

NEUTRALITY

L.J. - Sunoco. Wed., July 19, 1939.

There was dismay in the White House today, ~~great~~ consternation over the defeat of President Roosevelt on the <sup>2</sup>Neutrality question. Mr. Roosevelt made no statement himself. But his secretary, ~~Stephen~~<sup>W</sup>Early, declared that from now until Congress meets again, the President will pray as he never did before in all his life, that there may be no new crisis in Europe.

It was further revealed that the White House has information that it is quite possible there will be serious trouble in Europe this summer.

Early then intimated that though his chief has despaired of winning in Congress, ~~Mr. Roosevelt~~<sup>he</sup> is still <sup>go</sup> going to press his argument about Neutrality. He will take it to the country in a fireside chat. That got a sharp retort out of Senator Hiram Johnson of California. When he heard what <sup>See.</sup> Early had said, he replied that if the President does take it to the 'country, he and his fellow senators will do the same. <sup>Then</sup> They will bank <sup>on the</sup> ~~upon the~~ slogan that the country does not want war.

( There's an interesting sidelight on what happened during that conference last night between the President and

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47

Secretary Hull and the Senators. Secretary Hull told the Senators that the information received by the State Department indicated that war was not improbable. To that Senator Borah is supposed to have replied that he didn't care what the State Department had heard, he himself had heard different.) To that Secretary Hull is supposed to have retorted:- "You're indicting my department." And the Idaho Senator replied:- "I am not indicting your department but I have obtained statements of my own and it is upon them that I base my opinions."

Of course that yarn is unofficial, just a bit of gossip about what is supposed to have taken place. But it would indeed be interesting if every member of Congress had his own information bureau.

*Senator Borah seems to have his.*

#7

48

GERMANY

What is the word from Europe.

The latest rumor from Germany carries the claim that Hitler will soon have two million men under arms. This isn't the first report of that kind. For days there have been stories of military activity in the ~~Nazi~~ Reich. From several different parts of Hitler's domain come stories of troops moving day and night. It is also rumored that three divisions are concentrated in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. Automobiles and trucks are supposed to have been requisitioned by the Army. The license plates of military trucks traveling the highways have been covered.

These are just a few of the rumors and observations which are being added together.

Today also the French evoked an agreement with Turkey for an naval coordination and a pooling of land forces for operations in the Balkans, Asia Minor, and even in parts of North Africa.

PARIS FOLLOW GERMANY

These stories are taken with the utmost seriousness in France. There it is generally believed that there'll be a complete mobilization of the German military establishment about August Fifteenth. <sup>around that</sup> ~~About the~~ same date Mussolini also will be completely mobilized.

So the French government is going to keep up the defenses on the French side of the line, on an emergency standard, until the end of September. Vacations have been cancelled for workers in arms factories <sup>and on</sup> ~~as any~~ other projects essential to the national defense. Large numbers of reserves will be kept in mobilization until the end of September. Frontier fortifications will be maintained in their present condition until the Germans and Italians stop their sabre-rattling.

Today also the French concluded an agreement with Turkey for air & naval coordination and a pooling of land forces for service in the Balkans, Asia Minor, and even in parts of North Africa.

LONDON FOLLOW PARIS.

The British answer to the rumors from Germany was another demonstration in the air. The Royal Air Force sent ~~over~~ a fleet of more than two hundred planes across the Channel. Some of them maneuvered in a series of imitation raids over French territory. Others flew all the way to the Mediterranean and back, eighteen hundred miles without stopping. The planes carried a force of five hundred men and full wartime equipment of bombs, guns, and so forth.

To make these manoeuvres still more impressive, the pilots and crews of the airplanes were given only about one hour's notice. In the few minutes thus allowed them before taking off, the navigators had to plot their courses and make all necessary preparations. In other words, the War Office wanted to imitate actual war conditions so far as possible.

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## RUSSIA

A late story from London brings a startling bit of news.

(The negotiations for a military treaty with Soviet Russia are all off. It isn't official, just one of those reports from apparently reliable sources. In London the fact is merely hinted at. In Paris a French newspaper makes the statement quite baldly. Those discussions which have been going on for more than three months, are supposed to be a complete failure.)

This is considered the gloomiest kind of news in Great Britain and France. With the Japanese making a new threat, with the spectacular stories of gigantic mobilization in Germany and Italy, France and Britain badly need the help of the Russian bear.

