

CHURCHILL

C.T. - P. & S. Thursday, March 31, 1949.

At this moment, I, as a news commentator, am in a most peculiar situation. The most important news for this program right now is the Churchill address tonight. Yet, the speech by Britain's war-time Prime Minister was the most widely broadcast and televised event in the history of radio and television. So most people must ~~be~~ have heard it ~~in~~ -- more people than those who are hearing me. So, what can a reporter say about an event which must have been attended by most of the public to which he is reporting. [↑] This is not as hard to answer as it might seem. Because there are some things which might ~~not~~ be noted by a veteran newsman ^{more} ~~less~~ clearly perhaps than by others in more fortunate professions.

One - that Winston Churchill ^{addressed} ~~was addressing~~ a convocation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ^{today} technical scientists, [^] the radio audience, our common selves, perhaps, secondly. So therefore he embarked upon a philosophy of modern science,

as ~~is~~^{it} relates to the social and political development of this world of ours.

Britain's war-time Prime Minister began by telling the assembled scientists, that he, himself, had no university degree - of which he always speaks proudly. Perhaps he is justly proud. Yet, in the first part of his address, he ascended to notable heights of a philosophy of science in terms of the welfare of nations, and the dilemma of modern weapons, which science has provided.

But Churchill, like a sound orator, or perhaps an ~~an~~ operatic tenor, kept his high notes for the end of the speech -- or the aria. That was when he produced what for us, non-scientific mortals, will be the most comprehensible part of the whole thing.

He ~~is~~^{is} assayed to answer that question which has troubled all of us. Why have the Soviets acted as they have done since the end of the war? Why did they turn in such hostile fashion against the

West, and despite the vast ~~amount~~ amount of good will that was created for them by the Second World War? Churchill said -- because they are more afraid of our ~~an~~ friendship than of our enmity.

That's a thing we can all understand. ~~and~~ There may be some fellow, with ugly designs, who is more afraid to be your friend than your enemy - fearful of what your honest friendship may do to him.

Which makes a good deal of sense in the case of the Lords of the Kremlin - fearful of what friendly intercourse with free people might do in their own domain of serfdom. In this Churchill offered a touch-stone that may be useful to us, when we try to understand the apparently irrational hostility of Soviet Russia - afraid of our friendship.

They, the Reds,
~~That,~~ of course, may rationalize ^{*that*} it with the old Roman phrase about -- Greek's bearing gifts. But who is judge of that?

Then there
~~secondly,~~ were his deep ^{*by*} human remarks about crowds he addressed in Brussels recently. He

noted that the Belgian people could be overrun by Soviet tanks - in a day, or two weeks. The Belgians themselves know that, yet they stormed and cheered for Churchill -- advocating western liberty. For this, he had one sole explanation -- the United States and the atomic bomb!

Winston Churchill is still the imperial Britisher, wedded to the lordly Britain of the Victorian era. Yet, when all his Nineteenth Century phrases are sifted out, he comes back to that one thing which the cheering and essentially helpless Belgian crowd felt and knew -- that the only thing that has saved western Europe from being crushed like Czechoslovakia, has been the United States -- armed with the atomic bomb.

All this was as the climax of his address to scientists. The philosophy of same may have obfuscated matters for a lot of us. But, in his peroration, Churchill rose to the high notes, beloved by any orator. When he spoke those ideas to make us thing -- the Soviets more afraid of the friendship of the West

than of its amity. And -- the suggestion of the world role of the United States armed with the atomic bomb.

After these Churchillian implications, the rest of the news seems light indeed. But then, let us not neglect the light side of the news.

