

LEAD

L.I. - Standard. Friday, May 26, 1944.  
Sunoco.

I don't suppose there is much question about whether or not there will really be an invasion, but in any case, here's an answer to the question - as it is given by President Roosevelt. ~~Today~~

~~at the~~ ~~White House news conference~~ ~~today~~ The President stated definitely ~~today~~ that there would be a Second Front Invasion of the Nazi continent

this summer. But he ~~that is -- although I do not wish to be paradoxical~~

~~the President~~ said it would not be an invasion. ~~He added~~ It would be a ~~liberation~~ liberation.

~~The whole thing began when newsmen asked about prospects of a Second Front and the chances of success.~~ The President spoke with high optimism about military operations to be conducted on the continent this summer. To which he commented that the word invasion didn't quite cover the whole thing. Liberation was a better term, because our plans are on the basis of achieving the liberation of the conquered people<sup>s</sup> and of arranging for the postwar period.

LEAD ITALY

The Nazi controlled Vichy radio states that the Germans will not defend Rome. Because, say the Germans - "Rome has already been declared an open city". And the correspondent of a Dutch news service flashes from Berlin that the Germans will defend a line much further north than Rome.

Today, the beach -head forces captured the town of Cisterna, for which so much bitter battle was waged. And they promptly proceeded to fan out, moving along the Appian Way toward Rome - for <sup>more</sup> three miles. And - <sup>what's more</sup> ~~which is more~~ important strategically - they ~~xxx~~ thrust ~~xxxxxxxx~~ farther inland, and seized a town called Cori. This place is only nine miles from the Via Casilina, the big highway - which traverses the valley of the Liri River. When our forces reach the Via Casilina, they will cut off the main line of retreat of the Nazis who are opposing the British in their drive up the valley of the Eiri.

The Germans in the valley are described as being in full flight, trying to make their escape up the river line. And it would appear that they'll keep going - to escape the beach -head arm, which is reaching out toward them. All of which would make it probable the next German defense front will be away up in front of Rome - if, indeed, the enemy intends to make a fight for the Eternal City.

The British Eighth Army in the Liri Valley has captured Mount Cairo, <sup>a</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> frowning peak <sup>^</sup> so long was a Nazi artillery fortress, from which big guns hurled destruction against the Allies. ~~and, a~~

ADD ITALY

As a footnote to this we may take a news dispatch from London which now reveals that some months ago St. James' Palace was hit by Nazi bombs. St. James' is one of the oldest of the residences of British Royalty. <sup>3</sup> Edward, Prince of Wales once <sup>^</sup> And nearby were the shops of art dealers -- some of London's most famous. These were wrecked, and fabulous art treasures were destroyed.

just then - before he became King.

AIR WAR

The air war news from Europe tells of bad weather again,

which handicapped the night flying assault of the British R.A.F., and the daylight operations of the big American bombers based on Britain. Nevertheless, the Nazi was not left in peace. In spite of poor flying conditions, swarms of planes hit enemy targets, ~~many~~ concentrating on railroad lines behind the invasion ~~in~~ wall.

*But* The Mediterranean weather was ~~good~~, and Flying Fortresses and Liberators based on Italy smashed German war centers in southern France;- Nice and Lyons. ~~All of which made it another one-two punch, with the northern fist not as big as usual and the headline taken by the southern fist.~~

SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC

Once again the news from afar tells of bombs hitting Japs in New Guinea. One place was the target that has become familiar during the past few days, Biak. Another has a name with a new sound, Manokwari. Violent explosions and raging fires<sup>!</sup>-- the usual result of bombing.

Here's an odd question - where do the Japs get all the automobiles, all those big shiny cars? The query is propounded by American fliers who blasted the big air and naval base at Surabaya.

They encountered almost<sup>no</sup> opposition, the Japs caught ~~them~~ napping - asleep, taking it easy. The American opinion is that in conquered Java the Mikado's men have been lazying around, loafing, living on the fat of the land.. Having a good time - with a lot of joy-riding in automobiles.

