

L.T. - SUNOCO. - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1942
(Salt Lake City)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am speaking from the shores of Great Salt Lake tonight. On this hurried swing across the continent I am not just trying to see how many governors I can round up to go on the air with me. It's like this: When you are only in a state for a short time, who is there better than the Governor to tell us what is going on in his part of the country? I've just gotten off a Union-Pacific train, coming down from Idaho -- I beg your pardon, Idee-ho, as Governor Clark last night told us it should be pronounced. I skeedadled down to Utah today, to use another of Governor Clark's breezy expressions. And I haven't bee in Salt Lake City long enough to get my bearings. So, I asked the Governor of Utah to join me on the air. And here he is. But, first,

let's take a look across Great Sale Lake on one side and across the snowy Wasatch Mountains, on the other, and see what has been happening today in the rest of the world.

DENATURALIZATION

Naturalized citizens who are disloyal will soon cease to be citizens. The Department of Justice is all set to start proceedings in the courts to denaturalize the people who took the oath to Uncle Sam but in their hearts kept their allegiance to the countries in which they were born. There are quite a number of them, says Attorney General Francis Biddle, and, he adds, "we now are ready to shoot and we are going to shoot very quickly. The Department of Justice will begin proceedings at once in some thirty or forty cases and, eventually, in hundreds more.

Such people accused of disloyalty, will have sixty days in which to answer. Membership in the Deutsch -- America Bund and several other organizations will be considered prima facie evidence of disloyalty and legitimate grounds for denaturalization. As for the American born citizens who are in the Deutsch-America Bund and similar outfits, nothing can be done about them. The constitution protects them.

RAZOR BLADES

Every war has its by-products, and this one is sure to be no exception; of course, not all the by-products are good. One of those we are threatened with is whiskers; they may become fashionable again, out of necessity; because of an order promulgated today by the War Production Board; "cut down on razor blades. That's the word for the next ninety days. Manufacturers may turn out only seventy percent of what was their average monthly output in Nineteen Forty. The statistical experts of the W.P.B. have been making a study of the whisker situation and they figure that this curtailment will save a thousand tons of high carbon steel and at the same time allow every man one blade a week. One blade a week with junior using it on the side, and, but we'll skip that. At any rate, gentlemen, use em till it hurts. Ouch!

BEAVERBROOKA

Dining at the White House tonight will be none other than Lord Beaverbrook. He will not only dine with the President but will pass the night at the White House. The dispatch reports that Beaverbrook has arrived to establish an international organization to coordinate British-American war production and supply. In connection with this news comes word that the United Nations are revising their plans for prosecuting the war.

BATTLESHIP

That British naval affair in the Mediterranean was even more successful than was at first reported. The British Admiralty issued a communique about ~~it~~ it today, saying that an Italian battleship was torpedoed amidship, set afire, a battleship of the Littorio class; one of four dreadnaughts, thirty-five thousand-tonners that Mussolini built some time between Nineteen Thirty-Seven and Nineteen Forty. Furthermore, an Italian cruiser was badly damaged and another one hit. The Admiralty adds that the British squadrons avoided serious damage by skillful use of smoke screens. However, one British cruiser and three destroyers were hit.

All this took place on Sunday when five British cruisers and a destroyer were escorting a convoy to Malta and they were intercepted by the Italian battle fleet. Prime Minister Churchill today sent a telegram of congratulations to Bear

Admiral Vian, the commander of the British squadron.

This is not the first time that Vian has been in

the headlines. He was commander of the British

destroyer COSSACK, when it attacked ^{the} a Nazi prison

ship ALTAMARK in Norwegian waters two years ago.

Churchill declared that the Italian fleet consisted of a modern battleship, six cruisers and a flotilla of destroyers.

The British squadron was heavily out-gunned and out-weighted. But, it came off best. The convoy got through with the exception of one merchant ship. After the naval engagement was over, a huge flight of Axis bombers, now fewer than a hundred and fifty of them, went after the British squadron, nevertheless the convoy reached Malta safely.

