

L.Y. - Sunoco. Wed., Oct. 25, 1939.

CITY OF FLINT

Here's direct news from Russia about the CITY OF FLINT. It's official, an announcement by the Soviet Government. That American freighter, captured by a German warship, is being held for the time being - that's the phrase from Moscow - until her cargo can be thoroughly examined.

She was brought into Moscow by a prize crew of eighteen German bluejackets. They brought her into the Soviet harbor with the Nazi Swastika flag at her mast. The German prize crew was first interned, but has now been released by the port authorities at Murmansk.

There remains yet the question about the master and crew of the CITY OF FLINT, forty-one American seamen. What about them? The answer is, nothing, so far. The Moscow Government vouchsafes no information. Several attempts have been made to get a answer directly from the port authorities of Murmansk. All such efforts were useless. The Soviet officials at Murmansk refuse to talk to anybody but higher Soviet officials at Moscow. As the telephone is completely under their control, nothing can be learned.

The word from Berlin about the CITY OF FLINT is that the

Nazi authorities are doing their utmost to persuade their
Bolshevik colleagues to release that American ship. But even
they profess complete ignorance concerning the whereabouts of
Captain Gaynard and his crew. One answer might be that when the
ship was captured by the German cruiser they might have been taken
aboard and are being held aboard the raider. The German cruiser
would hardly attempt to send any radio messages to Berlin as that
might give away her whereabouts to the vengeful British men-o-war
that are looking for her.

CONTRABAND FOLLOW CITY OF FLINT

At the same time, there comes some interesting information from London. The British official body called "Contraband Control", is holding five hundred and eighty vessels of different nationalities. Among them twenty-four ships flying the Stars and S.ripes. It is said that Contraband Control is making every effort to settle those cases and clear the ships - release them.

RIBBENTROP

The response to the rhetoric of ~~Joachim~~ von Ribbentrop was exactly what ^{was} ~~should have been~~ expected. Berlin cheered, ~~beautifully~~, Moscow applauded ^{amicably} ~~in friendly fashion~~, London hooted, Paris jeered. Rome quoted the words of Hitler's Foreign Minister, but made no comment. ~~The British and French say it was a dug,~~
~~the Germans and Russians say, "That's telling 'em!"~~

The expectation is that it will be followed shortly by a declaration of war from Hitler, a formal notification to London that there is a state of war between the German government and the government of His Britannic Majesty. In fact this much was hinted today by one of the newspapers owned by Air Marshal Herman Goering. "The time has come," said Goering's mouthpiece, "when the war which Britain wanted, must shower down on the British Isles, ~~themselves. Weapons must speak. Ribbentrop's speech was a political~~
~~turning point.~~"

Another bit of news from Berlin - perhaps more of a threat than ~~a bit of~~ news, concerns Russia. Hitler is going to build warships for Stalin, ^{expand} ~~explained~~ the Soviet Navy.

CLERGYMEN

There's considerable hubbub in Canada over the action of a group of clergymen. They're the seventy-five ministers of the United Church who signed the manifesto against the war last Friday. The ^{sub-}~~ex~~^{committee} executive of the United Church of Canada held a meeting at Toronto today, debating whether it should take any action against the ministers who signed that manifesto. The Attorney General of Canada is investigating the law, to see whether anything they did was in violation of Section Thirty-Nine of the Defense of Canada Act. If it was, says the Attorney General, he will prosecute them. It is expected that the action of the Executive Committee will be to pass a vote of censure on the signers but nothing more.

NEUTRALITY

There was a test of strength in the neutrality debate ⁱⁿ the Senate this afternoon. Senator Johnson of Colorado started it. He offered an amendment which would have taken away from the President any discretion ^{in the application of} ~~whether to apply~~ the Neutrality Law. ~~or~~ ^{added} It should not be left up to the President, said the Colorado Senator, to determine whether a state of war exists. Then he ~~said~~ caustically that the nation needed to be protected against the sublime confidence of Mr. Roosevelt.

The Senators rejected the Johnson amendment by a vote of sixty-one to twenty-six. That was considered a fair criterion for judging the ultimate ~~fixing~~ ^{the bill} fate of ~~that law~~ in the Senate.

(The isolationist senators now can see that the followers of the President have about sixty Senate votes for revising the Neutrality Law as Mr. Roosevelt wants it.)

