

FINLAND

P.J. - Sunoco. Thurs, March 7, 1940.

There's official word from Finland - that Moscow has sent to Helsinki the terms on which the Soviets would agree to call off the war. The Finns declare that these terms are more drastic than the demands that Stalin made to begin with, the demands the Finns rejected - and the war was on. ^{Today's} ~~This~~ dispatch from Helsinki ~~is the latest at hand, and~~ is the most authentic thing we have in a maze of Finland peace rumors that flooded the wires today.

~~These rumors were so voluminous and insistent that there ~~may~~ must be a good deal to them. Let us see what we can get out of the confusion.~~

The dominant fact is that this latest peace move is centered in Stockholm. Sweden has gone into strenuous action to bring the war to an end, with diplomatic pressure both in Moscow and in Helsinki. The anxiety of Stockholm is analyzed this way:- It looks more and more as if the Allies ^{would} ~~might~~ go to the aid of Finland with military force. In England powerful elements are demanding increasingly that an army be sent to help the Finns.

The Swedes are all for the Finns, but the only way the Allies could hurl an army into Finland would be through Sweden.

That would draw Sweden into the war, because Nazi Germany would never stand by and see Allied armies pushing into Scandinavia.

Sweden would become a battle-ground, and that Stockholm is

desperately determined to avoid. ^H Hitler's Germany is not eager

to have ^{the} ₁ war spread into Scandinavia - nor are the Soviets so

keen to get into a battle with the Allies. So, Stockholm is said

to have the encouragement of Hitler in mediating with Stalin,

who himself is receptive. That seems to be the nearest that we

can get to the inner diplomatic workings - which are concealed

by all sorts of secrecy and censorship at Stockholm.

~~All this brings us to that latest fact, quite definite -~~

~~that Moscow has presented to Helsinki terms for the ending of the~~

~~struggle, drastic terms. Paris reports that Stalin has presented~~

~~Finland with an ultimatum - accept, or else. Or else what?~~

~~The Red army is already smashing its hardest. It sounds like a~~

~~funny sort of ultimatum, but then there's nothing funny about the~~

~~idea of the Soviets keeping on to an uncompromising and relentless~~

~~end.~~

they want
We have reports of the Soviet terms:- ~~the~~ [^] part of ~~the~~ ^{Arctic} _^

Finland ~~Arctic~~ around Petsamo. Hand over the key fortress of

Hango, the stronghold which controls the entrance to the Gulf of Finland. That, they say, is the point the Finns refused to concede ~~in~~ the negotiations that led to the invasion. Today, the Soviets are said to be demanding that the Finns give Russia the Karelian Isthmus, that vital neck of land that has been the scene of the bitterest fighting - along the Mannerheim Line. We hear that the Soviets, moreover, demand that the Finns shall dismiss their two principal commanders; - one, Marshal Baron Karl von Mannerheim, Finland's national hero and creator of the Mannerheim Line; The other, General Wallenius - ~~not~~ the commander who inflicted disastrous defeats on the Red army in the northern areas. Moreover, there's a report that the Soviets won't agree to any kind of peace until they've captured Viipuri. They want a victory there, a face-saving triumph to play up.

Such is the report we have of the conditions which Helsinki today officially describes as - more drastic than the demands that Stalin made to begin with. And other reports tell us that the Finns appear to be in no yielding mood. They're saying that if they yielded, they'd be placed at the mercy of the Soviets,

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and then they'd only get new demands - and would lose their independence. (~~We might expect the hard-pressed people to be eager for almost any kind of peace, but we hear that the mood at Helsinki is decidedly chilly toward the rumors of a settlement.~~) One account states that the army of the defenders would not permit the Finnish government to accept excessive Soviet demands. So we get one decidedly surprising impression from today's welter of peace rumors - the impression that it's the Finns who are not willing. ~~It sounds mighty cocky.~~

It may be, though, that Sweden holds the key.

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Stockholm could bring all kinds of pressure to bear on the Finns, who depend on Sweden nearly a hundred per cent for munitions and supplies. The mere threat to cut these off would be a decisive Swedish argument in Finnish ears.

WELLES

In Paris Sumner Welles had conferences today with President Lebrun and Premier Daladier - the Paris part of the peace mission. We are informed that President Roosevelt's emissary had satisfactory talks with the heads of the French nation. *The report is that Daladier presented a program for crushing Hitlerism.* ~~Actually,~~ Concerning what ^{precisely} transpired, we are told not one thing - not one word. No, I'm wrong, we are told - one word.)

~~Premier~~ Daladier received Sumner Welles in his office.

The French Premier limped to greet him. Daladier has a broken ankle, his foot in a plaster cast. So he hobbled with the aid of a cane. We are told that Daladier seldom tries to speak English. But today he ventured into English to the extent of one word - "welcome." Sumner Welles speaks excellent French so Daladier didn't have to attempt any more English than to say ^{that one word} "welcome."

