

L.T. SUNOCO - MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1941

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Regarding the excitement over the latest news about the torpedoing of our destroyer, the Kearney, in Washington, the tension is noticeably tauter than in the rest of the country. Particularly in Congress. Tom Connally of Texas, Chairman of Foreign Relations, pronounced it a foul and murderous crime, and declared that American ships and sailors should shoot, and shoot to kill to avenge those twenty-one casualties.

At the Navy Department, it is believed there is only one chance in a million that the eleven missing were not killed by the torpedo that wounded ten others. Rear Admiral Stirling figures that some of the bodies of the eleven missing sailors are in flooded compartments behind water-tight bulkheads. And these cannot be recovered until the Kearney goes into drydock.

The Admiral's attitude was that we are in a shooting war and that casualties are to be expected.

Secretary of State Hull today referred to the attack on the Kearny as another illustration of Hitler's determination to get control of the high seas, and he described Hitler as a highwayman who is trying to take over a large part of the Atlantic Ocean and who has the impudence to ask other nations to keep their ships out of waters over a vast area measuring sixteen-hundred-miles one way, and fifteen-hundred-miles the other.

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When newspapermen asked the Secretary whether he had sent a protest to Germany, he replied scornfully that the United States Government doesn't often send notes to international highwaymen.

As for the Nazis, Berlin sticks to its denial about the whole thing. Hitler's newspapers declare that our official announcement was a lie from the first to the last syllable. Well, the Nazis, are experts on the whole technique of lying. Propaganda Minister Goebbels declares that President Roosevelt staged the Kearny incident himself. Goebbels doesn't go as far as to explain

how the President could have done this, and we don't know whether or not Goebbels meant to accuse Mr. Roosevelt of having fired the torpedo himself.

Naturally, the Kearny episode has made the agitation over the Neutrality Act all the hotter. Another bill was offered in Congress today, repealing the entire act, repealing it lock, stock and barrel. Nor was this bill offered by Sabre-rattling Senator Pepper of Florida, who has long been shouting that the Act should be repealed. This newest move comes from three Republican Senators: Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, Warren Austin of Vermont, and Chan Gurney of South Dakota. Senator McKellar of Tennessee several days ago offered a similar new bill.

New Hampshire's Bridges declared that the wiping-out of the Neutrality Act might exert a powerful influence on the Japanese even to the point of deterring them from attacking Siberia. Senator Gurney said that merely allowing merchant ships to be armed would be just a halfway measure. He blames the Neutrality law for a great deal of our present troubles. He admitted that he voted for it himself two years ago and thought it was right at the time.

Today he said it stands out as a colossal error that had precipitated the might of Hitler at the throats of free peoples.

All of which means that Senators Bridges, Austin and Gurney are defying Senator Wheeler and the Isolationists who had threatened that if anybody introduced such a measure then they, the Isolationists, would add an amendment to force a vote on an out-and-out declaration of war.

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The next move in the Neutrality uproar will be up to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The Senators on that Committee today voted to hold their hearings in secret. When reporters wanted to know why, Chairman Connally ^{replied} ~~replied~~ that it would enable the Senators to get more complete information from the Cabinet as well as from executive officers of the Army and Navy, answers to questions which Cabinet Ministers and naval and army officers could not answer in public. Another reason for secrecy, he said, was that it would keep a lot of crackpots from using the hearings to get their names in the papers."

At any rate, the Committee decided on secrecy by a narrow margin. The vote to hold the meetings behind closed doors

was twelve to nine. Said Nye of North Dakota, "It's a gag of the first order." Said Champ Clark of Missouri, "I serve notice that I will not be bound by secrecy." Nye intimated that Republican Senator Vandenberg of Michigan and others felt the same way.

Pepper of Florida, and the three Republicans are not the only Senators who want repeal of neutrality. Tonight they have a formidable ally in Veteran Carter Glass of Virginia.

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Texas Tom Connally and Montana's Wheeler exchanged compliments today. Said the Texan, "Senator Wheeler has been making guerrilla warfare on the defense program and foreign policy all over the United States." And he added, "I'd rather see him back in the Senate where we can meet him in open combat."

Said the gentleman from Montana: "Senator Connally misrepresents my position."

