

L.J. - Lunoco - Mon., Dec. 7, 1936.

KING

In the historic drama of the King, the Prime Minister and the lady, one voice has been studiously silent. According to the ideas of most Americans, it's the most important of all. Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, fleeing from probably the most embarrassing situation ever thrust upon a woman -- or thrust by a woman upon a man -- she has met it with dignity and closed lips. Silent until today. Tonight, she broke her silence, but still kept her dignity. From her refuge at the Rogers Villa, at Cannes, on the Riviera, she made public for the first time her position in what must be to her an astounding crisis. The statement was given to the crowd of newspaper men haunting the gate of the Rogers villa, by Lord Brownlow, one of King Edward's equerries, who accompanied Mrs. Simpson on her flight. The statement was - well, it's short enough to quote, so judge for yourselves: -

("Throughout the last few weeks", said Mrs. Simpson in her statement: - "I have invariably wished to avoid any action or proposal which might hurt or damage His Majesty or the throne." And she adds: "Today my attitude is unchanged. And, if such action will solve the problem, I am willing to withdraw forthwith

from a situation that has become unhappy and untenable."

At first reading this sounds as though the lady were giving up her royal ^{romance,} ~~love~~. However, it contains the word "if".) Consequently, it leaves the whole imbroglio just where it was before:— The real decision ~~is~~ in the hands of the King of England.

As for the events of this tense day in London, they served somewhat to clear away the fog created by clouds of rumors, by incoherent mass excitement, and by the royal restraint and silence. ^{The fog} ~~There~~ was particularly ^{cleared by} ~~the~~ the Prime Minister's statement to a taut and crowded House of Commons. ^{It brushed} ~~it down~~

away a general misapprehension which did grave injustice to the Right Honorable Stanley Baldwin. He had appeared almost in the light of a dictator laying down the law to his sovereign with whom the general masses of ^{British} ~~his~~ subjects sympathized deeply.

His address to the House made it manifest that he has not been trying to bully the King, as his opponents have charged. And he refuted the intimation of ^{his chief opponent,} ~~opposition leader,~~ Winston Churchill, that the government had been trying to rush the sovereign into a

precipitate^{to} decision. "It has always been the earnest desire of the government", said the Prime Minister, "to afford His Majesty the fullest opportunity of weighing his decision." At the same time he added what is obviously true, that "all this suspense and uncertainty brings a grave risk to the welfare of the nation and the empire. Of this he declared, "Nobody is more fully aware than His Majesty."

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But what he said next contributed most to clarifying the whole business: "The government has offered no advice to the King except on the question of morganatic marriage. All my conversations with His Majesty have been strictly impersonal and informal," said the Prime Minister. And he added: "These matters were not raised first by the government, but by His Majesty himself in a conversation with me some weeks ago when he first informed me of his intention to marry Mrs. Simpson whenever she should be free."

Between the lines of that paragraph, we can read a vital fact, that was hitherto unknown. King Edward ^{apparently} ~~patently~~

never had any intention of making Mrs. Simpson his Queen. So it appears that the alternatives he is now considering in his troubled hours at Fort Belvedere are: - giving up the great love of his life or giving up his throne. That's what he is trying to decide, in between troubled arguments with his Mother and his brother, the Duke of York.

The King had dinner with his brother, the heir presumptive, and with his personal legal advisor, Walter Monckton.

Some have expected he might fly to Cannes at any moment to consult with Mrs. Simpson. An airplane had been kept tuned up for him with his personal pilot in readiness. But late this afternoon the King's pilot was notified that he wouldn't be needed, that he should report at Buckingham Palace tomorrow afternoon.

But to return to that historic session in Parliament. Not since the stormy days of King George the Third has there been such a scene as the old House of Commons saw today. When Mr. Baldwin took his seat on the front treasury bench, he received the regular ovation. There was now no doubt whatsoever

as to where the sympathies and enthusiasms of Parliament lay.

And there was a renewed outburst of cheering when he sat down.

T Before he concluded, the Prime Minister said: "As soon as His Majesty has reached a conclusion as to what course he desires to take, he will no doubt communicate it to the government, to his country and to the dominions. It will then be for those governments to decide and offer advice if any ^{they} ~~of them~~ feel it their duty to tender him." To which Mr. Stanley Baldwin added: "I cannot conclude this statement without expressing what the whole House feels, our deep and respectful sympathy for His Majesty at this time."

