

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here I am broadcasting from the Adirondacks again tonight. This time I am in Lake Placid to take part in a Sun Oil Convention, staged every year by the Parish Oil people who distribute Blue Sunoco all through this north country. Sitting around me and jamming the banquet room are hundreds of ruddy faced two-fisted men who look as though they could lick their weight in wildcats. Mr. H. C. Fuller, President of Parish Oil, asked me to again give the news to you direct from this dinner, here in the Adirondacks. So here I am. This happens to be one of the big weeks of the year for winter sports enthusiasts, who have gathered in Lake Placid from all parts of the country. But more about that later. Those of you who are listening in will want me to hurry up and give the highlights of the day's news. Tonight's most important story comes from the Balkans.

NEAR EAST

There's a report tonight of peace terms which Hitler has suggested to Greece. The story is from Belgrade, Jugoslavia, and is not confirmed. It relates that the Berlin government has proposed to Athens that the Greek-Italian war be ended - right away. Italy to withdraw the demands that started the whole affair. The Greek army to withdraw from Albania - but not entirely. The Greeks to retire to the Greek-Albanian frontier of Nineteen Thirteen. That would leave to them some of the part of Southern Albania which they now occupy. The Nineteen Thirteen line between Greece and Albania has since been changed; and the Greeks would get back what they lost by the alteration.

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Rumors persist that Great Britain will make some large scale move to keep Greece in the war. And thereby retain a continental base for future possible operations against the Nazis.

Will the British continue to fling their full force against the broken Italians in Libya? Or will they draw away part of the war machine there to bolster up the Greeks - perhaps by landing heavy forces at Salonika? One point is that if Britain allows Greece

to be put out of the war, it may have a bad effect on the firmness of Turkey in the face of future German demands.

The Turks keep insisting that their treaty with Great Britain stands in full force - although their non-aggression pact with Bulgaria would seem to facilitate the entrance of Nazi military forces into that Balkan kingdom. One of the largest questions in the present embroglio is:- How far Turkey may be calculated to take a firm stand toward Germany.

Here's a late report from Budapest which reads this way:

" German troops have been crossing the Danube from Bulgaria to Rumania at seventeen points since noon." This is an unconfirmed rumor from Budapest. If true - well, the Nazis are already on their way through Bulgaria toward the Greek frontier. The Turkish frontier also.

Earlier reports told of discontent in Bulgaria at the prospect of German occupation - popular anger. One story spoke of rioting among the Bulgars at the place where German engineers were throwing bridges across the Danube -- those ~~bridging~~ bridging operations about which we heard last night.

SPAIN

Today's headline about Spain has obviously a startling look - German army units moving in. However, Spain, as well as the Axis, emphasizes and re-emphasizes the aspect of - relief. It is stated and repeated that German army detachments are going from occupied France into Spain only to render humanitarian aid to the stricken city of Santander, which was devastated a few days ago by hurricane and fire.

We are told that the Nazi military parties are small, that there are only five of them. They are described as being only such as might be used for the work of relief. But one unit is a motorized column. Madrid specifically states that this German mechanized war equipment is to help in transportation work at Santander, where communications are badly disrupted. Also the motorized unit is described as carrying rations enough to feed thirty thousand people a day; the number of people homeless and in need of Santander. The German entry was at the ~~EXPENSE~~ express invitation of Spanish Foreign Minister Suner accepting a relief offer made by the German authorities in France.

On the surface, all would seem to be humanitarian. However,

the Nazis have less of a reputation for Christian charity than for dark and devious tricks. And the mere phenomenon of Hitler army units pushing into Spain is something to strike the imagination with wonder. Also - with suspicion. That's the way London feels about it. British opinion today was prompt in the belief that the Santander relief business was really the beginning of Nazi armed penetration.

Inevitably that keypoint comes to mind - Gibraltar.

