

L.T. SUNOCO. TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There are several important late stories tonight,

One, is a statement by President Roosevelt: - ~~The~~ United States

^{is} Navy prepared to arm American merchant ships with cannon -

whenever the order is given. Equip ~~the United States~~ ^{our} merchant

vessels with guns; - that was a quick surmise, following the

sinking of the ROBIN MOOR. The President intimated that the Navy

has plans already made. He referred ~~to the plan~~ ^{to the one} whereby American

ships were armed ~~with guns back in the~~ ^{back in} World War days. The

President did not say that the sinking of the ROBIN MOOR would

cause cannon to be put aboard United States commercial vessels, -

but ^{is a} ~~it~~ possibility. Will the sanction of Congress be needed?

The President said he did not know.

Meanwhile, ~~stating~~ Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles

was saying that a protest to Berlin may be forwarded within a few

days. The official Washington attitude is that the situation ~~has~~ is

not changed by the fact that no lives were lost in the sinking of

the American freighter by a German submarine.

truth
The simple ~~fact~~ is that proper precautions for the safety of the passengers and crew were not taken by the Nazi sea raider.

Another late story brings to us the news of a German protest, - Berlin complaining to Washington about the closing of the Nazi consulates in this country. The Germans call this - "a treaty violation." They deny the charges contained in

the American diplomatic note, ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{the}

~~xxxxxxxBerlinxxxx~~ closing the consulates; The Washington

contention ~~xxxx~~ ^{that} Nazi diplomates are engaged in illegal activity, propoganda, intrigue and such, - ^{all that is} are characterized by Berlin as,

"unjustified and arbitrary." [¶] The United States is taking further

action in the affair of the consulates. We are just informed that

German nationals are to be prevented from leaving the country

without the proper authority. They are to be watched, to see that

they don't slip out. We are told that the purpose is to keep

German agents from getting forbidden funds secretly across our

borders - those funds that have been frozen. [¶] There are also

stories about the likelihood of the Nazi diplomats, now without jobs,

making their way to Latin-America, to conduct agitation and
propaganda there.

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Berlin today announced retaliation ⁱⁿ ~~xx~~ the matter of the
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freezing of the funds. What are the Nazis doing about it? The
question is important enough to be answered by a word for word
quotation of the statement made

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by the Hitler people. It reads as follows;- On the German government's order, effective immediately, necessary measures will be carried out in connection with property in the Reich of citizens of the United States." So reads the proclamation. The measures are described as "immediately effective," but it is not stated what they are. No precise word on that subject.

What's the amount of American property in Germany? It is estimated that it total approximately four hundred and fifty million dollars -- owned by large American corporations for the most part. There are also considerable American holdings in territories occupied by Germany -- France in particular, These of course are subject to German retaliation.

Today brought a Nazi threat. Some while ago, in speaking



of action taken by the United States, a Nazi spokesman declared:-
"We will not let ourselves be provoked." Meaning - they wouldn't
let themselves be incited to do anything rash. Today the spokesman
said that this former remark about not allowing themselves to be
provoked, no longer held good.

In Rome today was published a decree of retaliation
against the American freezing of Italian funds. It's a complicated
order - giving ^{the} details ^{and} in legal form of measures announced previously.
Some Americans in Rome still had hoped that the tying up of their
money might be relaxed. ^{They had} ~~They have~~ been making insistent inquiries,
only to be disappointed. Mussolini's mouthpiece, Gayda, comes out
with a statement that the American freezing of funds constitutes
an open declaration of economic warfare against Fascist Italy and
Nazi Germany.

WAR

The new flare of battle in North Africa was indecisive today - a fury of fighting with the issue still in doubt. Cairo ^{tells how} ~~reports that~~ General Wavell's sudden offensive took the Axis forces by surprise, and compelled them to rush reinforcements from the units besieging Tobruk. British military headquarters in Egypt state that the Imperial drive has got as far as Fort Capuzzo, which is fifteen miles beyond the frontier of Libya.

London reports speak of Empire mechanized detachments driving as much as forty miles, and suppose ^d that General Wavell's purpose is to smash on to Tobruk and relieve the British garrison there.

