

LEAD

L. I. Sunoco - Friday August 25, 1939

Cannon

Good evening, everybody:-

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The latest news this evening tells of an airplane flight that may be of the utmost importance for the fate of the world.

(Flying from Berlin to London--Sir Neville Henderson, British Ambassador to Berlin, a sudden swift dash through the sky. And he is said to be bringing to the British Government the latest proposals--declarations, demands or whatever they may be--from Hitler. It may be the Nazi Fuehrer's last word, before striking.)

The British Ambassador had a conference with Hitler today. The London word is that he was not instructed to call on the Brown Shirt Dictator--so the supposition is that he was summoned by Hitler. They say that the conference was held in the presence of the French and Japanese Ambassadors. Why the Japanese was there is not explained, and seems odd.

There is of course no official account of what Hitler told the British Ambassador--but Paris has some very circumstantial reports. These make it seem to have been another one of those emotional Hitler harangues. He is reported to have shouted that his patience with Poland was at an end--Poland and what he called Polish provocations. The cup is full, Hitler is quoted as saying.

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It's a gloomy and pessimistic account, which would seem to indicate that Hitler is ~~ready~~ ready to strike at Poland, thus certainly provoking a general European war. Yet he is said to have made some sort of vague statement suggesting a peaceful settlement, some sort of reference to the possibility of having a European conference. All this is Paris rumor, and there's nothing certain about what Hitler really told the British Ambassador. We only know it was important enough to send the Ambassador flying to London in a hurry.

The Polish ^{provocations} ~~provocations~~ which are reported to have exhausted the Hitler patience and filled the cup are made known to us through a barrage of Nazi charges of the things the Poles are doing to poor Germany--^{the} oppression of German minority, frontier ~~xxx~~ incidents, shooting at German passenger planes, etc., etc. The usual crop of accusations, with the Poles answering in kind--charging German provocations. The border incidents continue feverish and threatening.

All is feverish and threatening as the ~~frightful~~ crisis drags on, with signs of approaching war--armed measures and precautions, warlike moves, ship-schedules cancelled, vessels

RUSSIA

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Soviet Russia hurled a new bombshell today -- though ^{not} ~~it wasn't~~ as violent as that Soviet - German non-aggression Treaty. (It was announced in Moscow tonight that Premier and Foreign Commissar Molotov was scheduled to go to Berlin. ~~Are n't they~~ Becoming chummy -- the Nazis and the Bolsheviks? ^R Moscow explains that Molotov will go to Hitler's capital for another ratification of the non-aggression pact already signed in Moscow.) There will be an exchange ratification in Berlin. And the Soviet signature will be written by the Premier and Foreign Commissar of the U.S.S.R. This is pointed ^{out to} ~~be an~~ ^{out} an exchange of courtesies and compliments almost without precedent - another spectacular gesture ~~of~~ of the new solidarity of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

One report is that the Molotov visit may have something to do with the plight of Japan -- Tokyo and the anti-Communist Pact left suddenly out in the cold. They say that Hitler is putting pressure on Japan to persuade Tokyo to join in the non-aggression treaty between Hitler and Stalin. The Japanese are reported not to see it that way -- friendship with Russia not being part of the Japanese policy in the Far East.

DOCUMENT SIGNED

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There was a dramatic meeting in London today when two men signed an imposing document, (a treaty, a British-Polish Treaty of mutual assistance, Britain guarant^{ee}ing to fight if Poland should be attacked. Of course London has been guarantying Warsaw all along, but it was under the terms of a provisional treaty. Today's ~~simple~~ diplomatic document made it formal, official, and permanent. ^H Ordinarily ~~it~~ ^{such a thing} would be more or less perfunctory. -- ^{It's} ^{that} the timing makes it important.

In the war of nerves, with the British government declaring and repeating that there will be no backdown -- the signing of the British-Polish Treaty is a defiant gesture of emphasis and reiteration. And the terms are stronger than had been ~~xxx~~ anticipate^d -- Poland guaranteed not only against military attack but against economic domination, such as Germany might exert. ^H Of course ~~there's nothing so~~ ^{not so} spectacular as ~~that~~ that world-shaking German-Soviet Treaty. ^B But when Viscount Lord Halifax and the Polish Ambassador in London signed on the dotted line today, ~~it~~ ^{that} was -- "telling the world."

