

HUGH GIBSON, SUNOCO, June 29, 1943

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

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We ^{had} thought that tonight Lowell Thomas might be able to get through on the program, and give us some news from South America. But it can't be done, apparently; we ~~will~~ ^{shall} have to wait until tomorrow night. The schedule is for Lowell Thomas to come in on this program tomorrow night from Rio and give us the latest from down that way. Meanwhile, let's see what news we have for this evening.

WALLACE

The battle of the agencies in Washington produced still another flare-up, when Vice-President Wallace heaved a heavy brickbat at Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones. The Vice-President is head of the Board of Economic Warfare, while the Secretary of Commerce runs the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The B.E.W. and the R.F.C. have been at odds for some time, with plenty of charges and counter-charges. And today Vice-President Wallace, on behalf of the B.E.W., charges Jesse Jones with what he calls "harmful ~~misrepresentations~~ misrepresentations." Also "obstructionist tactics."

The Vice-President declares that the Secretary of Commerce testified falsely before a congressional economy committee, made unfair attacks upon the B.E.W. To this

Henry Wallace applies the following words:- "The hamstringing bureaucracy and backdoor complaining of Mr. Jones and his employees." And he also mentions -

"destructive, wasteful feuding."

Behind the scorching string of epithets lies the question of providing the nation with stocks of raw materials for war. Both the Vice President's B.E.W. and Jesse Jones's R.F.C. have a hand in the business, and this has led to a shaking of fists - which, I ~~suppose~~, you'd call a handsome figure of speech.

The charge has frequently been made that Jesse Jones failed to pile up stocks of raw rubber from Malaya and the East Indies, as the war with Japan drew near - as a result of which, Pearl Harbor caught us with ~~mighty~~ little rubber on hand. Along this line, Vice-President Wallace today makes a general accusation against Jesse Jones and the R.F.C. - stating that they, in Wallace's words, "failed dismally, so far as the import field was concerned, to build the government stockpiles authorized and directed by Congress nearly eighteen months before Pearl Harbor."

Concerning rubber specifically, Wallace charged Jones with - "delay". Also - "stalling." He said that the delay and stalling in the procurement of rubber supplies from abroad continued for four months after Pearl Harbor - until the President transferred the rubber business from the Jones R.F.C. to the Wallace B.E.W.

The most dramatic charge that the Vice-President made today concerned quinine. He accused Jones and the R.F.C. of "stalling" in the business of procuring supplies of that medicine for malaria. He told how quinine was desperately needed by the Americans on Bataan and how General MacArthur had urgently appealed for the drug. He related that in April of Nineteen Forty-Two, MacArthur sent one of his last planes with two million quinine seeds and recommended that they, in MacArthur's words, "must be planted without delay." This was up to Jones, who, however, delayed, "stalled".

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says Wallace. He charges that it was not until January of this year, months after the ~~end~~ end of the Battle of Guadalcanal, which had nightmares of malaria, that the R.F.C. did something - and announced that it would spend something on the quinine project.

The Wallace thunderbolt brings a prompt retort from Jesse Jones, the target. He states: "The release given out by Mr. Wallace today is filled with malice and misstatements." And Jones of the R.F.C. goes on to deny that his agency was guilty of any obstruction. "There has been no serious delay by us in any vital program," he says, and adds that the B.E.W. is responsible for only a small percentage of ~~the~~ necessary materials brought in from abroad. This Jesse Jones declaration, issued late this afternoon, was only preliminary. He states he will answer the Wallace assault in detail - "And," he adds, "be glad to have a

committee of Congress fully investigate the facts."

What has President Roosevelt to say about this latest resounding clash in his official family - the President who a year ago called upon the agencies to stop their quarreling and bickering? This brings us the latest - a statement by the President that he knew nothing about the Wallace blast until he saw it in the newspaper. He read the headlines only five minutes before he met the newspapermen for a conference late this afternoon. The Wallace cannonade against Jones took him by surprise, and he said he deplored the way the heads of government bureaus fight their battles in public.

