

L.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, June 20, 1940.

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The stunning political surprise today has aroused thundering reverberations. <sup>And that's</sup> ~~not~~ surprising - since a coalition government is utterly without precedent in American history.

It was a complete surprise, <sup>In</sup> every respect a bolt out of the blue.

<sup>Some weeks</sup> ~~month~~ ago there was talk of taking Republicans into the Cabinet, with mention of the two Republican candidates who ran against President Roosevelt in Nineteen Thirty-Six - Ex-Governor Landon and Colonel Frank Knox. Nothing came of it at the time, and the

President himself denied any coalition plan. <sup>He</sup> called the story

<sup>But it probably was a trial balloon.</sup> cockeyed, said it was made out of whole cloth. ~~So the coalition~~

<sup># Anyhow the coalition</sup> talk died down, and there has been absolutely none during the past

several weeks. I don't remember seeing a hint in the news, <sup>any</sup>

<sup>further</sup> hint of appointing Republicans to the Cabinet. <sup>So</sup> today the

bombshell effect was complete, the nomination of the Nineteen Thirty-Six Republican candidate for Vice-President, Colonel Knox,

as Secretary of the Navy. And the name <sup>ing</sup> of Henry L. Stimson,

former Republican Secretary of State, ~~and of War~~, as President

Roosevelt's Secretary of War. Thus the President selects Republicans

for the two great bureaus of national defense.

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The change in the War Department has a special angle. Secretary Woodring resigned today. He said afterward that he didn't know who his successor would be, didn't know until a few minutes before President Roosevelt made the formal announcement, never suspected it would be the prominent Republican, Henry L. Stimson.

The President, in accepting the resignation, wrote a letter in which he spoke of the giant defense program. He used these words in describing it:- "A defense program not aimed at intervention in world affairs which do not concern the American hemisphere." This of course applies to the surmise immediately raised - that the coalition Cabinet was a war cabinet. <sup>TR</sup>The Woodring

18 { letter of resignation has not been made public and won't be. It gives a lot of personal reasons - too personal for publication. There has been talk for a long time about a feud in the War Department - between Secretary Woodring and Assistant Secretary Louis Johnson, the two bitterly at odds. Today, however, the retiring Woodring praised Johnson, described his work as - splendid. Louis Johnson remains on as Assistant Secretary of War.

Now for the reverberations. First let's take Washington <sup>a</sup> because the two coalition appointments will have to be okayed by the United States Senate. Congressional circles were left speechless, so says a Washington news dispatch. Not quite speechless, however - because the newspaper men swept down upon the capital, interviewing the foremost congressional figures. They actually broke the news to the astounded Congress. Here are the reactions. Let me scan down the list of the responses the newspaper men got.

Senator Wheeler of Montana, <sup>a</sup><sub>λ</sub> leader of the faction that opposes war:- "I'm not surprised," exclaimed Senator Wheeler, "because both of these men have been strong advocates of the administration's foreign policy and from their utterances I believe they would be glad to see this country go to the aid of the Allies to the extent of declaring war."

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Republican Senator Bridges of New Hampshire:- "Is this true?" he shouted. Then he said he was so astonished he was incapable of comment.

Senator Clark, Democrat of Missouri, ~~he~~ yelled:-  
"Who?" and couldn't say any more. Later he regained his voice

and spoke as follows:- "It's shocking," said he. "It's ~~an~~ an evident attempt to create a war cabinet."

Senator King of Utah:- "I hope there will be ~~prompt~~ <sup>prompt</sup> action on confirmation of these illustrious men."

Republican leader, Senator McNary:- "They should make able executives."

Democratic Chairman Walsh of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee:- "I hope the impression that prevails in some quarters that they are much too war-minded for these important posts may <sup>not</sup> be true."

Senator Reynolds of North Carolina:- "They're just about as close to being war-minded as anybody could be."

Senator Alben Barkley defended the appointments and asked his Senate colleagues to withhold judgment.

Senator Cotton Ed Smith of South Carolina:- "It's a purely political move to scotch the Republicans," *said he.*

Senator Shepard, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, describing the appointment<sup>s</sup>, said:- "Non-partisan, patriotic Americanism."

