

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1940.

Comment

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The ^{French resort town} ~~pleasant little watering place~~ of Vichy today

became the background for one of the great scenes ~~of~~ history.

^{Vichy} Hitherto ~~it~~ has been known chiefly as a place where fat rich people
went to ^(lose their excess fat, or) ~~get thin or to lose~~ their gout. Today it ^{witnessed a tragic} ~~was the~~ scene: -

^{the end of the} ~~where the~~ Third Republic of France, ~~lost its existence~~. Six hundred

and forty-nine French Senators and Deputies cast their ballots

on the most fateful question that they ever have decided or ever

will decide. It was the National Assembly of France voting its

own suicide. The vote was five hundred and sixty-nine to eighty.

Just eighty French legislators to oppose the death of the Republic.

At that, their voting "No" was only a mere gesture. The whole

procedure went through by rubber stamp.

Before they met, wild rumors ran ~~thru~~ through Vichy

and from Vichy -

to the world at large. It was reported that the French political leaders opposed to the surrender to Fascism had secretly arrived at that little watering place now become the temporary capital of France. There had been all sorts of rumors about the group that included Daladier and Mandel, ^{the} men first responsible for the conduct of the war. They were supposed to be aboard the mysteriously missing French steamer MASSILLIA ^{on} en route for somewhere. Then ^{the} sensational rumor had it that they were to appear suddenly ^{at Vichy} and ^{to prevent} fight [^] the suicide of the Third Republic. But there was no truth in it. However, former Premier Reynaud was there, also Leon Blum, the Communist Popular Front Premier. ^{Yes,} ~~As it was,~~ the National Assembly voted itself into limbo without Daladier and Mandel.

The resolution before the National Assembly was to have been read by Marshal Petain, the Premier. Instead of that, it was read by Vice-Premier Pierre Laval, who had helped prepare the resolution because, it was explained, Petain was unable to be present on account of his advanced age, eighty-four.

The text of the resolution begins with the declaration that Frenchmen must make a lesson of the lost battles. They must

revise their common errors and discover the reason for their weaknesses. France must accept the necessity of a national revolution which is necessary for its future. And, the resolution continues:- "This reconstruction requires the total effort of all Frenchmen. The government must have all the power to decide, undertake, negotiate and save what can be saved, destroy what must be destroyed, reconstruct what must be reconstructed.

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Later on it says:- "France must return to her agricultural and peasant character primarily and her industry must find once more its traditional quality."

Then comes a significant phrase of the transformation in professional ranks. Thus ^{it} will be left to the government to establish equal order and justice. There's also a clause about abolishing the dictatorship of money and plutocracy.

By that vote of five hundred and sixty-nine to eighty, the French National Assembly not only dissolved itself but entrusted absolute power to Marshal Petain and groups surrounding him. In short, an absolute dictatorship. The new French Parliament, as we learned last Monday, will follow the Italian model, a Chamber of Fasci for the upper House, a Chamber of Corporations for the lower House.

The passing of the Third Republic was the signal for a strange outburst of warnings from Germany and Italy. These warnings were not official but editorial. And this was the gist of them:-

Frenchmen must not think that their change of government will get them any milder peace terms from the Rome-Berlin Axis. And the newspaper owned by Air Marshal Hermann Goering announces in these words:- "France must bear the full responsibility for her mistakes and crimes. Germany has gained the dominant role in Europe and a France may exist beside her. But it won't be the France of yesterday. France must be satisfied with the role assigned to her."

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It is quite significant that an editorial of identical meaning was published in Italy under the signature of Virginio Gayda, Mussolini's own mouthpiece. In fact, the German and Italian editorials might almost have been written at the same desk.

BATTLE

One of today's mysteries is that naval battle in the Mediterranean. ~~of course~~ There are two accounts, one from London, one from Rome; ^{and} ~~naturally~~ they contradict each other flatly and positively. Here's the one from London. The British warships ~~ix~~ have driven off all the units of the Italian fleet, forced them to take cover in Italian harbors. The Admiralty announces further that ~~ix~~ at last one of Mussolini's capital ships has been struck by a direct hit from a British shell fired at long range. Also, that one of the Royal navy's bombers had scored a direct hit with an aerial torpedo on an Italian cruiser and that a British submarine torpedoed an Italian U-boat and sank her. Nevertheless, the Royal navy is disappointed. The British Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean regretted that the Italian warships had fled before King George's men-~~of~~-war could join battle in close range action.

~~Now here is~~ The Italian official version ^{is this:-} that

^{the} Fascist battle fleet and airplane bombers caught up with two of ^{British} the Mediterranean battle squadrons and came off ^{victorious,} ~~decidedly best~~

The Italians declare that their only losses were one destroyer,

one submarine, four aircraft. Oh yes, and an Italian warship which was not named was hit by a shell which killed twenty-nine men and wounded sixty-nine. As for the damage, say the Italians, it could be repaired in a few days.

