of an American naval and air base on the Islands. ^{In} Bermuda is one of the sites acquired in the Fifty Destroyer Deal, and a United States naval force is established there - a lot of ~~xx~~ sailors. So let ^{us} see what kind of proposal the Bermuda A_ssembly considered today. It was a measure to purchase a police riot car. The argument was that the riot car might be needed because of the numbers of visiting American ^{gobs.} ~~sailors.~~ The motion was turned down - rejected by a vote of fourteen to thirteen. The majority in opposition made the argument that a fire hose would be more useful than a riot car. Turn the hose on the ^{sailor lads} ~~xxxxx~~ ^{gobs} if they become obstreperous.

Now Hugh.

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