QUEEN ELIZABETH

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The biggest ship in the world is berthed in a New York dock tonight, after the strangest maiden voyage ever. Britain's twenty-eight and a half million dollar, eighty-five thousand ton liner, the QUEEN ELIZABETH. ^{Docked at 4:35 this afternoon.} She received a royal reception as she entered the harbor, but she was not so queenly, no bright colors or wealth of waving pennants, no gay crowds of passengers or festive mirth. The giant ship, a fifth of a mile long, was drab with the gray paint of war-time, and aboard was merely the crew required for the swift voyage across the Atlantic. Nor is the QUEEN ELIZABETH quite complete. Her interior decorating job, for example, is still to be done - the elaborate ornament and furnishing that mark the splendor of a luxury liner.

Tonight the biggest ship in the world is ^{in her berth} ~~docked as a~~ ^{alongside} ~~companion to~~ those other oceanic queens, the British QUEEN MARY and the French NORMANDIE. Like them, she is here for the duration of the war, ~~to be~~ safe from the perils of the war zone.

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A refugee queen of the seas! maritime royalty in exile! ^{at a cost of a thousand dollars a day docking charges.} Britain is acclaiming the adventurous voyage of the

QUEEN ELIZABETH through perilous waters - evading the German

submarines. Yet, of course, it's not such a triumph to have had to send the new queen across the ocean. It was because of the fear of air raids - so say London reports. The giant vessel, ^{when she was} ~~doomed~~ in the Clyde, was in a vulnerable spot. And the immense spreading decks of the super-giant would have made too good a target for a Nazi bomber.

One British slant on the QUEEN ELIZABETH'S voyage is this: It's being talked about everywhere in London tonight.

The fact that the super-liner was sent to the United States for safety indicates that the London government anticipates the Nazi blitzkrieg in the air, full strength of the Hitler air force, thrown against Britain - as has been threatened. It is expected to be a mass sky assault against Britain's harbors, docks, transport centers and munitions industries. (There are various reasons for expecting that this aerial blitzkrieg will start early in the spring, and today's arrival of the QUEEN ELIZABETH in New York is another reason for the belief.)

In one respect the voyage of the Queen was a brilliant success - for the British censorship. Her ^{sailing} ~~voyage~~ was cloaked in

the most effective secrecy - though of course one doesn't know
whether
~~how secret~~ it was kept from the Germans. ^{*For*} The British press knew
about the sailing, and crowds in Scotland saw the big ship off.

But England knew nothing about it, and, as for the United States -

the first word we had flashed last night - ^{*the*} ~~a~~ press dispatch ~~which~~

was handed to me right in the middle of this broadcast, when the

biggest ship in the world was ^{*just outside N.Y. harbor,*} ~~near our shores.~~ The British today

were congratulating themselves on the ~~t~~ightness of their official

secrecy and on the effectiveness of the anti-gossip campaign -

which so completely shrouded so large an event as the voyage of

the QUEEN ELIZABETH.

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There's a lot of talk about spies and spying in this country, with possibilities of whipping up public hysteria - and the danger of a witch-hunt. This is expressed in a statement by Attorney General Robert Jackson, who comes to the defense of J. Edgar Hoover and his Federal Bureau of Investigation. In a letter to Senator Norris, the Attorney General declares:-

"One of the best defenses that we have against the growth of war hysteria is, an efficient professional, non-political, ~~in~~ investigatory service. This," he continues, "leaves no excuse for volunteer snooping or private vigilatⁿism." He speaks of -

"irresponsible and amateurish private activities which perpetrate grave injustices."

The F.B.I. receives a constan^t stream of complaints about suspected spies. Some of these are important, but many are merely ridiculous. Here ^s ~~are a couple of~~ classics: -

A wealthy woman fell under ~~xxx~~ suspicion because she did a lot of photographing. Also, she made a number of inquiries about buying property - always property of considerable elevation, on a hill. Maybe they thought the lady was looking for strategic

~~positions where an invading enemy might place cannon. The dark secret was something else again. The lady wanted merely to build a summer cottage on a hilltop, so she could have a good view.~~

~~Another~~ spy suspect was a man who was stopping for a while in a small town, and it was observed that every night his lights were on in his room until midnight. People went to bed early in that country town, and it was most suspicious - mysterious activity at such a late hour, midnight. The F.B.I. investigated and found that the man in question was a preacher, who always spent his evenings reading the Bible - until midnight. ~~No, he was not sentenced to be shot at sunrise.~~

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THIRD TERM

President Roosevelt's secretary, Steve Early, indulged himself today in a bit of mixed metaphors. ~~But then it was~~ about the third term; and, I suppose that's puzzling enough to mix anybody's metaphors. ~~XXXXXXXX~~

Tomorrow night President Roosevelt, on the Seventh Anniversary of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, is going to make an address to farmers in twenty-two states. People nowadays are on the lookout for third term meanings in almost anything. ~~So it was on this subject that~~ ^{So} White House secretary Steve Early today issued a warning to the Washington correspondents about surmising. And he certainly got his ~~metaphors~~ metaphors mixed. Said he:- "I presume the boys will be getting out their microscopes for the President's speech. But," he added, "it would be a good idea not to climb out on a limb."

