

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, March 31, 1939.

BRITAIN

Great Britain spoke today - and the United States did some speaking too. So it's well to look rather closely at what Britain had to say: The British ^REmpire and France ^{indeed} will fight if Germany should attack Poland. -- That's the broad statement, ^{formally} made today - ^{rumor until now.}

Prime Minister Chamberlain made a ~~formal~~ statement of policy to the House of Commons today. The critical passage in his declaration begins with reference to negotiations that London is conducting with various governments - negotiations to clarify world policy. He then spoke of the ^dperiod that will elapse between now and the time when those negotiations are completed - the interval, the interim. The Polish guarantee applies to that interval of time - that interim. (Chamberlain gave the guarantee in these parliamentary British sounding words: "In the event," said he, "of any action which clearly threatened Polish independence and which the Polish government accordingly considered it vital to resist with all their national forces, His Majesty's Government would feel themselves bound at once to render the Polish government all support in their power.")

Several points are to be observed. Britain will act - if Polish independence is clearly threatened. Also, if Poland

considers it vital to resist. That is, if Poland fights. Does this apply to the disputed city of Danzig, and to the equally disputed Polish Corridor? That would seem to depend upon whether Danzig and the Corridor are vital to Polish independence. Also - upon whether Poland would fight for ^{them.} ~~Danzig and the Corridor.~~ ~~The~~ Chamberlain statement would seem to leave open the possibility of negotiation on those troublesome questions.

~~As for the phrase saying that the British would feel themselves at once bound to lend the Polish government all support in their power that ~~xxxx~~ means they'd fight.~~

(Chamberlain added France was joining Britain in this Polish guarantee, and that the guarantee had been formally communicated to the Polish government.) The Warsaw reaction was prompt. The dispatch from the Polish capital quotes government sources as making a declaration in these words: "If Germany ~~fails~~ fails to respect our frontiers, we will fight." And that answers one of the conditions in the Chamberlain statement.

So Britain today made a far reaching change of policy, Britain which has always been so chary of making commitments on the

European continent, Britain always wary of being drawn into war by continental politics. London now has plunged definitely into the affairs of eastern Europe. ^B A few years ago Prime Minister Baldwin made a statement considered exceedingly radical - when he said that Britain's frontier was on the Rhine. Chamberlain today put Britain's frontier on the Vistula, that historic Polish river.

That's the way London spoke today, and Washington made it a duet - or rather Warm Springs. That's where President Roosevelt is, down there in Georgia. The statement does not come directly from the President. It comes from what are called "sources close to the White House." These sources make the declaration that the recent Hitler aggressions would seem to indicate that Nazi Germany is out to achieve world domination. More precisely - Hitler's Germany may not stop with encroachments in Europe, it may reach out to other continents such as Africa, or the Americas.

The sources close to the White House point out that hopes aroused after the Munich pact have turned out to be false. It was then thought that Germany would be satisfied with what she had got - at least for a while. It was further believed that

Hitler's policy was merely to reunite surrounding Germans to Germany, ^{and} _^ would be limited by German racial frontiers. Now, however, Hitler has taken the Czechs and the Slovaks - and they're not Germans, they're Slavs. ^{So} _^ The Nazi Reich ~~will~~ seems willing to take any sort of people. There ^{now} _^ seems to be no racial limit to Nazi ambitions.

^{And} the sources close to the White House say that if Hitler is not checked, Nazi Germany may try to reach out for world domination.

JAPAN

Japan's new move is highly significant -- the seizure of the Spratly Islands. They are the merest tiniest coral reefs, but they are way down in the ~~the South~~ South China Sea, right in the middle between British Malaya ^{with} and Singapore, Dutch Java and our own Philippine Islands. The Spratly Islands are within easy bombing distance of the great British Naval station at Singapore, and could be used as air bases.

The islands were annexed by France some years ago, but the Japanese claim they've ^{long been} ~~been using~~ used by Japanese ~~fishers fishing~~ ^{fishermen}, actually occupied by Japanese. Paris is highly indignant and ^{there will} ~~they will~~ be some kind of diplomatic action.

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There's no confirmation that Franco Spain has joined the anticommunist pact of Germany, Italy & Japan. But it is insistently rumored.

SPANISH

One aftermath of the Spanish Civil War may be a duel.

Today a challenge to mortal combat was issued to the former Premier

of ~~what~~ ^{an} what was Republic Spain. It came about as a group of

exiled members of the ^{former} Spanish Parliament were gathered in Paris.

