

SUBSTITUTE SUBMARINE

P.T. - P.O. Friday, Aug. 26, 1949.
Friends, good evening: -

Given by Fulton Oinsler

Lat^e News from the most northern town on earth,

the fishing port of Hammerfast, at the Arctic tip of Norway. An American surgeon has arrived by plane, flying from Oslo -- to take care of the injured in the explosion and sinking of the American submarine Cochino.

Four subs were on a training cruise above the Arctic circle, when an explosion occurred in the battery room of the Cochino, and fire broke out. It is believed that an electric spark must have ignited hydrogen fumes from batteries. At the first sign of the mishap, a companion submarine, the Tusk, came to the rescue. An icy storm was blowing, and the task was to take off seventy-nine men. They saved all but ont -- but in doing so, six men of the Tusk were swept overboard by the lashing waves, and lost. Submarine men point out tonight that nothing could be more

difficult and dangerous than the transfer of survivors from one sub to another under such conditions.

The fact that the injured were taken to northernmost Norway indicates that the mishap occurred somewhere along the Arctic route which was the American supply line to Soviet Russia during the Second World War.

SUBSTITUTE HURRICANE

The southeastern part of this country is having a nightmare of storm. The most savage hurricane on record hit the Florida gold coast, between Miami and Palm Beach, this afternoon with winds of one hundred and fifty-five miles an hour -- and now New Orleans gets a warning. At this moment that worst of tempests is roaring across Florida, bound for the Gulf of Mexico, and tonight the U.S. Weather Department gave warning to New Orleans -- hurricane due to arrive on Sunday.

But that is only half of the stormy story. Another hurricane is building up on the windy heels of this present one. The tempest, brewing off the West Coast of Africa, is moving rapidly across the Atlantic, and the signs are that Florida may have a repeat performance of the tempestuous drama tonight.

FIVE PERCENTERS

The news from Washington features an interrogation - question and answer. But it was mostly question and little answer. The abundant lack of replies came from John Maragon, the Greek-American friend of General Vaughan, the President's military aide. Maragon was called upon to give his own version of the deep freezers sent as gifts to Vaughan, Mrs. Truman, and several other top ranking figures. Also, to tell about the trips abroad in American military planes on perfume business.

For thirty-five minutes members of the Senate Committee tried to extract information, but Maragon declined, invoking the Constitution. He said: "On advice of counsel, I refuse to answer on grounds that might tend to incriminate me."

There was only one question to which he did give a reply. Asked if he knew General Vaughan, he said--yes. Except for that single monosyllable, Maragon would not talk, although he is usually the chatty kind.

The Committee was irked, and at one point

Senator Mundt of South Dakota said to Maragon that his silence was - "More incriminating than anything you might say." And added: "Your attitude leads me to believe that you and the General have engaged in some activities that have been incriminating."

A theme of popular melodrama was introduced, when Maragon was asked - did he know Frankie Costello, alleged boss in the slot machine racket. Glum and nervous, he refused to answer that one also. But later, talking with reporters, he loosened up a bit. He told the newsmen that he did not know Costello, and added: "They were just trying to embarrass me."

Another embarrassing topic was brought up, income tax. The Committee introduced evidence to show that during a five year period, Maragon had deposited more than a hundred and nineteen thousand dollars in various banks - during which time he reported an income of only thirty thousand dollars.

JUGOSLAVIA

Reports are seeping out of Jugoslavia, telling of a huge oil fire - sabotage. We hear that yesterday a blaze broke out at the largest Yugoslav oil refinery, near Fiume - flames bursting forth simultaneously at four different places. Fire fighters were helpless, and troops of the Red army of Red Marshal Tito were hurried to battle the blaze. The giant oil refinery was burning all day today.

(~~This follows a fire three days ago in another refinery, and recent news from Jugoslavia has told of three railroad wrecks, unexplained.~~) The Tito Government, at feud with Soviet Russia, has been charging Soviet sabotage - and the giant oil refinery fire, reported today, would seem to be the biggest blow of all.

