

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's a fine state of confusion. (The German high command this afternoon announced the capture of Warsaw, stated that the capital of Poland had fallen with "brief fighting.") The exact time was given. The German military communique stated that an armoured and motorized unit entered the city at seven fifteen P.M., European time. The Berlin statement was positive and circumstantial, telling how the enormous German military movement, like the ~~closing~~<sup>grip</sup> of a vise, had closed in on Warsaw. And that seemed to be that - the Polish capital taken by Hitler's armies on the eighth day of the war - today at a quarter past seven in the evening.

(Then an hour or so later came something puzzling. Paris reported a Polish radio station broadcast, which identified itself as Warsaw. This broadcast said that everything was normal in the capital, people busy digging trenches preparing for a

desperate defense against the German attack.) This purported to emanate from Warsaw at eight thirty P.M., an hour and a quarter after the Germans captured the City - according to ~~the~~ Berlin, ~~announcement~~.

Something cockeyed somewhere. Maybe the supposed Warsaw broadcast was a fake and was really from somewhere else. Or maybe it was something on the air earlier in the day, and there was <sup>a</sup> ~~an acute~~ confusion of time in the cable from Paris.

~~Then in~~ a half an hour or so after that, Paris reported another Warsaw broadcast. This one at nine-ten P.M., nearly two hours after the reported capture of the city. And once more the radio indication was that the city had no<sup>†</sup> fallen to the Germans. <sup>TP</sup> Still later, an official short wave broadcast from London quoted the Polish Ambassador as denying the Berlin claim outright. "The German report of occupation is completely false," <sup>so</sup> the Polish Ambassador to London declared officially.

<sup>TP</sup> About the same time the Berlin radio was broadcasting in English, French, Swedish and Polish that not only had German mechanized units seized the Polish capital, but that German infantry had made their entry into the city. *The triumphal Berlin report was still coming thru when*

I dashed out of my office.

That's the way the news stood, a contradiction of cables, as I hurried here to the microphone. It may mean that the Hitler troops are in some part of the city, and maybe the other part is held by the Poles, -- including the area where the radio station is. My guess is there is fighting in Warsaw right now. I've spoken on previous evenings about the contradictions we may expect in the war news, opposing bulletins of yes and no. Tonight we have this spectacular and puzzling example -- a flat and outright contradiction of an event of such magnitude as the capture of Warsaw!

Late reports from Berlin are so positive about the event that they're discussing the probable aftermath. They say, for one thing, that after taking the Polish capitol, the German mechanized army is pushing rapidly on to the east, striking at the Polish forces there. Berlin says it believes the resisting power of the Polish army is broken. And Berlin indicates that with Poland's loss of its capitol, Hitler may make his bid for peace. Perhaps wait until his armies have overrun Poland more or less completely, but he may try it now, as a peace offensive, to follow the fall of Warsaw -- if it

has fallen -- if.

The prospects of the anticipated Hitler peace offensive getting anywhere seem to be about the same as last night -- not so good. Nothing new on the Western Front. The same bombarding back and forth, with mighty cannon from the Maginot Line to the Siegfried Line, and vice versa. And the same slow, cautious, skirmishing-on, and on by the French and British troops who are creeping up to the Siegfried Line. The indications are that the French and British are slowly and carefully getting set, in a huge way, for a mighty stroke to try that Siegfried Line and see whether they can smash through it at one blow. And Great Britain more than ever seems determined on a long and desperate war.

Britain went on rations today. The Germans have been under a food-card-system since the first day of the war. Within a week Britain is to follow suit - though the government announces there is no prospect of a food shortage.

No alarm is expressed in London about a Hitler submarine blockade though ship sinkings went on today -- merchant vessels torpedoed or otherwise sunk here and there. Britain is striking back with a formal

naval blockade of  
Germany - orders were issued today about contraband, always a  
thorny point of international law. We Americans during the  
World War were much concerned about <sup>the</sup> British blockade and  
contraband, plenty of disputes between Washington and London.  
This time our policy has changes <sup>do</sup> We're not maintaining <sup>our</sup> sea  
rights, not insisting that our ships have the freedom of the  
seas in the war zone. So the British blockade and contraband  
list is <sup>(of)</sup> little more than academic interest to us.

