

LEAD

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, May 16, 1941.

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The President today used a striking term in discussing the international relations of the United States. He employed the term - "undeclared war." He resorted, moreover, to another familiar expression - freedom of the seas. This he applied to the question of American ships entering the Red Sea and carrying war cargoes to the British at Suez.

*was the occasion of*  
Today the first White House press conference ~~ever held~~ since the President's recent illness. The Washington correspondents, quite naturally, had a lot of questions stored up - and they fired away. The most striking answer they got was with reference to the Red Sea situation. The President indicated that the United States Government would insist upon its right to have American vessels navigate *around Africa* to Suez - this in spite of Nazi threats. We are determined to uphold the freedom of the seas, said the President.

It was that principle which caused us to declare war against the Kaiser's Germany. **B**ut President Roosevelt today spoke of - undeclared wars. He said that this nation had on two occasions engaged in undeclared conflicts - defending the freedom of the seas. Once - in the case of the Barbary Pirates. History

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books relate how American warships smashed the Corsair powers in the Mediterranean. We remember that familiar slogan - "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute." The President interpreted that affair early in the last century as a blockade declared by the Barbary Pirates; - and, we broke the illegal blockade.

The second case of undeclared war, which he cited, was in West Indian waters. The President related that time was when Spanish, British and French privateers in the Caribbean area, attacked our ships right and left, and we attacked them. (I must confess that I, for one, have no clear historical recollection of this particular undeclared war - probably some of you radio listeners will remember it better.)

What implications are we to perceive in today's ~~present~~ presidential discourse on history? We may surmise the White House meaning <sup>to be</sup> ~~is~~ something like this: - if the Nazis should attack ships that we may send to the British at Suez, <sup>such attacks</sup> ~~it~~ might result in an undeclared war.

The President was asked about the headline question, of the Vichy Government of France, - about his denunciation of the

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Pétain regime for collaborating with Nazi Germany, and about his own action of taking into custody French ships in American harbors. The presidential response was exceedingly cautious. He said he would answer no ~~xxxx~~ hypothetical questions based on the conjunction - "if." On this ground he refused to respond to queries about the possibility of the United States breaking relations with the Vichy Government; Whether Ambassador Leahy would be withdrawn from Vichy; Whether we might recognize the Degaulle group as the legal government of France; Whether wheat shipments to France would be discontinued.

The President likewise refused to comment on the suggestions that we might take over the French possessions in the Western Hemisphere - West Indian islands and the isles of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off Newfoundland. It has been suggested that this could be done under the Pan-American Agreement. Today Senator ~~Josh~~ Lee of Oklahoma demanded something still further - the seizure of Dakar, the French harbor on the westernmost coast of Africa. In advocating the taking of Dakar, the Oklahoma Senator was echoing a previous demand made by his colleague, Senator Pepper of Florida.

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In France, the public today was not informed about  
President Roosevelt's appeal to the French people - warning them  
against the Vichy policy of collaboration with the Nazis. Nor  
were they told that French ships in American ports, like

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the Normandie, had been placed under the custody of the United States coast Guard. That is being withheld from the masses of the French - with Vichy imposing the closest kind of censorship.

Here's the latest: the Vichy Government makes an answer to the President's warning. The ~~XXXX~~ answer is a statement that France has ~~(quote)~~ no intention of attacking either England or the United States ~~(end quote)~~.

Events are moving swiftly in that critical area - the French colony of Syria, German warplanes are arriving at Syrian air fields - in transit to Iraq. The French governor of Syria today admitted that German fighting aircraft had been granted the use of Syrian airports. But he explained it on the basis of - being forced down. According to the Franco-German Armistice, Nazi planes that are compelled to land in French territory are to be given assistance to enable them to go their way. So, the hospitality of the Syrian Air Bases is in accordance with the armistice terms.

That's the French contention. But it's easy to see that  
— forced upon would be more  
"forced down" could mean almost anything, Nazi fighting  
planes flying to Iraq wouldn't have enough gas to get there,  
so they'd have to make forced landings, in Syria. In that  
way the entire Luftwaffe might get to Iraq for operations  
against the British ~~there~~ in Mesopotamia.

Phase - 5.