Berlin admits the magnitude of the battle, and speaks of the British employing what it calls - "enormous forces." No mere skirmish on the desert, says Berlin, but a big drive with a major purpose. The spokesman put it in these words:- "It is possible to speak of a large offensive, the aim of which is ~~to retake~~ the retaking of Cyrenaica." The Nazis claim that they've repelled attacks and inflicted large losses - especially on mechanized equipment. ^{For} ~~So~~ the battle that ^{is} ~~is~~ raging is predominantly ^{a mighty clash} of tanks and other motorized equipment of war.

In Syria, the French defenders claim success. Vichy gives us stories of counter-attacks and the recapture of important points from the British and Free French. If these accounts are true, the Allied forces are having trouble in Syria - it might indicate that they are employing only small forces. Vichy admits the loss of a destroyer - sunk in the battle with British fleet units that have been supporting the land advance - bombarding with the biggest of naval guns.

The Soviet mystery is still mysterious. There's no further enlightenment anent the rumors of a break between Stalin and Hitler - or of strained relations, ~~anyway~~. Word from Moscow is that there appears to be no visible evidence that Stalin's Red army has ordered a general mobilization, or even a partial mobilization. This word is conveyed by the United Press correspondent in Moscow, who sends through a story in some detail - the first of its kind that has gone through the Soviet censorship in some time.

From Finland come reports of a heavy concentration of Red army troops near the Finnish frontier. That small republic has now fallen within the Nazi orbit, and has German troops within its borders - though how large these forces are is not known. A late dispatch tells

us that all shipping has been interrupted to and from Finland's Arctic port of Petsamo. The reason is not revealed, but we may note that Great Britain has placed Finland and the port of Petsamo within the confines of the British blockade.

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The mystery of the air war is still mysterious. Once again London tells of smashing air raids against Germany, a heavy force of bombers concentrating on the great industrial area of the Rhine. The British Air Ministry gives us a vivid detail - illuminating. Not revealing in point of knowledge - just glaring with beams and streamers of light. In last night's raid, the R.A.F. encountered the most blinding concentration of searchlights it has ever seen. One observer counted eighty-five powerful beams at Cologne. *Thomas* In *one* long line of searchlights, all the way from Cologne to Dusseldorf - thirty-five miles of intense illumination.

But so far as the squadrons of the German air force are concerned, all is darkness. Last night still again German bombing activity over Britain was conspicuously absent. Today *as the British launched a daylight raid,* there were dogfights over the Channel. But the ruthless bombs of the Nazi air corps are silent. Why. Nobody can guess.

It's a part of a general pause on the part of the forces of the blitzkrieg. They have been strangely quiet ever since the fall of Crete. What's the meaning of the lull? The suspicion increases, that the German command is massing its forces - for something.

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ST. LAWRENCE

~~Some indication of~~ Official opinion of the probable duration of the war was given in Washington today. At a congressional hearing concerning the St. Lawrence waterway, Secretary Stimson declared that the proposed route from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic would open ^{vast} ~~great~~ new possibilities ^{for} ~~of~~ aid to Britain. The shipbuilding facilities of the Great Lakes would be made available, ~~to help Britain,~~ and mid-western supplies for Britain could be sent to the north Atlantic by a long protected route - inland.

But there's the element of time. It would be quite a while before the St. Lawrence waterway could be constructed and put into operation. ^{Four years,} ~~Secretary Stimson estimated that it would take~~ ~~three or four working seasons -~~ years. So the implication ~~is~~ ^{was} that the war is expected to last that long. The Secretary of War was asked about this, and he replied, "I think we face the possibility of a long war, a very strong possibility."

this! Under-Sec. of State ^{Berle} repeated

OIL

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The Government is making moves to stop export shipments of oil from the eastern ^{harbors} ports of the United States. Defense Oil Coordinator Ickes today sent a telegram to thirty-two companies, suggesting that they send no further cargoes without consulting him about each one. And there are indications of broader action -- a blanket prohibition of oil exports from our Atlantic harbors, except supplies for Britain. Officials are considering a plan for a general East Coast embargo -- Britain ^{ex}cepted.

All of this follows official action yesterday -- the stopping of a cargo of two hundred and fifty-two thousand gallons of low grade lubricating oil destined for Japan. It was held up at Philadelphia. This particular action has no direct bearing on the broader question of Japanese imports of oil from the United States -- because most of it is sent from the Pacific coast. There's no shortage of oil out there, ^{in fact no lack} ~~no shortage~~ of oil in general. There's merely a shortage of tankers that carry petroleum supplies to the East -- this because of tankers taken over by the government to help the British.

