

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's something just off the wire, and it has rather a startling sound. (Sweden, Norway and Finland have gotten together on an appeal - an appeal to the United States. Those three northern nations are asking Washington to join in making overtures to Soviet Russia, asking Stalin not to enforce immoderate demands on Finland.) We're asked to do something for the Finnish nation now facing the menace of the Soviets. And Denmark is about to join in this appeal to the United States.

WAR

(Finland's envoy arrived in Moscow this morning with a corps of experts to learn the fate that Stalin has in store for the Finnish people. The Finns at home are mobilized to the teeth.) Machine guns are mounted on the streets of Helsingfors, the capital. Finland's tiny navy is massed in the Baltic, off the southwest coast of the country. The Finns realize of course that a nation of three million, eight hundred thousand, hasn't any chance against the hundred and sixty millions of the Soviet Union. But the spokesmen of the Finns are saying that it's better to die free than to live as slaves of the Soviet.

They got information today that a whole division of Soviet troops, with a huge volume of tanks and heavy artillery, is massed near their frontier.

A steamer carrying refugees from Finland arrived tonight at Stockholm.

Going east and south, we hear there's a new cabinet in Tallinn, capitol of Esthonia -- all because of the ill health of the Prime Minister. Following that excuse, however, we learn that the new Cabinet is composed of men more in sympathy with the Soviets.

TRADE

The British are ~~making sounds of triumph~~ ^{expressing satisfaction} over a trade agreement with the Soviets. The Russians will send timber to Britain in exchange for rubber and tin. On the face of it, this is only a business bargain, a bit of bartering. But spokes^m_{men} of the British are claiming that there is a good deal behind it and that it means more than a mere exchange of goods.

ITALY

The news concerning Italy continues to be curious and a bit baffling. A rumor was set afoot from Berlin that there's to be a conference shortly between Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia and Italy. At the same time, the news from Italy itself is that Air Marshal Balbo's paper continues its attacks on Bolshevism. And the Balbo paper propounds one curious point. That France ought to be grateful to Italy for helping Franco win the Spanish Civil War. If he hadn't France would find an army commanded by Moscow, mobilized along the Pyrenees. Fascist Italy, says the paper, has never betrayed its principles, never lowered its anti-Communist flag.

Almost at the same moment, we get a cable from Milan that the much dreaded Heinrich Himmler, head of Hitler's Gestapo, arrived there today; it is announced that he is in Italy to confer with the heads of the Italian Police and other officials regarding repatriation of Germans from the Italian Tyrol.

RUMOR

An interesting rumor comes out of Brazil. It was brought to Washington by a man who is calling at the White House today, an old college pal of the President's. The rumor he had heard in Brazil was that the Nazis have been making pocket submarines, small hundred-ton affairs, small enough so that a moderate sized freighter can carry several on its deck.

The President's old college pal said he saw one German merchantman in a South American port which had cranes so powerful they could easily lift a hundred-ton boat over the side, and launch it. He said he heard from a German officer that Hitler now has quite a squadron of marchant vessels, each of which could carry six submarines of that size, launch them secretly, and send them out for their deadly work.

A question to the Navy Department drew the answer that our fleet authorities have no information of any such craft having been devised.

DEATH RAY

Ever since H. G. Wells wrote, "The War of Worlds" and long before, the human imagination has been flirting with the idea of a death ray, a ray that could kill at long range. Hitler, in one of his blasts, intimated that the Nazis have a new and infinitely deadly weapon which they haven't used yet but which they will if they're sufficiently provoked.

Only a few weeks ago, a rich scientist in Cleveland announced that he had discovered a death ray secret sometime ago but had destroyed the apparatus. He refused to let it be used. Today, that same Cleveland scientist says that anybody might stumble across the electric wave that he found. He said he himself came across it by accident and was not proud of it. He added that with it he had killed pigeons on the wing at a distance of four miles.

SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE

Edward Tomlinson authority on South America, says we are in danger of "Muffling a Golden Opportunity." Tomlinson now on one of his annual trips around South America, sends word from Rio de Janeiro to the New York Herald Tribune that the war has swept nearly all of our competitors from the Latin American field, and one of the world's richest markets has been thrown into our laps overnight. He adds that commercial agents with elaborate set-ups, sales forces, warehouses and offices who hitherto have represented British, French and German manufacturers for as long as a quarter of a century, are now desperately trying to connect with North American manufacturers simply because they are unable to get any more goods from Europe. As Tomlinson puts it, "the trade of a continent handed to us on a silver platter."

But, he adds something that doesn't sound so good: that we Yankees are in danger of mulling the opportunity. First because we haven't the ships to handle the business. Second, because freight rates have been jumped up from twenty-five to fifty percent, despite the fact that the Western Hemisphere is not in the war zone, and this is not trade with belligerents.

SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE

On top of that he makes this serious indictment: that our North American business houses are stupidly spoiling their own game by demanding cash in advance, take it or leave it, demanding that from South American firms that have always been able to get long-term credit from the British, the French, and the Germans.

Tomlinson goes on to say that the revulsion against Germany in Latin America is cyclonic. The people down there regard the Nazi Hitler-Stalin combination as "the catastrophe of the age." They look to us to save the Western Hemisphere from this war. They are willing to do business with us on a scale far, far beyond anything in the past. A golden opportunity. But will we muff it?

He fears we will.

NEUTRALITY

The high spot of the neutrality debate in Congress today was a rousing speech by Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri. Clark pitched into the government right and left. He was not content with merely attacking the President's demand for the embargo repeal. He also had it in for Louis Johnson, Assistant Secretary of War. He said Johnson is trying to inflame America with war spirit and he referred to Johnson's speech yesterday at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. At White Sulphur The Assistant Secretary said: "We should draw a lesson from the German conquest of Poland." To which Senator Clark today responded:- "No more idiotic, moronic, unpatriotic remark has ever been made by a man in a high public position."

And he said further that Assistant Secretary Johnson has been flying around the country in an army airplane for years, preaching the inevitability of war. He accused Johnson of having provided office room in the War Department for an author to write his book called, "Adjusting Your Business to War." Johnson wrote a preface for it. As a matter of fact, President Roosevelt later made a statement that this book was not an official expression of the government's viewpoint. But Senator Clark of Missouri declared that the book describes in detail various plans contemplated by the War Department,

plans that subject industry to regimentation and restrict the rights of labor, and clamp down a rigid censorship.

DIES

The Dies Committee today heard an earful from a former Bolshevik official. The witness was Ex-General Krivitsky, the man who wrote the series of articles for the SATURDAY EVENING POST, and whom we had on the air. Krivitsky, described as the head of Stalin's Military Intelligence in Central Europe.

Stalin Krivitsky said today killed thirty-five thousand officers of the Red Army. In addition to that, he exiled between three and four hundred thousand Russians who were members of his own Party, members who disagreed with his policy. And then he added:- Not hundreds of thousands, but millions of the civilian population of the Soviet Union had been sent to concentration camps.

Krivitsky then testified that the Communist parties in the different countries, such for instance as the United States, are not independent political parties. They are nothing more, says Krivitsky, than branch offices of the Russian Red Party. He directly and flatly contradicted Comrade Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Bolsheviks in the United States. Stalin, he declared, completely controls Earl Browder's Communist Party policies in the United States.

Krivitsky also said that undoubtedly there are agents of the OGPU in the United States Army and Navy, and the information they gather is being placed at the disposal of Hitler's Gestapo.

CHRYSLER

The argument between the Chrysler Corporation and the Automobile Workers is developing into a formidable row. The news from Detroit today is that nearly twenty-two thousand workers are idle. What's more, the movement is spreading. A plant of the Briggs Body Company was forced to close today, although ^{it's not} ~~there's~~ no labor trouble there, just a lack of supplies from the Dodge plants of the Chrysler Company. When the night shifts come on, the total men out of work will probably be thirty thousand.

G.F. 944.1
the American Federation of Labor

A.F.L.