## JEWS

Here's a story about a mournful topic that must have caused many a one to wonder. It's only a few weeks back that the plight of the Jews in Germany was a thing of worldwide pity -- every day a tragic story of the refugees. But what about the German Jews now? How are things going with those oppressed people inside of Naziland at war? A United Press survey in Berlin shows that the exodus of the refugees has virtually stopped -- only to be expected under wartime conditions. Only a few Jews are able to get out, and they must go through neutral countries -- most of them through Denmark and Italy.

The Jews of wartime Germany are strictly obeying the Hitler wartime regulations -- this at the insistent urging

of the Jewish Union, which warned them particularly to observe the rules governing food distribution and anti-air raid blackouts.

The Jewish Union has announced the cancellation of all Jewish theatres, cinema and lecture gatherings. No Jewish crowds to collect except in synagogues for divine worship.

In an economic respect, the war is having a great influence on Jewish Life in the Nazi haunt of anti-Semitism. The mobilization of the huge armies in Poland and on the Western Front has made the chronic Hitler labor shortage more acute. And increasingly Jews are drawn into employment to take the places of men in the army. The Jewish labor exchange handles the problem, and the number of jobs it is handing out is increasing by leaps and bounds. Some estimate that half of the men working on roads, farms and building projects are Jewish. And a large number of Jewish women are working at sewing, clerical-tasks, and on farms. <sup>indeed</sup> It is ironical <sub>^</sub> that the Jewish people in Germany should be doing useful work for their bitterest enemy, but then <sup>that</sup> ~~it~~ may easily cause a betterment of their position.

ATHENIA

Today the State Department in Washington had an official report on the sinking of the Athenia. It was made by an American naval attaché in London. This attaché made his investigation by questioning ATHENIA survivors at Galway, in Ireland. And his report confirms the contention that the ATHENIA was sunk by a torpedo.

Here's the way one significant part of it reads:- "From evidence given by a quarter-master," our naval attaché relates, "the submarine conning-tower broke surface about eight hundred yards on the port quarter of the ATHENIA."

Concerning the shell, the submarine is said to have fired at the torpedoed<sup>d</sup> ship, the report ~~ix~~ has this to say:- "A gun or explosive signal was fired from the conning-tower platform. As the submarine was on the weather side of the ATHENIA," the attache's account continues, "the smoke from this discharge blew down over the ATHENIA. And a distinct smell of cordite was recognized." Most of us know that cordite is a high explosive used in shell fire, but the attache's investigation leaves it uncertain whether it was a case of an explosive signal or a cannon.



"No witness heard the shell in the air," the report goes on. "No witness heard a shell strike the ship. No splash of the projectile was seen."

Many will consider today's report final. The ATHENIA torpedoes, but there's no confirmation of the story that the submarine fired at the ship.

CANADA

We'll have to revise the story we had last night about Canada ~~jointing~~ ~~Great~~ joining Great Britain in the European War. (Canada has not entered the conflict as yet.) Yesterday the GovernorGeneral, Lord Tweedsmuir, in a speech from the throne as representative of His Majesty, the King, proclaimed that a state of war exists. This, we supposed, was not technically a Canadian declaration of war - but pretty much the same thing. Today, in the Ottawa Parliament, Prime Minister MacKenzie-King explained that Lord Tweedsmuir did not mean to say that a state of war existed between Canada and Germany - but between Great Britain and Germany. In fact, <sup>a</sup> French-Canadian members of Parliament produced four big bundles - petitions he told Parliament. "Thousands of petitions," said he, "against participation by Canada in a foreign war.")

The Canadian legislative body is <sup>now</sup> deliberating the question, ~~of war, deliberating~~ preparation for a decision. *Endy*

The United States government has not included Canada among nations at war - to which the American Neutrality Law is automatically applied. To Washington Canada is a neutral power - as things stand tonight.