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The question of embargo, at the moment, concerns the East alone -- and it's now in the hands of the administration. The

government will determine what to do. That's as it should be -- since it's not in the scope of private companies to decide upon any such questions of international policy, as whether or not to lay embargoes on exports. I take this argument from an editorial in the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE this morning, which points out that such a thing as an embargo might be of grave international significance. It might even cause a war crisis. So it's not up to private companies to make the decision -- that's[']national.

Meanwhile, the New Jersey legislature today made an appeal to Washington -- don't let's have gasolineless Sundays, as has been suggested. That was the gist of a resolution passed today by both legislative houses at Trenton. The appeal asks Oil Coordinator Ickes not to restrict the use of motor fuel over weekends, because that would harm the resort and fishing business of the state.

ROCKEFELLER

Today in a New York court appeared John D. Rockefeller, Jr. He took the witness stand, and gave testimony that was surprising. He made a series of denials - denials of astonishing allegations. On the witness stand he referred to a defendant on trial, a man in a wrinkled linen suit - Jean Muenzer by name.

John D. Rockefeller said - No, he had never had this man as a guest at breakfast in his town house. No - he had never gone to see Jean Muenzer in a hospital, bringing him flowers. No - he had never given Muenzer a check for a hundred million dollars. In fact, John D. Rockefeller declared that he had never in his life signed a check for that much - a hundred million.

The defendant on trial was charged with having played a part in one of the wildest schemes on record - he and a couple of others are said to have operated a fantastic swindle, a fraudulent liquor company. They claimed that their whiskey enterprise had been guaranteed by John D., ~~Rockefeller~~, and they displayed a hundred million dollar check to prove it. They also

like Dist. atty. Thos. Dewey and mentioned other prominent names - ~~like that of Grover Whalen.~~
Grover Whalen.

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In spite of the celebrities they dragged in, and the many millions of which they boasted, it was a cheap small time fraud. They got x from their victims a few thousand dollars - so say the police.

BIRTHRATE

When there's news about the birth-rate, one may usually expect pessimistic remarks about the race dying out. In the past, the birth-rate reports have shown constantly decreasing figures. Today there's a contrast. In Washington figures were given out ~~today~~ to show that during the first four months of Nineteen Forty-One, twenty thousand more babies were born in the United States than during the similar period a year ago. The birth-rate since the beginning of this year is at the rate of eighteen point five per one thousand of population. That's the highest since Nineteen Thirty, - eleven years. It's almost as high as the last reported birth-rate from Germany, which was eighteen point eight. The sudden unexpected rise for Nineteen Forty-One puts an end for the first time to the constant downward trend. If this should continue, it will surprisingly reverse the predictions of the experts, that prediction of a declining population.

SOLDIER

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There was a Mohammedan miracle at Fort Dix, New Jersey today -- a marvel of Islam. They reached into the guard house, drew out a Buck Private, cut off his long hair, removed his long beard and put a regulation Army cap on his head. The Private consented to all of this ^{and} -- [^] that was the Mohammedan miracle.

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He's a Moslem, and strictly abides by the holy law of the Koran -- or whatever Mohammedan sect he belongs to. These prescribe that he must not cut his hair, or shave his beard, and that he must wear the fez of Islam -- the ^{tall} [^] round red cap with the tassel. Hardly according to Army regulations, but the true believing follower of the Prophet was adamant. So they put him in the guard house and there he stayed -- until today.

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His case was ~~placed~~ considered by a personage in Chicago called -- Noble Drew-Ali. This dervish or mufti is the leader of the Mohammedan cult to which the soldier belongs. ^{And today the Noble Drew Ali} [^] He granted a theological dispensation. So that ^{is} why the Buck Private ^{now} [^] today consented to have his hair cut, his beard removed and an Army cap placed on ^{his} [^] ^{crew hair cut.} ~~his head.~~ However, he didn't get a shave. They had to now his whiskers, with clippers. Because a razor is considered sinful -- and the Mohammedan dispensation from Chicago did not go that far. ^{So} [^] ~~his~~ a buck private with stubble. and now a

cross
stubble, Milton
gentleman
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