Ex-President Hoover has published a five-point program for keeping the country out of war. It appeared today in the ~~latest issue of the~~ SATURDAY EVENING POST. His points:-

Number One, make the army and navy so strong that no soldier would dare land anywhere in this hemisphere no matter who wins the war in Europe. Two, put our own house in order, show that

free people can solve the problems of ^{modern industry, labor,} ~~the industrial revolution~~ and agriculture.

Three, demonstrate that true liberalism is not dead. Hold up the lamp of liberty as a guide to regeneration. Four, heal the

wounds of war ^{— help the suffering — relief} ~~under our own strength~~. Five, when the peace

conference happens, help those who are taking part in it, not by taking part ourselves, getting entangled, but by counsel to tone down malignant feelings.

DIES

The Dies Committee has raised ^{another} a hot row in Washington. ^{Today} it published the names of all people employed by ^{the Government} ~~Uncle Sam~~ who are on the membership and mailing list of the American League for Peace and Democracy. And that action has provoked angry criticism by ~~other~~ members of Congress.

As the Dies Committee has made the accusation that the League for Peace and Democracy, ~~if not actually Communist is~~ ^{is} ~~at least~~ controlled by the Communist Party, publishing that list of names puts the owners of those names in an invidious light. Two members of the Committee protested vehemently. One of them, ~~was~~ democratic John J. Dempsey of New Mexico, said the publication of ~~that~~ ^{the} list was most damnable. ~~and most un-American.~~ Democratic Jerry Voorhis of California endorsed ^{this} ~~what Dempsey said~~. ^{then} And Dempsey added that there's no proof that any of the people mentioned are Communists and he's not for smearing a lot of American citizens.

^{Chairman} The list made public by Dies has the names of no fewer ^{New Deal} than five hundred and sixty-three employees of the government.

Two of them are ten thousand dollar a year men, Edwin Smith of the National Labor Relations Board, and Louis Bloch of the

Maritime Labor Board. It includes people in almost every department of the government, particularly the Department of Labor, the Rural Electrification Administration, W.P.A., Social Security Board, Securities and Exchange Commission.

~~The betting is that making public this list has brewed a row about which we will be hearing a lot in the next few weeks.~~

There was an angry debate for an hour about all this in the House. Democratic John Coffee of Washington demanded that the House repudiate the action ~~next~~ of the Dies Committee. On the other hand, Republican Thorgelson of Montana did his ^{best} ~~earnest~~ to get the ² ~~list~~ ^A ~~list of names~~ published in the Congressional Record, but ~~was turned down~~. He tried ~~in~~ three times. Then up spake Democratic Allen of Pennsylvania, who shouted the charge that Thorgelson was the white-haired boy of a subversive organization. ~~He~~ then explained that he meant ~~that~~ Thorgelson was a member of the Silver Shirts. ~~of William Dudley Pelley~~. Thorgelson retorted that he was not a member of any organization except the Naval Reserve.

FORUM

A grave ^{note of} ~~notable~~ alarm was sounded in a speech delivered ^{That} in New York today: This pump-priming of the Roosevelt government will ultimately lead to a totalitarian system of government.

~~This was~~ ^{by a} ~~The man who said that was~~ formerly ~~member~~ member of President Roosevelt's official family, Lewis Douglas, who was Director of the Budget but resigned. Douglas, who is now Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University in Canada, spoke at today's meeting of the Ninth Annual Forum of Current Events of the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.

Douglas went on to say that attempts to remedy the consequences of the pump-priming program require the use of totalitarian measures and totalitarian techniques. ~~You will need~~ measures and techniques designed to control, to regulate the prices at which goods and services may be sold, the quantities at which they may be produced, and finally even the expropriation of private savings.

Another speaker was New York's Mayor LaGuardia, who talked about the huge expensiveness of running a big city nowadays. He said it was easy to criticize the cost of municipal government, but challenged anybody to select which services should be curtailed or cut out. Everybody says economize, but nobody can point out just how.

STABILIZATION

Congressmen have been inquiring about that government stabilization fund, the two billion dollars entrusted to the President to hold up the currency. Republican Senator Vandenburg of Michigan asked Secretary Morgenthau of the Treasury whether any of that two billion or any other government funds will be used to help any belligerent country.

