

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1942.

(Broadcast given by Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Heres news that Lowell Thomas would <sup>himself</sup> like  
to be conveying to you:- The Australians and Americans  
have control of the air over the northern approaches to  
Australia. At least, so runs an announcement made today  
<sup>at</sup> ~~by~~ General MacArthur's headquarters in Australia. The  
Australian Air Minister, Arthur Drakeford, declared that  
the Allies have wrested superiority from the Japanese  
over New Guinea and New Britain, and that makes a vital  
strategic difference in that struggle.

The Tokyo propaganda office today made a  
<sup>loud</sup> regular fuss over a claim that Japanese troops had  
surrounded Port Moresby, that jumping-off place at the

tip of New Guinea. The Mikado's army on that island has reached a point less than thirty-seven miles away, declares the Tokyo radio.

From Tokyo's point of view, it's unfortunate that this bit of propaganda is contradicted by such a simple thing, as a weather report. The rainy season has broken loose in New Guinea, and no army in the world could advance in face of those tropical downpours. When it rains there, even the ducks run for shelter. I know how really terrifying the rain is, for I was off the coast of New Guinea just at this time, some years ago. Forty inches of water fell in the Markham Valley, in less than forty-eight hours. So, as an actual fact, so far from getting within thirty-seven miles of Port Moresby, the Mikado's forces on the contrary have been driven <sup>by the floods</sup> ~~from the Philippines~~, back to their base at Lae on the north coast of the island. And there they found

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ten per cent of Japan's cruiser force crippled by the warplanes of the United Nations. Air Minister Drakeford reported that besides that, no fewer than seven Japanese transports, had been sunk, or beached, at Lae, three destroyers damaged, and several small ships, destroyed ; twenty-three vessels altogether. Thus the flood waters of New Guinea, have fought on our side, and forced a Japanese retreat, which is described at MacArthur's headquarters in Australia, as the most important set-back the Japanese have sustained yet, in their advance on Australia.

In the interests of accuracy, it should be added that this control of the air that we have over New Guinea, and New Britain, may be only <sup>for the time being,</sup> ~~temporary~~. That was intimated in one statement of Drakeford's, when he said that even if that superiority should be

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only temporary, it has, at least, accomplished a serious delay in Japanese operations and forced them to withdraw planes and flyers from other areas.

BURMA

On the Burma battlefield it has been raining too. But even ~~xxx~~ a cloudburst couldn't stop the sanguinary fighting between the Japanese and Chinese in the Toungoo sector. The actual situation there is not quite clear. At one time it was admitted that the Japanese had captured Toungoo, but a later report indicated that the Chinese had fought their way back into the place. But the fiercest of the fighting has been going on north of there. An American correspondent with the United Army reports that some of the young soldiers in the Chinese shock troops, are only fifteen years old and wear uniforms made of flour sacks. But for all that, he describes that they were ~~fighting~~ <sup>fighting</sup> like veterans. The Japanese have been ~~literally~~ <sup>literally</sup> ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ pouring reinforcements into that battle; two whole divisions to face the Chinese. But they have not penetrated the Chinese lines, even though, according to reports, they have been using poison gas.

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At one time, the Japanese had the Chinese encircled, but the Chinese broke through and kept open a way for a retreat to the north. The American Lieutenant-General Stilwell has his Fifth and Sixth Armies concentrated on the road to Mandalay. Those Chinese are not impressive to look at but put a rifle or machine gun in their hands and they are first class fighting men. That's the description of American observers. So, to sum up, it appears that the Japanese are advancing there but much slower than they have been, owing principally to the desperate hanging on of the Chinese. There's no mention in today's reports of any air force on our side.

The Japanese advanced on Toungoo, from three directions, but one British report expresses confidence that the Chinese are still in one section of the city.

## TORTURE

A story comes from China that the Japanese have been torturing military prisoners in order to get information. This comes from an American correspondent who had it from two Dutch officers who escaped from a prison camp. They were officers of a submarine, captured off Malaya just before the fall of Singapore, after it had sunk three Japanese troop ships.

The Japanese first plied their Dutch prisoners with wines and liquors, trying to get them intoxicated and loosen up their tongues. At intervals, the Japanese threatened to shoot their prisoners. When liquor failed, they tried other blandishments. Then they took to torture, prevented the Dutch sailors from sleeping for five days. The prisoners got practically nothing to eat, and the wounded went without medical attention. Soldiers beat them with sticks. Finally, the Japanese got tired and sent them to Hong Kong. From there, the two officers escaped,



stole a sampan, and reached Free China with the help of Chinese fishermen and guerrillas.



INDIA

The people of India have been invited to take part in the war councils of the <sup>allies</sup> ~~United Nations~~. This was announced in a radio broadcast today by Sir Stafford-Cripps. They can be, if they choose, represented in the British War Cabinet, the Empire Pacific Council, and the United Nations Council.

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The direction of the part to be played by India, he said, must remain in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the War Cabinet. But Indians will be invited to participate in this control not only in India itself but in all of its inter-relations. Cripps declared further ~~that~~ in his broadcast, that success or failure of the proposals he had made to the Indian leaders is in the hands of Indians, and Indians only. And he urged the people of Hindustan to decide their own future and accept his offer of dominion status after the war, and equal partnership in the British Empire.