DANZIG

The excitement in Danzig reached a new high pitch today.

It started with the arrest of twenty people, accused of being ~~Marxists~~ <sup>accused</sup> by the Danzig authorities. ~~In fact~~ They're charged with having concocted a dynamite plot against the Nazis.

On top of that a motorboat of the Polish Navy entered the Danzig harbor. Ordinarily that might be unimportant. But the Nazis declare that this boat entered the harbor without any preliminary notification to the authorities.

REFUGEES

There seems to be fresh hope for Jewish and other victims of Nazi cruelty in Germany. Part of that hope comes from Germany itself. There's a proposal from Nazi officials to set aside one-quarter of all the Jewish property in the ~~German~~ Reich as a trust fund to help Jewish refugees to emigrate.

Meanwhile, the Evian Committee for Refugees has some encouraging news to report. The leaders of the Committee have been invited to Washington to confer with President Roosevelt during the first week in September. The invitation was conveyed by Myron Taylor, Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Then, too, Prime Minister Chamberlain made an announcement in the House of Commons that he, or rather his government, were prepared to help the refugees out by the substantial method of contributing money for their escape from Nazi rule.

57



SPIES

52  
The scare about spies continues to be one of the most absorbing topics in French publications. The latest yarn from Paris is that the investigation by the French government into Nazi espionage was started by an American newspaperman. He's supposed to have picked up a scrap of paper from the sidewalk while he was lunching in a sidewalk cafe. On that scrap of paper was a list of names. The newspaperman is supposed to have turned that list over to our Ambassador, Bill Bullitt. Hence the investigation.

~~Of course no American newspaperman would have taken such a yarn seriously. American reporters, when they come upon a piece of information that might be news, don't rush off to the nearest embassy so as to share the story with all their rivals. However, that's just the sort of thing that French newspapers do take seriously. So~~ One French weekly published the statement that all this spy investigation owes its origin to ~~our~~ Ambassador, ~~Bill~~ Bullitt. Bald <sup>Bill</sup>~~William~~ did not care for <sup>this</sup>~~it~~. It's not the sort of story that enhances the prestige of an embassy. So our Ambassador in Paris today issued a formal denial. With it he contradicted reports of his having sent a message to Washington

that the Nazi government had spent three hundred and fifty million  
Francs to bribe the French newspapers.

However, there seems to be a real basis for some of the  
stories about spy activities not only in Europe but all over the  
world. A dispatch from London reports that the French government  
has sent not only to Paris but to our own government in Washington  
the names and descriptions of sixty Nazi spies that are known to be  
at work in Great Britain.

JAPAN

A woman missionary to China was a witness in Washington today before a Committee of Congress. For twenty years Mrs. George Fitch of Pasadena, California, has been in China, and her ~~husband~~ husband is still there. ~~Now~~ There were six resolutions offered in Congress providing for aggressive action by the United States government against nations that have broken treaties with this country.

Of course the most conspicuous nation that has broken ~~treaties with~~ <sup>them</sup> ~~is~~ is Japan. Those resolutions were referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. And they summoned Mrs. Fitch, who for most of her twenty years in China, was stationed in Chungking, the latest capital of Chiang Kai-shek.

54  
Mrs. Fitch told the Committee that there wasn't the slightest doubt that Japan was violating the Nine-Power Treaty which had been made with the United States in Nineteen Twenty-Two. She suggested to the Congressmen that if we stop Japan we can avert the war that is threatening in Europe. If we continue to help Japan, we invite war in Europe. And she intimated that it was a war which would eventually drag us into a conflict with Japan. Our best method to protect ourselves now, said Mrs. Fitch, is to put an embargo on the shipment of war materials to ~~Japan~~ <sup>the Mikado</sup>.

BRIDGES

There was a bit of spectacular testimony today at the hearing over the deportation of Harry Bridges. The witness was a lawyer who has had a lot to do with labor affairs in Los Angeles. This lawyer testified that three years ago Bridges had told him that he, Bridges, was running the maritime unions on the Pacific Coast and furthermore that they were taking orders from the Communist Party.

The lawyer says he laughed at Bridges when he said that. But Bridges went on to tell him that the Communists had key men in the International Longshoremen's Association, also in the Marine Cooks and Stewards<sup>d</sup> Union and the American Radio Telegraphers' Association. That witness further swore that Bridges had declared that the Communists, through their publicity bureaus, could destroy the reputation of any man on the Pacific Coast inside of twenty-four hours.

