

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

On and off all afternoon I watched the parade go by on Fifth Avenue - a glance now and then through the window at Rockefeller Center as seventy-five thousand marchers commemorated the glory of St. Patrick. There ~~was~~ blare of bands, a rattle of drums and ^{the} flash ^{ing} of uniforms, ~~and~~ ^{On} the sidewalks a hundred thousand New Yorkers watched. And all over the country the same sort of thing - the Irish on the Seventeenth of March.

In Washington one gaudy bit of St. Patrick's celebration was staged in the executive office of the White House. President Roosevelt's ancestors were Dutch, but he knows his St. Patrick's Day. It's really a twofold occasion for him - for the Seventeenth of March is also the anniversary of his wedding. He was married on St. Patrick's Day.

When the press conference gathered, the reportorial eyes were dazzled by the presidential green -- a green tweed suit, a green necktie, and a shamrock on the coat lapel. On the desk a bowl of shamrocks and a vase of green carnations. The President greeted the newspaper men with the traditional salutation:-
"The Top O' the mornin' ' to you".

JAMES ROOSEVELT

St. Patrick's Day and ^{the} a Roosevelt wedding anniversary
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were also celebrated by presidential son Jimmy getting into the
headlines again. It was announced today that he's to become a
defendant in a great big lawsuit. Who's taking ^{the legal} action ~~in the court~~
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~~proceedings~~ in which the President's son will figure? Why, the
United States government, Jimmy's father's own administration.

James Roosevelt is now a motion picture executive,
and there's a government anti-trust suit pending against the motion
picture industry. The suit has been on the books for some time -
and today the Department of Justice announced that it will ask for
a substitution of defendants. There have been changes of motion
picture officials in Hollywood, and some of them named in the law
proceedings are no longer in the companies - new ones in. So now
these new ones are to be in the court case also - and one of them
is James Roosevelt.


Jimmy Roosevelt, after an eventful career in the insurance
business, became secretary to his father in the White House. He
fell ill, and then gave up his White House job for a motion picture

post ^{with} ~~in the~~ United Artists Company. He has been with ~~the~~ United Artists only a short time, joined up in December - and now right away James Roosevelt is a defendant in an anti-trust suit brought by the Roosevelt administration.

WASHINGTON

The United States condemns German aggression - so said a ~~the~~ State Department declaration today. The Acting Secretary issued a statement in which he expressed - this country's condemnation of the Hitler destruction of Czechoslovakia. He said ^d he did it with the full approval ₁ of the President - after a long conference at the White House.

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The declaration speaks in the following words:- "This government, founded upon and dedicated to the principles of human liberty and of democracy, cannot refrain from making known this country's condemnation of the acts which have resulted in the temporary extinguishment of the liberties of a free and independent people." In this, one word is to be noted, the word - "temporary". The Acting Secretary spoke of - the temporary extinguishment of Czechoslovakian



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~~DEAD~~

independence. And the inference is - that the Nazi domination may not be permanent, that the changes Hitler is making may not be permanent. It's to be observed that President Roosevelt has expressed the opinion that the whole totalitarian business may be a passing thing, may vanish.

Today's statement bristled with denunciation ~~of the~~
~~destruction~~ of the newest Nazi stroke and used these words -

"It is manifest that acts of wanton lawlessness and of arbitrary force are threatening world peace and the very structure of modern civilization."

If Shortly after the State Dept. declaration the United States formally withdrew the trade privileges that Czechoslovakia had enjoyed:

Washington is witnessing a lively bit of defiance to the Nazis, the ~~defiant~~ defying being done by the Czechoslovak Minister to the United States. Yesterday the German embassy tried to take over the Czechoslovak legation, but Minister Hurban said - "No, nothing doing." Later he received an order from the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Prague, telling him to yield. Minister Hurban still refuses - denouncing the new Nazi control in Czechoslovakia as unconstitutional and illegal. He says the Czechoslovak

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~~LEAD - 5~~

President had no right to turn the country over to Germany.

