

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(So Hitler has taken Slovakia also - which isn't surprising after he seized Bohemia and Moravia. The Slovaks used Hitler's support in breaking away from Czechoslovakia, and now have surrendered themselves to Nazi domination.)

Today Hitler left Prague to join the German troops who have occupied Slovakia. He proceeded to the Slovak City of *Brünn.*
~~Brno~~ It remains to be seen what sort of popular reception he gets there, after the hostile attitude of the Czechs to the German invaders and their Fuehrer. (Prague is fairly normal tonight, with German troops on guard - the Czech people ^{*sullenly*} ~~solemnly~~ angry, but they can't do a thing about it.)

In all the former Czechoslovak territory the Germans have seized, it's the same old pitiful story. Panic among ~~all~~ people who opposed Nazi influence, panic especially among the Jews.

There ^{is} ~~to~~ terror, suppression, arrests, concentration camps, ~~and~~
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a wave of suicides - Gentiles destroying themselves, but mostly
dispairing Jews. It's the same tragedy that attended the Nazi
occupation of Austria.

Today in Prague, the flag of the Czechs reappeared on
government buildings, the national colors. This of course must
have been by German permission. It is taken as a sign that Hitler
does not intend to abolish the nation completely. It is supposed,
on the evidence of the flags, that the Nazi plan will be to have
Bohemia and Moravia as a subject state, rather than as a mere
province of Germany. And probably the same for Slovakia.

- Ruthenia -
In that other Czechoslovak province, occupied by the
Hungarians - a minor war went on today, skirmishing ^{and} fighting,
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the invading Hungarians opposed by crude defense organizations
among the people, but those defense organizations had no chance.
They could put up only minor sporadic resistance, and tonight the
- Ruthenia -
Carpatho-Ukraine ^{is} in Hungarian hands. There's still no
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indication that Hitler's Germany opposes the Hungarian occupation.-

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It looks like a thing agreed upon.

Word from London and Paris had a headline touch today - with reports that London would recall its ambassador from Berlin, recall him for consultation - and that Paris would do likewise. This - following the example of Washington in calling home the American Ambassador to Berlin as a protest against the anti-Semitic persecution. Meaning - gesture, rather vivid in a diplomatic way, but just ^a gesture.
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All over the world the Germans took over Czechoslovak legations in various capitals - or tried to. In Washington they tried ~~to~~ in vain. ^a ~~The~~ representative of the German embassy went to the Czechoslovak legation and demanded possession. The Czechoslovak minister refused - declared he'd have to have orders from the government that sent him to Washington. Not telegraphed orders either, said he - but a written command from the government ^{of} what was Czechoslovakia.
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There are commercial complications involving the United States. We have a trade treaty with the now non-existent Czechoslovak republic. And today the Department of Commerce advised American exporters not to ship goods ordered by Czechoslovakia - ~~to~~ withhold shipments until the situation cleared ^s up.

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FOLLOW LEAD

Here's the latest and most sensational. (Today in Prague Nazi Storm Troopers at the Czechoslovak bank loaded eighteen truckloads of gold. The gold reserve of the captured nation. Eighteen truckloads of golden treasure carted off to Germany, to the value of eighty-one million dollars. That's the glittering prize of the whole Hitler triumph -- gold for the empty Berlin treasury.)

ETCHING

Today, some vandals broke into a New York studio and destroyed an etching. It isn't difficult to understand what kind of vandals they were. The etching was one of fifty exhibited by Catholic artists - under the auspices of the Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany. And the destroyed etching represented the Saviour being ^{tortured} ~~shown~~ in a Nazi concentration camp.

GUAM

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Again we have the subject of Guam -- entering by another door. The proposal to fortify that island away across the Pacific was knocked out of the bill to construct a number of new sea and air bases for the navy -- because it might lead to war peril. So Guam was pushed out of that legislative door, but now enters by another gateway -- a bill for the improvement of rivers and harbors. Word from Washington is that the President may recommend an appropriation of five million dollars for harbor improvement in Guam.

Senator Walsh of the Senate Committee in charge told the President today that his committee had no objection to including ^{the far off Pacific isle in his} ~~Guam in the~~ rivers and harbors bill. ~~Harbor~~ Harbor improvement is not exactly fortification, sounds more x civilian than military.