One ~~difference~~ difference between the British and Italian versions is ~~the~~ the Fascists give details. They say ~~that the main battle~~ ^{it} was fought in the Ionian Sea off ~~the~~ island of Crete ^{— and was with} ~~against~~ the British battle fleet from Alexandria.

The Italians claim to have sunk a British heavy cruiser and a destroyer and to have damaged a battleship and more than one aircraft carrier with bombs from the air. ^{TP} The Italians also claim to have fought a successful engagement with another British fleet, a squadron from Gibraltar.

So ~~the~~ there you are. We hope to know before long which account comes closer to being accurate.

CHILDREN

There's a bill before Congress, ~~which is~~ aimed at making it easier for children from Britain to come into the United States. Democratic Senator Downey of California is the author of the measure. He proposes that there shall be no eight dollar head-tax for refugee youngsters. Everybody under sixteen, coming from Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Poland to be exempt from that eight dollar tax.

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The report from London is that there are thousands of boys and girls in Britain waiting to be evacuated to America, but, there aren't enough ships to bring them over. There is considerable fear that the whole plan may come to grief, unless liners flying the flag of the United States can be allowed to sail to Britain or Iceland and bring them over. ~~For~~ To do that, the President would have to issue an order modifying the requirements of the Neutrality Act.

BUND

The Dies Committee down in Austin, Texas, is investigating still another German bund. ^{This one is} ~~It is~~ called the Kyffhauser Bund, and ^{is} ~~it is~~ an organization of German ^{World} war veterans. The Dies Committee so ~~was~~ investigating was holding its meeting in secret at Austin today. Chairman Dies declared it's the most important hearing that his Committee has yet held. The Kyffhauser Bund is formed exclusively of former soldiers ^{and} ~~of~~ the German army. ^{and} It has branches in every key city in the United States. All members are required to keep up rifle and revolver practice, and it is alleged that this Bund, though it has no connection with the Deutsch-America outfit, is definitely under the direct control of Nazi officials.

BROWDER

The Senators in Washington today heard the opinion of the Communists about that proposed bill which would compel groups like the Communist Party and the Deutsch-America Bund to register.

In fact
The Communist opinion was ^{presented} ~~told~~ to the Senators by Earl Browder, Bolshevik candidate for President, ^{the same Browder who is} ~~As you know, he's~~ out on bail, having been convicted of obtaining a passport by fraud.

Comrade
Browder, whose ^{avowed} purpose it is to abolish democracy in America, ^{pro}tested against the bill on democratic grounds.

He said it would hamstring democratic processes. He even had recourse to quoting Abraham Lincoln. *(Comrade Browder* ~~He~~ ^{an} pointed out that Lincoln had recognized and endorsed the principle of international working class organization when he made a reply to an address to the First Congress of the International Workingmen's Association.)

Browder again denied that his party was under foreign domination. He admitted that the registration bill would hamper and curb the Deutsch-America Bund, and he didn't object to that. But he added that any advantage gained in that way would be offset by the impetus it would give to Nazi philosophy.

DEFENSE

Five billions more for defense! That, in round numbers, is the latest request by President Roosevelt. To be strictly accurate, the appropriation he asks for in a special message today is four billions, eight hundred and forty-eight millions, one hundred and seventy-one thousand, nine hundred and fifty-seven dollars. But you wouldn't quarrel with a commentator over a mere hundred and fifty-one millions odd, would you? Such are the temper of the times!

This gargantuan sum is to be appropriated partly in cash, partly on the cuff. The War Office calculates that it would add fifteen thousand planes to the Army Air Corps.

But there's one new and striking feature about the President's latest message; It includes a definite, positive, ironclad promise. In fact a double promise. First, says Mr. Roosevelt, "We will not use our arms in a war of aggression." Second: "We will not send our men to take part in European Wars. But," he adds, "we will repel aggression against the United States or the Western Hemisphere."

This brings the total of the extraordinary defense sums for which Mr. Roosevelt has asked to the tidy total of fourteen billion dollars odd, including four billion for a two-ocean navy.

KNOX

At least one fight in the Senate is all over, washed up, finished. The battle over Knox and Stimson. Everybody was surprised that it lasted so long. In spite of the storm of amazement that broke when the President sent in those nominations, it was prophesied that Knox and Stimson would be confirmed quickly. Instead there have been hours of hot arguing and explosive speechifying on the floor of the Senate. It took two days for the Senators to okay Henry L. Stimson ~~as~~ as Secretary of War. And, it wasn't until late this afternoon that they ended the squabble over Knox.

There was a colorful note in this afternoon's debate. The principal champion of Colonel Knox was the Senator from Illinois, Scott Lucas. And that same Senator Lukas has been frequently and vehemently attacked by Colonel Knox in his CHICAGO DAILY NEWS. But he made the most vigorous of all the speeches in behalf of the editor-publisher who opposed him for election and criticized him so often. Said Senator Lucas:- "It is absurd to describe Colonel Knox as an interventionist."

Senator Lucas's speech was not only ardent but effective.