EMERGENCY

President Roosevelt today used caution in telling about his latest official action. So let us also use caution in talking about it. The news flash has quite a sensational sound -- (the President proclaims a state of limited national emergency.) National Emergency! When that decree is passed in nations abroad, it has a warlike ring. But the word "limited" in our own presidential proclamation tones it down, makes it unsensational, so said the President.

(In the face of the war in Europe, the administration wants to do a few things in behalf of national defense and neutrality.) Under various laws the President says he could call the nation to a state of full emergency for war. Full emergency, he said -- would be a sensational thing indeed. But the mere limited variety, put into effect today, is a matter of strengthening the army somewhat, reenforcing the Navy and Coast Guard a bit, and granting the federal authorities some more power to curb actions against our neutrality. Today's decree may be an important sign, an indication of other things to come.

The army is now a lot below the legal limit for times of peace,

So there's presidential ~~caution concerning the~~  
proclamation of limited national emergency issued today. ~~But~~  
<sup>TR</sup> ~~The~~ White House explanation didn't happen as quickly as I've  
rattled it off. There was a delay, an embarrassing delay.  
The proclamation of limited national emergency got lost -  
they couldn't find it. A jam of White House correspondents was  
at the press conference - a hundred <sup>odd</sup> ~~or~~ newspaper men, eager for  
the headline news. The President was ready to read the  
proclamation. He looked around for it but <sup>it was gone.</sup> ~~couldn't find it.~~  
He proceeded to search - ~~but he searched~~ his desk, his pockets,  
the brief case of Attorney General Frank Murphy who was there.  
The President searched the waste basket. It would have been  
something of a national joke if the proclamation of limited  
national emergency had got tossed into the waste basket, along  
with the torn up letters, the discarded newspapers, and the  
contents of the cigarette tray. But that national calamity  
was averted - because they never did find the proclamation.  
While the cohorts of eager newspaper men waited with fidgety  
<sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ patience, the President had to send over to the State

Department and get Secretary Hull's copy of the national limited emergency decree. Then all was well, and President Roosevelt gave his cautious interpretation of the historic event.

subject today, and officers of the Federal Reserve Bank against profiteering were not adequate. No matter how strictly enforced, the present statutes that apply to price hoarding won't do the job thoroughly," so said the Attorney General.

Will Congress be asked to pass anti-profiteering laws? No - not according to President Roosevelt. At his press conference today, he said he was going to call a special session of Congress, though he didn't say just when. He would ask the lawmakers to make the anti-profiteering provisions of the Neutrality Law, but not the anti-price gouging provisions. But that's all that the special session of Congress will be required to do. The President said he would not ask for the question of fixing prices. He saw no danger of any such action, and no likelihood of any law to that effect. The President said, however, that he would like to see the anti-profiteering provisions of the Neutrality Law amended to cover the anti-price gouging provisions.

FOOD

Washington is much concerned about food prices - the way dinner table costs have been rising. Attorney-General Frank Murphy had a conference with President Roosevelt on the subject today, and afterward he declared the rules against profiteering were not adequate. No matter how sternly enforced, the present statutes that apply to price boosting won't do the job thoroughly - so said the Attorney General.

Will Congress be asked to pass anti-profiteering laws? No - not according to President Roosevelt. At his press conference today, he said he was going to call a special session of Congress, though he didn't say just when. He would ask the lawmakers to make the much debated revision of the Neutrality Law, cut out the arms embargo <sup>on</sup> ~~to~~ nations at war. But that's <sup>to be all that</sup> ~~all~~ the special session of Congress <sup>is to</sup> ~~will~~ be required to do. <sup>et</sup> ~~is~~ The President stated that as for the question of rising prices, he saw no chance of congressional action, no likelihood of new laws to check <sup>the</sup> soaring. The President does, however, assure the public that there'll be high climbing of living costs as there was in World War days, ~~many of us~~

when the high cost of living had a popular alphabetical form,

H-C-L When it was H-C-L this and H-C-L that and

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.