INTRO TO GOVERNOR MAW

Ladies and gentlemen of North America and the rest of the world, if it happens to be listening in -- Governor Herbert B. Maw of Utah is here at the microphone with me. Early in the morning I am off into the Wasatch Mountains on a short trip with Dick Durrance, Sepp Ruschp, and some other mountaineers. And the Governor of Utah is giving us a send-off. Governor Maw, we haven't even had time to talk things over and decide what to talk about. But, just off the bat, informally, could you tell us a little about the present state of affairs here in Utah. For instance, what can Utah do to help win the war?

GOV. MAW:- Though the largest open-faced copper mine in the world is here, and though our silver mines are among the richest in the West, there still lingers in the minds of most natives the thought that Utah is an agricultural state.

With the German invasion of Poland and the movement of the Japs in Asia, came the

realization to us that our state must play an important part in the present world conflict. Our copper mines now provide a substantial portion of the nation's needs. Lead and zinc in enormous quantities are bi-products of our silver mines. In Southern Utah are whole mountains of ore so rich in iron content that a one-hundred-and-twenty-six million dollar pig iron and steel plant is now being constructed to provide metal for ships and guns.

Borings of magnesium deposits in Eastern Utah are revealing almost inexhaustible supplies of high grade materials. Vanadium has been found and is being processed in Southeastern Utah. Whole counties of the state are underlaid with coal. Near the central part of the state is a mountain of alunite which is successfully being processed into aluminum. The 40x80 mile great Salt Lake with a salt percentage of twenty-five percent is rich in

sodium, magnesium and other chemicals and metals so essential to national defense. The weeds of our deserts will soon be transformed into synthetic rubber.

Almost over night the peaceful rural communities of Northern Utah have become industrial centers. Small arms ammunition plants, ordinance depots, army warehouses, munition dumps, enormous airfields, army hospitals and other defense projects are being completed. The Ninth Corps Area Army headquarters was moved from the Presidio at San Francisco to Salt Lake City, Utah has become a strategic and industrial center.

The war is doing great things for this state of rural blessedness, with its mountains and valleys and deserts -- this state with the rich colors of Zion's and Bryce's Canyons and the Wayne Wonderland; with the majestic ruggedness of the Uintahs and Wasatch Mountains; with the solitudes of barren places -- this center of scenic America.

NAVY

Uncle Sam's Navy has carried the war to a point nine hundred and ninety miles away from Tokyo. Planes from one of our aircraft carriers flew over Marcus Island, southeast of the Mikado's capital and dumped twelve tons of high explosives on a near-completed airfield and other installations. This happened on March fourth, but for military reasons we are only told about it today. That attack was carried out eight days after a raid on Wake Island, which the Japanese took on December Twenty-Third, only after that historic defense of Wake by the Marines. The force that raided Wake was a combination of destroyers, cruisers and bombing planes, commanded by Vice-Admiral Halsey, who also raided the Marshall and Gilbert Islands in January. Details of all this are sketchy, but a navy official in Washington described these adventures as useful in obtaining the information that the Japanese are doing their utmost to strengthen the defenses on the Islands they hold in the Pacific.

PHILIPPINES

The Japanese High Command has dispatched material reinforcements to General Yamashita, in the Philippines. The Japanese radio broadcast a statement that large formations of Japanese bombers had attacked the Fortress of Corregidor so constantly and intensively that our anti-aircraft batteries were unable to reply. Apparently it's true that Corregidor has been severely attacked for two days now. But it is well worth noticing that even the Japanese communique does not report any damage done at Corregidor. There is ~~also~~ continued activity on the ground by enemy forces in Batan. Our own Army communique says this indicates the arrival of Japanese reinforcements backed up by those new type Jap bombers I mentioned last night. "Our troops were successful."

Everything points to the conclusion that Yamashita is doing his utmost to crush General Wainwright and the Americans and Filipinos before NEXT Month sets in.

