

C.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, January 26, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Great events are happening, and great news is breaking these days. Tonight for example, an announcement is to be made at ten o'clock, a statement to the people of the United States - and it will be of Number One importance. I am talking on the radio now, and at ten P.M. I'll be listening.

RUSSIA

A stupendous catastrophe of war has come to a close in front of the Soviet City of Stalingrad.

Moscow announces tonight that the liquidation of the huge German army in front of its great <sup>Russian</sup> ~~Soviet~~ industrial center is virtually complete. <sup>TF</sup> Two hundred and twenty-two

thousand Nazi troops assailed Stalingrad, only in the end to be ~~xxx~~ caught in a trap of doom. Tonight's

bulletin states that all but twelve thousand have been killed or captured. And even these ~~xxx~~ twelve thousand

remaining have been split into two groups. Both groups are in the City of Stalingrad, soldiers who have been engaged in the fierce street fighting for months.

One party is in the northern part. The other is nearer the central part of the City on the Volga.

Tonight's Moscow bulletin says in triumph:

"The plan of the supreme command of the Red Army for the encirclement and liquidation of the large groups of elite German Fascist troops has been basically realized."

RUMORS

We hear that an agreement has been reached between Giraud and DeGaulle. The two rival French chieftains are said to have arranged a settlement. The story was printed in the CHICAGO SUN today, which states: "The political differences in North Africa appear to have been smoothed out."

The Chicago newspaper goes on to indicate that the arrangement is a sort of temporary affair, not a definite and permanent solution. "The impression prevails," says the SUN, "that the Fighting French under DeGaulle and most of the French African Empire under Giraud, remain separate organizations." <sup>TP</sup> A settlement between the two factions has been badly needed, ever since General Eisenhower recognized Admiral Darlan as French North African Administrator. The DeGaulle people were opposed bitterly, and after the assassination of Darlan, they still held back

because of the presence of Vichy elements in ~~xxxx~~ the regime headed by Darlan's successor, General Giraud.

So now

Both sides have ~~now~~ come together, and today's story

~~states~~ <sup>declares</sup>

that the new agreement between them was

accomplished by United States and Great Britain

mediation, <sup>by</sup> high American and British personalities.

~~getting the two sides together.~~

~~Tonight~~ Momentous decisions are in the air tonight,

as was headlines <sup>d</sup> in London today. British newspapers

used glaring black type in saying - "BIGGEST TALKS OF

WAR," "MOMENTOUS DECISION BY ALLIES", "GRAND STRATEGY

IN 1943." The stories under these headlines were

flashed to London from New York and Washington, and

one British newspaper spread this banner statement:

"UNITED STATES EXPECTS NEWS TO STIR WORLD."

This London journalistic excitement follows reiterated statements by the Axis radio - that Prime

Minister Winston Churchill had left London to confer with President Roosevelt.

In the House of Commons today, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was asked a question ~~which~~ much in mind nowadays - What about unified command?

Eden replied that there have been British and American discussions concerning the possible formation of a United Nations War Council. He refused to add anything to that.

Well, ~~great~~ great events are happening, and great news is breaking these days. Tonight for example, an announcement is to be made at ten o'clock, a statement to the people of the United States - and it will be of Number One importance. I am talking on the radio now, and at ten P.M. I'll be listening.

## AFRICA

The news tells of no important action in Tunisia - just some minor fighting. Americans and Free French are battling with the Nazis at two points - nothing very violent and decisive.

Of more apparent consequences are enemy reports of strong American concentrations toward the southern end of the Tunisian line. The strategy would have an important bearing on Rommel's East Afrika Korps, which has got into the Axis held part of Tunisia after its long retreat. There is some supposition that the Afrika Korps might try to hold a strong defensive line which the French built against the Italians in Libya, a sort of Maginot Line. They would have a strong front there, but would be gravely threatened by <sup>a</sup>~~an~~ ~~army~~<sub>1</sub> concentration of Americans <sup>or</sup> such as enemy sources tell about today. A powerful lunge toward the sea would threaten to cut communications between the

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Afrika Korps at the African Maginot Line and the Axis forces to the north in the area of Tunis and Bizerte. Such an American maneuver, driving to the sea, would be disastrous to the units that Rommel once led to victory. They would be isolated, pinned against the coast.

Much, however, depends upon the weather. It is still raining in Tunisia. This is the wet season, and the land is a mud-hole for heavy mechanized equipment.

SOLOMONS

From the Solomon Islands, we have news of American successes both on the ground and in the air. On terra firma, two forces of American soldiers met at Kokumbona. The two parties of troops were not just out for a stroll, to encounter each other for a cherry hello. In that fierce sort of fighting on Guadalcanal, they had been battling around in opposite directions, surrounding a pocket of Japs. One unit fought its way along the beaches to the village of Kokumbona. The second forced its way to that place by an inland <sup>land</sup> route. And the meeting was ~~xxxxxxxx~~ a completely successful maneuver. They trapped a bunch of Japs and gained for our soldiers the full use of the beach near Kokumbona.