MOSCOW

In Moscow, there's a world rally of Reds, which they call -- a conference of peace partisans. First and foremost are the usual blasts against the United States. Today, the Italian left wing Socialist Nenni, who is allied with the Communists, threw rocks at President Truman, calling him -- a little Napoleon who wanted to be a Hitler. Which will surprise Harry Truman -- the notion that he thinks of himself as being Napoleonic, not to say Hitlerian.

And still another American was a target for the Red barrage -- ballplayer Jackie Robinson. He is lambasted for denying the statement by singer Paul Robeson -- that American negroes would never fight against Soviet Russia. Today Pravda, newspaper of the Russian Communist Party, hurled a huge epithet at Jackie Robinson, calling him -- "A super-spy from dark Columbia University." Puzzle that one out.

AIR FORCE

This afternoon the Senate voted to cut the Air Force down to forty-eight groups -- this as ~~an~~ part of the economy drive. The Air Force right now has fifty-seven groups, and was hoping to build up to seventy. The Senate says no, and ~~xxxxx~~ speaks in terms of money -- slashing Air Force appropriations.

STORY

Substituting for Lowell Thomas tonight, I'd better do something that Lowell once asked me to do on his program. He wanted me to tell one special, and now forgotten, incident out of the experiences of an editor, and give an account of - the president's mystery story.

I happened to be chatting with President Roosevelt late one night, and he suggested an idea for a mystery story. He presented a situation in which a man with a large fortune wants to disappear, and take his money with him. He remarked - how difficult that would be. How could a rich man vanish from his wife, his family, his friends and associates, disappear so that he could not be traced, and take his fortune along? F.D.R. noted how hard it would be to transfer great amounts of money on into oblivion. He thought that could be worked out to a first rate detective yarn, and I agreed. Busy with all the turmoil of the New Deal, he himself had no time to do any writing, so we arranged a collaboration, engaging a series of top ranking authors to do the actual writing.

It required ingenuity to solve the situation presented by F.D.R - how the rich man could vanish into oblivion along with his money. At one point we had him standing beside his wife at his own funeral - his face changed of course so that she could not recognize him. That was one of many high spots in the President's mystery story. But now let's turn to the home of mystery -- mysterious Tibet.

Another broadcast report from Lowell Thomas, and of his expedition into that strange land. They're moving up toward the Himalayas, where they'll take the caravan trail to Lhasa, that legended city of mystery. And this recorded broadcast from distant Asia shows them starting out.

END

That's the Lowell Thomas report on the trip to Lhasa, with the promise of a thriller - adventure with an avalanche in the Himalayas. We'll have it on this program next week - when Roy Chapman Andrews will take over, the famous explorer and scientist who discovered the dinosaur eggs in Central Asia. Ivory is much more modern, isn't it, Nelson?

SUBMARINE

A submarine disaster has ^{just} occurred in northern waters, and the picture ^{tonight} is one of heroism and a tragedy of rescue. The American undersea craft Cochino, blew up and sank ^{to the bottom} in icy Arctic waters. ~~Only one man of the crew of seventy nine was lost, but six rescuers perished.~~

Four subs were on a training cruise above the Arctic Circle, when an explosion occurred in the battery room of the Cochino, and fire broke out. It is believed that an electric spark must have ignited hydrogen fumes from batteries. At the first sign of the mishap a companion submarine, the Tusk, came to the rescue. An icy storm was blowing, - and the Tusk was to take off seventy nine men. They saved all but one - But, in doing so, six men of the Tusk were swept overboard by the lashing waves, and lost.

The exact place is not stated, but the rescued men have been taken to the Norwegian fishing port of Hammerfest. That's a tiny place - the most northern town in the world. Which indicates that the

SUBMARINE...2

accident occurred along the Arctic route, which was the American supply line to Soviet Russia during the Second World War.

HURRICANE

At this moment, the hurricane is lashing Florida. It struck late this afternoon, the Fort Lauderdale area taking the brunt of the blast. All along the "old Coast, from Miami to Palm Beach, the tropical terror raged with winds up to a hundred and twenty miles an hour. At this moment the hurricane is moving across the state on its way to the Gulf of Mexico.

The warnings were timely and adequate, the weather bureau giving plenty of advance notice, and Florida was all set, everything tied down - in preparation for the assault of the storm demon of the West Indies.