~~The Americans, who have felt the automobile pinch in their own country, are beguiled by it as is illustrated by Lieutenant John Gavin of Milwaukee, He flew in the raid against Surabaya and tells of panic among the Japs.~~

"I saw a Japanese Admiral scooting down the steps of a big concrete building", he relates. "I could see the gold braid on his uniform and almost ~~see~~ see the expression on his face as he ducked into a big black ~~car~~ sedan ~~and~~ which whizzed off".

Whereupon the Lieutenant from Milwaukee asks in a wistful tone: "I wonder where the Japs get all those new cars? ~~There seem to be dozens all over the place~~".

JAPANESE PRISONER

The verdict of a coroner's jury was handed down today in the case of the American-born Japanese who was killed at Tule Lake. At that segregation center Shiochi James Okomota drove a truck to the camp. He was stopped by a sentry, and made ugly remarks. And, according to ~~testimony~~ testimony given, he raised his arm as if in some motion of Jiu-jitsu. Whereupon the sentry fired. The jury's verdict is Okomota was shot by a military sentry - in the line of duty.

Meanwhile a military board of inquiry is investigating for the Army - investigating the case, of which the Tokyo government takes what it calls, "a serious view".

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Hugh, I've got a strange story from So. Africa here. But before I tell it let's hear from you.



## WITCH DOCTOR

In a court of law at Johannesburg, South Africa, today there was ~~was~~ a weird and creepy trial - the trial of an eighty year old black witch doctor for the human sacrifice of his son.

In the evidence the story was told how in the wild Drakensberg mountains of Natal a dry spell came upon the earth. There was no rain, and the land was parched and dry - no grass for the cattle of the black tribes, and these were in despair.

In one stricken village the people looked to their witch doctor, the aged wizard of so much magic. They gazed at him reproachfully, because it was his duty to bring moisture and rain. He knew how to appease the evil spirits that kept the rain from falling.

Today in the Johannesburg court it was told what the witch doctor did. The spirits were angry, and demanded a sacrifice - the sacrifice of a human being. And the ancient wizard knew a ritual for that. For a victim he took his young son, took him into the mountains and there sacrificed him to the demons of drought. With the traditional sorcery, he smeared blood on cattle horns, and out of the body he made - rain medicine.

In court the witch doctor explained to the British Judge:

"I loved my son, but I believed that if I sacrificed him I would bring plenty of rain and food for my people, and ~~we~~ we would not need to work again".

When the evidence was in, the Judge, according to the forms of British law, asked the prisoner if he had anything to say before he was sentenced. The ancient ~~magi~~ magician replied: "I am sorry for what I did. I have cattle. Take them in payment of the crime". He thought he would be punished according to the custom of the black tribes, among whom an act of blood is expiated by the payment of the only coin they know - cattle.

But the British Judge pronounced a white man's sentence for murder - death, hanging.

SWANCUTT

This afternoon at Camp Anza, California, a man, an Army officer, heard the death sentence pronounced upon him. He was entirely unmoved, as if it were a mere bit of impersonal conversation. Lt. Beaufort Swancutt, who went on a shooting rampage and killed four persons, including the girl he loved.

It didn't take long for the twelve officers ~~in~~ of the court martial jury to reach their decision, which was thereupon announced by the court martial president -- the sentence of death, hanging. All eyes were on Swancutt's face, which showed not a flicker of change. The Army captain, his chief counsel, placed an arm across his shoulders to console him. Later the Captain said: "He was not trembling, and seemed little affected by the verdict".

Army guards reported later that the condemned officer was cheerful, smiling - as if in relief. They say he had often told them he preferred death to life imprisonment.