It was clearly shown that Mr. Baldwin had the approval not only of his own followers but of most Laborites in the House. Clement Atlee, leader of the Labor Party, said enough to show ^{this} _^

50 ~~that~~ The principal hostile note was sounded by Colonel Josiah Wedgewood, also a Labor leader, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ but opposed to Mr. Baldwin. Every time Colonel Wedgewood tried to interrupt, he was shouted down with loud cries of "Order, order!"

(Winston Churchill met with even rougher treatment from)

the government majority. He repeated what he had said last week; ~~He~~ demanded to be assured that no irrevocable step would be taken) before the House had received the full statement. And to this he added: "May I ask the Prime Minister to bear in mind that these issues are not merely personal to the present occupant of the throne, but they affect the entire constitution."

(Mr. Churchill's own followers, the seventy so-called King's men, cheered him. But the cheers were drowned in shouts of "sit down." As Churchill continued to ask some questions, he was squelched by the Speaker,) who insisted that he confine himself to a single query. Thereupon members who don't like Churchill raised the jeering shout of "Speech, speech!" That ~~ended~~ virtually ended the debate.

(So there the matter rests. ^{England} ~~The country~~ the British empire, the world, now wait ^a for the King's decision.) His position has been rendered more awkward over the weekend.

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Some of the loudest voices raised in his support were those of the English Fascists, Sir Oswald Mosley and his ^{crowd} ~~crowd~~ Colonel Wedgewood made a statement to the newspapers on that subject.

"I don't see why the King should abdicate now", he declared.

He underlined this with the warning: "What the government should realize is the danger of the rise of Fascism in this country. The Fascists are trying to show that they are the King's only support. It think it is a great danger."

SPAIN FOLLOW KING

Mr. Stanley Baldwin wasn't the only cabinet minister to make a statement to the House of Commons today. Foreign Minister Anthony Eden also divulged some information -- this about Spain. (Captain Eden told the House that His Majesty's Government, views with alarm and concern the number of soldiers from other countries taking part in fighting Spain's battles. The Government has been investigating, he said. As a result they learned definitely that not only Italians and Germans, but Russians in considerable numbers are employed in the armies of both sides -- and a few Americans.) Just what Great Britain proposed to do about it, except to protest, was not made clear.

As for events in Spain, they are having snow up and down the Iberian Peninsula which has slowed the armies down.

Squadrons of rebel planes flew over Madrid but they weren't dropping bombs they were taking pictures. The inference is that General Franco is preparing a new mass attack on the capital.

POPE

Tonight's reports from ^{the} Vatican ~~City~~ are somewhat reassuring. Pope Pius the Eleventh, is feeling so much better that, he declares, he will get up tomorrow. His physicians are reluctant to permit ^{that}. They admit his condition is satisfactory, but, they are urging him to avoid any exertions ~~that are~~ not absolutely necessary. However it is known that the Pontiff is exceedingly rested ⁱⁿ having ~~been obliged~~ to abstain from public affairs as long as ^{this.} ~~he has~~

He's 79!

HINDENBURG

A disturbing item crackled over the wires today about the airship Hindenburg. There was a rumor that the great dirigible was in trouble somewhere over France, and the latest that she made a forced landing in the mountains. Whether the mountains were the Pyrenees or the Vosges, we don't know.

WEATHER

Winter sport fans sat down to breakfast this morning in high fettle. Reports from Uncle Sam's Weather Bureau made them think of having their skates ground or new base wax put on their skees. Plenty of snow for skiing in most of the Northern states! It's coming says the weather man. But, the cold wave, supposed to be on its way from the Middlewest, is slow in arriving. Apparently it's lost somewhere between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Coast.

Here's a sign of the times. New York is preparing for a winter carnival. It's to begin at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday. In previous years we had to go to Montreal or Minneapolis for such affairs. Last winter we had one in Boston which was a knock-out, so at this moment Madison Square Garden is being transformed into an Alpine, Poconos, Adirondack, White Mountain scene. There will be two ice rinks, a long ski slide and jump, and a snow track one-eighth of a mile long. There will be dog-sled races, snow shoe races and daring ski stunts. Stars from the United States, Canada and Europe will be on hand to show us how it's done. This is a new kind of indoor show that's sweeping the land.