The French theory of forced landing is a bit subtle,  
~~an~~ and it doesn't impress the British so much. Today the  
R.A.F. carried out a threat to bomb German planes on Syrian  
airfields. British bombers showered high explosives, and one  
of the aviation centers ~~located~~ was at Palmyra - that legended  
City of Roman history, where once reigned the warrior Queen  
Zenobia. London today took official cognizance of the  
changed status of Syria by declaring a new area of the  
eastern Mediterranean to be - a danger zone. That ~~means~~ means  
-- mine laying. The new area blocks the coast of Syria.

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*Yes, and*  
The German air force is <sup>already</sup> in Baghdad, though how large the units are is none too clear. There are even rumors of Nazi ground forces arriving to help the Iraqi Army against the British. The Hitler command appears to be moving to take full advantage of the Iraq situation, trying to develop the Iraq revolt - and make that Mosul oil well area a base for striking at the British in <sup>both</sup> ~~the~~ *Asia and North Africa - Egypt.*  
~~Near East.~~ The ominous danger of this is only too clear - leaving Turkey isolated, surrounded by the Germans in Bulgaria, the Soviet Russians who appear to be playing Hitler's game, French Syria falling under Nazi control, and revolting Iraq receiving German support. One story is that Berlin is demanding that the Turks allow German military material to pass through their country - the same kind of agreement which was overturned by Jugoslavia. The British are on the alert - taking strategic measures to checkmate what appears to be a huge Nazi combination directed at the Suez Canal.

GERMANY

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Berlin denies the arrest of Professor Karl Haushofer, that <sup>e</sup> Professor who for years has been <sup>the</sup> an ace idea man of the Nazi <sup>Reich</sup> ~~Reich~~, a number-one braintruster.

Exponent of <sup>what</sup> they call geopolitics -- which propounds the theory of "lebensraum," living room. This famous Professor was a close friend of Hitler, and it was a sensation when it was reported the ~~Reich~~ Professor had been arrested. At first Nazi sources refused to make any comment on the report, but later they denied it.

~~There~~ ~~There's~~ Nothing new concerning Hess. ~~himself~~.

But, here's an interesting thought. People have been asking -- is there any ~~preced~~ precedent for the affair of Hess? Has anything like that ever happened before? Well, if the Nazi Fuehrer did fly to Scotland in a one-man effort to make peace -- there <sup>is</sup> ~~s~~ one interesting precedent. Remember the ~~one~~ one-man-peace-attempt ~~that was~~ made in the World War of 1914-18?

Remember what ultra-prominent American had an idea that he could launch a move to end the conflict? ~~Remember Henry Ford~~ and the peace ship -- get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas? ~~Interesting to remember in the light of the~~

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RADIO

President Roosevelt today made a statement in the controversy concerning radio. He was asked about an order issued by the Federal Communications Commission. That F. C. C. decree intends <sup>ed</sup> to force the National Broadcasting Company to give up one of its two systems of programs. <sup>The</sup> N.B.C. now has the red network and <sup>the</sup> blue, and the F.C.C. says - you've got to get rid of one.

The decree goes further - much further. It intends to compel changes that would <sup>affect individual stations in their networks</sup> ~~eliminate the present system of broadcasting radio~~ <sup>affiliations.</sup> ~~entertainment.~~ The question has been asked - has President

Roosevelt been aware, ~~and does he approve,~~ of the doings of the Federal agency that deals with radio?

The President today replied - No. He said he had not known in advance of the F.C.C. order, ~~and therefore had not given his approval.~~ <sup>At his</sup> ~~At a~~ press conference today he was asked - what his <sup>was</sup> position <sup>anent</sup> the sweeping decree? He replied that he had not yet read the decree.