MONTGOMERY

Today a Senate Sub-Committee issued a report on the Montgomery Ward case. ~~The Senate group has been investigating the government's seizure of the company, while a committee of the lower house has been holding its own hearings, on the same subject.~~

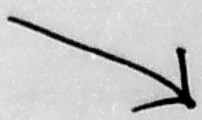
The Senate finding is a charge that the Federal authorities were in the wrong in the Montgomery Ward affair. Attorney General Biddle is criticized for advising President Roosevelt that he had the authority to seize the company and for his contentions relating to the magnitude of the presidential war-time power. The Sub-Committee accuses Biddle of making what it calls "erroneous, misleading, irrelevant and immaterial statements".

The National Labor Relations Board gets a share of the blast <sup>and is</sup> charged with delatory tactics in delaying an order for an election among the Montgomery Ward Employees.

And finally Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, under whose direction the seized company was placed - is criticized for calling in the Army. The Senate group holds that the use of military force in such a case could only be justified - as a last resort. In other words - civilian officers of the law could have done the job without calling in the soldiers.

ADD MONTGOMERY WARD

Senator MacFarland of Arizona third member of the three-  
man committee, refused to sign the report.. He criticized the  
investigation, and said it failed to get all the facts.



FOLLOW MONTGOMERY WARD

Tonight the Attorney General denounces the verdict of the Congressional Subcommittee. He says its conclusions were reached on what he calls "hearsay information". And he criticizes the subcommittee for not giving government witnesses a chance to present their side of the case.

## APPROPRIATION

The Administration won a victory in Congress tonight, when the Lower House voted money, half a Million Dollars to the President's fair-employment-practice-committee. There was a strong attempt led by southerners to kill the appropriation -- the idea being to put an end to the fair practice committee. But the Administration opinion prevailed, and the money was voted.

CONFERENCE

President Roosevelt today called a new conference - one having to do with money. Forty-three united and associated nations invited to send representatives to discuss plans for stabilizing world currencies in the post-war period. The conference will be held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, *at the foot of Mt. Washington,* and one thing to be discussed will be ~~in~~ a world bank for post-war reconstruction.



Today <sup>Q</sup> man went to a hospital in Maryland for a check-up <sup>today</sup> - and this is of more than mere medical interest. All sorts of political speculations are being woven around <sup>the</sup> hospital visit - because, it was President Roosevelt who went to the great naval medical center at Bethesda, Maryland, and there was given a complete physical examination.

The purpose is explained by White House physician Admiral McIntyre, who states that the <sup>D</sup> Doctors made a check-up to see if the ~~Exam~~ President's physical condition is as much improved as it appears to be, after his sunshine vacation of the south. Dr. McIntyre explains that, as a result of the vacation, he seems to have thrown off all traces of the bronchitis and sinus irritations that had bothered him all winter. That is - so far as an ordinary diagnosis can determine. But the Doctors want to be sure, and today they investigated with all of their scientific resources - X-Rays mostly.

This is the physician's account, but of course a mere doctor of medicine wouldn't understand the deeper political angles. It takes a <sup>political wizard</sup> ~~wiseacre of politics~~ to penetrate those devious ramifications. And our news story from Washington tonight ~~it~~ tells us that <sup>hospital</sup> the check-up may have a lot to do ~~it~~ with <sup>the</sup> a fourth term <sup>idea</sup>.

Among opponents of the Administration, the contention has been made that the President's age, sixty-two, plus the probable state of his health, make it unlikely that he will be able to bear the burden of another four years in the White House. And then there ~~are others who~~ <sup>if some</sup> believe that the President won't run for re-election,

unless he is certain that his health is "A" number one. Nobody really knows whether or not the President himself regards his own physical condition as a major factor in his decision, but the Washington political gossip is that if today's check-up at the Maryland Hospital shows that F.D.R. has completely recovered from his <sup>b</sup> bronchial and sinus troubles, he will privately inform the Democratic leaders:-

okay, <sup>ll</sup> he ~~will~~ take the ~~main~~ nomination for a fourth term. ~~This~~ privately. Nothing public; <sup>so</sup> whisper the political soothsayers.

