

L.T. Sunoco. Wednesday, March 29, 1944

DHURCHILL

Today in the London House of Commons, Prime Minister Winston Churchill staked his political life on what would seem to us to be a tiny and trivial issue. Churchill placed in the balance his mighty position as a United Nations war leader because of the matter of school teachers' pay the kind of thing that would hardly give an American President even a moment of misgiving. True enough, the British Prime Minister is not likely to be overthrown-not by any stretch of the imagination. But, in a formal parliamentary way, to day he posed the question I stay or I go!

The Churchill Government lost out
~~the vote was counted, they prevailed~~ by the smallest
of majorities, a majority of one. *Which* certainly doesn't
~~not~~ sound like a violent overthrow of Winston Churchill
as a war leader. But, according to British parliamentary
ways, the Prime Minister must have the support of the
House of Commons on all issues and at all times.

So what did Churchill do about it? *Today he* appeared
before the Commons, and told them that if the vote of
yesterday stood, ~~and the majority against him were left~~
~~on record~~ he and his whole Cabinet would resign.
If they ~~wanted to keep him, they would have to reverse~~
~~of one on that~~
the majority ~~and go his way in the education bill~~
teachers pay.
~~on the question of equal pay for men and women teachers.~~

Whereupon an M.P. demanded - couldn't things be
arranged in such a way that the Commons might ~~infer~~
differ with the Prime Minister on a point of domestic
policy, without involving the whole question of war

leadership? ~~Couldn't Parliament ^{disagree} with him on the matter of teachers' pay, and yet support him on ~~the world~~ ^{important} ~~important~~ ~~questions of global war?~~~~

Churchill replied: "I am afraid I cannot in any way alter the statement I made."

So that left it up to the M.Ps - the Labor, Liberal and Tory members who constituted yesterday's majority of one. They promptly got together and talked things over - what to do about it? Should they, ~~reaffirm~~ ~~their action of yesterday, have their way about the teachers' pay and thereby~~ overthrow the Prime Minister, who stands as so great a figure in this crisis of the world?

You can answer that in advance - No. The news ^{still} to come is certain to tell you that the House of Commons reversed ^S itself and that Winston Churchill is still Prime Minister of Great Britain.

One of the fiercest of air battles was fought over Germany today - this in the course of a bombing raid which is described as not very large. Two hundred and fifty Flying Fortresses hit a target in central Germany, Fortresses escorted by seventy-five Mustang and Thunderbolt fighters. ~~On previous days, Nazi air opposition was mostly absent, but today the German fighters were out in force, and they staged what the American fliers described as "suicide attacks."~~ The conflict aloft was not long, but it was wild and woolly while it lasted.

Lieutenant Everett Stewart of Abilene, Kansas, leader of a group of Mustangs, 'tells the story in these words:- "We started after them and got tangled into the biggest dogfight I've ever seen. It spread all over the sky. There were lots of clouds," he goes on, "and every time we would chase one, he would duck into the

clouds and reappear elsewhere."

And thus they fought, while the bombers were scoring direct hits on the target.

9 Amer. bombers and 9 fighters missing, while 39 Nazi planes were shot down.

RUSSIA

Today Soviet troops fought their way across the upper reaches of the Prut River and drove ~~thru xxxxxx~~ Chernivitsi to the outskirts of the important City of Cernauti, which is the capital of the Province of Bukovina.

50
~~This was~~ announced by Moscow tonight. ~~Bukovina belonged to Rumania before the war, and was part of the land which that country turned over to the Soviets before the war.~~ Chernivitsi ~~Its capital, Cernauti, is a gateway city, giving access to the bulk of the Province.~~

4
And further north, in Old Poland, the Red Army cut the last railroad link between the German armies to the north and Nazi forces to the south. This they accomplished by the capture of a rail junction called Kolomya, which is in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. More and more, the Soviet forces are coming abreast of the Carpathians - the mountain barrier which some ~~xxxxxxx~~ believe may be ~~the~~ a section of ~~the~~ new Nazi line of defense.

ITALY

Today the word flashes that - the Gurkhas have come down from Hangman's Hill. And that ^{is} dramatic evidence of what we have been amply informed by the news - that the attempt to take Cassino has been a failure, and the war is stalemated there.