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CABINET

(There's a London report that Chamberlain is planning to reconstruct his Cabinet for war. And that word instantly brings to mind two names--Churchill and Eden. Yes, the London dispatch declares that the Prime Minister is ^{definitely} planning to include the Right Honorable Winston Churchill in a revised War Cabinet--if Churchill will accept.) And former Foreign Secretary Antony Eden may be included. Both of these statesmen are renowned as bitter opponents of Hitler and dictatorships in general, and their appointment as ministers of the government would put emphasis on--war.

The possible Cabinet changes are reported to go still further--Chamberlain to take in prominent figures of the opposition party. Mention is made of Clement Atlee, who ~~used to be~~ ^{was} leader of the Labor Party, and Sir Archibald Sinclair, chief of the Liberals. Their inclusion in the ministry would give it an aspect of ~~unstable~~ coalition, reminding one of the British coalition Government during the World War. The news may be summarized in two words--War Cabinet.

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ODDITIES

In Berlin an orchestra started to play, and the tune must have come as a tingling surprise to the ears of the Nazi merry-makers. With a loud blaring the band played--The Internationale, the red revolutionary anthem of the Soviets. "Arise ye prisoners of starvation," and the rest of the Bolshevik song bidding the workers of the world to unite.

Of all tunes, that one has been anathema to the Nazis ever since the day when Hitler first made a harangue. As recently as last week playing it would have meant arrest, the Gestapo, a concentration camp. But now what do we hear? In a swanky Berlin cafe the orchestra played ~~the~~ The Internationale and the audience arose and stood at rigid attention, in respect, ⁱⁿ homage. Many a German must be asking - what's it all about? Evil suddenly turned into good, and the devil becomes an angel--all because Hitler signed a treaty.

In Paris a group of German reservists were leaving for Berlin, summoned to military duty, ~~in the possibly inevitable war.~~ Before they left they had a farewell party--and not all by themselves either. They entertained some French friends of theirs. And the Germans and the Frenchmen toasted each other. They drank to this

ODDITIES-2

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toast: ^{"We may} ~~may we~~ meet again--in the trenches." An ominous auf
weidersehen.

His plea to King Victor Emmanuel of Italy got a courteous reply today, with his Italian Majesty saying he was turning the President's message over to his Government--meaning Mussolini. In Berlin attacks were made on the "secret" appeal to Hitler--the Nazi opinion being that it is just an attempt to play the British game. And even Poland gave no opening welcome to the President's suggestions for a negotiated settlement or conciliation--the Poles believing that any peace deliberation would be on a basis of taking something away from them.

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ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt's appeals for peace don't seem likely to get very far. His plea to King Victor Emanuel of Italy got a courteous reply today, with his Italian Majesty saying he was turning the President's message over to his Government--meaning Mussolini. In Berlin attacks were made on the Roosevelt appeal to Hitler--the Nazi opinion being that it is just an attempt to play the British game. And even Poland gave no cheering welcome to the President's suggestions for a negotiated settlement or conciliation--the Poles believing that any peace deliberation would be on a basis of taking something away from them.

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LEPKE

The American news is dominated by the affair of Lepke which now assumes much wider scope than the mere arrest of a notorious racketeer. It becomes of national significance, a matter of big-time politics. The national and political slant developed in high style today.

We knew right along, of course, that in the hunt for Lepke there was quite a bit of competition between New York District Attorney Tom Dewey and ^{the} Federal authorities--Attorney General Frank Murphy, Chief of the G-men J. Edgar Hoover, and New York Federal Attorney Cahill. District Attorney Dewey is spoken of nationwide as a ~~possible~~ Republican candidate for 1940, and he rose to that prominence by means of spectacular racket-busting prosecutions, notably the case of Tammany leader James J. Hines. If he were to bring the much-hunted and much-advertised Lepke to justice, it would be another sensational exploit, and would put the name of Dewey in another bright ~~xxx political~~ ^{spotlight.} ~~spotlight~~ The Federal authorities, being Democrats, are hardly interested in building up possible Republican competition in the presidential polls.