However, however the British point out that the road to Santander is not the highway to the Rock - not in that direction. London notes, however, that Santander is a good harbor, which the Germans might use for their submarine-and-surface-raider-attacks on British shipping. Also - a convenient air base. Moreover, any Nazi move into any part of Spain suggests an eventual threat at Gibraltar.

Here's late word from Madrid. "British Ambassador Sir Samuel Hoare has arranged to divert to hurricane battered Santander two vessels bound from Britain with cargoes of wheat and corn - it was announced today." Britain herself needs the wheat

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and corn badly enough, but joins in the good-will competition for the favor of Spain - that country of such strategic import.

RUSSIA

There's no elucidation from Moscow on the subject of Litvinov. There seldom is much elucidation from the Soviet capital. So we'll have to speculate on the meaning of the drastic shake-up in the governing hierarchy of the Red Utopia.

Maxim Litvinov expelled from the Central Committee of the Communist party - that same Litvinov who a few years past stood for the Soviet policy of cooperating with the democracies. But now - out goes Litvinov. The natural surmise is that this signifies a still further drift of Stalin away from the democracies and toward Hitler. The interpretation is supported by an accompanying fact.

Litvinov's place on the central committee of the Communist Party is taken by the Soviet ambassador to Berlin, ^{Molotov,} and he's the one who negotiated the Stalin-Hitler pact. He helped to create it.

DEBATE

The Senate debate today featured two Democrats and a Republican speaking against the Lend-Lease Bill. The opposition had the floor. Two of the Senators announced themselves as war veterans - one, a veteran of three wars. The Democratic Senator Gillette of Iowa, fought in the Spanish-American War, the Boer War, and the World War.

He declared that the bill for all-out aid to Britain would give the President supreme authority to play in what the Senator called "the international poker game of power politics." And he proclaimed "no good man should want such authority, and no evil man should be entrusted with it. "

DISCLOSURE

President Roosevelt today raised a question about a news story we had last night - the one stating that the army is transferring war planes to the Navy, reinforcing naval air power and bringing the fleet in the Pacific to war-time strength. This was stated by Chief of Staff General Marshall to the Senate Military Affairs Committee, and then was made public by members of the Committee. The press and radio got it from them.

President Roosevelt today pointed out that the Committee meeting was secret, and that General Marshall's disclosure had not been made for publication - was to have been secret. He said that printing the news in the papers and telling it on the radio had been a detriment to national defense.

The President's remarks drew immediate response in Senatorial circles. The Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, which held the secret hearing, is Senator Sheppard of Texas. He said, "The President is absolutely right - the information ought not to have been disclosed."

Senator Wheeler of Montana, leader of the opposition to the Lend-Lease Bill, took an opposite view. He expressed himself

in scathing terms. "Of course the Administration wants to muzzle the senators. They want to muzzle everybody who is not for war," said Senator Wheeler.

LAKE PLACID STORY

A group of handsome young fellows from South America are sitting at a table right in front of me, those Chilean skiers whose captain, Canuto Erazurias, was on the air with me from North Conway several weeks ago. These Chilean boys are visiting most of the Number One winter spots in North America, taking part in races everywhere. In the White Mountains they had a little hard luck. There Number Two man, Julio Zegers, ran into a tree and broke both legs. So, here they are tonight one man short, with Julio in a New Hampshire hospital. He was so badly smashed up that he will have to be operated on and will not rejoin his pals until they sail, on the return journey to Chile.

In one of the most important downhill races of the winter here at Lake Placid on Mount Jo the captain of the Chilean team, Canuto Erazurias, has just beaten our North American skiers. Canuto from Chile came in first. Great work Canuto! Congratulations on winning the Lake Placid Club Sno Birds trophy. Cheers!

Two of the big events tomorrow will be the bobsled race on Mt. von Hoevenberg, for the A.A.U. four man international championship. The winners of this will get the Billy Fiske trophy. Billy was a

famous American bobsled driver who won several Olympic races.