WAR

Moscow ~~has been~~ bombed, ~~and that means bombed~~. The Nazi spokesmen boasted today that Stalin's capital suffered ~~the~~ a raid as ferocious as the worst that London experienced. And Berlin adds that the ~~Reds are~~ raids are going on all the time.

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Hitler's advance guard is now within forty miles of the Kremlin, though the Russians put the distance at sixty miles. The Reds are counter-attacking desperately along a front of three hundred and fifty miles. Advices received in London encourage the belief that the Reds are holding the Nazis back. However, they aren't any too optimistic. ^{TP} The German attack has been slowing up in the literal sense in that it hasn't been making so much geographic progress. But there's no evidence that its force or weight has decreased. Stalin's generals are bringing up all the reserves they can muster, and tanks built in America are moving into the front lines. There is no indication as yet that the Germans have broken through the latest Soviet line of defense on a large scale. ^A However, there's grave news from further south. The Russians admit that the Nazis have reached the neighborhood of

Gorlovka. That's an important manufacturing city a hundred miles northeast of Rostov and right in the heart of the vital industrial basin of the Donets. ^{and,} ~~It's~~ only a few miles from three cities where the bulk of the Soviet heavy industries are turned out. There has been a furious battle raging in that ^{region} ~~country~~ all day. Such is the latest report broadcast by Radio Moscow and overheard in London. At the same time, Radio Moscow claims that the Nazis around Leningrad have begun to retreat.

In London both British and Russian experts acknowledge that they are baffled. They describe the situation on the Soviet front as most confusing. Because there are no direct reports from the Soviet high command, it's almost impossible to draw anything like an accurate picture of what is going on.

Our own Embassy and the American newspapermen are at a place called Kuibishev. ^{off to the} ~~That's in the Province of Samara, way~~ ~~over~~ east on the banks of the Volga. It took the diplomats and the newspapermen five days to get there from Moscow by train, — a distance of ^{only} seven hundred and fifty miles. As the crow flies,

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Kuibishef is ^{about} ~~only~~ five hundred and fifty miles away from ^{Moscow,} ~~the~~ capital. The long time that journey took shows that all the railroads must have been ~~extreme~~ crowded with trains bringing reinforcements and materials to the front. The dispatch says that all the Americans in the party were fed by Ambassador Steinhardt and the staff of the Embassy.

ADD WAR

A bulletin from London that just came in reports that the Nazis are pouring parachutists into Moscow, spies and terrorists, trying to spread panic among the defenders of the city.

ROOSEVELT FOLLOW WAR.

President Roosevelt at Hyde Park heard a report on the Russian situation from Averell Harriman today. There was a long conference of three hours, and Harry Hopkins, the Supervisor of Lend-Lease, was also present. When it was over, Harriman rushed to ^{the Poughkeepsie} ~~a~~ nearby airport and took a plane for Washington,

where he is going to meet tonight with officials of the War, Navy and State Departments. Tomorrow he ~~is going to meet~~ ^{will be with the} ~~Mr.~~

~~President~~ ^{Harriman} ~~Roosevelt~~ again. ~~He~~ told the newspapermen that he had reported

to the President that he had great confidence in the ability of the Russians to stand up even against the terrific military

machine of the Nazis. ^{and} That's all ^{he} ~~that Harriman~~ would tell the

newspapermen directly. But the tone of his words created a

distinct impression that he had convinced the President that the

Soviets will go on fighting.

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ADD ROOSEVELT

A later bulletin from Hyde Park reports that as the result of Harriman's report, the President has ordered full speed ahead on Lend-Lease help to Russia.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT

And here's a story from Washington that explains why we haven't heard much about British ~~in~~ air raids on Germany lately. Our military men say that the Nazi ~~high officers~~ have perfected a new anti-aircraft defense, ^{so efficient} ~~it has been so good~~ that vital regions, munitions works and armament factories, have been made virtually impregnable to attacks by the Royal Air Force. As one man puts it, this new defense has made things most uncomfortable for British bombers. That secret defense is effective up to about twenty-five thousand feet. It's a new kind of anti-aircraft cannon and fire pattern. So far neither British nor American experts have been able to ^{unravel} ~~unruffle~~ the secret.

ASSASSINATION

Immediately after the Nazis in France had executed their eightieth French hostage, another German officer was killed. And this time the victim was an important man, Lieutenant-Colonel Holtz, commanding the German base at Nantes, on the French coast. The highest ranking German assassinated so far was a mere captain in Paris.