~~Senator Nye of North Dakota: "It is but one more move by a war-bent administration to get us into a war which it helped to bring about."~~

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A quick newspaper poll of the Senate seemed to indicate late today that the nominations of Stimson and Knox would probably be confirmed - a Senate majority in favor of the coalition.

If Washington was knocked speechless, imagine Philadelphia! - the Republican National Convention! For days the platform makers have been trying to thrash out a plank to apply to the war situation, trying to harmonize the views of isolationists and advocates of aid to the Allies. The general idea being - help the Allies, <sup>but</sup> ~~to~~ keep out of war - a peace program. Imagine the amazement of the G.O.P. leaders when suddenly out of nowhere flashed the bewildering word - that President Roosevelt had appointed two of the most prominent Republican leaders in the country to a coalition Cabinet! Third term was the immediate suspicion. Some Republican stalwarts pointed out that the President would hardly have made two such tremendously important Cabinet appointments if he expected to step out of office at the end of this

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*some reason that*  
year. On the other hand, Henry L. Stimson and Colonel Knox  
must have had assurances that there would be no third term  
attempt. <sup>R</sup> When the coalition idea was in the wind a month ago,  
the general Republican supposition was that Ex-Governor Landon  
and Colonel Knox had told the President they were against any  
coalition unless there was a declaration against a third term.  
Landon then spoke out with an anti-third term statement, but  
Colonel Knox said nothing. Today former presidential candidate  
Landon said:- "I wish them well. And I hope they have not been  
misled in such assurances as must have been given them regarding  
a third term movement."

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Henry Fletcher, former Chairman of the Republican  
Committee, gave an enthusiastic okay. "That's fine". Then he  
put a sting in the okay. "I am glad," said he, "that the  
President found two good Cabinet officers in our party which  
he could not find in the Democratic Party."

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Herbert K. Hyde, Temporary Chairman of the Republican  
Resolutions Committee, said:- "The appointment of Mr. Knox and  
Mr. Stimson", said he, "indicates that Mr. Roosevelt is leading

this nation into war - because coalition cabinets are not considered possible in our two-party system of government in time of peace."

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt spoke out urging Messrs. Stimson and Knox to refuse the appointment, reject the coalition idea.

The latest - the Republican National Chairman, John Hamilton, has virtually read Henry L. Stimson and Colonel Frank Knox out of the Republican Party. He stated that as cabinet members, serving under the President, they would owe their

allegiance to <sup>him,</sup> ~~the President,~~ and could not take part in the Republican opposition to the New Deal. *He said the appointments made the Dem. Party a war party.*

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There were prompt repercussions in London, expressions of satisfaction by figures in the British Government. London especially likes the appointment of Henry L. Stimson as Secretary of War. The British are of the opinion that Secretary Woodring had opposed the shipment of great American war supplies to the Allies. Stimson, they believe, will encourage maximum aid to Great Britain.

ARMISTICE

Somewhere in France today, the plenipotentiaries of France met high German officers and were given the Hitler terms for an armistice. Just where in France - we don't know. One report said - Compiègne. That was where German plenipotentiaries signed the Armistice, ~~xxxx~~ the surrender of Germany, in Nineteen Eighteen. The selection of Compiègne would fit the theory of rubbing it in, make the enemy take the humiliation at the same place where he previously inflicted humiliation.

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The French reported that the place was about five hours of automobile driving from Bordeaux. Well, you could hardly drive from Bordeaux to Compiègne, which is near Paris, in that space of time - drive some four hundred miles. One story had it - that the French plenipotentiaries flew to the armistice meeting in a snow white airplane, white being the color of the flag of truce. But another account from Bordeaux says they went in an automobile, which flew a white flag of truce, ~~and had~~ *an auto with* a motorcycle escort.

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If The place of the armistice meeting is a deep secret, so too are the armistice terms. The news still remains a blank concerning the conditions that Hitler has prescribed, although the



Nazi newspapers still <sup>insist</sup> ~~resist~~ on unrelenting harshness. Nor is there any indication whether the French Government will accept the terms, whether Marshal Petain's ministry will decide on continuing the war rather than <sup>yield to</sup> ~~accept~~ conditions too drastic.