"The President of the government," he declared today, "is not empowered by the Constitution to cede any part of Czechoslovakia.

The agreement signed in Berlin on March Fourteenth, therefore, is not valid." So that leaves the Czechoslovak legation in Washington in a highly dubious state. What does it now represent - with its own government surrendered ^{ing} itself to Germany? ^{And} How long will the anomalous situation continue?

Another defiance was flashed to the world by Dr. Benes, the former President of Czechoslovakia who is now in Chicago, *and who* ~~he~~ was forced out by the Nazis. Hitherto Dr. Benes has preserved a cautious silence, fearing to make matters worse in central Europe. The destruction of the nation that he helped to create now has roused him to a scathing protest - which he addresses to the governments of the United States, Great Britain, France and Soviet Russia.

"The Czech and Slovak people," says the Benes proclamation, "are victims of a great international crime.

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~~LEAD 5~~

Before the conscience of the world and before history," the former President continues, "I am obliged to proclaim that the Czechs and Slovaks will never accept this unbearable imposition on their sacred rights."

LONDON

Just to keep the denunciations going - Prime Minister Chamberlain did some bitter denouncing today. He was speaking to a rally of his own Conservative party at his own home town of Birmingham - on the eve of his Seventieth birthday. Not such a happy birthday to you, Mr. Chamberlain - after what's happened to your Munich Agreement. The Prime Minister of Great Britain criticized Hitler more openly than he has ever done before. He defended his own policy at Munich, the policy of doing almost anything to avoid war. And he declared outright that Hitler had broken his word - declared the Nazis have torn up the agreement at Munich. About the Nazi Fuehrer he used these words: "He has taken the law into his own hands. Even before the Czech President was confronted with ~~the~~ demands he had no power to resist, the German troops were on the march" - so said Chamberlain.

Then he spoke of the wholesale arrests in what was Czechoslovakia, and made this gloomy reflection: "Remembering the fate of the Jews and the political prisoners in Austria," said he, "who can fail to be filled with foreboding?"

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The Prime Minister's foreboding is amply borne out by the word from Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia - the suicides continue. There's one report that two hundred and fifty Czech army officers have killed themselves, rather than endure Nazi domination.

Then Prime Minister Chamberlain echoed a question that so much of the world is asking. He said - "What reliance could be placed on Hitler's promises?" And he warned the Germans that they would yet regret what they have done.

The Chamberlain declarations followed diplomatic action - the calling home of His Majesty's Ambassador to Berlin. "Called home for consultation" is what it is technically called - but of course it's a gesture of protest.

PARIS

In Paris today, Premier Daladier's reaction to the situation was a demand for dictatorial powers. He asked the Chamber of Deputies to grant his government an authority almost equal to that possessed by Hitler or Mussolini. He expressed it in these words:- "The power to take by decree, all measures, military and otherwise, necessary to defend the country." Meaning, he wants to be able to order armies and industries around in ^{the} swift way the Fascist dictators do. He said France must be turned - "into an immense workshop." Meaning - a workshop of war preparation.

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Then he added the defiance that France will not surrender to Italian demands, will not concede what he described in these words;- "a single right or a single inch of territory either by force or trickery."

In Italy, the Fascist press was whooping up ~~its~~ demands on France - as a swift aftermath of Hitler's grabbing of Czechoslovakia. It is believed, however, that Mussolini is holding back until Franco has won the Spanish Civil War. And that points up the word "Spain"^{from} which is:- that Franco will launch his big offensive early next week, probably on Monday.

CHINA

The China war provoked a protest today, with the United States consular officials at Hankow making what are called strong representations. Uncle Sam is protesting because of the way Japanese war planes on bombing raids have been hitting property of American missions. It has happened time and again recently.

