

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight we have Act Two of that imperial drama under the shadow of Big Ben. It was, if anything, more arresting, more absorbing, than the first act. Yesterday we had the unexpected sensation of an Admiral of the fleet rising in full uniform, all his medals blazing, to accuse the war cabinet of ineptitude, telling the Government that what Nelson said a hundred and forty years ago is still true today -- that the boldest course is the safest.

Today, the scene was heightened by a speech from the Ex-Premier who led Britain through the last war, the Right Honorable David Lloyd George. And he was at the top of his old form. Not in fifteen years had the members and spectators at Westminster heard the leonine Welch orator at such a pitch of eloquence and fury. Prime Minister Chamberlain sat there with his face changing color as he heard his successful predecessor roar out to the House that

there is nothing that would more contribute to victory in this war than that Chamberlain give up his seals of office.

The old lion of Wales left nothing unsaid. He asked in these words:- "Is there any man in this House who will say he is satisfied with the speed and efficiency of our preparations in any respect for the air, for the army, yea, even for the navy? And he answered his own question - "Everybody is dissatisfied." Then he added:- "The whole world knows we are in a worse position strategically than this country ever was placed in." That stab drew groans from the benches of the government supporters.

Lloyd George then referred to his own conduct of the World War, and said:- "It would be a fatal error on our part not to acknowledge that the situation is a grave one. In such experience as I have had in war directions I never tried to minimize the extent of disaster." He then moderated his tone somewhat, saying that in his judgment there was no cause for panic but there is grave cause for, as he put it, "pulling ourselves together!" But, he added, "for three or four years everything that has been done has been half-hearted and ineffective, without drive or

intelligence.

And then he pitched on the Norway expedition with the words:- "The first instalment of our forces to Norway should have been picked men. The Germans had picked men," he said, and went on:- "We are all proud to read of the gallantry of our men but it is all the more shame that we should make fools of them."

Then he named a long list of what he called the government's failures - "Czechoslovakia, the Russo-German Alliance." And he added:- "Then there's Roumania, Germany practically has Roumania in her hands. By this policy in Norway we have handed her Roumania." And he added;- "I hope that my fears regarding Spain won't prove true."

At one point he crossed swords verbally with Chamberlain himself. That was when Lloyd George said:- "I agree with the Prime Minister that we must face our decision not as a personal issue."

In the House of Lords at that moment, Foreign Minister Viscount Halifax was talking and telling the Lords that Prime Minister Chamberlain should not be singled out for criticism

because, as Halifax said, "We were all in agreement with him."

Getting back to Lloyd George, the aged ex-Prime Minister declared that Chamberlain "is not in a position to make his personality in this respect inseparable from the interest of the country."

That brought Chamberlain to his feet, his face white and his eyes blazing. He demanded to know, "What's the meaning of that observation?" Then there arose a hubbub in the House, which made both speakers inaudible. As it subsided, Chamberlain said:- "I took pains to say that personalities ought to have no place in our considerations." And Chamberlain added that neither he nor his colleagues would be slow to accept their responsibility. At this moment, First Lord Winston Churchill jumped up and said that so far as he himself was concerned, he would assume full responsibility for all the acts and policies of the Admiralty. To which Lloyd George retorted with the most cutting remark:- "I hope the First Lord will not allow himself to be converted into an air-shelter for his colleagues." And the opposition benches rocked with laughter.

At one point Lloyd George aroused the tempers of all

the Chamberlain partisans when he cried out:- "British promissory notes have become rubbish on the market." Cries of "shame! shame!" echoed through the House from the benches where the Government supporters sit.

Before Lloyd George had begun to speak the Government had already heard plenty. Labor leader Herbert Morrison had been equally scathing in his attack on the Chamberlain Government. But he was eclipsed by the fiery Welshman. Morrison wanted to know what the British Intelligence was about, not finding out that Germany had planned the invasion of Norway. And he too accused Chamberlain and his colleagues of using Winston Churchill as a shield. As Morrison concluded, he threw down the gauntlet to the Government, said the Labor party was going to insist on a vote of no confidence, tonight.

At that Chamberlain bounded from his seat vigorously and in heated tones cried: "I accept the challenge. I welcome it indeed. For at least we shall see who is with us and who is against us." And then he charged that Morrison was making a personal attack upon him just at a time when, as he put it, we

are facing a relentless enemy who must be fought by the united action of this country.

The final phase of the drama began at ten o'clock London time. Then started the scene for which members of the House, for which the whole world had been waiting -- the speech of Winston Churchill, the First Lord, the Senior Minister of Defense, the strong man upon whom the British Empire rests its hopes. What he had to say at first was not particularly news, though it was news when he admitted that the principal cause of the failure in Norway was the inferiority of the Allies in the air.

In spite of this admission, Churchill earnestly defended the Chamberlain Government. And this naturally was a disappointment to the opposition. There had been a rumor that Churchill might be about to turn upon his chief and his colleagues. It has been said by his critics that Winston has always been an unpredictable fellow. And, there has been word of a whispering campaign against him, a campaign which was reported to have gotten under the skin of the First Lord. Hence the rumor that he was about to give another version of the campaign in Norway, to declare that he had been overruled by his colleagues, and therefore the

failure.

~~But Churchill did nothing of the sort. As we have already observed, he~~ tonight defied Lloyd George and said he had accepted full responsibility for everything at the Admiralty.