BRITISH FILMS

In Great Britain, the motion picture business, today, was saying -- not enough. This following action by the House of Commons to reduce the quota of British films that must be shown in motion picture theaters over there. The quota is now ~~reduced~~^{cut} from forty-five percent to forty percent - not enough. ^{TP} British film exhibitors want the figure further reduced - to twenty-five percent. "Because," say they, "the British public wants to see more American films." ^{TP} All of which marks the failure of the Labor Government attempt ~~is~~ to build up the British film industry -- by protecting it from the competition of Hollywood. The idea was -- force the movie ~~is~~ houses to run a high percentage of British-made pictures. Which represents an old idea - if you can't purchase goods from my competitor, you have to come to me. ^{TP} But it hasn't worked out that way - for the simple reason that, if you can't see the pictures you want to see, you may just not go to the movies at all.

~~So British theater business has fallen off to such an extent that Parliament has had to take action cutting the quota from forty-five percent to forty percent. Foreign films to be shown to the extent of sixty percent -- nearly all from Hollywood.~~

~~but~~ ^{TP} The exhibitors declare that the British film industry simply cannot produce enough pictures to fill the ~~forty percent~~ quota - not enough good ones. ~~Twenty five percent they agree, would be about right the capacity for turning out acceptable films.~~

The ~~mid~~ whole quota business has resulted in the production of inferior ^{British} pictures -- grand out in a hurry just to fill the percentage. Instead, say the exhibitors, the industry should concentrate on fewer and better ~~film~~ films -- and let Hollywood make up the difference. This would provide the theaters with pictures the people want to see, and cure the sickness at the box office.

All this may seem curious, after the splendid showing made by ^{the} British ~~action pictures~~ ^{Liebes}

in the recent American Academy awards, the
Hollywood Oscars. But the fact is that, under the
excessive quota system, British studios have
turned out a few masterpieces, like Hamlet -- and
a whole raft of hasty second rate film, that the
British motion picture public will not go to
see. ^R They are better at art than at mass production
-- which is what you might expect. So why not
concentrate on fewer and better pictures. That's
what the British theater owners continue to
ask, as the House of Commons reduces the quota
-- ^{only} ~~but~~ not enough.

JAPAN

Over in Japan, a lot of people are going to have their ages changed -- if the Tokyo Diet passes a bill now being ~~xxxx~~ considered. ~~Millions of Japanese will become a year younger - some of them two years younger.~~

The measure before the Diet proposes to change the traditional Japanese way of reckoning the age of a person. A child is considered to be one year old at birth. Moreover, the child has another year added to its age when the ^{next} New Year comes around. It works like this: If ^{the child} ~~is~~ ^{born} ~~on~~ ^{at} New Year's Eve ^{at} ten p.m. for example - that ~~the~~ child is one year old, and stays that old until Midnight comes around. Then he becomes two years old - although born only a couple of hours previously. You can see the complications -- a two year old child ^{either} may be ^a a new born infant, or a toddler eating a bowl of rice.

The argument for changing all that is that the traditional way of ^{counting} ~~getting~~ ^a ages causes

confusion in presenting Japanese population statistics to the world - when any number of people are on record as being a year or two years older than they actually are. The idea is to have Japan adopt ^{the} a method of calculating ages employed in the western countries ^{— whereas} - ~~and~~ Madame Butterfly will find herself a year or two younger. Which will not ~~not~~ displease Madame ^(Butterfly) ~~Butterfly~~ or Madame anybody else.

RENTS

At midnight tonight the old rent law expires, and the new controls take its place. ~~(Under the bill passed by Congress and signed by President Truman, the new restrictions on rent will continue for fifteen months, with provisions whereby landlords are to get what the bill calls -- "a fair net operating income". Also - there's a local option provision under which local communities, if they so desire, can lift the rent controls with permission of their State Governor. All going into effect, midnight tonight.)~~

Today, in Washington, Federal Rent Director Wighe Woods gave out an assurance to ~~generally~~ ^{tenants} -- saying the new law doesn't ~~not~~ necessarily mean that they ~~will~~ pay more.

It does not mean, in his words -- "a general rent increase for all tenants".