At the same time, he blamed the newspapers for giving the public the impression that a whole lot of big rows were going on in Washington.

The newspapermen pointed out that the Wallace

bombshell was given out by the Vice-President himself, and nobody asked him for it. The President replied that nevertheless, the newspapermen did play up Washington quarrels and he said you could find that out by reading almost any columnist.

The President, moreover, went on to blame the newspapers for giving the impression that, while the war overseas is going all right, things are not going so well on the home front. And he likewise denounced newspaper stories that made charges of immorality among the Waacs. A whole series of angles developed from news conference questions about the battle of Wallace and Jones.

This new rumpus in the battle of the agencies is perhaps the most angry and public of all - with the Vice-President swinging his punches right out in headlines. Tonight's United Press dispatch from

FOOD

The new Food Administrator today stated: "The nation will certainly have enough food to assure a healthful diet." Marvin Jones takes office to carry out the policies that led to yesterday's resignation of his predecessor, Chester Davis. He thinks these policies will work well enough, and today speaks out with reassuring predictions. "There is talk about food shortages," says he - putting it mildly. "This," he adds, "has created fear on the part of some of our people that they and their children will go hungry. We may not throughout the war have everything we want and everything we prefer," says he, "but we will certainly have enough to assure a healthful diet."

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it did in the passing of the Anti-Strike law over the President's veto. "Take charge," said Congressman Hoffman of Michigan, who argued that it is time for Congress to assume control over the nation's food predicament. He demanded a food ^{Administrator} ~~director~~ with full control, and named a candidate - former President Herbert Hoover. The Michigan Congressman nominated Ex-President Hoover for what he called "Director of Production, Processing, Transportation and Distribution of Food." ~~That would make a nice alphabetic combination~~
~~B.P.P.T.D.F.~~

On the other hand, an official of the Office of Price Administration blamed Congress for our food troubles - the meat shortage in particular. He referred to the much advertised fact that an enormous number of cattle, more cattle than ever, are on the western ranges, and charged that the livestock raisers are

WAGES

Today in Congress, the statement was made that some industrial wages are excessively high. Congressman Engel of Michigan charged that the over-swollen pay envelopes of some war workers ^{are} ~~was~~ a grave injustice to others. That is, to those workers whose wages have been frozen, and have been limited to the levels that prevailed when the war began. The Congressman cited the case of a plant where assemblers of machineguns get as high as eight thousand, four hundred and seventy-one dollars a year. That, he pointed out, is two hundred and forty-one dollars a year more than the base pay of Lieutenant General Somervell, Chief of the Army Services of Supply. He told about an assistant ^{to} foreman at a government arsenal who was making four thousand dollars a year. He quit ^{his} job and went to a private armament plant, and nearly tripled his previous earnings - boosting his wages to eleven thousand, five hundred ^{red}

dollars. That is thirteen hundred dollars more than the base pay earned by our topmost commanders - like Chief of Staff General Marshall, General MacArthur, and General Eisenhower.

All of which, argued Congressman Engel, is at the expense of the worker who has a ceiling on his wages. The Congressman put it in these words:- "The wage-earner who has been faithful and who has worked hard and continued to accept his pre-war wage rate without striking, is being penalized by being frozen in his job at the wage rate for the duration of the war."

Today brings another confession in the case of the German spy who was such an enthusiastic air raid warden on Staten Island. An accomplice of his has pleaded guilty. Yesterday Frederick Lehmitz, who admitted that he was a Nazi secret agent, was quoted as saying that he bought a secret military aircraft book from a man named deSpretter, paying a hundred dollars for it. And today Erwin Harry deSpretter said - Yes. He told United States Commissioner Martin C. Epstein that he had been an accomplice of Lehmitz.