On the question of British inferiority in the air, he declared:- "We must endure this with firmness until more favorable conditions can be established, as assuredly they will be established." He answered the attack by his friend, Admiral Sir Roger Keyes. Churchill said that any such attempt as mentioned yesterday by ~~EXE~~ Keyes would have meant a naval disaster. Any British fleet attacking in the Skagerrak would have been blasted by German bombing planes before they could reach Oslofjord. He added the information that a prodigious number of German ships had been sunk along the Norwegian coast, and that some seven or eight thousand Germans had been drowned. Thousands of bodies had been washed up, he said.

He denied vigorously that he and the Admiralty had been overruled by his colleagues in the War Cabinet. The chiefs of staff had advised against a direct naval attack on Trondheim

and he agreed with them. As for their withdrawing from Norway, he said:- "There were other waters we had to think of."

And now, here's the vote in the House of Commons on that motion by the Labor Party, a motion of "No Confidence" in the war policy of the Chamberlain Government. It just came in over the wire, and the vote is -- Two hundred and eighty-one to two hundred -- in favor of the Government. Chamberlain and his colleagues win and thus ends one of the biggest parliamentary dramas of our time.



## HOLLAND

Today's scare about the invasion of Holland apparently has petered out like previous alarms. I say "apparently" because we can't be sure in this war. At any rate, cold water was thrown on the sensation in Paris where the military authorities declared that so far as their observation went, there had been no recent shift or fresh concentrations of German troops on the Dutch border. The French reminded the ~~xxx~~ world that this is the sixth time that the imminent invasion of Holland had been rumored.

Then there came more positive news from Washington. It was given out by Dr. Loudon, Queen Wilhelmina's envoy to the United States. He talked over the Trans-Atlantic telephone to officials of his government at The Hague. And, says Dr. Loudon, "reports that two German columns are moving toward the Dutch border for an invasion are absolutely incorrect."

This again was corroborated at the State Department, where Secretary Hull announced that he had diplomatic dispatches from the Netherlands. These show that there's plenty of tension, but no positive movements of soldiers.

Nevertheless, the military establishment of the

Netherlands is standing at attention, on its toes, with government restrictions on all communications except those of diplomats.

Incidentally, Queen Wilhelmina has just established a record. She has ruled over her country longer than any other sovereign of the House of Nassau. Her father reigned for forty-one years and eight months, and this year Queen Wilhelmina passed the mark. And - though she's only fifty-nine, she has occupied her throne longer than any living ruler.

AMERICANS

Uncle Sam's consuls in Hungary put out another warning to Americans today. The gist of it is, "Better go home while the going is good."

And Secretary Hull backed this up. He said this was the second warning issued by Uncle Sam's diplomats to American citizens in the Balkans and the countries along the Danube. And, added the Secretary of State, to make the warning more emphatic, if they find themselves suddenly trapped in the war zone, they'll have no excuse and no one but themselves to blame.

MILLER

A newspaper reporter has died and the news came as a shock to people in many lands. In London, New York, Cape Town, Washington, Addis Ababa, Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm, Bombay, Buenos Aires, even Berlin, the fatal accident to Webb Miller, General European News Manager of the United Press, was page one news. I can well imagine how he himself would have felt the irony of his death. In pursuit of page one news about other people, he had travelled by airplane more than four hundred thousand miles. He had covered no fewer than seven wars and a couple of big scale riots. He had been under fire from machine guns, heavy artillery and air bombardments. Through all such adventures he came unscathed. And he died alone, in the night, beside a railroad track.

Webb Miller had been covering that historic debate in the British House of Commons yesterday, reporting the proceedings of Parliament -- a particularly difficult and exhausting job. But, Webb loved it. He agreed with me that it's the most dramatic show on earth - when it is good. From St. Stephens he went to the United Press office and announced in high spirits that he was off to the country for a good night's sleep so as to be fresh and fit

for today's excitement in the House. To hear Winston Churchill. What actually happened to him nobody knows. But they found his body after the all night blackout, found it this morning by the side of a railway track, at a junction outside London.

Webb Miller was a Twentieth Century Richard Harding Davis: with a difference. That is, he made Davis look like an amateur both in the importance of the historic events he described and in the scope of his accomplishments.

I had known him intimately for a quarter of a century. We started out together as cub reporters in Chicago. And Webb was my particular pal among all the newspaper men I ever knew. In 1916 we went different ways, I to Alaska, Webb to Mexico.

And his assignments over the following period of twenty-four years ranged from the Pershing expedition in Mexico, chasing Pancho Villa, to the Russo-Finnish War, with our trails frequently crossing -- at Chateau-Thierry and in the Argonne, at the Peace Conference at Versailles, in the Riff War in Morocco, and in India during those wild early Ghandi days. After that he scooped the world with the news of Mussolini's invasion

of Ethiopia. Then the war in Spain. And recently - Finland. His latest assignment in London was only temporary. His bag was packed. Webb Miller was ready to start off again.

He told us about many of his adventures in his autobiography, which he called "I Found No Peace." You may recall he was with me on the air several years ago from mid-Atlantic and again a few months ago when he was in New York.

Webb Miller's career was a fantastic paradox. He always said the thing he most wanted to do was to go off in the country, live quietly after the manner of his hero, the philosopher, Henry Thoreau and write in leisurely fashion on philosophic subjects. He thought he resented the strenuous life, always plunging into the thick of the world's latest excitement. But, I believe that in spite of all he said that he loved it. At any rate one of the world's star observers of the human shadow show came to his end in a London blackout.

And now Hugh James.