GLEN TAYLOR

There was a roar of laughter in an Alabama court room today - in the trial of U.S. Senator Glen Taylor. He is being prosecuted for disorderly conduct, as a result of the political campaign last year, when Glen Taylor ran for Vice President, on the Henry Wallace left wing ticket. TP Electioneering in Birmingham ^{Taylor} he defied the racial segregation laws of the South, and tried to enter a ^{church} door marked -- for negroes. The police ~~and~~ told him he would have to use the entrance - for whites. The result was an argument and a tussle. In the Birmingham trial today, the Idaho Senator tried to make the case a test of the segregation laws, while the prosecution put it all on the basis of a common brawl -- disturbance of the peace.

The chorus of laughter came while a policeman was testifying. Officer ~~was~~ Casey told about the scuffle. ^{Said Casey:-} ~~The Henry Wallace Vice Presidential candidate insisted on going through the forbidden door. The policeman stopped him. The ~~is~~ said Casey.~~

"he lowered his right shoulder and hit me --

I guess around my chest or stomach. He pushed me back a few feet. I braced myself, but he came at

me again. Then" related the officer "we went to tussling."

Policeman Casey and the Idaho cowboy,

That was followed by the ludicrous

episode - and the court room echoed with mirth.

Officer Casey told how he was joined by several

other policemen in subduing the Senator. They were

escorting the gentleman from Idaho away in vigorous

fashion - when all of them tripped over a low wire

fence and went sprawling. They fell on their faces,

Senator, Policemen and all. Whereupon, the Vice

Presidential candidate struggled ^{to} to get free, from

the pile-up, emerged from the heap of policemen,

rose to his feet - and uttered violent language.

~~***~~ Under the circumstances, a bit of profanity

could be excused, as the crowd in the court room

agreed -- laughing.

By the way, the Ala. Court convicted Sen. Glen Taylor - 50 fine - 180 days in jail. He'll appeal

WIDOW

In Oklahoma City there is a woman asking a question -- a dark, dramatic question. It is this: She has a heart condition, and the doctors tell her she has no more than a year to live. She has ten thousand dollars that she wants to use for a good time during that final year. So how to spend it? What to do with the money? What to buy? What kind of entertainment, amusement?

Her name is not given. She is merely called "Mrs. Heart" by the Daily Oklahoman, the newspaper to which she has addressed her query -- seeking an answer, asking people to suggest something -- how to spend ten thousand dollars, during the year she has left.

She's a widow, a retired business woman, who worked hard for seventeen years, and piled up a modest fortune. She has an ample estate to leave to her twenty-seven year old daughter. The figure of ten thousand dollars is arbitrary. She has merely set that much aside as final spending money for a year.

"I worked and sacrificed a long time for security" she says, "but I haven't had any fun. I never learned how to spend money". ^{TP} So, deciding to have a last fling, what did she think of? One thing that came to mind was -- travel. But that seemed futile -- with only a year to go. "The first thing people think of is travel," she says, "but I think - what's the use?"

Well, there's buying things. But she says: "What would I buy if I went on a shopping tour"? ^{New} ~~any~~ clothes? "They don't interest me. A new home, a new car? But I have a good home and a good car."

She has thought of remarrying as a way of spending the ten thousand ~~dollars~~. Her husband ~~did~~ years ago, and she lives alone with a Pekinese dog. "I'm terribly lonely," she admits, but adds that, if she found a man she might want to marry, she would not leave him her estate, he would just help her spend the ten thousand ~~dollars~~. All of

which might be a little difficult to arrange.

But what amusement does she like? Is there any? Yes, she likes to play cards. So, why not spend the ten thousand ~~dollars~~ that way, cards being one of the most effective ways of getting rid of cash. But no, that won't work either.

She says: "I used to lose at poker all the time - but now I'm a consistent winner. ^{Just} I can't lose.