Last autumn he was killed while flying a Spitfire, fighting German airmen over England. Eddie Eagan who raced with Billy Fiske and won the Olympic trophy, long ago, is up here with me.

Another highlight tomorrow will be when a ski jumper tries something that has never been done. Perhaps you saw the pictures of the young Norwegian, Torger Tokle, in today's LIFE Magazine. Torger Tokle has been winning all the ski jumping honors in this country. Last week he broke the American record with a tremendous leap of some two hundred and seventy-three feet -- almost the length of a football field from end to end. Well, tomorrow, on the Olympic hill here at Lake Placid, Torger Tokle, with a heavy radio short wave sending outfit on his back and a microphone embedded in a baseball mask on his face, will take the dizzy leap and attempt to broadcast his thoughts and anything that comes into his mind while he is coming down the take-off, winging his way thru the air, and then whizzing down the landing hill. Torger Tokle is sitting here. And, we all wish you lots of luck on that jump Torger! (Shout). I don't believe there is

a man in this room who would be willing to step in your shoes tomorrow, not even if he were offered thousands of dollars.

Oh yes, and I have some big silver cups here to hand over - cups that I myself put up several years ago, for the International two man and four man bobsled championships. The races have been run and one cup goes to a sixteen year old lad who is following in the footsteps of his famous dad. This boy's name is Bud Washbond of Keene Valley. And in the race he broke the record. This cup goes to you Bud and your little friend Adrian Aubin. Adrian handles the brakes for Bud. And little Adrian stands six feet one and weighs three hundred pounds.

In the four man race for the International Championship, Bill Linney of Lyon Mountain went over the top on one of the turns. Bill and his pals shot right off into space. One of them broke his leg. I am mighty sorry about that. Well - to the winning four man team goes the cup; to Lawrence Straight, E. H. Varno, Bill D'Amico, and I am handing the cup to the driver of the Lake Placid Club Sno Birds team, the veteran Olympic racer, Curtis Stevens, who drove them to victory.

(Cheers!)

Another team hurtled off the course, at one of the turns today; but none of the men were seriously injured.

Nice gentle sport!

WRESTLER

Now here's something that should be worth seeing - Murphy versus the Angel. The Angelic Being is well known to wrestling fans. He's called the ugliest wrestler in the world. Monstrous, brawny, bull-necked, he weighs two hundred and seventy-six pounds - has a huge bald head like a gargantuan naked egg, and a face of paleolithic fright. A Harvard anthropologist described The Angel as the nearest thing to the scientific conception of the Neanderthal man - the caveman of the Glacial Age. His specialty is crushing opponents into submission with what he calls - the bear hug, his favorite hold. The Angel is reckoned the world's heavyweight champion wrestler.

Now let's see who Murphy is - Joseph L. He's a state senator in Massachusetts. Thirty-three years old, is five feet eleven tall, weighs two hundred pounds, and is bald headed. In other words - he looks like a state senator. Now why should the Bay State legislator want to wrestle with The Angel?

It all began with a bill that Senator Murphy introduced into the Senate of Massachusetts. It provided that wrestling should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Boxing Commission.

That - it should be supervised, investigated. The senator in proposing the bill stated "Wrestling is a racket." He illustrated that contention with a remark about the wrestling champ.

"Even I," said he, "could defeat the Angel. And he's called the world's heavyweight champion."

That led to a controversy between the senator and the angel's manager, an argument which culminated today in a challenge. Senator Murphy defies the Angel, offers to meet him in a match for the heavyweight wrestling championship. The lawmaker says he's to go into the ring with the modern Neanderthal man, bear hug and all. As for being crushed into submission by the mighty arms of the troglodyte, Senator Murphy says - nonsense. He'll toss the human mastodon right out of the ring. "I'll have a free bed and special nurses for him at the City Hospital after the match," says Murphy, indicating what he'll do to the Angel.

And now let's see what says Hugh James.