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But the reaction to that eleventh hour offer of the British Government is decidedly mixed. The working committee of the All-India Congress met for three hours today and told Cripps they would give him their decision tomorrow evening. The grapevine ~~xxxx~~ report is that Mohandas Ghandi is against it, because it goes against his doctrines of no violence, non-resistance. The leaders of the Right Wing extremists, the Hindu minority, are reported to have informed Cripps that they could not accept the British proposal, because it leads to the disruption of India's unity.

A later cable from India brings word that a majority of the All-India Congress Party are against the plan offered by Cripps. It is reported in New Delhi tonight that the negotiations will collapse unless the Churchill Cabinet allows Cripps to make changes in the

offer. One Congress leader is reported as having said:-

"Not really a single member favors acceptance of the

53 proposals as they stand, now." If the Congress rejects

the proposals, Cripps might as well go home.

COUNCIL

As we've been expecting for some time, President Roosevelt has created a Pacific War Council, to sit at Washington. The head of it will be the President himself, and its first meeting will be at the White House, Wednesday. On the Council will be the Australian Minister, the Minister from New Zealand, the Netherlands Minister, the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the British Ambassador. Australia, as a matter of fact, will be represented by the Foreign Minister, Dr. Evatt. The President issued a statement in these words:- "It is imperative that all of the United Nations now actively engaged in the Pacific conflict, consider together matters of policy relating to our joint war effort." Then Mr. Roosevelt said ~~furthxxxxxx~~ further, that the new Council will be in intimate contact with a similar body in London.

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The news was cheered in Australia. Prime

Minister Curtin said it was an essential prerequisite to offensive action and ultimate victory.

## ARMY PAY

More dough for the doughboys. The Senate passed a bill raising the money in the pay envelopes of enlisted men. The bill is now up to the House.

It provides that a private soldier and a seaman apprentice, who now get only thirty dollars a month, are in future to have forty-two dollars a month.

A first class private and a second class seaman, forty-eight dollars; corporal and first class seaman, sixty-six dollars.

What's more, the present system of giving the buck-private only twenty-one dollars for the first four months, will be cut out. A man is to get forty-two dollars, the minute he's inducted. The pay of non-commissioned officers in the Army and petty officers of the Navy, is also raised, and even that downtrodden soul, the Second-Lieutenant, <sup>"the shave tail"</sup> is to have more money.

Eighteen hundred a year instead of fifteen hundred.

Likewise, Navy and Coast Guard ensigns. Officers in the higher grades are to have more subsistence and rental allowances, which the Senators think are justified by the general increase in the cost of living.



## UNIONS

Senator Clyde Reed, of Kansas, today declared that labor unions throughout the country, are taking in more than thirty millions<sup>dollars</sup> a year out of work for the War Department. That is, in dues and fees collected from their members. The Senator from Kansas adds that his figures are estimates based on information supplied by Army engineers.

"On the surface," declared Reed, "these figures appear fantastic. But the whole labor scheme of employment in these plants, is fantastic. This is government work," he added, "paid for with tax money out of the federal treasury." Senator Reed used these figures as an argument for quick action on a bill that he has pending, a bill to forbid the enforcement of the closed shop on any project financed by the government. And he used these words:- "I do not know how much was actually collected in union dues, and membership fees,

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from the workers. Nobody knows," he added, "but the labor union officers, and they do not tell anyone, not even the members of their own unions. The only way to disclose the exact amount would be through a thorough and exhaustive investigation."

The worst of all labor organizations, he declared, was the International Hod Carriers Union. "It is," he said, "not only notorious but obnoxious and offensive and smells to high heaven."

## GADGETS

No more electrical gadgets! That's the latest order of the War Production Board. After May Thirty-First factories turning out electrical appliances will be converted to munitions work. That means, no more ~~electric~~ electric irons, no more toasters, no more permanent wave machines, no more electric razors.

57 Likewise food mixers, juice extractors, heaters, electric fans, heating units for the range. And that's going to be just too bad for people who do their cooking by electricity.

DIES

Members of Congress became quite excited over the revelations by Chairman Dies that there's a Nudist in the government. *That disclosure by* Chairman Dies aroused the ire of Vice-President Wallace, who declared that the effect on our morale would be less damaging if Mr. Dies were on Hitler's payroll. That wasn't quite the attitude taken in the House of Representatives. The nudist in question is Maurice Parmelee, who gets five thousand six hundred dollars a year, as principal economist for the Board of Economic Warfare of which the Vice-President is Chairman. Parmelee's book, called "Mudism in Modern Life", was being passed around the floor of the House today. Congressman Cox, of Georgia, was most indignant about it, declared that if he had ever seen anything filthy and dirty, it was in this book. And, ~~six~~ said

58 Cox:- "I hope the Vice-President isn't jockeyed into the position of defending Parmelee." ~~Get xxxxxxxx what xxxxx~~

Of course that was meat for the other side of the House. ~~REPPREX~~ Republican Representative Mason of Illinois <sup>pounced</sup> ~~pounded~~ upon the episode to declare that, in his words, "Only crackpots would select crackpots to help plan our war program, or our post-war program." The Republican from Illinois, also scanned Parmelee's book and announced that it advocated the general practice of nudism, in the homes, business establishments, industrial establishments and offices, of the nation.

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Somehow, the picture of myself addressing this microphone without my trousers or anything else, conjures up a picture somewhat eccentric, to say the least. But imagine what it would be like if television were general. At any rate, the fact remains, the author of those ideas gets fifty-six hundred <sup>dollars</sup> a year, as principal

economist for the Board of Economic Warfare. <sup>and more</sup>

59 Hugh how would you like to be at the mind without your mind