

P.J. - Sunoco. Mon. July 15/40. - Chicago.

WAR

News

This was an exceedingly dull day here in Chicago. So, let's take the latest from Europe. - For weeks the news has been dominated by two questions.

Over here - a political query. What about a third term? that will soon be officially answered here in Chicago. Most politicians are saying - "it's as good as answered now." The second dominating question in the news has been - when will the Nazi drive to Invade Great Britain begin? it has been tensely expected, but has failed to materialize. What about the battle of Britain?.

Today we have a statement, which apparently may be taken as something of an official answer. It is given by Mussolini's mouthpiece, Gayda - writing in the Duce's own newspaper. The Gayda pronouncement is so phrased as to be a reply to the defiance uttered by British prime minister Churchill yesterday. Churchill proclaimed Britain's relentless determination to wage war to the end, a long war, with nineteen forty-two named as the time when Great Britain will really get going - on the offensive. The counter-statement by the Mussolini mouthpiece rather gives the impression that Gayda was appointed to speak officially for the totalitarian side. He states - that the assault against Great Britain,

2--add WAR

the supreme attempt at invasion, will be made within a few days.

The Gayda article gives something of a schedule, it intimates that Nazi Germany and fascist Italy will give Great Britain an ultimatum - come to terms at once, or else. If Britain maintains the Churchill promise to consider no suggestion of peace - then the blitzkrieg will be launched. The fascist view is that Italy will hold the large British naval units in the Meditterreanean, and keep them busy - so that they'll not be available for home defense, while Hilter hurls <sup>his</sup> invasion at the tight little isle.

From Germany there <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ an ominous kind of response to the Churchill speech - to one angle of it. This, the prime minister's declaration of a last ditch defense of London, if need be, bitter end resistance, house by house, street by street. He said Britain would rather see London in ashes than surrender it to the Nazis. Berlin counters by saying that this Churchill announcement makes London a defended city - a legitimate target for bombing. Threatening London, with the fate of Rotterdam, the great dutch city which bravely resisted the German invader, and *which* was destroyed in large part by ruthless devastation of high explosive

from the air. However, in spite of today's words of menace against London, the general opinion is in Berlin that there will not be any immediate mass-bombing attack on the British capital. Hitherto, Nazi warplanes have let London pretty much alone, just as the British air force has not struck with bombs at Berlin.

London tells of huge destruction wrought by Royal Air Force bombers attacking vital German centers. Twenty-two German airdromes

blasted - an aircraft factory in Bremen, others at Paderborn and Diepholz. A great Hamburg oil refinery bombed - for the eleventh time. The Bremen oil refinery bombed - for the sixth time. Twenty other German petroleum centers raided in air attack. Berlin, on the contrary, describes today's British bombing forays as - aimless and harmless.

The contradiction is almost complete - both sides concealing their air attack injuries behind a veil of censorship.

There's a special turn of drama to one air raid story - sky bombs blasting in the Holy land. Italian warplanes raided Haifa, the greatest port in Palestine, ~~and a chief industrial center.~~ Bombs flashed from the sky, in concerted air maneuvers of modern war - a new terror in the land of the Prince of Peace. ~~The Haifa report tells of Jews and Arabs rushing to air raid shelters. At bitter odds, deadly enemies recently they were friends in the air raid shelters. Comrades under the threat of the war of the sky.~~

(end)

## ENROUTE CONVENTION

I made the trip out here to Chicago to the Convention, well, almost in state. Not because I was entitled to it. But because of a friend. One of my Quaker Hill friends up in Dutchess County, Charles E. Murphy, the eminent Brooklyn lawyer, and former president of the Advertising Club of New York. Charley Murphy asked me to make the trip with him. The New York Central made a special stop for him at Poughkeepsie and when we climbed aboard I found we were on a Convention Special, jammed with Democrats all from Brooklyn; Senators, the Attorney General of New York, judges galore, and, the number one man, Frank V. Kelly, Democratic leader in Kings County which is Brooklyn

Without being unkind to my Democratic hosts who were on that special train, I suppose it would be all right to tell you that it was the quietest, the most sedate special train on which I ever rode. No uproarious laughter! In fact not much loud conversation. As one of them remarked: "It's just like going to the funeral of a Senator. Everybody taking it for granted that it was all going to be cut and dried.