LABOR

The Senate today got up a petition with a lot of signatures, fifty thousand of them, names of small business men. They want the Wagner Labor Act amended. Senator Burke presented the much signed petition and said it came from the National Small Business Men's Association. That's the league of minor commerce which was formed in Nineteen Thirty-Seven at the time when the White House staged a conference of little business.

One thing the petition demands is that the Senate Education and Labor Committee shall start to hold hearings on the Labor Act not later than April First. The Committee right now is considering whether or not to delay its hearings until the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. have come to some decision, meaning - until the labor peace parley that's going on either does something or fails to do anything.

TAXES

Today is the day after the income tax deadline, when official Washington is scanning income tax figures. And much depends on them. There's a conference studying a program to help business by altering taxes, and today the conferees declared they wouldn't decide on any definite plan until the income tax returns had been fully analyzed.

income tax

The first indications are already in, and they show a big drop in ~~the~~ income tax returns. For the first fourteen days of this month, with the early returns coming in, the payments come to a total of ninety-six and a half million dollars. ~~That's a~~ drop of twenty-six per cent as compared with the same days of last year.

However, the word from Washington is that the income tax decrease is not as great as had been expected - they thought it would be worse. They figured that the payments during March would come to four hundred and twenty-five million, ~~as compared with seven hundred and twenty-three million in March of last year - a huge drop of three hundred million.~~ But today's indications are that the March returns will come to more than ^a half a billion, _^

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~~seventy-five million more than expected.~~

It is interesting to compare income taxes with another tax item - gasoline taxes. Last year individual income taxes produced nearly one billion and three hundred million dollars. Petroleum taxes almost equalled that figure, a tiny fraction less. This year the personal income tax will be considerably less than the petroleum tax. Gasoline will pay more than the total of all income taxes paid by persons. ~~Right now they amount to more than one-tenth of all taxes collected in the nation. The motorist is certainly doing his financial bit in financing the government.~~

CONGRESS

~~The Congress of the United States is just about the most vocal place in the world.~~ As if Congressmen don't do enough talking! Sometimes they start singing - they did that today.

Representative Geyer of California led a chorus, with fellow Democrats joining in - until the Lower House rang with melodious strains of - "Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?" How did that ditty get into the debate? Well, it was like this. Representative Geyer was advocating an increase of money appropriated for highways ^{on} ~~and~~ Indian reservations. Not that there are wolves growing big and bad ~~on the Indian~~ reservations. It's like this:- another congressman was opposing the ^tNew Deal appropriation - opposing it in a loud voice. Whereupon the California Congressman started to sing: "Let him huff and puff and try to blow the New Deal down." And thereupon a chorus of New Dealers sang, "Big BadWolf" all over the place.

When the music was through, the House proceeded to vote down the extra money for the Indian reservations.

I'm afraid the Republicans in Congress are going to be much embarrassed by the discovery that the term "New Deal" is a

Republican invention. This revelation was made by the sixth edition of the new American Dictionary, published today. Who first said "New Deal" in a political sense? Why, that Republican Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman. He coined the term but not in a way to flatter President Abraham Lincoln. In a letter written during the Civil War, General Sherman wrote to a friend the following sentence: "Charleston is not taken, the war is prolonged, and but little chance of its ending until we have a new deal."

~~Well, we have a New Deal now, though I don't know what it has done to end the Civil War - too late for that.~~

LEGISLATURE

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Today in the Georgia Legislature, the lawmakers varied their talkative procedure by staging a free-for-all fight, a general melee. They were discussing a two per cent sales tax bill, when Representative Lovett shouted - "Don't act like a so-and-so rascal about this!" He shouted that to Representative Lanham, which was a mistake - because Representative Lanham is a powerful two hundred pound six-footer. He responded by socking Representative Lovett in the face, ~~and~~ ^{and} smashed ^{ing} his glasses. Whereupon the Georgia legislators swarmed to separate the battlers, and in doing so started fighting among themselves - which is often the case with peacemakers. ^{There was the} ~~The~~ whole legislative ^{crowd} ~~mob was~~ in a tangle, swinging rights and lefts.

It was several minutes before order was restored, and then the trouble nearly started all over again. Representative Lanham apologized to the Legislature for starting the battle. "But," he added, "I have no apology for the gentleman who hurled the epithet at me." Whereupon another legislator leaped to his feet and yelled: "You ~~awkwardly~~ coward, you hit him with his glasses on!"

Whereupon

And he charged to the attack. Others, however, restrained him,
and the legislators were finally able to get back to the subject
of the two per cent sales tax.