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A report persisted today that the French Government had left Bordeaux, and had gone to Biarritz near the Spanish border. This was interpreted as meaning that France was prepared to reject the armistice terms, and that the Petain Ministry was <sup>ready</sup> ~~ready~~ to go to French colonial Africa - and there continue the war.

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This, however, is denied. Here's a late bulletin from Bordeaux which declares that the government is considering a transfer to some place else, but that a decision will not be made until the German terms are received. They had not yet been received, and the French Ministry had not moved. *Still later:- the French Govt. has moved! so says Rome. more confusion.*

Today Marshal Petain spoke to the French people by radio - the eighty-four year old hero of the World War, who in the monumental Battle of Verdun held back the hosts of the Kaiser. He stated plainly what all the world knows - that France has been defeated. France must give up the fight, said Petain. And he told

the reasons for the calamity of war. "We were less strong than we were twenty-two years ago," said the aged Marshal. "We also had fewer friends, too few children, too little arms, too few Allies. Those," said he, "were the causes of our defeat."

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And he called upon France to wait for the German terms with calmness. There was nothing in what he said to indicate ~~XXXXXX~~ whether or not the French Government might reject the German conditions for an armistice, and continue the war in the French colonies.

It would seem that in the armistice meeting today, no part was played by Italy. The French and the Italians are to negotiate separately. This is indicated by a dispatch from Rome which states that the French Government has asked Mussolini for terms to discontinue the state of war between the two countries. And Rome has replied by inviting the French to send plenipotentiaries. This they are doing. The Franco-Italian negotiations take the same form as the exchange between France and Germany.

Concerning the terms that Italy will seek to impose on France, nothing is known - only suppositions based on previous Fascist demands. The whole armistice story is still in suspense - waiting to break in one of the biggest of headlines.

WINDSOR

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There are all sorts of rumors about the world's most famous Duke and Duchess -- the Windsors. Word from Madrid <sup>S</sup> stated <sup>A</sup> that they've applied for permission to enter Spain. Another report <sup>has it</sup> <sup>states</sup> <sup>A</sup> that the Duke of Windsor has left his house at Cannes on the Rivera, and is driving by automobile to Spain. <sup>still</sup> <sup>A</sup> another story <sup>has it</sup> <sup>A</sup> ~~that~~ the Duchess of Windsor is already in Spain.

And here's the most startling -- though it's a denial.

Q <sup>A</sup> United Press dispatch -- "London, June Twentieth -- Authoritative quarters today denied that the arrest of the Duke of Windsor had been ordered or contemplated." <sup>supposed</sup> <sup>A</sup> The report about the <sup>arrest</sup> <sup>A</sup> originated in Italy. In fact most of the wild ones about the Windsor <sup>S</sup> emanate from the Fascist <sup>n</sup>ation. For example, there's an Italian story today that the former King and his Duchess have<sup>d</sup> been forbidden to enter Great Britain, forbidden by the British Government, by Prime Minister Churchill himself.

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Today a newspaper in Rome prints a Windsor story decidedly fantastic in tone. There seem<sup>s</sup> <sup>A</sup> no particular reason why Rome should know anything special about the former Edward the Eighth and the former Wallis Warfield of Baltimore. Moreover, the Italian

newspapers are inclined to say things uncomfortable for Great Britain. So, the following may be taken merely for the fanciful interest of the idea. *Here it is! -*

The Fascist newspaper says that the ExKing has never <sup>renounced</sup> given up hope of regaining the throne of Great Britain -- and the present troubles might give him a chance. It would appear that the Fascist mind cherishes a kind of notion that Edward the Eighth might be restored as a peace move. The Roman newspaper, referring to that famous abdication, uses these words:- "He was sent away by the intrigues of war-mongering politicians." Well, that <sup>'s</sup> is a new version of the romantic renunciation -- for the "woman I love."

We all thought it was Wally that caused the loss of the crown. But *Italy tries to tell us it was* now ~~it's~~ war mongering politicians. The Fascist newspaper goes on with this line of reasoning:- "The majority of the British people, especially the masses", it says, "would like to see him on the throne again." Can it be that the totalitarian mind is thinking of some devious scheme of using that couple of world renown <sup>ed</sup> romance? That would seem to be fantastic, totally so, totalitarian in fact.

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