It was the first time I had ~~ever~~ met Frank Kelly, the Brooklyn Democratic high mogul. ~~And~~ I was ~~particularly~~ interested in ~~getting acquainted with~~ him because he is referred to as the leader of the largest single voting unit in America.

There are more than 1,200,000 voters in Kings County, - Brooklyn.

*And he*  
~~Frank Kelly~~ told me that of these approximately 1,000,000 are Democrats. So as a Democratic leader he stands at the top, with Cook County here in Chicago as the only close competitor.

*Dem. Leader Frank Kelly*  
As the train sped toward Chicago ~~he~~ told me that he was sure Franklin D. Roosevelt would be renominated for a third term.

He said that his county gave Roosevelt a majority of 524,000 votes in the last election. And, he said they would give him that, and possibly more next November. 524,000! A tremendous number of votes, that.  ~~Easily~~ *perhaps* enough to swing the state of New York. And, it is possible that if F. D. R. is victorious in New York he will win the election, return to the White House for a third term.

*51*  
*Set.*  
~~As leader Frank Kelly, Frank J. Taylor, former Comptroller of the City of New York, Charley Murphy, and I, sat and discussed~~

the convention, Kelly and Taylor were trying to figure out how F.D.R. might be drafted, put over unanimously. And here was one way they figured it could be done; on Thursday, at the first roll call, for Alabama to yeild to New York. Whereupon there would be a nominating speech for F.D.R. Then for all the other states to yield to those states that have candidates. The nominating speeches to be made, but in each case the nominee to express his thànks, take his bow, get the satisfaction and publicity that comes from being put before a national convention for the presidency, and then gracefully to step aside and turn his delegates over to Mr. Roosevelt. In that way F.D.R. would get it on the first ballot. And, at the same time all the other candidates would have the high honor of having their names presented to the convention.

The atmosphere of resignation, shall we say, of "decision already arrived at", was noticeable the moment we got off the train in Chicago this morning. No bands. In fact I didn't sēe a flag. I got out to the Stadium on the west side, and the convention at hall, a half hour before the time announced for calling it



52  
to order, the opening of the 1940 Democratic Convention to  
nominate a president of the United States. But there were no  
crowds.<sup>TP</sup> Inside the vast stadium it all looked rather gay be-  
cause the interior had been painted a brilliant red, the boxes,  
all the seats, from the arena to the roof. But there was almost  
no one there. And, National Chairman Farley had been announced  
to rap his gavel at twelve sharp.<sup>TP</sup> However, the crowd finally  
arrived all at the same time, a few minutes before twelve. And  
before Jim Farley rapped for order I saw Senator Tydings of  
Maryland drop into his seat. I walked along the aisle with  
Senator Walsh of Massachusetts. Senator Thomas of Oklahoma  
passed us, and Senator Tom Connolly of Texas, his gray hair  
hanging over his collar in senatorial fashion. Secretary of the  
Interior Harold Ickes leaned against a box in animated conversa-  
tion with a young woman. Handsome Paul McNutt, who has just  
dropped out of the race for the nomination, came over and chatted  
with us; <sup>and</sup> Secretary of War Woodring, who just made way in F.D.R.'s  
cabinet for Henry L. Stimson. <sup>also</sup> ~~and~~ we began to see quite a few  
Republicans coming in: Glenn Frank, who has played such a vital



role in the G.O.P. of late, and Grove Patterson, the Toledo editor who nominated Senator Bob Taft at Philadelphia. Assistant Secretary of State Sumner Welles, looking just about the most distinguished of all the delegates. And all the commentators and columnists:- Arthur Krock, Frank Kent, William Allen White, Dave Lawrence, Walter Lippman, Mark Sullivan, Kaltenborn, Earl Godwin and hosts of others.