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In the air, Jap warplanes set out to bomb the Americans on Guadalcanal, but the Japs never got there. Dive bombers, twin engined altitude bombers and fighters,



~~were~~ *were on their way and*  
~~and they~~ were intercepted by American planes. Four

Jap Zeros were shot down, and the remainder of the

enemy airmada was driven off.

FLYNN

Today Edward J. Flynn resigned from the Democratic National Committee - gave up his post as committeeman from New York. Previously, he was Chairman of the Committee, and stepped out when President Roosevelt designated him as United States Minister to Australia. He remained, however, a member of the Committee.

Flynn was succeeded as Democratic National Chairman by Postmaster General Frank Walker. And Walker today made the announcement that Flynn has left the Committee altogether, is not even a member any more.

This is an important move with reference to the Senate proceedings in Washington. There the big question is - Will the President's nomination of <sup>his friend "Dear Eddie"</sup> ~~Flynn~~ as Minister to Australia be okayed by the Senate?

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The Committee is considering the nomination, and after

listening to a lot of evidence about paving blocks, and so on, the indications are that the vote will be close. Several Democratic Senators on the Committee were said to be opposed - if Flynn kept his place on the Democratic National Committee. They felt that the Bronx political leader should not be both - Minister to Australia and Democratic National Committeeman at the same time. Now Flynn has removed that objection, -- by ~~resigning from the Democratic Committee, and this may affect the issue of his nomination to the diplomatic post.~~

~~Another possible effect is to be seen in the question - Who will succeed Flynn on the Committee? This takes us around to Jim Farley. He, as Chairman of the New York State Democratic Committee, may be expected to have a good deal to say in the matter of a successor to Flynn. Farley, one-time campaign~~

JEFFERS

The nation's Rubber Coordinator is in the middle of two first class arguments. One arises from what he <sup>said</sup> ~~had to say~~ yesterday about Army and Navy expeditors. These officers are ~~stationed at armament factories, and are~~ supposed to expedite production - make things roll more rapidly, get the guns out faster. Rubber Coordinator Jeffers stated that, instead ~~xxxxxxx~~ of expediting, they impede - actually delay. In fact, he said the expeditors were loafers.

All of which was strong talk yesterday, and was bound to produce repercussions. It did. The Office of War Information is ~~x~~ said to be riled. The O.W.I. is supposed to have control over official statements and addresses made by top rankers. The Jeffers talk about expediting loafers was not made in a formal address, but in one of those question-and-answer periods, when people were asking him things,

and he was extemporaneously explaining difficulties in the rubber situation. <sup>He stated today</sup> ~~He says~~ that question and answer exchanges are not subject to the control of the O.W.I.

The Jeffers charges are to be made the <sup>theme</sup> ~~subject~~ of a congressional investigation. Today Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee stated that there will be an inquiry into the Jeffers charges against the expeditors.

The second controversy in which the Rubber Coordinator is involved concerns the question of building plants for the manufacture of synthetic rubber. Today Chairman of the War Production Board Donald Nelson told a Senate Committee that he and Jeffers are in disagreement about the number and magnitude of rubber manufacturing plants that should be built. It is a question of priorities - allowing rubber makers to get materials necessary to build their factories.

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The Baruch Committee, appointed by the President, recommended a huge synthetic rubber program. Donald Nelson of the W.P.B. stated today that he thinks the Baruch recommendation should be carried out to the extent of fifty-five per cent. Rubber Coordinator Jeffers, on the other hand, wants the program to be fulfilled to the extent of sixty-five to seventy per cent. <sup>TP</sup> Nelson believes that these higher figures would disrupt the War Production Program in general.

~~You'd have to put into rubber production plants the materials that are vitally needed to turn out other war necessities, such as aviation gasoline and escort vessels to fight U-boats. Jeffers, on the other hand, believes that the nation can turn out the necessary aviation gasoline and escort vessels and at the same time provide enough material to build rubber making equipment to within sixty-five or seventy per cent of the Baruch schedule.~~

ARMY

The Military Affairs Committee of the Senate has begun its inquiry into the number of men the armed forces need. A secret hearing was held today, after which Senator Chandler of Kentucky stated that the government plans to have ten million, four hundred and twenty thousand men ~~and women~~ in uniform by the end of this year. The Army - eight million, two hundred thousand. The Navy - two million, two hundred and twenty thousand. These figures were given to the Committee by Lieutenant-General McNarney, Army Deputy <sup>Chief</sup> of Staff, ~~and~~ <sup>also</sup> by a spokesman <sup>e</sup> for the Navy.