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DAVIS

There's one man who has achieved a sort of fame for himself as a source of underworld information. He's Dixie Davis, one-time lawyer for the Dutch Schultz policy mob. He was a star witness for the state in the two trials of Tammany Leader James J. Hines, accused of being political fixer for the policy game. He was taken to up-state New York to tell the authorities there the inside story of the murder of a Dutch Schultz lieutenant. Recently he has been scheduled to appear as a witness against Johnny Torrio, sponsor and teacher of Scarface Al Capone in the Chicago bootleg empire of prohibition days. And now New Jersey wants Dixie Davis to spill some possible information about a notorious New Jersey murder mystery.

Two years ago, Norman Redwood was a labor boss in the tunnel diggers' union, the sandhogs. There were union troubles, and Redwood was assassinated at his home. Two pistols were used in the killing, and one of these has been traced to a gangster known as - Little Davie, a member of the Dutch Schultz mob. They've been trying to find Little Davie, but there's no trace of him. Maybe the

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all-knowing Dixie Davis can tell something.

Today the New Jersey authorities announce that they're calling upon District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey for permission to question Davis, also Big Harry Schoenhaus - another Dutch Schultz mobster who testified against Hines. They believe they can thus find out where Little Davie may be; ~~they want to~~ ^{and} learn about Little Davie from Dixie. ~~Davis~~

GANGSTERS

Here's a story to illustrate the fact that there are a lot of records; ~~loose and at large,~~ long records, bad records, police records.

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Last evening, a New York local of the plaster^{ers'} union elected a business manager and delegate. An hour later he was driving home, when another automobile came along and forced him to the curb. There was a blast of gunfire. - The affair had all the appearance of a carefully planned gangster killing. Though the newly elected union official wasn't killed - he got three bullets in the arm. The police arrested three men, who today were held without bail - and their records were published. Number One - a Brooklyn gangster, who has been arrested thirty-six times and convicted nine times. Number Two - a record of twenty-seven arrests and five convictions. Number Three, a mere harmless, innocent who has been arrested only twelve times and convicted five times. Nice records, those, to be loose and at large - and connected with union affairs.

PRINCE

The Crown Prince of Persia was married yesterday, and today is running a high temperature. At Cairo, Prince Mohammed Riza Pahlevi was wedded to Princess Fawzia, sister of His Majesty, Farouk, King of Egypt. ^{However} There's nothing about a Mohammedan marriage ceremony to cause a burning fever. The bridegroom merely signs a marriage contract, and the bride isn't even there. Nevertheless, immediately after signing, the royal Persian bridegroom was taken so seriously ill they had to call off the wedding ceremonies, a big military parade. Today His Highness, Mohammed Riza Pahlevi ^{was} in bed with a temperature of a hundred and two.

CHINESE GIRL

From the Far East comes a story of tragedy and patriotism -- all exceedingly Chinese. It reminds one of a tale told in some ancient history of a half-forgotten dynasty on the Dragon Throne in the land of jade. A news dispatch from ^{the} a Chinese Nationalist capital at Chungking far ~~xxxxx~~ up the Yangtse tells us of ^{the} a stately dignitary Lu Chung-Yung. ~~He was~~ ^a notable of Canton who when the Japanese seized the city agreed to cooperate with the invaders. He became a vice-chairman of the pro-Japanese regime that governs at Canton. He was vigilantly ~~gx~~ protected because of patriotic terrorism ^{to} ~~kill~~ ^{who} ~~the~~ Chinese who side with the Japanese invaders. He was surrounded at all times by a bodyguard, so that no assassin could come near him.

Now, rich and influential, Lu Chung-Yung had a beautiful concubine -- quite in the fashion of the Chinese ways of old. Ivory of skin and ebony of eyes. ~~she was. The lordly Lu Chung-Yung might~~ ~~cooperate with the invading~~ ~~gx Japanese, but the girl~~ ^{She} was a patriot and she brooded in her patriotism, and resolved to do a deed for ^{China.} ~~the~~ Chinese.

Lu Chung-Yung called upon the girl for his favorite

wine -- as the mandarins did of yore, and she brought him the mellow wine, poured it for him, served it to him. He smiled upon her and drank -- then quickly died, poisoned.

When his bodyguards found him they surmised; there could be no doubt -- and at once they killed the girl.

It's a story from China today, as once they told the story of Judith in Bible times. *And s-l-u-t-m.*

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