They believe that, no matter what the inside word is, the President will make no public declaration until he is renominated - drafted.

The political atmosphere ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> in this country seems to be <sup>very</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> drafty this spring.

ADD ROOSEVELT

At his news conference today, the President was asked about the <sup>hospital</sup> check-up and the Fourth term, but he parried all questions with gay quips and laughter.

One newspaperman reminded him <sup>that</sup> there are only fifty-five days left before the convention, whereupon the President told a story on himself. He said there was a lady in Nineteen Forty who, after the convention stated happily only ninety-three more days of Roosevelt. The next day was only ~~ninety~~ ninety-two more days of Roosevelt, and so on. She continued it joyfully with the number of days growing fewer and fewer - right down to election day. And then it was four years more of the President. This gave the President a laugh, and <sup>well</sup> ~~with~~ it might.

## LISTENING DEVIDE

Here is news from Washington that should bring a great sense of relief. It's an official denial of the existence of a gadget so terrifying that it might well disorganize society, disrupt the best regulated families and turn the most respectable neighborhoods into battlefields.

For some while Washington has been buzzing with gossip about a new invention, which they've been calling - The ~~Man~~ Superman Gadget. This is described as a listening-in device, with which you can tune in on private conversations anywhere within a radius of a three miles. Suppose some gossip were going on in the house down at the end of the street - all you would have to do would be to turn the dial of a superman gadget, and you could hear what they were saying. Maybe something about yourself. The possibilities are enormous. The listening-in magic could make you indeed a superman, not to mention a superwoman.

~~The Washington gossip is that the gadget has actually been in use. Who has been doing the super eavesdropping? Why, the good old government. The story is that the invention was developed by the General Electric Company, and was being employed by the Executive Vice-Chairman of the War Production Board, Charles~~

~~E. Wilson, who used to be President of General Electric.~~

The story has been told that Charles E. <sup>chairman</sup>  
~~Columnist Drew Pearson related that~~ Wilson <sup>of the</sup>

W.P.B. ~~had~~ used the device to listen in on a private conversation at the home of James V. Forrestal, now Secretary of the Navy; <sup>with</sup> Forrestal entertaining a group of <sup>prominent</sup> ~~permanent~~ persons, including high government officials and the elder statesman Bernard Baruch - and a whole lot of political matters were discussed - secretly, sub-rosa, on the Q.T. <sup>that</sup> And <sup>the</sup> Executive Vice Chairman of the War Production Board tuned in on all that was said behind those closed doors.

<sup>well,</sup>  
The whole thing was making such an under-cover sensation in the National Capital that the Washington Post published an editorial about the superman reports. The Post said it was - "shocked? Because such a contraption would, in the words of the editorial, "violate the privacy of homes, Doctors' consulting rooms, confessional boxes, bedrooms, the intimate conversation of friends, the confidences of lovers, of husbands and wives, of parents and children".

The newspaper editorial, viewing with alarm, went still further - with the suggestion that sooner or later the superman

listening-in device would be equipped with television. ~~And then what would happen? The Washington Post answered in these words: "Then everything that has made life beautiful and noble would atrophy and die". With television added! Yea, it would play hob with life wouldn't it?~~

Well folks, in case you've been thinking of going right out and purchasing that superman listener-in, here is the real low down.

The Executive Vice President of the War Production Board says there is nothing to it. ~~And he reminds us that Columnist Brew Pearson later printed a retraction, conceding that there was no such miracle. And, the W.P.B. Executive adds further that the whole thing is impossible! fantastic! can't be done!~~

Well, I'm glad of that, because I was beginning to be afraid that ~~somebody~~ somebody, with one of those contraptions, might be listening right at this moment - might hear what I'm ~~listening~~ saying to you --- and might also hear the very confidential things that Hugh James is about to tell you.