STRIKE

The shipping strike entered a new phase today. In the east, the officers and engineers decided to call it off, so far as they were concerned. The masters, mates and pilots and the men who run the machinery have found that their sympathetic walkout has failed. That's the story from headquarters in Washington. Of course they were considerably influenced by the vote of the American Federation of Labor at the Tampa Convention. The A.F. of L. announced ^{that} the shipping strike on the Atlantic coast, which was started in sympathy with the men on the Pacific coast, had been instigated by Communists. The Federation consequently condemned the strike and refused to lend it any countenance.

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Aside from ^{today's} ~~this~~ decision by the officers and engineers, the mercantile marine strikers seem to be losing ground. From New York, for instance, thirty-four ships sailed according to schedule with full complements of crews and officers. On the Pacific coast, shipping is still tied up. The situation is described as a conflict of propaganda. Owners and labor leaders are bombarding the public with statements, appealing for sympathy.

SUPREME COURT

Tonight The United States Supreme Court gives us something to talk about. A ruling handed down in Washington today gives the Roosevelt program at least a partial victory. This time it concerns the Holding Company Act passed by Congress last year, one of the most bitterly disputed of all New Deal Measures. For the act gave to the Securities and Exchange Commission the power to regulate all public utilities, that is, those engaged in interstate commerce. Inevitably, the utilities companies rose with a roar of protest.

And it wasn't long before one of the big holding companies went to the Court for help and obtained an injunction from a federal judge in Baltimore, restraining the S.E.C. from exercising its powers. The Federal government appealed. Meanwhile, another suit had been brought in the Federal Courts for the Southern District of New York. In this it was the Electric Bond and Share Company that sought relief. The government wanted to make this New York suit a test case, to decide whether the Holding Company Act

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was constitutional. In other words, the Attorney General's office wanted to win or lose all these cases - preferably win of course - on that one New York suit. Today's ruling by the Supreme Court concedes this point to the government lawyers -- that this one case will decide the entire holding company question.

Another decision by the Supreme Court today affects the right of store-keepers to sell anything at cost or below cost in order to lure you into the store. In mercantile parlance it is known as the "loss-leader" problem. The legislatures of Illinois and California have passed laws called "Fair Trade Acts". According to these, a manufacturer or distributor can say to the shopkeeper: "You can have our goods for sale on condition that you don't sell them below such-and-such a price." In other words, no price cutting.

Naturally, these fair trade acts were vehemently

fought by chain stores and many department stores. But independent shopkeepers complained they, the independents, couldn't exist if the big powerful chains and department stores sold certain articles at prices which smaller competitors couldn't meet. This was one of the much contested principles of the N.R.A. While the hapless Blue Eagle was still alive, loss-leaders disappeared from bargain counters. When the Blue Eagle perished, loss-leaders were much in evidence again.

Actually, not only Illinois and California, but ten other state legislatures enacted laws to wipe out such competition. However, only the Illinois and California measures were taken to the United States Supreme Court. And today the eight justices decided that those laws are constitutional.

BUDGET

(When Uncle Sam's yearly expenses rose to the formidable total of one billion dollars, it was page one news. And what's the figure today? Six billions! That's the estimate. And there seems to be no vast outcry about it.)

Though Congress doesn't meet until next month, many chairmen of Senate and House Committees are already in Washington, getting ready for the next session's jobs. The Sub-Committee of the House on Appropriations got to work today -- with hearings behind closed doors. A rough birdseye glimpse at the figures in red convinced them that Uncle Sam's deficit for this fiscal year will be two and a half billion dollars.

The six billion dollar budget, they calculate, will cover merely the routine expenses of the government. It won't include drought relief, general relief, or the money to settle the bills for the Soldier's Bonus. All in all, we may expect to learn that by June thirtieth, the public debt of the United States will amount to thirty-four billion, six hundred millions. Incredible figures! That hardly make the headlines!

POST OFFICE

And here's a message for you from Sunny Jim Farley's boys in Washington. The three-cent stamp has come to stay.

It was originally instituted as a temporary, emergency affair.

59 But the authorities have discovered that three cents is necessary on all first-class mail if Uncle Sam's post office is to keep

out of the red. ~~They~~ ^{So} 3-cent it stays.

59 1/4 And - we ought to put on a Xmas Seal as well, to help the annual tuberculosis campaign. And S.L.-U-T-N.