

L.T. SUNOCO, TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1941

Good Evening, Everybody:

Let's see what has followed the President's action in sending the army into the North American Aircraft plant at Inglewood, California. Strikes and strike threats in various parts of the country.

At Detroit the plant of the Bohn Aluminum Brass Company closed today. At Cleveland the factory of the Aluminum Company of America, ~~wax~~ shut down by a walk-out. Those two alone would tie up almost all the aircraft factories in the country.

The Defense Mediation Board received a telegram today saying that if the Cleveland Strike continues, the Curtiss Airplane plant at Buffalo will be unable to put wheels on its planes by the end of this week. Also three aircraft engine companies ~~companies~~ notified the Office of Production Management that they are dependent on that Cleveland factory for essential parts. Similar messages from propeller companies.

At San Diego, California, fourteen thousand men of the Consolidated Aircraft Company were voting today on whether to strike or not. An even bigger plant than the North American. It's working on fighting aircraft orders to the tune of seven hundred and twenty million dollars. This one is an A.F. of L. affair.

Pittsburgh^y threatened with a power blackout by the C.I.O. Ninety percent of the workers of the big power plant there voted to walk out at midnight tomorrow. However, an ~~independent~~ independent ^Uion promises to supply men to replace strikers.

In Seattle, Washington, A.F. of L. machinists joined the San Francisco Union in demanding double pay for overtime. Also there are muffled threats of a sitdown strike at Seattle shipyards. In San Francisco the A.F. of L. machinists are continuing the strike that has tied up eleven shipyards for a month.

At Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the ^{hod}~~hog~~ carriers and laborers tied up a defense building project. And a C.I.O. Union at Fort Wayne, Indiana, ^{caused} a defense factory there to shut down.

The Defense Mediation Board has been in conference with the Aluminum Union leaders all day. Finally it served an ultimatum: "end that strike or the army will walk in at Cleveland as it did at Inglewood yesterday."

In Washington, Under-Secretary of War Patterson declared: "You show me a case like North American Aviation and we'll act just as we acted there!"

So the army may march into the picture at Cleveland and Detroit.

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Out in California, at Inglewood early this afternoon Colonel Steinmetz now in charge of the Plant announced that men were streaming back to work. They did ~~xx~~ that in spite of pickets and others yelling "scab" and "rat" at those who were returning. The loudest yells were from women. Also, a C.I.O. loud-speaker-truck started bellowing forth appeals to the men not to go back to work. When an Army Sergeant strolled over to the truck it immediately signed off.

But, the big event of the day at Inglewood came late this afternoon. The Union leaders called a meeting of the

strikers and proposed that they return to work. The news that came East in the middle of the afternoon was that the strikers had voted Yes, by acclamation. This they did at the suggestion of the local leaders, the same men who on Sunday had urged the men to stand fast and defy the international heads of the Union. Even Harry Bridges sent a telegram urging the men to get back to their jobs. Whereupon the motion was adopted with cheers from three thousand strikers.

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But a later dispatch puts a ~~xx~~ different aspect on all this: The ~~Mx~~ men will return to work -- upon four conditions. One, that the soldiers immediately withdraw from the factory. The others have to do with wages and so on. But the main thing is the stipulation that the President withdraw the troops at once.

That Inglewood North American affair set in ~~motion~~ ^{motion} a ~~motion~~ a tempest of angry feelings. Under-Secretary of War Patterson appeared before the Military Affairs Committee of the House today and ~~and~~ urged the Congressmen to make it a criminal offense for Communists to tie up defense factories. He also urged Congress to

pass a law further enabling the President to take over any plant
that is shut down by a strike.

SYRIA

The British and Free French are nearing Damascus, which tradition records as the oldest city in the world. Both sides agree that an advancing column is within fifteen or twenty miles of that place of archaic memories. The two sides, however, are in disagreement on nearly every other point. The British and Free French forces report that they are meeting with little resistance. That was officially stated by Prime Minister Churchill in the House of Commons today. It is ~~further~~ added that French defenders of the Syrian colony are abandoning the fight in large numbers - many of them deserting to the British and Free French; others simply refusing to have any part in the affair.

~~But~~ The French colonial authorities give us a very different picture. They tell of hard fighting in fortified areas, and deny that any of their forces are deserting to the British and Free French. This denial was made officially today by General Dentz, Commander-in-Chief of the defense. From his headquarters in Beirut, the word is that the French colonial army is strongly placed in mountainous areas that offer a natural theatre for resistance. There they'll fight it out. And we hear furthermore that squadrons

of warplanes from French North Africa have reached Syria - after a long hard flight, ~~we are told.~~ Probably they had the use of German and Italian flying bases in ^{the} ~~the eastern sector of the~~ Eastern Mediterranean. The Germans announce that they will support the Vichy Government in protecting Syria. "By political means," said a Nazi spokesman in Berlin today. He refused to state whether Germany would also grant military support.