It changed at least one vote. Senator Johnson of Colorado had stuck out to the last against the nomination of Stimson for Secretary of War. But today he took the floor and announced that the speech by Senator Lucas had changed his opinion; so he had decided to vote for Knox for Secretary of the Navy. Incidentally, Colonel Knox was confirmed by a far larger majority than Stimson. Yesterday's vote on the new Secretary of War was fifty-six to twenty-eight. The vote on Colonel Knox for Secretary of the Navy was sixty-six to sixteen.

POLITICS

Now for the daily instalment of our big mystery serial!—

~~entitled~~ "Will he or Won't he?" Will he or won't he run? ~~for a~~

~~third term?~~ You may have noticed that ^{few} ~~nobody~~ engaged in the

occupation of dealing with news ^{have} ~~has yet~~ ventured ~~to stick his neck~~

~~out with a positive~~ ^{an out and out} prophecy. ~~And I'm not going to be the fool to~~

~~step in where angels fear to tread.~~ Repeated indications have

~~pointed to one answer in one word - yes. But there's always an "if"~~

~~attached to it. Even the wisest and the most hardened commentators~~

~~have declined to commit themselves though several~~ ^{But some of the} politicians, ~~ixixix~~

including Mayor Kelly of Chicago, ^{thinks they know, - and} ~~are more darings~~ ^{are boldly saying so.}

The word from the advance guard of delegates now in

Chicago is that President Roosevelt will drive his chariot through

precedent and go for a third term. ^{And that he} ~~is~~ ^{has} even decided upon his

vice-president. So says the Chicago correspondent of the NEW YORK

EVENING POST and the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, Charles VanDevander.

The Democratic candidate for vice-president, if Mr. Roosevelt runs,

will be the ^{present} Secretary of State, Cordell Hull. ^{Mr. Hull} ~~He~~ won't care for the

idea, but the President will insist upon drafting him. And,

VanDevander adds, that this information came to the NEW YORK EVENING

POST today from a source of unquestionable accuracy.

Cardell Hull for V. P. news
Van Devanter points out that this would have a double effect. First, ~~of all~~, it would crystalize the foreign policy of the New Deal as a major issue in the campaign. Also, it is believed that it will ~~be~~ help ~~to~~ heal the breach in the Democratic Party, the breach between the conservatives and the New Dealers.

Meanwhile, ~~the~~ Republican candidate, Wendell Willkie, started what is jocularly called ~~exit~~ his "vacation in Colorado."

I must say he has picked a grand spot for a rest: I know ~~for every~~

that region
every inch of ~~the ground~~ around Colorado Springs, the garden of the ~~gods~~, *Pike's Peak, Cripple Creek,* the grand canyon of the Arkansas, the Royal Gorge, *and so on.*

And he has got a grand host in the person of my former colleague,

Ralph Carr, now Governor of Colorado. But, *his companions* ~~can you imagine having~~

on this ~~a nice~~ restful vacation *are 100 newspaper* ~~surrounded by a cohort of reporters and a~~ *representatives and* ~~division or so of~~ camera men. *?* ~~Just a quiet, restful~~ *holiday — alone — with a hundred* ~~managed to dodge the newspaper sharks for at least a few hours by~~ *reporters!* ~~sleeping until noon.~~

BOYS

A couple of Long Island lads, fourteen and fifteen years old, wanted to go to war and fight for the British. So

they left home, having in ~~their~~ their pockets a ^{total war budget} ~~fighting fund of~~

^{of} a dollar and a quarter, ~~between them.~~ After ^{some} reconnoitering ~~several~~

~~bases of departure~~ ^{they chose} they wound up ^{at} an airport at East Hempstead,

Long Island. ^{There} Early this morning they ^{entered a} ~~got into the~~ hangar and

wheeled ~~themselves~~ out a cub monoplane. Neither of the lads had

had any flying experience whatsoever, but that didn't ~~in~~ faze

them. One ^{boy} ~~of them~~ climbed in and grabbed the controls, while

the other ~~one~~ spun the propellor. ^{It} Experience or no experience,

they started ^{her} ~~that crate~~ and took off. They flew around a while

just to get the feel of the plane, then got altitude and headed

north for ~~the Canadian line.~~ When they realized their fuel was

low they were near Peekskill, New York, on the ~~banks of the~~ Hudson,

^{some} ~~about~~ forty miles ~~out of~~ from New York City. ~~xxxxix~~ In spite of their

complete lack of ~~ex~~ experience, fifteen-year-old Bernard Byrne,

made a perfect landing. Then the boys walked to a filling station

and got four gallons of gasoline with the last few cents they had

left. They tried to take off again, but here's where lack of

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experience came in. The field was too short for a take-off and they crashed into a clump of trees. Nevertheless, they climbed out unhurt and made a getaway.

~~However,~~ it wasn't long before New York State police troopers found them washing themselves in a brook. ~~The police~~ ^{lads in} ~~say that this~~ ^(account) ~~part of their adventures came from the boys search of adventures themselves.~~

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Just a coupla lads eh,
Hugh?

Hugh :- Just a
coupla lads!