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Furthermore, Bridges used to give orders to a certain Communist organizer. <sup>R</sup>This lawyer also quoted Earl Browder, the titular head of the Communist Party in America, former candidate for president, who is supposed to have said that he knows Bridges,

knows all about him and considers him one of the hardest members that the Communists have to handle. And finally, the witness swore in these words:- "Harry Bridges conveyed the idea to me that he was the boss and had the ruling hand."

DICKINSON

~~The pious Governor Dickinson of Michigan is having himself~~  
~~a grand time. For eighty years he has been a virtuous man,~~  
~~but this is the first chance he ever had to let the whole country~~  
~~know about it.~~ <sup>He's</sup> going to tell about all his own goodness and  
the wickedness of high life ~~society~~ tonight, nine P.M., Eastern  
Standard Time. The burden of his discourse will be an attack  
upon ~~the~~ demon rum. But he has ~~only~~ let it be known that he will  
also take another crack at the women who drank liquor during the  
conference of governors at Albany, last month.

But one of the Michigan Governor's fellow Republicans  
does not approve of his conduct. A former Representative in the  
Michigan Legislature, a veteran G.O.P. man, is starting a movement  
to have Governor Dickinson recalled.

## HUNTERS

A dismal tragedy of the woods comes to light through a report from the United States Department of Agriculture. A young man in the forestry service had climbed up a tree in the course of his duties <sup>^</sup> to make observations. It happened that, at the same time, a so-called hunter was in those same woods trying to get himself a deer out of season. The alleged hunter fired, <sup>and</sup> <sub>^</sub> killed the forester.

M.L. Wilson, Acting Secretary of Agriculture, states in a letter to Speaker Bankhead of the House that there is ample evidence to indicate that the hunter knew he was not firing at a deer. After all, deer have not as yet been known to climb trees.

The Acting Secretary points out that as this was not a crime against the United States, it didn't fall within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The man who murdered that forester was tried in a state court, charged only with first degree manslaughter. A jury acquitted him.

57  
Acting Secretary Wilson cites all these facts to urge Congress to amend one of the federal laws. As it is, nobody who kills or assaults a federal officer, commits a crime against the federal statutes. Acting Secretary Wilson wants that ~~amendment~~ amended to cover all employees of the government.

SON

A young man in North Carolina has an interesting idea. He has brought a lawsuit against his father asking the courts to make the father pay him twenty thousand dollars.

When the young man was nine years old, his father and mother separated. The father promised to support the little boy. But, says the <sup>lad</sup>~~boy~~ now that he's of age, papa never kicked in with any more than a hundred dollars in thirteen years. And that's the basis of his lawsuit. The young man charges that his father deprived him of the necessities of life and of the training that would fit him to fill the station in life to which his father's position entitled him.

Twenty thousand dollars for an education!



DRAGGER

8

Plenty of deep sea fishermen have narrow escapes. But the crew of a scallop dragger of New Bedford, Massachusetts, had perhaps a more ironic experience than ever happened to any other set of hardy New England fishermen. That's saying a great deal, but let's see what happened to them.

Last Thursday the dragger carrying those scallop hunters was disabled two hundred miles east of Boston. The engine was repaired but after seventy miles broke down again. Meanwhile, the alarm had been sent out ~~on account~~ <sup>because</sup> of the failure of ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> scallop dragger to show up at New Bedford on time. So there they lay, wallowing in the trough of the Atlantic waves, listening to a radio broadcast which told of the search that was being made for them by Coast Guard cutters. They had a receiving set but no transmitting apparatus. From hour to hour they heard details of the search and tossed about ~~hopeless~~ <sup>helpless</sup>, unable to give any hint of how they could be found. Day after day they drifted and their food ran so low that the crew was put on short rations.

58 1/2

Finally, they were sighted by a sword fishing vessel out of Gloucester, Massachusetts. The crew of the scallop dragger

thought, "Hurrah, here's food!" But again they were out of luck for that sword fishing craft had been at sea three weeks and its crew were themselves on short rations.

However, cheer up, they're eating tonight. They landed in Boston today. And probably are not

*9/4*  
eating scallops — and s-l-u-t-m.