The Gurkhas, from the northern frontier of India, scored a triumph twelve days ago, when they made a daring advance and established themselves on Hangman's Hill - one of the points of high ground that dominates the area of Cassino. The Gurkhas, in fact, pushed to within two hundred yards of the ruined Monastery held by the Germans. [¶] They did their part in the offensive, but the rest of it bogged down - and the fierce fighters ^{of the Himalayas} ~~were~~ were left up there. For twelve days and nights they had to take it - under incessant fire by the German ^{above.} ~~defenders~~. And they nearly starved and almost thirsted to death. Supplies had to be dropped to them

by plane, and water was almost unobtainable. But they

hung on, and were still holding their position - when

the decision was made ^{for them} to withdraw. ~~With the attack on~~

~~Cassino at an end, there was no use in keeping them~~

~~on Hangman's Hill, and under cover of night they ~~made~~~~

~~their way back to the main line of the Fifth Army.~~

The battle of India is still going on - that is, the major clash forced by the Japanese invasion across the border of ^{Fabulous Hindustan,} ~~India~~ And a dispatch from Mountbatten's headquarters states that the British have had to make a withdrawal - this in the area of Ukhrul, thirty-five miles north of the key city of Imphal. And another enemy column has pushed closer to Kohima, a communications center of Number One importance in the State of Manipur. ~~At other points, the invading Japs have been held in check while two of their columns were making progress in heavy fighting.~~

On the bright side out ^{east,} ~~there,~~ there is word of great air victories for the Allied fliers. In two days of swirling combat, they shot down at least thirty enemy planes, and ~~they~~ lost only three of their own. ~~which sounds like a lot of air help for the British forces battling against the Jap invasion of India.~~

COOGAN

Over in the jungles of Burma, the Kid is now a hero. Jackie Coogan, once the wistful ~~little~~ lad, who starred so brightly in Charlie Chaplin's great hit - "The Kid." He's now the pilot of a glider, landing on flying fields in the Jap-infested jungle. Out there they talk of the courage of the one-time Kid, though Jackie Coogan himself prefers a laugh. And today one of his pals tells of a belly laugh louder than any that was ever aroused by Charlie Chaplin and the Kid. He says:

"Our job is to land in the jungle behind the Jap lines and make air strips - so the transports can follow along. And sometimes," he adds, "it takes newcomer pilots a while to get used to the racket.

"The other day," says he, "Coogan and I were sitting in our foxhole, sweating - when a transport circled the field and landed. It was five minutes

before the pilot mustered the courage to step out. Then he crouched on the strip, peering into the jungle.

He must have thought he saw a Jap in the bushes, because he dashed back to the plane and took off."

That was comedy for Jackie Coogan and his glider mate. *And then* Presently the apprehensive pilot flew back.

"He circled the field twice," *says* Jackie's buddy, ~~later~~ "and then, landed. This time he jumped out, and ran like the dickens for a foxhole - our foxhole. He jumped in and you should have heard Coogan and me give him the horse laugh."

Whereupon the glum pilot growled: "These fields change hands so fast, how was I to know whether it was ours or the Japs?"

That's the kind of comedy the Kid is playing in nowadays.

PACIFIC

Ninety-Three more tons of bombs for Rabaul.

~~Another large daily portion of high explosives hitting~~
~~the Japanese base.~~ Tonight's communique states "many
fires were started, ^{with} smoke ~~was~~ visible for seventy-five
miles." ~~with~~ The American ^s~~planes~~ encountered some
antiaircraft fire, but no opposition from enemy planes.
Today's quota of bombs makes a total of five thousand
tons on Rabaul since February Third. ^{TP} And, from the
Central Pacific we have an announcement of the one
hundreth attack on Japanese positions in the Marshall
Islands -- with American planes continuing their daily
air assault of the atolls, ~~still~~ ^{who are} still occupied by Japanese
garrisons without hope of help.

DIES

The Dies Committee today denounced the Political Action Committee of the C.I.O. as being Communist controlled. Eighteen members of the Executive Board of the C.I.O. are accused of being Communists. And twenty-one unions affiliated with the C.I.O. are said to have Communist leadership.

The Chairman of the C.I.O. ~~Committee~~ Political Action Committee is Sidney Hillman, leader of the victorious Left Wing faction of the American Labor Party. And the Dies charge is that now, in effect, Hillman is the political leader of the Communists - and not Earl Browder.

The Committee admits that Hillman himself is not a Red, and that he has been at times, in the Committee's words, "actively and effectively anti-Communist." But he is now the real leader of the Communists - so alleges the Dies Committee.