The story is that the German commandant was walking through the streets near the Cathedral during a blackout. A couple of assassins crept up behind him, fired only two shots, and got him in the back of the neck.

For the shooting of ^a ~~that~~ captain in Paris, the Nazis ~~EXERCISE~~ exacted the lives of twelve ^{Paris} Frenchmen ~~in Paris~~. It remains to be seen at what price they will rate the killing of a Lieutenant-Colonel. The first reaction of the Nazis was to slap a seven o'clock curfew law on the ~~seaport~~ city of Nantes.

BIOFF

A couple of the Warner brothers appeared in court at New York today to testify against William Bioff and George Browne of the Stage Hands Union. They told the court that Bioff had got altogether a hundred thousand dollars out of them. The indictments against Bioff and Browne accused them of having shaken ^{down} the movie moguls ^{to the tune of} down ^{for} five hundred and fifty thousand dollars. But so far the sums that witnesses have told about, bring the total up to seven hundred and one thousand dollars.

Albert Warner said that on one occasion when Bioff called upon him he ^{remarked} ~~said~~ to the Comptroller of the Company:-
"That man is here again." That man, ^{added} ~~said~~ Warner, had been given twenty thousand dollars in February, Nineteen Thirty-seven, but came back for more in April. Warner said he told Bioff that they had already paid fifty thousand dollars and he thought that was all.

Bioff replied, "That was for last year. We've got to have fifty thousand for this year too. That's the way it is going to be," said Bioff, according to ^{the} Warner Brothers ^{story.} ^{And that,}
^{Albert} ~~he~~ added Warner, is how it was.

RAILROAD

The Railroad Brotherhoods will not arbitrate their demand for a thirty per cent increase in wages. That was their answer this afternoon. ^{TP} It had been suggested that the dispute ~~should~~ be arbitrated by President Roosevelt's Emergency Fact Finding Board.

The Companies ~~had~~ agreed, but the men ^{say "no."} ~~would not~~ ^{Their con-} ~~They said~~ ^{tention is} that it would take away their right to strike in case ~~they~~ ^A ~~disagreed with~~ the settlement offered by the Board. ^{failed to} ~~suit them.~~

WINDSORS

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The Duke and the Duchess as they travel through the land
With the clips of their whips and their High, Jerry Ho
Have come to the island where New York stands
In a first class, fine folk fashion.

That's how W.S. Gilbert might have reported the New York visit of
the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. They slipped in quite quietly,
that is to say, there weren't more than fifty reporters, still
cameramen and newsreelmen to greet them. When their train got in
at Jersey City they were almost positively neglected, only a score
of policemen, the British Consul General, and a bare couple of
dozen reporters and cameramen and a car specially built and
decorated for the occasion by Alfred P. Sloane, Chairman of ~~the~~
General Motors. The chauffeur wore a tan uniform to match the
lining of the car.

You'll probably see a lot of tan shirts in the windows
of men's shops for the next few days, as His Royal Highness wore one.
Hatless men, and Publisher Benarr Macfadden, will be glad to hear that
H.R.H. is one of them, at least he was when he got off the train.

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That brings us to the subject of clothes, in which the
Duchess announced she is not ^{so} interested as people seem to think.

All she wore at Jersey City was a cape of ocelot fur , a blue pill box hat, a navy blue crepe dress with a bright red sash, blue swede shoes and beige gloves. You don't have to take my word for it, I wasn't there, but that's the report.

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Later on, for the larger news reception in their suite at the Waldorf, the Duchess had changed to a woolen frock of sapphire blue made with wrist length sleeves, rather wide below the elbow, the blouse closing at the front with four self-covered buttons. The ocelot had been put back into its cage, to be replaced by a double scarf of sable.

Such was the costume of a lady not much interested in clothes.

At Jersey City the cameramen shouted, "Hey Duke, how about waving the hands?" X H.R.H. replied that he and the Duchess had been waving their hands all over America and he wanted to be excused just for once.

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The Duke caused a mild distress by refusing to be interviewed, saying he was holding that for his press conference tomorrow. Reporters ventured that it might have less news value

then. To which the Duke replied, "It will be news." And he added, "news right out of the horse's mouth."

And now something right
out of Hugh's mouth.

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