DeSpretter, a small, bald-headed man with a mustache and a goatee, is a mechanical engineer, which enabled him to provide Lehmitz with technical information about American weapons and mechanical devices of war. Of German parentage, he was born in South ~~AMERICA~~ America, Montevideo; was brought to the United States as a child, and then was sent to Germany

for his education. He served in the German army in the last war, and then came to the United States. Here he operated a plant doing mechanical work, and procured sub-contracts to make gunsight parts for the Army and Navy. That's the surprising part of it - he was doing a job of armament making for the armed forces, while at the same time he was collaborating with a spy who was sending secret military information to Nazi Germany.

Today it was told how deSpretter and Lehmitz used to meet at isolated places on Staten Island, and there ~~passed~~ bits of military information ^{were passed} to the secret agent who had been trained by the Gestapo. DeSpretter, like Lehmitz, faces the death penalty or a maximum term in prison of thirty years. In court today he was held on bail of fifty thousand dollars.

U-BOATS

A statement was made in Canada today that the Allies are sinking German submarines at the rate of one every twenty-four hours. This information comes from Malcolm MacDonald, British High Commissioner ~~of~~ Canada, who added that the battle against the U-boats has now definitely turned in favor of the United Nations.

"On the Atlantic," he said, "we have a submarine for breakfast every morning now. We are sinking them faster than the Germans are ~~xxx~~ building them. But, of course, I don't know if that will keep up."

This ties in with admissions made in a German newspaper. This sounds thoroughly official, because the newspaper is owned by Hitler's Number Two man, Goering. Stockholm quotes Goering's paper as stating that new anti-submarine methods have virtually whipped the U-boats. First among these methods is the use of aircraft against the Nazi wolf packs. It explains that the U-boats lost

their margin of superiority in April - because of the massing of Allied planes along the North Atlantic convoy route. And Goering's newspaper predicts that the tonnage of Allied shipping sunk this month will be -
"probably the lowest in years."

All of which leads to a drastic proposal made by the naval expert on Goering's newspaper. He suggests that all the U-boats be recalled from the Atlantic - so that they can be revamped according to new technique and their crews retrained for new tactics.

The war of the air struck two places last night - Cologne, Germany's third largest city, and Hamburg, the biggest Nazi port. It was the tenth straight night of heavy assaults launched by the R.A.F., and it was the hundred and seventeenth time that Cologne was raided. The attack was on a massive scale, with R.A.F. pilots telling that the bombers were so thick they had to dodge to keep from running into each other.

Twenty-five bombers were lost, and this, says London, represents a smaller percentage than the bomber loss during previous recent raids. Cologne was savagely blasted, with pilots telling of columns of smoke towering as high as twelve thousand feet. One flier relates:- "There was a terrific explosion on the ground, and the sky turned scarlet."

Nazi propaganda claims that the great Cathedral of Cologne was hit - that masterpiece of Gothic

architecture. To this British authorities withhold comment until they have a chance to examine their reconnaissance photographs, but they point out that the Cathedral of Cologne is near a number of military objectives, including the main railway station of the city - which is a major railroad center.

In the Mediterranean, Allied planes ranged far and wide today, but by far the heaviest blow was struck at the port of Leghorn. This is one of the busiest harbors in Italy, and the ~~sight~~ site of a great naval station. One hundred Flying Fortresses smashed at Leghorn, and hit docks, warehouses and ships. Five hours later, smoke was still pouring upward from Leghorn, and red flares of flame flickered around the entire circle of the port. All the stocks were burned, while in the harbor lay five damaged ships, four supply craft, and a light cruiser.

PRISONER

Today we have something of a novelty - an American awarded an Italian decoration. It was bestowed on him by one of Mussolini's generals, with a citation and all. The American thus strangely honored is Lieutenant John B. Marshall of Denver.

Lieutenant Marshall captured some prisoners, Italians, and one of them was a general. The General was so happy about being made a prisoner that he promptly decorated the American officer who captured him. He bestowed upon Lieutenant Marshall the Order of the Centaur. That is a war honor created recently by Mussolini, and named after those mythological creatures, half horse and half man. I don't quite understand the symbolism, but perhaps the General thought it was a horse on him.

What do you think, Hugh James?