At Vichy an important announcement was made - "a separate peace." That's what the Government of Marshal Petain is working for - its objective in negotiations with Nazi Berlin, collaboration and all that. At present there's only an armistice between Germany and France, and now they're trying to transform that into peace - a separate peace. An official statement to that effect was made today by Admiral Darlan, the Vichy Vice-Premier. He said he hopes for what he calls - "an honorable peace." He added that Nazi Germany is prepared to use its victory in a moderate way - which would indicate some kind of deal.

CHURCHILL

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In the House of Commons today, important revelations were made - revelations of recent history. Prime Minister Winston Churchill made a comprehensive statement on the Battle of Crete - an explanation of the British defeat, ~~there~~. Churchill can always be depended upon to be vivid and illuminating. And this time he was the more so, because he was replying to attack. The proceedings in the Commons were enlivened by controversy - Churchill assailed, Churchill defending himself.

The attack was launched by the former British War Secretary - Hore-Belisha. He said those in power had thought - it would be impossible for the Nazis to invade Crete, a lamentable error. He denounced the lack of airfields in Crete, and compared the British way with that of the Germans'. "In the construction and repair of airdromes," said he, "the Germans clearly have more speedy methods than we employ." Hence they ~~were~~ defeated in Crete - on land and sea. Hore-Belisha made this statement:- "Without overhead protection, the navy suffered casualties greater than were those inflicted on the Italians in the Battle of Matapan."

This was the attack to which Winston Churchill replied.

As for the lack of air bases, the Prime Minister said:- "Everybody will admit that it would have been a mistake to make a great number of airfields in Crete - unless we could find anti-aircraft guns to defend them." So that was the reason - a shortage of anti-aircraft weapons.

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"The Battle of the Atlantic," explained Churchill, "has been going on, and a very great number of guns which might have been employed in Crete have been mounted, and are being mounted, on ships to beat off attacks."

He waxed sharp and sarcastic, as he took a fling directly at the man who was criticizing him. He said that Hore-Belisha, when War Secretary, had not run things properly. The condition in which he left the army was - "lamentable", said Churchill. He left it with a shortage of equipment - particularly of anti-aircraft weapons.

So Churchill blames^d his critic for the very event he was criticizing.

~~Churchill~~^{He} admitted that the British military chiefs had made a mistake. He said they miscalculated the possibilities of the defense of Crete. Churchill put it in these words:- "The decision to defend Crete," said he, "was taken with the full knowledge that

air support would be at a minimum. But the chiefs of staff not only thought it should be defended, but in spite of the lack of air support thought we had a good chance of winning the battle," said he.

That was a grave error of calculation. Nevertheless - the British were right in fighting the Battle of Crete, said the Prime Minister. Better that than to have let the Germans advance unopposed. "I think," he went on - "that it will be found that this sombre and ferocious battle was worth fighting, and it will play an extremely important part in the defense of the Nile valley through the present year."

He went on to tell of the British losses in Crete. Fifteen thousand men - killed, wounded and prisoners. This, he revealed, was nearly half of the total British force on the island. They numbered thirty-two thousand, and seventeen thousand were evacuated - a little more than half. He enumerated the German losses - twelve thousand killed and wounded in battle, five thousand drowned in attempts to land by sea. A hundred and eighty-five fighter and bomber planes shot down, and two hundred

and fifty troop-carrying planes destroyed. It was indeed a sombre and ferocious battle - in the words of Winston Churchill.

MUSSOLINI FOLLOW CHURCHILL

While London was having a statement by its Prime Minister. Fascist Italy was having somewhat the same from its Duce - Mussolini. He revealed what the calamitous war with Greece had cost the Italians in human life. Thirteen thousand, five hundred and two Italian soldiers killed. The wounded totalled over thirty-eight thousand. Seventeen ships conveying troops and supplies to the war with Greece were sunk. Also, three torpedo boats doing convoy duty.

Admitting these grave losses, Mussolini gave the best version he could of his own leadership. "In October", he declaimed, "I became convinced that Greece was the key base for England. Facts confirmed that I was right," he added. He emphasized the comparatively weak forces with which Italy embarked on the ill-starred Greek adventure, and he paid tribute to the Greek fighting spirit. "We must admit honestly that many Greek detachments fought bravely because they hated the Italians," said the Duce.

