

ARMAMENT

P.T. - Sisco. Thursday, Jan. 12, 1939.

Today in Congress the echo of an old familiar phrase seemed to ring out - millions for defense! That was the gist of a special message sent from the White House to Capitol Hill.

How many millions for defense? Five hundred and fifty-two, more than half a billion.

Plenty of war talk is going around. The international situation is described as very bad. National armament is a theme of the hour. So the nation has been awaiting the special message on defense. Today we have it with proposals of money to be spent.

The first thing we note is ^{the} a large sum allocated to the Army - four hundred and fifty million dollars. Of this, three hundred million dollars to be used for military aviation - building up the army sky fleet. ~~The President in his message stressed the way war has changed since the World War, and he indicated that the principal change was in the air - a swift and overwhelming development of war planes.~~ His program calls for the construction of three thousand new fighting machines of the sky. That, ^{with} ~~after~~ what we already have, would increase American air power to seven thousand planes. The special message stated that the Army is to work along lines of

~~technical development and mass production.~~ And this is right in line with the recommendations made by Colonel Lindbergh in that rather sensational Lindbergh report about which we heard last week.

Another item of defense ~~xxx~~ money will give us no surprise - ten million ~~dollars~~ for the training of aviators. ~~This is Financing~~ for that civilian aviation plan we've heard about, the training of twenty thousand new aviators in the rudiments of flying, ~~these to provide a reserve from which military pilots could be drawn in case of need.~~ ~~The Navy gets much less than the Army - sixty-five million dollars. And of this twenty-one million would be used to build more naval aircraft. Sky fighting is the dominating dominant theme in today's special message of defense.~~

The sums we've named ~~xix~~ come to five hundred and twenty-five million ~~dollars~~, and that's the amount named for the emergency appropriation. But in addition a supplementary appropriation is asked - twelve million dollars. This for the Panama Canal. The presidential message declared that the present-day canal defense is insufficient - couldn't beat off a powerful, swift attack. ~~And of course we all know what the Panama Canal means to the United States Navy.~~

All these sums total five hundred and fifty-two millions ^{about which} ~~dollars, and~~ the President makes this comment: "Devoid of all ~~hysteria, and the~~ ^{says he,} hysteria", "this program is but a minimum of requirements."

Today's sum is not all. There are other millions already appropriated, sums previously voted by Congress - nearly half a billion. And if we add today's figures to ~~these~~ ^{one,} previous ~~figures~~ we get a grand total for armament of one billion, three hundred and forty-one million ~~dollars~~ to be spent during the next fiscal year.

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The rational background, as expressed in the message, takes us back to the World War - ^a~~the~~ time well known to Franklin D. Roosevelt, for he was World War Assistant Secretary of the Navy. The message points out that the United States entered the War on April Sixth, Nineteen Seventeen, "but the A.E.F.", as the President says today - "took no part in any major engagement until the end of May, Nineteen Eighteen." It took us more than a year after we declared war to start fighting, a year of safety during which to get ready.

~~And the special message points to another fact. "As late as the autumn of Nineteen Eighteen," it declares, "American armies at the front used almost exclusively French or British artillery and aircraft." That is ~~not~~ ^{not} right [^] at the end of the War "right now,"~~

^{"now"} declares the President: [^] "we are as unprepared as we were when we went into the World War." And he makes the cogent remark - ~~that~~ there's no assurance that we ^{will} [^] have a safe year in which to prepare, should we get into a war again.

RELIEF

Today Congress plunged promptly into the biggest battle on its immediate schedule -- spending, pump priming, relief.

Today, the Committee on Appropriations okayed yesterday's proposed slash of the emergency relief appropriation and recommended that the relief rolls be purged. The Committee's words were "Purged of malingerers."

This report was immediately sent to the floor of the House where the debate promptly began -- to cut or not to cut. A coalition of conservative Democrats and Republicans ~~xx~~ rallied to the support of the proposal to slash by a hundred and fifty million. The coalition led by a Democrat, Congressman Woodrum of Virginia. He declared himself as follows: "With such abundant evidence of an increasing business upturn," said he, "all of us entertain high hopes that these large outlays for assistance will not much longer be required."

On the administration side, the leader in today's debate was Representative Cannon of Missouri. He said that the Committee went into the question with the preconceived notion of slashing whatever figure the White House suggested. He declared:--This is a proposal to discharge one million a hundred and fifty thousand persons from employment. "Today's debate -- a mere beginning.

FRANKFURTER

The first step was taken today for the Senate confirmation of Felix Frankfurter as a Supreme Court Justice. The sub-Committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee voted - okay. That's its report to the full Committee, which in turn will report to the Senate.

H At today's Sub-Committee hearing, Professor Frankfurter himself was questioned and gave ~~the~~ answers. He was asked whether he was a Communist, and this he denied. "Communism," said he, "does not represent my view of life or government." He was asked about his membership in the Civil Liberties Union, and this led to a lively exchange. "Did you know," demanded Senator McCarran of Nevada, "that William Z. Foster, a Communist, was a member of the National Committee of the Civil Liberties Union?"