ADD DIES COMMITTEE

Denials followed promptly on the heels of the accusation -- blistering denials. One C. I. O. organization mentioned is the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, the Chairman of which tonight talks about going to court. -- ~~if~~ ^{if} Congressman Dies will permit. "This is a libelous statement," said Union President ^{"and} Reid, if Mr. Dies will waive his immunity as a congressman, we will file a libel suit against him, ^{"Also} ~~and~~ Sidney Hillman, Chairman of the Political Action Committee, of the C. I. O. and leader of New York American Labor Party. uses the term - "liar". Speaking of Congressman Dies, Hillman says: "he has delved again into the recesses of a warped mind coming up with the most shopworn smear". To which the echo responds -- what could be worse than a smear that's shopworn.

POLLS

Polls are all the fashion nowadays and here's one taken among newspaper correspondents in Washington, -- on the subject of the next presidential election. A large majority expressed the belief that President Roosevelt would be the Democratic nominee for a fourth term. Twenty-six of the Washington correspondents think the Democrats ~~will~~ ^{will} win. Twenty-two predicted a Republican victory and two were uncertain. An overwhelming majority selected ~~as~~ Governor Dewey of New York as the most likely Republican nominee with Wendell Wilkie in second place ^{but} far behind.

7

MURDER

^a
~~The~~ strange story is told about the arrest in New York of a man who is being held on suspicion of what is known as -- "the Gardenia Murder," in Los Angeles. This crime was so called because beside the body of a ~~strange~~ ^{slain} woman was found a blood stained gardenia.

The man arrested in New York is Roger Louis Gardner who police say married nine wives without bothering about divorces. His matrimonial enthusiasm ~~grew to~~ such an extent that he ~~started~~ started proposing to two at the same time. And that led to trouble. Because one of his two current fiances called him on the phone and the other answered. The two exchanged ~~information~~ ^{information and} went to the police, who in turn, identified ~~him~~ ^{their fiances} as the husband of various other women across the country. The identification mark was a an ornament he always wore - a cross on a gold chain. The sacred emblem was ~~just~~ ^{checked} enough, and moreover on it was inscribed the words: "never forget me". The most sinister part of it was that the ~~say~~ ^{inscription} cross and ~~emblem~~ was included in

MURDER -2-

the circularized ~~the~~ description of a man wanted in

Los Angeles and for the Gardenia Murder. Hence

the arrest for that crime.

she never had a child... ambitious because she was... In any case her aim was not fulfilled... she had only cancerologists.

In Los Angeles, the story is about Mrs. Wels

was puzzled and

she couldn't guess what

That was what.

MOTHERS

Today in a New York Hospital, a wish was expressed by a Mrs. Harry Zarief, a former dancer, who is the wife of a radio violinist. She told the Doctors she hoped she would have quintuplets. And that seemed ambitious because she ~~was~~ ^{is} a tiny ex-dancer, most petite ~~but~~. In any case her wish was not ~~fulfilled~~ ^{ful} -- because she had only quadruplets.

In Los Angeles, the story is about Mrs. Mela Lopez, who ~~wanted~~ ^{was puzzled and} went to a Hospital and told the doctors there was something wrong with her. ^{She couldn't guess what.} The baby was born shortly thereafter. ^{That was what.}

money in case the marriage
didn't last.
walnut grove
"That way," the millionaire explained today.
it wouldn't be necessary for me to pay attorney, and the
I'd be glad to live together, the more money she would have.

MARRIAGE

In a Hollywood court today, there was an account of the prudence of a millionaire husband. ~~(He had things figured out financially, in his dealings with his beautiful showgirl wife - she twenty-three years younger than he. But, his wisdom and caution worked out the wrong way.)~~ TH Carlisle Thorpe, who used to raise horses and now raises walnuts, took the witness stand and told how, after they were married, he put his showgirl wife on his payroll - at a hundred and twenty-five dollars a month. ~~(She didn't have to do office work or anything like that to earn the salary, the idea was something else. He figured that the marriage might not last, and he paid her the hundred and twenty-five dollars a month so that she could save money in anticipation of a trip to Reno.~~ ^{He wanted her to save money in case the marriage didn't last.} ^{walnut-grower} "That way," the millionaire explained today, "it wouldn't be necessary for me to pay alimony, and the longer we lived together the more money she would have."