With rather limping logic he asserted that even if the Nazi blitzkrieg had not entered the picture, the Fascists would have overcome the Greeks. And then the Duce uttered a boast that may seem a little strange to non-Fascist ears:- "The Greeks began to retreat,"

he thundered, "and trickily offered an armistice to Germany.

But I forced them to surrender unconditionally." The shouts

of bravo that greeted this must have sounded a bit hollow.

However, Mussolini added that Hitler has agreed that the Italians

shall occupy all of Greece - including Athens, and asserted that

the Hellenic land is now part of what he called Italian "living

space."

The climax of today's Mussolini harangue concerned a nation far from the Mediterranean, across the Atlantic - ourselves. He indicated that he thought American intervention might be expected, but shouted that it didn't matter much.

"United States intervention", said the Italian Dictator, "does not

greatly disturb us." He contented that the United States is

virtually in the war as it is. To all of which he added a

prophecy about what will happen to this Western republic. He said

that war will bring to the United States what he called - "an

authoritaarian regime." In other words, we'll get Fascism, but

Mussolini said it won't be as good a brand of Fascism as his own.

Which certainly does sound alarming to us Americans - considering the way the Duce's brand of Fascism has made out in the present war!

SHIP

In the case of the American ship sunk in the Atlantic, a statement was made by the White House today. S.S. ROBIN MOOR was sent to the bottom on the American side, ⁱⁿ ~~of the Atlantic -~~ Pan-American waters. It is, however, not yet officially known just how the vessel was destroyed - whether it was torpedoed or what. White House Secretary ~~Steve~~ Early spoke as follows:- "We don't know the cause of the sinking. We are trying to determine that." (He ~~said that every effort of the government was being made to get the~~ facts.)

To this he added an appeal - "suspend judgment!"

"I think the President would appreciate it," said he, "if you would suspend judgment until the facts are ascertained." ^{TP} Later came word that seems to bring us closer to the facts. An announcement by the United States Maritime Commission, which states that the owners of the steamer have been advised that the ROBIN MOOR was torpedoed. This comes from the operators of the Brazilian steamship OSORIO, which rescued eleven survivors. Thirty-five are missing - fate unknown.

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The torpedoing of an American ship, if the Government should officially announce it as such, would be a grave incident indeed

WEATHER

Thunder storms! Tornadoes, cloudbursts, floods. From the Rocky Mountains to the Ohio Valley last night and today rain fell in torrents, gales of tornado velocity swept over Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. In short the weather in the West and middle west has been on a rampage for seventy-two hours. The total list of dead is at least twenty-possibly twenty-eight. The floods, curiously enough were not on the big rivers but the smaller streams in the western plains and the Missouri Valley. Thousands of acres were golden with a wheat crop all ready to be harvested and turned into cash. Over them poured the destructive waters, which also poured into the cities along the Kansas-Nebraska State Line.

Cloudbursts in Southern Nebraska brought some five inches to eight inches of rain within three days. The principal highways in Southern Nebraska were closed to traffic and even the railroads had to suspend service. The folks at McCook, Nebraska had to turn out and build dikes in a hurry. At Tulsa, Oklahoma almost five inches fell in eighteen hours.

The worst single disaster was at Albany, Texas. The Lake Diller Dam above Albany broke down and a twenty foot wall of water poured into Albany, smashing thirty-five houses into matchwood and

drowning twelve persons. The rescue workers were still digging when news came that a second dam had broken at another lake and another sixteen foot wall of water was rolling down on the hapless town.

Six Army fliers perished in the storm. They left Salt Lake City in a bombing plane for Chicago on Sunday, their route took them right through the thick of the storm area. For forty-eight hours nothing was heard of them. Late this afternoon there came a telephone message to the Sheriff at Evanston, Wyoming. A trooper of the State Highway Patrol had found the wreckage of the Army bomber.

END

Through the stormy skies of the Middle West came some cans of film today -- Movietone newsreel pictures. And that takes us back to the strike situation, which began this broadcast. The newsreel pictures are those showing the Army taking over the aviation plant at Inglewood, California -- the reopening of the plant by military force. The headline importance of this ~~justis~~ justifies^{at} a special release of motion pictures -- speeding the film East by plane. A mighty difficult task through those tempests of rain and winds in the Middle West. But storm or no storm they got the pictures through, and now I'm on my way to the ~~Movietone~~ Studio to work on them.

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