"I knew," replied Frankfurter, "that he was on it at one time."

~~Senator McCarran persisted: "I should think that a man in your high place ~~should~~ would investigate his associates." To that the Professor responded that ^{his} membership in the Civil Liberties Union was based on its record, not what anybody else thinks of that record. ~~He said he had not read the statements about the radicalism~~~~

~~of the Civil Liberties Union, statements made before the Dies
Committee investigating Un-Americanism.~~

He was questioned about the way the Civil Liberties group once upheld the right of the Ku Klux Klan to hold a parade. And to this he responded that the rights of the Ku Klux Klan should be supported, ^{as} should be the rights of anybody. The same, he replied, held for meetings staged by the Nazis, as well as the anti-Nazis.

The decisive part of Professor Frankfurter's statements concern Americanism and the Constitution. He declared his Americanism most emphatically, and proclaimed ^{his} ~~to~~ supported ^{of} the Constitution one hundred per cent.

With that, the Sub-Committee voted favorably on the appointment of Professor Felix Frankfurter to the Supreme Court. The vote was unanimous.

HOPKINS

The Senate Commerce Committee, considering the nomination of Harry Hopkins as Secretary of Commerce, took a recess this afternoon until tomorrow. This was to enable the former W.P.A. Administrator to dig up some records ~~that will enable him to~~ ^{with which to} answer questions propounded by Senator Hiram Johnson of California. The Johnson questions concern the familiar theme of ~~the~~ W.P.A. playing politics - this with particular reference to Kentucky and Pennsylvania. There was a lively scandal concerning W.P.A. activities in those states during the Nineteen Thirty-Eight election.

Still another of those Senate Committee hearings will begin tomorrow - with Attorney General Frank Murphy appearing to tell his story. The Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee is considering the appointment of the former Governor of Michigan, who handled the sit-down strikes. And that much debated theme of the automobile labor trouble will be the central issue when Frank Murphy is questioned.

One of the presidential appointments placed before the Senate passed out of the news today - that of former Senator Pope as a member of the governing board of the T.V.A. The Senate today formally okayed the Pope appointment. There never was any argument about it.

VERMONT

Every school child knows the heroic story of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys, who fought for liberty in the American Revolution. Well, today up there in rugged Vermont, ~~there's a new version of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys~~ The modern Ethan Allen is Governor George D. Aiken, ^{and} the contemporary Green Mountain boys are the Vermont Legislature. ~~and~~ Today they took a heroic stand - though not exactly against the Redcoats. You could hardly imagine Harry Woodring, the Secretary of War, in a red coat. Anyway, Ethan Allen the Governor called upon his Green Mountain Boys, the Legislature, to resist what he called - "an assault on our sovereign rights," the federal government doing the assaulting.

It appears that the government plans a flood control project in Vermont, a big dam, ~~about~~ a lot of aqueducts, and all that. ~~Under congressional law, the federal authorities can commandeer what land they need for such a purpose.~~ And now Secretary of War Woodring ~~has~~ tells the Vermont Governor just what ^{land the government} ~~acreage will be~~ ^{will} taken over. That's what the Governor regards as an assault upon the sovereign rights of ~~the~~ Vermont, and today →

→ ~~Today~~ he called both Houses of the Vermont Legislature in a joint session, and placed before them plans for defense.

"The issue", he told them, "is simply and solely the insistance of the federal government ~~that~~ that it can take from us" what it chooses, when it chooses ~~it~~ - without any regard for our wishes or our rights."

He recommended that the Legislature make a formal protest to Congress, and furthermore asked the Vermont lawmakers to put up ~~a~~ some money for defense. As he expressed it - "appropriate a substantial emergency fund, to be expended by the government for the defense of our legal rights." *The legislature immediately voted to do so.*

~~A lively battle seems in prospect over the flood control project, with the modern Ethan Allen leading his Green Mountain Boys in a do-or-die defense - careless of the consequences. So far as that dam is concerned, they don't care a rap, ~~they don't give a hang.~~~~

CEDILLO

Mexico reports the killing of General Cedillo, once so prominent and powerful in the republic to the south of us. He rebelled against the Cardenas government in an episode that figured much in the news some while ago. Federal Mexican troops attacked him at his stronghold, in the state of San Luis Potosi, of which he was virtually overlord. Since then, nothing has been heard of Cedillo - he seemed to have vanished. Some thought he had escaped into the United States. But today's bulletin from Mexico City declares that he was killed in a skirmish yesterday. They say the once powerful overlord had a mere handful of insurrectos with him, a tiny band - fleeing from the Cardenas soldiers.

GERMANY

Nazi Germany is growling and scowling at Holland - because of shots fired into German diplomatic quarters at Amsterdam and The Hague. Reports from the Netherlands make light of the trouble, the Dutch police saying that the shots were from some kind of small pistol or possibly an air gun. It seems to suggest the kind of beebees that boys shoot.