A prudent idea all right, but today wifie was
in court suing for maintenance ~~in~~ of a thousand dollars
a month; ^{and never mind the} ~~money~~ ^{walnuts}

~~the Santa Clara was Harry F. McLean, the~~
~~revealed contractor who has done that sort of thing~~
~~before. His desire is, as he expressed it - "to spread~~
~~happiness to everyone."~~

~~the day of a... ^{millionaire}~~
~~the... ^{millionaire}~~
~~and handed over a five thousand dollar bill for a~~
~~... ^{First}~~
~~five hundred dollars to the telephone operator -~~
~~just as a tip. To the chambermaid he gave a hundred~~
~~dollars.~~

~~And then out of the window went five~~
~~thousand dollars, while people below scrambled for the~~
~~bills and coins - a... that stopped the traffic~~

GIFTS

It rained money up in Canada today - at Windsor, Ontario. Five thousand dollars in bills and silver were showered down into the street from a hotel window.

The Santa Claus ^{again} was Harry F. McLean, the ~~eccentric~~ ^{millionaire} Toronto contractor who has done that sort of thing before. His desire is, as he expresses it - "to spread happiness to everyone."

~~His day of spreading happiness began today,~~
~~when he walked ~~into~~ the Windsor police headquarters~~
~~and handed over a five thousand dollar check for a~~
~~police charity.~~ ^{First} Then he went to his hotel and gave
five hundred dollars to the telephone operator -
just as a tip. To the chambermaid he gave a hundred
dollars.

And then out of the window went five thousand dollars, while people below scrambled for the bills and coins - a swarming mob that stopped the traffic

The news account states happily that not all the money got out of the window. Half a dozen newspapermen were present in the hotel room, and a good deal of the currency dropped around on the floor.

3 1/2

The newspapermen stated afterward that, in ~~other~~ ^{their} words: "the pickings were much better in the room than down below."

And now Roger ~~a little~~
~~larger~~ ~~from you~~ → a few
verbal thousand dollar bills
from you.

ELECTION

7/27. wed. Dropped from 2nd broadcast

Shouts of Democratic triumph reverberated in Washington today, as a result of the figures from Oklahoma - the administration candidate for Congress ~~is~~ down there winning by ~~twenty one thousand to seventeen thousand, a majority of four thousand.~~ *a majority of 35 hundred.*

The Oklahoma district is normally Democratic to an overwhelming degree and has gone Republican only once-back in the Harding landslide of Nineteen Twenty. In the *big* New Deal years, it went to the administration by majorities of from nineteen to twenty-two thousand. Last year, however, the Democratic candidate for Congress won out by a mere four hundred votes. And now, that has been run up to ~~four thousand~~ *35 hundred* - in yesterday's victory of Administration ~~candidate~~ *Supporter* Stiger. So no wonder the Democrats are saying jubilantly that this ~~disproves~~ disproves the Republican contention that there is a continuing trend against the Administration.

The G.O.P. advocates, on their side, ~~try~~ to explain the matter by citing the weather - which was 'bad. They say ~~that~~ their strength was largely in the rural areas, where rain kept the farmers from going to the polls. And the Republicans add that, anyway, the Democrats ^{have} won only three out of eleven special congressional elections, the other ^{eight} going to the G.O.P.

⁷⁷ And still ~~xxx~~ another version emphasises the political strength of Democratic Senate Leader, Barkley of Kentucky, who did some powerful campaigning in the Oklahoma election - which was ~~indeed~~, conducted on a straight out basis of for or against the Roosevelt Administration.

The election of a Democrat, however, does not change the line-up in Congress - because today a Democratic Congressman resigned - Representative Domengeaux of ^{Louisiana} ~~Oklahoma~~. He steps out of the ~~xxx~~ legislative halls to enlist in the army.

Today's other focus of political discussion was in New York - the victory of the Left Wing of the American Labor Party, the faction led by Sidney Hillman. This is being called a triumph for the Communists, who are alleged to dominate the A.L.P. Left Wing. There is talk that the Right Wing leaders may not accept the decision, and may seceded - splitting the Labor Party. ~~and the Republicans are making what capital they can of the situation~~ ^{TP} The American Labor Party has held the balance of power in New York elections and its vote is regarded as necessary to carry New York State for President Roosevelt, if he runs for a fourth term. In such an event, the Republicans are expected to ~~about the~~ ^{put forth the} argument that, with the Hillman-Left-Wing in control of the American Labor Party, the President will have to depend on Communist votes to carry his own state.