By twelve oclock the delegates were nearly all in their seats. But, the other thousands and thousands of seats in the stadium were far from being filled. Only a few spectators. And, it seemed most appropriate when the band struck up, as the first tune to be played at this convention: "Take Me Out to the Ball Gaem." Evidently that's exactly where so many who had come to Chicago were.

As National Chairman Farley rapped for order the first shout heard at this first session was one lone voice calling out: "We want Roosevelt!"

L.T. SUNOCO CHICAGO MONDAY JULY 15th. 1940

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY.

*And* We narrowly escaped a bit of drama *a few* ~~out at the~~  
*minutes later, drama unex-*  
~~convention Chicago Stadium shortly after noon -- drama unex-~~

pected, un-rehearsed, unwanted. Only the strong, skilful  
hand of Stage Manager Jim Farley nipped it in the bud.

Chicago's Mayor Ed Kelley had finished his speech  
of welcome. He worked up to a rousing climax, as many of you  
probably heard over the radio. For that climax Mayor Kelly  
elected himself to be the first to sound the note of "Draft  
Roosevelt -- draft him for a third term whether he likes it  
or not." As Kelley <sup>*gave*</sup> his grand hooraw finale we observed  
ominous movements on the floor of the convention. State  
standard bearers started rising from their seats, standards  
in hand. ~~Michigan~~ There were flutterings among the  
Michigan delegates, just below where I was sitting. Ohio,  
Arkansas and many of the Southerners were evidently about to  
begin something. Mayor Kelly finished on a loud, high note.  
Then the band struck up and the cheers commenced. The standard

54

bearer of New York State could be seen walking down the aisle and others threatened to follow.

the first sign of any excitement that Chicago had seen yet That was an exciting moment, There we had, as it seemed,

all the makings of a stampede, ~~coming out of turn and quite dis-~~  
~~concerting.~~ And that was where the authority and presence-of-  
mind of Chairman Jim Farley came <sup>into play,</sup> ~~to bat.~~ With sharp, quick raps of  
his gavel he shut off that demonstration, ~~and what a lot of apple~~  
~~carts would have been upset if he had not stopped it!~~

One factor that helped him was the emptiness -- comparatively --  
of the hall. Of course the Chicago Stadium is a huge affair and it  
takes a real crowd to fill it. To the layman's eye the <sup>places</sup> ~~seats~~ for  
spectators were more than half empty and large numbers of delegates  
~~and visitors~~ were conspicuous by their empty seats. As for the altern-  
ates, there seemed to be hardly any at all.

*Surely this is the*  
~~And that is typical of this~~ most curious of all conventions,

the strangest in the history of any party. Few of the usual  
convention-symptoms are to be observed, no ballyhoo, no keenness.

In lack of excitement, people are joking about it. One observer  
compared the show to one of those old-fashioned ~~En~~ dramas, where  
the audience sits through three dull acts only in the hope that

that the curtain may fall upon the head of an actor. ~~Incidentally~~

I overheard that Mrs. Edna Woolman Chase, editor of Vogue, had described this convention show as "the greatest strip-tease act in history."

Beneath the surface, however, there is ~~tension~~ curiosity, even tension.

Until recently the big mystery hung around the intentions of President Roosevelt. But that one has been solved. The centre

~~man~~ of mystery now is Chairman Jim Farley. He is the will-he-or-

won't-he man of the moment --- will he or won't he run the cam-

paign for his boss. Two weeks ago he said no, he was going to

run the New York Yankees. Since then friends have been arguing

with him, pointing out that if he walked out on the party at this

juncture he would put himself in the light of a sorehead. At

present he's keeping up the mystery for all he is worth but says

he will tell the world on Saturday whether Barkis is willing.