In days gone by there was likely to be quite a stir if an attack were made on an American mission, but now-a-days it has become so common that it hardly get^s into the news. ~~a commentary on the way the Japanese air raiders get bombing in China~~

SWINDLE

I suppose it was inevitable that the refugee situation with all the sympathy it arouses - should lend itself to swindling. The G-men, the California police, and also the authorities in New Jersey are looking for a man who posed as a refugee from Germany, and swindled people. He told of having been an industrial magnate in Naziland, owning and operating large coal mines - when Hitler oppression drove him into exile. In this guise he got money from various people, sums up to seven hundred dollars each. Just taking advantage of the refugee situation sentiment to put over a crooked game.

GOVERNOR

Michigan's Governor died last night - suddenly.

Frank B. Fitzgerald, who beat the present Attorney General Frank
Murphy in a surprise Republican victory last fall. And today the

Lieutenant-Governor succeeded him in office - Luren D. Dickinson,

who
~~He~~ had to arise from a sick bed to take the oath of office. *He*
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he is seventy-nine years old. The new Governor is a veteran of

Michigan politics, elected Lieutenant-Governor on seven different

occasions.

MURDERER

In a Paris courtroom tears were shed today, with bitter sobbing and loud convulsive weeping. It was no frail and sensitive girl who sobbed and wept, it was a multiple murderer:- Weidmann, the wholesale assassin who has confessed ^{he} ~~to have~~ killed six people - one of them the American girl dancer, Jean DeKoven. What was it that was breaking his ^{murderous} heart?

In the trial, Weidmann is trying to take back one-sixth of his confession. He's insisting that one of the six murders was committed not by himself but by a partner in crime - a sleek Parisian named Roger Million. Today, Weidmann was being questioned. Why had he taken all the blame in confessing, when now he is accusing Million? That's when the multiple murderer burst into tears. "I wanted to shield him at first," he sobbed. "But when he began to accuse me I told the truth." And thereupon the weeping of the assassin became so loud they had to suspend the session of the court.

SHIPS

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Some fast work was done today by a Coast Guard seaplane. It's not so unusual nowadays ^{for} ~~to~~ rescue planes to fly to ships at sea and take off ailing people in critical need of medical care. But two such errands of mercy on the same day by the same plane -- that's unusual. The Coast Guard Seaplane V-170 today went winging out from Cape May and located an oil tanker. A pump-man aboard the tanker was suffering from a severe abdominal illness, and the ~~the~~ plane landed and took him aboard. Then the Coast Guard skycraft kept on flying out to sea to ~~xx~~ a Gloucester fishing schooner, which had had an accident ~~in which~~ the captain ~~was~~ severely injured. So Patient Number Two was picked up by the plane, which ~~xxx~~ thereupon flew back to Cape May. It had been gone only two hours on those two rescue missions.

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PIANIST

From Florida we have the announcement that the pianist, William von Hohenschau, is to play a concert at Winter Haven. That doesn't sound so novel or astonishing, until we learn that piano virtuoso William von Hohenschau is really the Winter Haven sign painter, Bill Check. The story tells how sixteen years ago a brilliant young pianist and composer, a pupil of Paderewski, was on his way to success and renown -- when his health broke down. He went into retirement and seclusion, and ~~became~~ ^{became} a workman at a humble trade -- sign painter at Winter Haven, Florida, a bit temperamental, something of a local character.

Recently the Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra was scheduled to play one of the symphonies composed by William von Hohenschau when he was a noted pianist. They wanted to print a picture of him, and ~~somehow~~ somehow they got word that he was at Winter Haven, Florida. So an inquiry was sent, and the Winter Havenites looked blank -- nobody had ever heard of such a person.

They inquired at the first class hotels. They asked leading citizens who were acquainted with musical affairs -- all in vain. A couple of reporters on the story just dropped in for

a chat with Bill Check, the sign painter -- always amusing to have a chat with Sign Painter Bill. And he smiled quietly when they told him about the ~~h~~ hunt for the pianist William von Hohenschau.

The secret finally came out and Bill Check confessed.

Now he has agreed to become William von Hohenschau once more -- and give a concert, a benefit for the Polk County Drum and Bugle

Corps, which ~~should~~ now be here to bugle a retreat for me as I say s-l-u-Monday.

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