Nevertheless, the Hitler government today made a formal protest to Holland. The German complaint has the usual angle - the Jews. They're blamed for the shooting, ~~the~~ beebee bullets, or whatever it was. Today the journalistic mouthpiece of the Hitler Foreign Office handed Holland a warning against what it calls "tolerance toward destructive Jewish influence." And it continues with a threatening menace against what it calls - "Holland's specially guarded neutrality."

SPAIN

The Spanish insurgents announce two important captures today - the towns of Agramont and Falset. Agramont is in the middle of the line and is said to have been a stronghold in the main ~~line~~ of Left Wing fortifications, what Barcelona has been calling "the little Maginot Line." Falset is at the southern end of the battlefront, not far from the important seaport of Tarragona.

~~Its capture means that Franco's troops are within sight of the sea.~~ *now ten miles from*
~~And by driving on to the Mediterranean coast, they'll~~ *threatening to* ~~cut the~~
and Barcelona forces in two, *and* slice off a long narrow stretch.

It looks as if Franco were smashing to victory in Catalonia.

Important Tarragona seems sure to fall. ~~Franco's men say they'll have it in a week. And they also claim that by crashing through in the south, they'll open the way for an advance right on to Barcelona.~~
The Left Wing government today ordered a mass mobilization of all men between twenty and forty-nine - ~~this~~ for last ditch defense.
~~Away over~~ On the other side of Spain, it's a different story.

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In Estremadura, the Left Wing armies report victory. It remains to be seen how important *those* ~~victories~~ may be in that distant area, as compared with the slashing Franco advance against Barcelona.

CHAMBERLAIN

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Today Chamberlain and Mussolini completed their conferences - and what's the result? Agreement on all points - that's the official announcement. Both the British and Italians declare that the Prime Minister and the Duce arrived at a perfect understanding. Understanding of what? The very brief and reticent announcements would seem to indicate that the two statesmen are perfectly clear about each other's opinions - ~~and haven't~~ ^{not having} changed the ~~opinions~~ ⁱⁿ in the least.

So we find Webb Miller, European editor of the United Press, sending a cable that the conferences have ended in - a deadlock. Neither Chamberlain nor Mussolini gave way an inch to each other. It was merely a case of one ~~fighting~~ finding out exactly where the other stood. Chamberlain will have nothing to do with Italian demands on France, and refuses to grant Spanish Generalissimo Franco belligerent rights - not until Mussolini has withdrawn all his soldiers from Spain.

~~The Duce, on his part, refuses to withdraw his troops~~
until Franco has won a full victory. And he intends to press his demands on France - whatever these may be. Probably he told

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Chamberlain what they were - making the understanding a hundred per cent. They understand each other, as do two men when one says "yes" and the other says "no!"

MARRIAGE

Romance, long and sorely tried, came to a happy ending in London today - a marriage, or rather a remarriage. Remember that British engineer who married a Russian girl in the land of the Soviets? He went back to England, was not allowed to return to Russia, ^{and} couldn't get ~~permission from~~ the Bolsheviks to let his wife out so that she could join him.

In November he made an airplane flight into Russia to ~~see her.~~ ^{see her.} He had no permit and the Soviet authorities ~~threw him in jail.~~ ^{But -} They let him go afterward, expelled him; ~~and~~ ^{and} he was still separated from his wife. ~~and~~ ^{and} now she has been permitted to leave Russia. Husband and wife reunited, and you'd think ~~they were~~ ^{However} that would end the story. ¹ Their marriage in Russia was of the Red Communist kind, and today, just to be sure - they were remarried ~~and~~ with an English ceremony.

This evening we have a new slant on the visit of Their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth to the United States. The King Emperor of the Realm on which the Sun never sets is to ~~xxx~~ sojourn among us to help the tailors of London compete with Hollywood. This inspiring statement was given out today in Chicago at the Convention of the International Association of Clothing Designers. Those master tailors are telling us that London's former supremacy in men's styles is vanishing. The Bond Street ~~xx~~ tailors are not the arbitrators of ~~xxxx~~ masculine elegance any more. Hollywood styles are assuming supremacy, and the London tailors are alarmed.

That ^{is} one reason, explain our American sartorialists, *one reason* ~~expects~~ why King George is visiting the United States, -- to set the style, to reassert the supremacy of the Bond Street tailors. But our own American ^{clothes makers} ~~sartorialists~~ are not alarmed. They are prepared to ~~xxxx~~ resist the royal influence. ^{So} ^{ten} They've got up something to out-glitter the glamor of ^a ~~the~~ King. In Chicago today the tailors introduced

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a gold ensemble for men, a suit of golden clothes. The coat is of a golden hue. The trousers are black with gold stripes. Gilded shirt and neck-tie. Even the hat is gold, and so are the socks. ~~Yes, that ought to~~ *Will that*

~~xxxx~~ out-dazzle even a King-Emperor arrayed in the nattiest tailoring of Bond Street. *? We shall see*

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what we shall see.