Jim was talking to the big boss today several times, over the special wire to the White House.

Then there's the Resolutions Committee, where they

are still arguing about that most ticklish, dangerous necessity --

the platform. The committee passed most of the day listening

to spokesmen of different ~~media~~ organizations. Old Doc Townsend

54

was one of them, ~~threatening~~ threatening to start a third party if the Democrats don't put over his plan to give ham and eggs to the old folks. William Green, of the Federation of Labor, told the committee he believed Mr. Roosevelt would solve the unemployment problem if he were given the chance. That caused quite a hubbub, <sup>and</sup> led to the interpretation that the Federation was backing the President for a third term. Later on, Green said he did <sup>not</sup> mean it that way.

We are all wondering  
out here — will anything  
interesting happen? and  
when — and now ~~back~~  
Hugh James

## ERUPTION

There are scenes of ~~terrible~~<sup>or</sup> in Japan. The mountainous islands fringing the eastern Pacific are of evil fame for being unstable, for shaking and quaking. Japan is having a series of earthquakes. *Even* Tokyo is rocking and trembling. But the earthquakes are not the worst part of the disturbance of Nature. They proceed from a tremendous volcanic eruption, the island of Myaki blowing up with repeated explosions. Fifty villages have been destroyed by streams of lava pouring from ~~boiling~~<sup>boiling</sup> craters - rivers of molten stone, closing in around the villages and trapping the terrified inhabitants. A heavy loss of life is reported.

Today, there was a new blast by the fire mountain, a new pouring out of lava and new panic among the people of the island. They rushed for safety to the sea, but the ocean also is in a raging mood. A stormy sea prevented ships from putting to shore to land supplies and evacuate people.



## CHINA

China today rejected all suggestions of peace with Japan.

No negotiations with the Tokyo government until the Mikado's troops have been withdrawn from China. So declared the official spokesmen at ChungKing. In particular, they rebuffed a British proposal that Great Britain might mediate between Japan and China. This suggestion was made in a radio broadcast by the acting Governor of Malaya.

He declared that Britain is seeking to promote a peace settlement.

The radio declaration at Singapore seems not to have been entirely official. London explains today that the broadcast by the acting Governor was made without consulting London. It was not okayed in advance by the British government.

Great Britain is in a difficult position in Eastern Asia - Japan making demands and exerting pressure. Tokyo is requiring that the British stop shipments of military supplies to the Chinese Nationalist armies, and the British have had to give in to the extent of closing the Burma road. This Burma road is the principal artery of communication with Inner China, and has been a Number One Highway for munitioning the Chinese resistance. London reports



2--add China.

that China has delivered a protest to the British government -  
a protest against the closing of the Burma road.

Troubles between the Japanese and the Americans in the Far East  
are continuing. Today, six prominent citizens of the United States  
were ordered expelled from Shanghai. This order was issued by the  
Nanking government, which is sponsored and supported by Japan - a puppet  
affair. The Americans ordered expelled are all prominently connected  
5812 with Far Eastern journalism - editors and publishers mostly, who have  
been critical of Japan.

Today officers of the United States Marines at Shanghai, were  
investigating a lively episode, which is described as a beer bottle  
throwing contest. A party of Marines and a group of Japanese civilians  
bombarDED each other with beer bottles. It happened in a saloon run  
by a Japanese. The Marines were drinking the brew when the argument  
started. The next thing you know, there was a wild crashing and  
shattering, and beer bottles went flying all over the place, banging  
against the wall when they missed or against some body's coco when  
they hit. The latest is that the affray is not likely produce ~~any~~

59

3--ADD CHINA

International complications. It won't lead to war. If it did, I suppose  
the conflict would go down in history as - the BEER BOTTLE WAR. *and*

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(end)