(The American Federation of Labor says, ~~as one man~~, that the only way by which we can avoid being drawn into the war is to determine definitely that we will not.) We should decide that under no circumstances will we enter into any national policy which will include armed forces unless our shores are attacked. Such is the report adopted by the A.F. of L. convention at Cincinnati. And it adds that we should be most cautious about being drawn into any mediation plan. To make any premature offer to mediate might ~~not only~~ involve us in an embarrassing situation, ~~but also might~~ ~~be unsuccessful.~~

Another thing decided by the convention was to keep up the fight on the Wagner National Labor Relations Act. "If Congress doesn't amend it, that act will be an issue in next year's presidential campaign." The A.F. of L. also adopted a resolution demanding that Communists be dismissed from government positions. Communists will not be admitted into any A.F. of L. unions.

And the unions will not only continue to boycott German and Japanese goods but also things coming from Russia. ^{No Soviet} ~~No~~ caviar for

^{A.F. of L.!}
the ~~American Federation of Labor~~

As for the C.I.O., it is beginning its convention in San Francisco. The gathering received a telegram from the President similar to the one he had sent to the A. F. of L. He said he approved of the work done by the joint committee of the C. I. O and the A. F. of L. to negotiate for peace and reunion. "And," the President added, "this must be continued until a sound basis for peace has been reached."

The annual report made by John L. Lewis, President of the C. I. O., didn't sound so peaceful. It contained several withering criticisms of the Federation leaders.

PENNSYLVANIA

In Nineteen Thirty-Seven, while Democratic George Earle was Governor of Pennsylvania, the state legislature passed what is called a "Fair Sales Tax". It was described as part of the "Little New Deal" in Pennsylvania. One of its provisions was that a storekeeper who sold anything below cost was guilty of a misdemeanor.

A test case was made. A retailer in Allegheny County was indicted. The County Court quashed the indictment, said the act was unconstitutional. The Commonwealth's attorneys appealed to the Superior Court. And the Superior Court upholds the lower judge, ^{and} finds likewise, that the Pennsylvania sales act is contrary to the Constitution. Selling below cost is not an offense against the public except when it is done deliberately to injure competitors. *Such is today's Court decision.*

A baseball star becomes a public official!

New York's Mayor LaGuardia is a baseball fan. When the Yankees went to Cincinnati to finish up the World Series, the Mayor went along. He also traveled back with them in their special train, the "Triumph Special", and shared in the celebration. In fact, it is said that at one moment in that joyous night, Yankee Catcher Bill Dickey, became so near-sighted he kissed the Little Flower on the forehead.

But for a part of that joyful ride, the Mayor was secluded in a drawing room on serious business. He was having a long conversation with Iron Man Lou Gehrig, for so many years the champion first baseman of the Yanks, second only to Babe Ruth as a home-run hitter. And today it is announced from the City Hall that the Mayor has appointed Lou Gehrig a member of the New York Parole Commission. He will hold the job for ten years and get a salary of seventy-five hundred a year. Somewhat less than his salary as first baseman for the Yankees. Last year the late Colonel Ruppert paid him thirty-nine grand. Lou Gehrig says he's tickled pink.

January First, Lou becomes a salaried official of the New York City government.

ESTATE

A peculiar lawsuit is being fought out in the courts of Portland, Oregon. A citizen of Oregon inherited from his daughter an estate of seventy-seven thousand dollars. Incidentally, he is blind. Last month the son of that citizen filed a petition in the courts, asking to be appointed guardian for his father, said his father was incompetent.

The father today spoke up for himself. "I am not incompetent," said he, "but my son is." Then he explained:-

"My son is seventy-eight years old, crippled with rheumatism, weakened in body by age, and physically and emotionally

So says Dad! And how old is the irate papa?
incompetent." ~~The father himself is~~ [^] a hundred and eight!

He added that his son, for all the weight of those seventy-eight years, has had no experience which would qualify him to manage

that ^{old} estate. Seventy-eight years [^] and not grown up! *Still a boy.*

*And H - will you say s-l-u-t-m
for me?*