~~The figures are in accord with previously announced intentions of having a combined Army and Navy personnel of more than ten million, and are factual background for the Senate Committee as it considers arguments pro and con. Some contend that the nation cannot support an army of that huge size and at the~~

~~same time continue full time schedule production for domestic use and Lend-Lease. Senators from farm states have protested that the armed services are taking so many men off the farms, that it will be impossible for the farmers to produce up to schedule - unless the size of the Army and Navy is curtailed.~~

Senator Chandler stated: "I think we will have to support an Army and Navy of this size even if it means spreading things pretty thin at home. I think," he added, "that a hundred and thirty million people can support ten million men in the armed services."

~~Senator Reynolds of North Carolina stated that he has formed no opinion yet, and wants to wait until all the evidence is in. To procure more evidence, Food Administrator Claude Wickard will appear before the Committee some time next week - to give some facts~~



BUREAUCRATS

The bureaucrats are taking a lot of punishment nowadays, but sometimes a thing can go too far. Take what Congressman Eugene Cox of Georgia had to say ~~xx~~ today - in trying to show how little the bureaucrats know about the real facts of life and the farm.

"I saw a letter from one of the administration fellows," related the Congressman, "which advised that in order to help with the conservation effort - the farmer should take the shoes off his horse before he puts him in the barn at night."

No! Congressman, <sup>!</sup> ~~even a bureaucrat would ~~not~~~~  
~~know better than that.~~ <sup>That</sup> The line about taking the shoes  
off the horse sounds to me like one of those good old  
farmer <sup>wheezes,</sup> ~~whizzers,~~ straight from the haystack.

FARMER

One of the <sup>nimblest</sup> ~~numbles~~ dodges in connection with keeping out of the draft is reported from East St. Louis, Illinois. Out there a young man named Grigsby is accused of having tried to get deferment by registering as a farmer - when he really had mighty little to do with plowing, planting, or pitching hay. He must be one of those gentleman farmers.

Today his lawyer entered a defense, and who should he name but President Roosevelt? He said the case should be dismissed, because the President in giving his occupation, lists himself as a farmer. "The President," said he, "does not plow, does not harrow, does not cut down trees, and does not haul cattle to market - yet he is a farmer by occupation."

Right you are counsellor, but neither is the President trying to get out of the draft.

COMET

With the world so much pre-occupied by war, I suppose our new celestial visitor will go more or less unnoticed. People thinking about Tunisia, the Caucasus and Guadalcanal, are not likely to get excited by Whipple's Comet. But this <sup>wanderer</sup> ~~wander~~ of space made its closest approach to the earth today. How close?

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The Whipple Comet was discovered by President Whipple of the Harvard Observatory a few weeks ago, and today he estimated that it is only about forty million miles away. <sup>only! And he</sup> ~~The "only" is in quotes, it is the professor's word.~~ And the learned astronomer thereupon adds that the comet has a tail three million miles long.

~~Well, that comet better look out and not approach any closer than forty million miles or it's likely to find itself drafted and put in an army camp to march and drill - thirty million mile tail and all.~~

## BEATING

In New York today, a husband was arrested on a charge that certainly would seem to pay tribute to the heft and huskiness of his wife. The story is that Frank Mata, ~~a little puny~~ <sup>a puny</sup> sort of guy, got into a row with ~~the not so little woman~~ <sup>the not so little woman</sup>, whereupon he ~~wifed~~ <sup>wifed</sup> and figured ~~that~~ she needed a good licking.

So he went to Frank Castra, a tall broad-shouldered muscular giant and hired him to administer the chastising. He agreed to pay him a hundred dollars; ~~to give wifie a good shellacing,~~ twenty dollars down and the other eighty to be paid when the job of wife-disciplining had been done.

Castra took the twenty, and then was bothered by ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> chivalrous instincts. He reminded himself that no gentleman ever beats a lady. So what did he do?

He went to the wife, and told her that he had been hired to whack her a few times, but said that he would refrain from doing so - if she would put on

some bandages, and convince her husband that she had got a good wallop, so that Castra could collect the eighty dollars.

The lady was indignant, as what lady wouldn't be?

*What did she do? She called*  
~~be under such like circumstances? She was angry with~~  
*the cops, Heartless woman,*  
~~her husband for paying somebody to give her a licking,~~

~~and she was riled at the intended woman-beater for~~  
~~trying to get her into an eighty dollar swindle. So~~  
~~she called the cops - and hubby was hauled off to jail.~~

~~Just another painful instance of the old problem~~  
~~of what to do about women.~~

ENDING

8/2  
To return to North Africa for a moment, which is a principal topic of conversation today, did you happen to read THE SUN DIAL, H. I. Phillips' famous column in the New York Sun? Hi Phillips gets off some great lines, and here is one he has today which he has entitled "As Benito Might Sing It". Then he goes on to paraphrase the Marine Song, as follows:

"From the balconies of Italy to the  
shores of Tripoli,

I have fought my country's battles,  
and, oh, boy, now look at me!"

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And now even if we can't look at Hugh, let's  
listen to him.