Morgenthau made a categorical reply to the Republican leader. He said there have been no transactions between Uncle Sam, Great Britain and France since the war began. Then he added that we had only a day-to-day agreement with European countries, settlements at the end of each day. And he said:- "Before we use the stabilization fund or any money in the Treasury to assist any country in prosecuting a war, I would come ~~before~~ before the proper committee and ask for guidance."

RAILROADS

The Department of Justice came out with a surprise today, a new prosecution under the anti-trust laws. The target this time is the Association of American Railroads. Two hundred and thirty-six railroads, members of the Association, are included in the complaint.

The specific offense alleged against the railroads appears to be not so much a positive action as a negative. The lines have refused to cooperate with companies operating motor buses and motor freight trucks. And this refusal, says the Department of Justice, has the purpose of trying to eliminate competition with motor carriers.

MISSING

Seven boats and an airplane have been looking for a fishing boat. With a crew of two men that forty-two foot boat out of Portland, has been missing six days off Maine's rock-bound coast. A freezing gale has been lashing the waters from Port Clyde to Cape Elizabeth. Two Coast Guard patrol boats and five power surf boats have been combing the surface of the waters, while an amphibian plane sought from aloft.

JUDD

Eight years ago, an agent at a railroad station in Los Angeles, was checking a couple of trunks. He noticed something about the trunks that made him suspicious, and he called in the police. They found two murdered women.

If it hadn't been for that, the double crime might never have come to light. The trunks were on their way to be dumped into the Pacific Ocean.

The criminal was soon tracked down. A woman, a handsome blonde, daughter of a clergyman in Kentucky. The two victims were young women who had shared a cottage with her. The case of Winnie Ruth Judd was page one copy all over America for months. The police didn't catch her, but she gave herself up after her husband in Santa Monica, California, published an appeal in the newspapers, an appeal to her to surrender.

Then Dr. Judd hired the best lawyers he could to defend his wife Winnie Ruth. The lawyers put in a double defense, first, that she had killed in self-defense; second, that she was insane.

She was tried by a jury of Arizona farmers and business men. They found her guilty in the first degree. She was sentenced

to execution but her lawyers still fought on. Another Arizona jury found her insane. So they sentenced her to imprisonment for life. At half past nine this morning there was a check-up of the inmates. Winnie Ruth Judd was not there, she had escaped. And she had made her getaway by a common trick:- The ancient device of arranging the pillow^w and the bedclothes to look as though her bed were occupied. Every time the guard on patrol duty looked in, Winnie Ruth seemed to be there. It was not until the nine thirty check-up that her escape was discovered. And now an alarm has been sent out all over the southwest.

She got away during the night and paid a call on her parents, who had been living quietly in Phoenix ever since her imprisonment. She came to see them about midnight and gave them a letter to be sent to Governor Jones of Arizona. They begged her to stay with them while they telephoned the authorities. But she refused, and fled.

SPIRITUALS

Here's a homely little touch in an item from London.

We learn for the first time that in his leisure hours, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain indulges in singing. He has a baritone voice and a good one. So the question arises, "What does the War Prime Minister of England sing?" The answer is, negro spirituals. He and his brother were in the Bahamas many years ago, ^{and} learned some of those engaging melodies and lyrics. ^{ff} So we have the picture of Number Ten Downing Street ringing to the sounds of, "Nobody Knows What Trouble I See," and "Inchin' along Toward Jesus."

BLIZZARD

In western Canada, the folks are digging themselves out of snowdrifts. A blizzard howled over Alberta for thirty-six hours and was pronounced one of the worst in years. Ten inches of snow and traffic at a standstill in Edmonton.

FIRE

There was a fire last night at a private house in Plaistow, New Hampshire. The firemen got on the job all right and were starting to fight the flames. Naturally, it drew a crowd and the crowd started criticizing, acted like kibitzers at a pinocle game. This got the firemen's goat so they poured cold water on their critics, turned the hose on them.

That started things. Some of the crowd got inside the waterlines and fought back at the firemen. In no time there was as pretty a little free-for-all as you ever saw. The Police Department had to turn out. The cops succeeded in stopping the fight.

P.S. Oh yes, the house burned down.

39 1/4 If Hugh have you
anything to set the world
afire before I sign off?