Now Steve - out on a limb with a microscope? That would be a seven-day wonder, even a third term wonder.

LABOR

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The Congressional Committee investigating the National Labor Relations Board made a report today, and suggested some drastic changes. The Committee ^{proposes} ~~suggests~~ that the present Board be abolished and that its powers be divided between a new judicial labor board and a labor administrator. The new board to be created would have its powers severely curtailed.

BUDGET

Republicans had their way in the New York State Assembly today. They passed their ^{version of the} budget in spite of the protests of Governor Lehman and all the argument made by the Assembly Democrats. The budget amounts to three hundred and ninety-one million dollars, and is five million dollars less than the one the Governor proposed - ~~they~~ slashed ~~it~~ five million ^{by the Republicans.} ~~the vote~~ was a foregone conclusion - as the G.O.P. controls the Assembly of the Empire State.

(This New York budget business has been involved in all kinds of argument and financial complication - wrangling about economy and about special taxes.) The question is now settled so far as the Assembly is concerned, and goes to the State Senate.

MISTAKES

In recent days I've been reproached on two separate subjects, and tonight I make one apology. I am castigated for having misrepresented Gilbert & Sullivan on one hand, and Shakespeare on the other. ^{and} ~~But~~ I'm making one humble correction - in the matter of Gilbert and Sullivan. I've received a whole string of sprightly protests, because of what I had to say about the Pirates of Penzance. One letter from Mrs. R. C. Wood of Lynchburg, Virginia, puts it this way: "You called ~~the~~ handsome but unfortunate Frederic the son of the modern Major General" ~~she writes~~ "As a matter of fact," she ^{writes} ~~goes on~~ "the Major General was the father of ^{the} many daughters - one of whom was Mabel, the constant maiden, who promises to wait sixty-one long years for her 'true love'."

Well, I don't know how I made that slip. ~~It is an unquestionable fact that in the "Pirates of Penzance" the modern Major General is not the father of the unfortunate Frederic, but his prospective father-in-law.~~

The complaining Gilbert and Sullivanites are cheery and mirthful in making their protests. Not so the Shakespeareans.

I suppose their feeling is that Shakespeare is no laughing matter - not even Sir John Falstaff, perhaps. They descend frowningly upon me, ^{also upon} and Gene Tunney, because of the story I told about Gene winning a Shakespearian bet with a professor.

It all concerns that well known passage in Macbeth, which Gene quoted, and I quoted, as follows:- "Lay on, MacDuff, and damned be him who first cries, 'Hold enough!'"

"Don't make Shakespeare ungrammatical," writes Edna Horsington of Washington, D.C., and she adds:- "I'm amazed at you."

~~It all~~ ^{of course} ~~is~~ concerns ~~that~~ pronoun "him", the objective case - used with the ^{verb} ~~word~~ "to be". The grammatically correct

form of the pronoun is not "him" but "he". So the barrage of

letters accuse Gene Tunney and me not only of misquoting

Shakespeare but ^{mis-} of quoting him ungrammatically. ^{TF} Well, Gene as

the former heavyweight champion and the great Shakespearian to boot,

is better able than I - to take the slings and arrows of

outrageous fortune, although his fortune hasn't been so outrageous.)

^{it all beenly} I feel ~~hardly these slings and arrows~~ the more so because -

I was right, and Gene was right, and the quotation was right.

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Every version of Shakespeare that I've been able to consult, gives the pronoun as "him", although it is ungrammatical. But then, the Bard of Avon had a lofty disregard for those neat ~~ix~~ little points of syntax that we observe so timidly.

Shakespeare, after all, ~~more or less~~ made grammar.

CLOTHES

In Italy, in the City of Milan, people are talking with rapturous admiration - about an unknown gentleman. Ah, what a magnificent gentleman he was, so noble, so lofty of soul! ~~He was last seen~~ Strolling along at night - dressed in his underclothing and wearing a tall silk hat. ~~Magnificent, so noble - the gentleman in his underwear and a plug hat.~~

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The story relates that a group of workman at a late task were warming themselves around a bonfire. With them was ~~Suiseppl Albertini~~, a sixty year old baker without a job, ~~he had been unemployed for a long time and was very poor. He was dressed in rags, a picture of misery. Just then along came a gentleman in evening clothes, tails and all, boiled shirt, expensive topcoat, and a shiny top hat. He saw the he was on his way home from a late party, and he happened to notice Albertini, the unemployed beggar in rags, and a The proud gentleman went to him, and the surprising thing happened:- The stately gentleman took off his topcoat, his tailcoat, his wasitcoat, and boiled shirt; and, he gave them to the astonished poor man, shivering in his rags. All the rich man retained was his underwear and his plug hat. Clad in these,~~

he continued ^{on} his way, shivering a little but as dignified as ever.

Like a modern Francis of Assisi.

~~That's what the people in Milan are talking about with such~~

~~in a top hat.~~ ^{top hat} *And now Hugh James,*

~~admiration the noble gentleman in his B.V.D.'s and topper~~

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