BURMA

The seizure of the Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal by the Nipponese had been expected for some time. In fact, it was predicted the moment Singapore fell. The British withdrew such forces as they had there several weeks ago. The capture of Singapore gave the Japanese access to the Bay of Bengal, in fact gave them pretty near naval control of the Bay, making the Andamans indefensible, as they never had been strongly fortified. Their chief use to the British has been as a famous place for convicts, being sent even from steaming India to the Andamans, was punishment indeed, as they are not humid, unhealthy, unattractive.

Few white people except officials have ever visited them. From time to time we read about them in works of fiction. (Maybe you remember the first of ~~xx~~ all the Sherlock Holmes detective stories: "A Study In Scarlet." It was that tale which attracted the reading world to Conan Doyle. The murder in that story was committed by a convict

escaped from the Andamans, who had brought with him an Andaman native to do the actual killing.

The convicts and all white inhabitants of the Andamans were evacuated ^{long} before the Japanese occupied them. Their possession, of course, strengthens the enemy's position in the vast Bay of Bengal, and makes the way easier for an attack on Ceylon, and India.

On the main land of Asia the battle of Central ~~Burma~~ Burma is now in its third day, and not going any too well. The British admit that the Japanese have cut the communication lines between Mandalay and the main body of the Chinese and British forces at Goungoo. This being done by a small contingent of a thousand Japanese infantry, most of them ~~id~~ disguised as natives using the same ~~old~~ penetration tactics, infiltration through the British-Indian lines and capturing the airdrome north of Toungoo. A force of Chinese was dispatched

to turn them out, and so far the only result has been a fierce and continuing battle. The enemy still have the railway to Mandalay cut, and the high command at New Delhi makes the familiar acknowledgement "situation admittedly serious." Also, once again we hear those ominous words, "The Chinese and British fighting without air support."

AUSTRALIANS

The Australians tonight are allpepped up with the anticipation of being led to the attack by General MacArthur. They were promised swift and resolute action by the new Supreme command. Their Prime Minister, John Curtin gave an accounting of stewardship to his Parliament today including word of Australiand and American planes are already working together on the offensive against the Japanese in New Guinea and the surrounding islands. The United Nations, he said further, are girding the loins for attacks all along the line, and particularly they are going to be on their toes against Hitler's efforts to knock Russia out of the war. In a way this declaration by the Australian Prime Minister was a reply to a plea uttered on the other side of the world in London. Soviet Ambassador Maisky siad the time is ripe for the United Nations to take the initiative away from the Nazis. The Red envoy was presenting the Order of Lenin to four British pilots who had fought in

Russia, and he took the occasion to make that appeal. On the Soviet front, he said, the initiative has been wrested from Hitler and the Reds haven't the slightest intention of letting it be taken back. But Maisky pointed out that on other fronts the initiative still is with the enemy. "It is the enemy who dictates the time and place and temp of military operations. The Allies," he declared, "should finish with all that. The General staff should make its plans ^{with} ~~xxxx~~ the idea of victory in Nineteen Forty-Two, not Nineteen Forty-Three."

MARRIAGES

Our high command in Australia is up against a delicate problem. Exceedingly delicate, you will admit, when I tell you that it concerns the universal and irresistible subject of love. Love has complicated the strategy of our Generals in the Land Down Under. There are no American Gals on the spot to keep our soldiers company. On the other hand many Australian girls are fair to look upon. I can testify to that, yes from the shores of the Coral Sea to Kalgoorlie and Coalgardie and the Great Australian Bight. See maps for the Great Australian Bight! B-i-g-h-t, not b-i-t-e. Anyhow our lads are honest fellows and have been marrying the fair Australians right and left, some of them publicly, some of them secretly. The marriage rate having gone up conspicuously in the records of the Antipodal commonwealth.

It has the Australian tycoons worried. The dispatch doesn't say why. But presumably because

they don't want the country to be denuded of their best looking women when the War is over. They have been urging the American High Command to forbid marriage for the duration. And it is hinted that even General MacArthur may be asked to take time out from the job of planning strategy and tactics against the Japanese to make a solomon-like decision about l'amour.

And now from those alluring circles of the Antipodes to our alluring voiced Blue Sunoco Hugh across the continent in far off Radio City.