The President was further queried about a charge made by Mark Ethridge, radio executive and newspaperman of Louisville, Kentucky. Ethridge declared that the President has been deceived and betrayed by his subordinates on the F.C.C. The President

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declined to comment on that accusation.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Broadcasters issued a statement demanding the removal of James Lawrence Fly as Chairman of the ~~Fxxx~~ Federal Communications Commission. It was Fly who launched a blistering attack yesterday at the Broadcasters Association. He declared that the two big networks are trying to manipulate and control the Government. ~~sounds like a large order manipulating and controlling the Government. But that, said Fly, is what radio companies are trying to do. A sort of ether wave dictatorship, apparently.~~

The response of the Broadcasters Association is to declare that the Fly regime has been what they call - punitive, capricious, biased and destructive. "Mr. Fly's statement of yesterday," say the radio men, "was the strongest ~~substant~~ substantiation of the truth of what we have been saying." So they want him removed.

## DEWEY TOUR

New York's fighting District Attorney, Thomas E. Dewey is scheduled to address the nation tonight. But this time, on an altogether new subject, dealing neither with crime nor politics. Instead he is going to talk about the young men of the nation who have recently been herded by the tens of thousands, into army and navy camps throughout the country.

District Attorney Dewey, flying in the personal plane of Army Chief of Staff, General Marshall, is visiting all of the principal Army and Navy bases. He will speak tonight from a big camp near the Canadian border -- at Malone, New York. Famous because of those winter weather reports, when the lowest temperatures in the East are often recorded at Malone.

Dewey recently was made National Chairman of the United Service Organizations for National Defense; the "Y", the National Catholic services, the Salvation Army, the "Y.W.", Jewish Welfare, and Travellers Aid.

With his genius for investigation Dewey has been going around finding out just what the problems are in connection with welfare and recreational activities. What opportunities have our

SOLDIERS, sailors, marines and defense workers to enjoy themselves when they are off duty?

District Attorney Dewey is a forthright man. Some of his discoveries have been startling. So his speech to the nation tonight ought to be of interest of everyone. We all want to know what our lads are doing, ~~x~~ I mean beside learning how to fight - how to defend our country.

Tom Dewey the other night told me of ~~some~~ of his preliminary findings. Not all pleasant. And something must be done -- and done quickly. For instance can you imagine a camp with forty thousand boys, near a town of only twenty-five hundred people? And where the villagers lock up just about everything including washrooms -- when the boys are off duty?

This evening the nation will get its first report from Tom Dewey.

WHAM

Today at academic Harvard, brave words were spoken by - The Wham Girl, <sup>who</sup> ~~she~~ seemed still a bit frightened, after the painful event of last night - when a Harvard barrage of eggs, overripe tomatoes, and squashy grapefruit was flung at the Wham Girl. But today she smiled courageously, and said:- "Harvard boys are all right. I'll stick by them any day. They tell me," she added trustfully, "that most of the things were thrown at me by boys who were not Harvard students." Yes, the Wham Girl can take it, too.

Here's what happened: The Harvard Lampoon, ~~which is~~ the campus funny paper, has long had a feud against motion picture actresses - holding them in contempt. But this year the Lampoon decided to change its attitude toward film beauties. The Lampoon boys ~~decided~~ decided to love them, instead of hating them. So they looked over the actresses of Hollywood, and hailed - the Wham Girl. She's a starlet, Marjorie Woodworth, blond and blue-eyed and altogether dazzling. They invited her to attend the Lampoon's annual spring dance, and be acclaimed. Poor Marjorie never dreamed what the acclamation would be like.

At the spring dance, the Lampoon editors ushered her in

like a queen.

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Then - Wham. An egg came whizzing. Another followed, and then a ripe tomato. From the gallery overlooking the dance floor they bombarded the Wham Girl with a juicy barrage. She ducked. She was spattered with the yellow of egg and the red of tomato. The place was in an uproar, and the principal casualty was Peter Saltonstall, son of the Governor of Massachusetts. He was felled - knocked flat when a monster grapefruit hit him on the head. That was the biggest wham of all.

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Today the Hollywood starlet tried to make the best of it. She said she was sure the perpetrators of the egg-tomato-grapefruit bombardment were not Harvard men at all. The Lampoon editors, however, are of a different opinion. They stated grimly today that the sharp shooters who bombarded the Wham Girl were staff members of the Harvard Crimson, the rival student publication. <sup>Altogether</sup> ~~a most~~ <sup>most</sup> ~~academic proceeding, and~~ <sup>proceeding to which</sup> the echo resounds - wham!

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Lookout Hugh, here comes the microphone.