So it was a hot contest to see who would get Lepke-- the New York police hunting in behalf of Dewey, the G-men

conducting the Government chase. Each side put up a reward for the apprehension of Lepke. New York offered twenty-five thousand dollars. The Federal authorities matched that and offered another twenty-five thousand, making it fifty. It was a most exhilarating two-fold manhunt, each side animated by the laudable ambition of punishing crime.

~~was~~ late last night Lepke surrendered--to the G-man, J. Edgar Hoover. It's no case of paying any of those big rewards. The G-men had been negotiating with him for his surrender, and he walked in and turned himself over to J. Edgar Hoover.) ~~That was~~
meaning a
~~quite a resounding~~ triumph for the Federal side. ~~Not so dazzling~~
~~for Dewey.~~

(Now the question is--who's going to prosecute Lepke?)

Whoever tries and convicts the notorious ~~xxxxxxx~~ racketeer will have a ~~brilliant~~ burst of spotlight. (District Attorney Dewey wants Lepke, has plenty of racketeering charges on which to try him in the New York courts.) So - hand him over. But today the Federal authorities announce they won't give Lepke up, won't let Dewey have him for a Dewey trial. Why not? The Federal people say they have their own charges against Lepke, accusations under Federal

law--for narcotics violations. So they're going to prosecute him,) with Federal ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Prosecuting Attorney Cahill in the spotlight. He is said to be highly in favor of the administration in Washington--a New Deal fair-haired boy.

The regular thing is for the side to do the prosecuting which has the most serious charge against the prisoner, the Federal authorities declare that their narcotics accusations are more important than Dewey's racketeering indictments. Of course if the New York District Attorney can pin murder on Lepke, that's the most serious charge of all. Then they'd hand him over. ~~But it doesn't seem that Dewey has enough evidence to put Lepke on trial for murder.~~

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So as it stands ^{it seems to be} a competition, of who has the most on Lepke. We are told that the Federals have enough narcotic evidence to give him as much as a hundred and sixty-four years in prison--which is a lot of prison. Dewey, however, has such a piled-up lot of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ racketeering charges that he might give Lepke three hundred and fifty years in jail--which is about as much as ten Lepkes could serve. So it's a case of spotting a hundred and sixty-four years against three hundred and fifty years--looks bad for Lepke.

LIGHTNING

Here's a story of bitter irony -- about a man that played it safe, an aviator who wasn't taking any chances. Fred Donnelly was flying alone from the Bendix Airport, ⁱⁿ New Jersey. His destination -- ~~Flushing~~ Floyd Bennett Field on Long Island. He ran into a thunder storm ~~in~~ the one that blasted in these parts today with blazing streaks of lightning. Donnelly was always a careful pilot, and he wasn't taking any chances in an electrical storm. ^{So} He cut his flight short, and ^{slid in} ~~landed~~ at the nearest landing field -- Flushing. He brought his plane down for a perfect landing, put it in a hangar and there telephoned to his family telling them where he was. He left the hangar and walked out on the airfield. As he did so a bolt of lightning struck him -- and killed him.

He played it safe -- too safe.

Donn
Fendler.

Aug. 25⁷
1939

FOR DONN:

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L.T.: During those exciting days when hundreds of people were hunting for this youngster on Mount Katahdin, many stories came through of what had happened, that he ran away from a camp and so on. Frank Cobb, head of Siwanoy Boy Scout Camp has been telling me what actually happened. Donn was ~~not~~ with his father and an uncle and some other boys. They were not staying at a Maine camp. They set out to climb that big ~~mountain~~ mountain. The uncle and Donn and a boy from Maine were on ahead. When they were well up the mountain the Maine boy who hadn't been feeling any too well needed a sweater. But, boy like, he didn't want to go back down the mountain for one. So Donn volunteered to go and get it for him. There was a mist on Mt. Katahdin, and in that mist he got lost, and as we all know wandered alone for eight days. ~~xxx~~ And, for a lad his size to come through an adventure like that was extraordinary indeed. How do you feel now Governor, I mean young fellow?

FOR DONN : A hundred percent Mr. Thomas.

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L.T.: I guess that's right. When we were playing ball together this afternoon you certainly didn't behave like an invalid. I suppose you learned many things from that experience? How about it?

FOR DONN: I should say so. One thing I learned was that if you are in the woods it's a good idea to always have a companion and,

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