If I spend fifteen or twenty dollars on a dinner, I win it all back in a poker game." With only

a year to live she doesn't care if she loses - and so she wins. ^{How do you figure that out? Well, she just is not anxious - if she holds a pr. 12 duces 12} ^{which is no way of spending} ^{at poker.} ^{let others win your} ^{3 aces.} which is no way to ~~at poker.~~ So, there's the dilemma,

with this appeal from the lady: "I just know somebody somewhere, will have a better idea than I have".

Later news tells of hundreds of replies pouring in, one from a doctor, a heart specialist who gives this advice -- spend some of the ten thousand for consultation with another doctor.

He says that a physician cannot really prognosticate in such matters, and adds: "with reasonable care and good management by the doctor, a patient can get along reasonably well for an indefinite period".

Which may turn out to be the real answer for the

lady and her ten thousand ~~dollars~~ - maybe there'll
~~will~~ be no need for her to have that fling -- ^{the fling that} ~~which~~
might be disappointing ^{anyhow.}

PLANE

People travelling by plane have occasion to note the fact that the hostess goes down the aisle of ~~the~~ passengers and offers them chewing gum. The idea is ^{to} ~~that by chewing gum, you~~ relieve the pressure in your ears when altitude changes -- the act of chewing does it. So now, over in Denmark they've ~~it~~ adopted that same system, the airlines passing out packages of chewing gum labelled:-- "to prevent ~~the~~ unpleasant pressure in your ears". ^{TP} Well, I suppose it had to happen, and it did. ^Q ~~The~~ plane landed ^{was} at Copenhagen, ~~and~~ a passenger went to the hostess ~~and~~ and said:

"Please help me get this stuff out of my ears. It doesn't do any good, and it is so ~~sickly~~ sticky, I can't ^{did} ~~get~~ it out. ^{!"} ~~on my ears~~

So there's something new -- chewing gum ⁱⁿ ~~with~~ your ears. *Shall we try it, Ken?*

CHURCHILL

Tonight witnesses the greatest speech ever made -- technologically, at least. The Winston Churchill address at Boston sets a record for magnitude and elaboration of broadcast and television, with the greatest mobilization of technical resources to date.

Which is a tribute to the tremendous personality of Britain's war-time Prime Minister, and likewise a reflection of the fact that his Boston appearance falls right on the heels of new technological advances. Like the video-hook-up of eastern states, from the Atlantic Coast to St. Louis. ^R But the most dramatic angle is the place where this Churchill event is being held - the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, shrine and sanctuary of science and engineering.

Wizards of M I T have enlisted in the ~~max~~ business of making the Churchill speech the greatest ever - technologically. For example, they have developed a method of polarizing the intense light that will be focused on Churchill

for the television cameras - screening the glare by polarization. The historic statesman might well be blinded by the intensity of illumination. - But not at all. Seventy-four years old, Winston Churchill reads with glasses, but he won't use his ordinary spectacles tonight. He ^{has} sent a pair of them -- the frames, that is -- to M I T, where the professors in the science of optics have fitted them with special polarized lenses -- giving perfect vision, yet filtering out the television glare.

With all this technical elaboration, in the greatest radio-video hook-up ever attempted, the question is -- what will Churchill say? That is being kept a closely guarded secret, but the rumor is that he may come out for a political union of the West, a sort of political federation of the nation in the North Atlantic Security Alliance.

The last time Winston Churchill made a speech in this country, he made history -- that address at Fulton, Missouri, with President Truman

sponsoring him. That was the "iron curtain" speech, coining that world phrase expressing the barrier between the Soviet East and the liberal West -- *the* iron curtain. At Fulton, Missouri, three years ago, Churchill fore-shadowed the North Atlantic Treaty by proposing a British-American military alliance. That is regarded as the germ which has expanded *to* ~~to~~ the lineup of the West, under the Security Pact -- which is now to be signed on Monday. All ~~an~~ adding zest to the report that he, tonight, will ~~an~~ suggest that the Western Alliance be developed into a political ~~an~~ union.