The idea was for them to disband ~~themselves~~ themselves and call off

the one time loyalist government. Negrin was there and he told

them he considered himself still to be the Premier of Spain.

No matter that Franco has the whole country, Negrin is still

head of the government. This led to an argument, almost to an

exchange of blows. And Negrin was ~~then~~ challenged to a duel.

PARIS KILLER

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In Paris the multiple murderer² Weideman was found guilty today -- the stolid German killer, ^{also} and his slick French accomplice Roger Million. Weideman in ~~gx~~ cold-blooded fashion had told how he had murdered one victim after another -- including the American girl dancer Jean deKoven. The sleek Million protested his innocence. Weideman took the attitude that he was certain of the guillotine, and no doubt he is right. After today's verdict of guilty the next thing will be -- the ~~XXXX~~ sentence, the guillotine.

RELIEF

Congress voted a hundred million dollars today, not a hundred and fifty million. The slash in the money that President Roosevelt asked was confirmed by the House of Representatives, when the lawmakers passed the Emergency Relief Bill. Proposals to increase the amount or to cut the amount still further, were voted down. Then, by a vote of two hundred and five to a hundred and fifty-six, the House adopted the hundred million dollar bill.

C.C.C. ROBBERY

There was a murderous hold-up at a C.C.C. Camp today.

At Mount Carroll, Illinois, there's a camp of the Civilian

Conservation Corps where one hundred and fifty Negroes are

employed. Lieutenant Paul Lamastis, commander of the camp

was at his desk working on the payroll. Two masked men

stalked into his office. The Lieutenant reached for his

revolver, the bandits fired, and killed him. They escaped

with a part of the payroll money, some six hundred dollars.

Tonight the Negro C.C.C. workers, joined by neighboring white

men are combing the ~~country~~ country. ~~detectives in a gun battle.~~

Implicated with the slain Jack Howard was Rudolph Sessler, who said

he had been led into a life of crime by the notorious gangster.

Sessler confessed that he and Howard killed a policeman, James Moran.

That was strange, because the man already had been tried for the

crime, convicted, and sentenced to prison - ~~he had~~ confessed. But,

it turns out now, he is feeble-minded, his confession a delusional

hallucination. He is soon to be released.

All this ~~comes~~ comes out in the story told by Rudolph Sessler,

who today was sentenced in Philadelphia. ~~because of his~~

confession, ~~he~~ was recommended, ~~and~~ ~~sentenced~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~chair~~.

KILLER

We often hear that life imprisonment is really a harder sentence than the electric chair. Some people may think so, but some others certainly do not. In Philadelphia today a killer didn't think so. The courtroom rang with his wild joyful screams: *I'm not going to burn!* "I'm not going to burn," he shrieked in a delirium of relief - as the judge imposed a sentence of life imprisonment.

This occurred in the strange case of the dead gangster, Jack Howard, who after committing a dozen murders and a hundred hold-ups, was killed by Philadelphia detectives in a gun battle. Implicated with the slain Jack Howard was Rudolph Sheeler, who said he had been led into a life of crime by the notorious gangster. Sheeler confessed that he and Howard killed a policeman, James Morrow. That was strange, because one man already had been tried for the crime, convicted, and sentenced to prison - *a man who* ~~he had~~ confessed. But, it turns out now, he is feeble-minded, his confession a demented hallucination. He is soon to be released.

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All this *came* ~~comes~~ out in the story told by Rudolph Sheeler, who today was sentenced in Philadelphia. Because of his full confession, mercy was recommended, and instead of giving him the chair,

the verdict was - "life imprisonment." Whereupon the killer

flung his arms around the assistant district attorney, embraced

him and screamed - "I'm not going to burn!" *I'm not going to burn!*

TORRIO

The testimony at New York's Johnny Torrio trial got around to a spectacular underworld story today. ~~The evidence, combined with well-known past history, makes quite a dramatic tale.~~

Many people rate Torrio
By many Johnny Torrio is rated as the real creator of

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the Chicago bootleg empire of prohibition days -- the brains, the master-mind. Scarface Al Capone was his chief pupil and lieutenant. Scarface Al inherited the underworld empire of hooch when Johnny Torrio was shot up by gang enemies, and

decided
got the feeling that Chicago was becoming too hot. Torrio

dropped out of sight, *and* for a long time nothing more was heard

of him. Later he was noticed in New York, apparently *a mild* ~~hexhad~~ middle-aged business man

~~XX~~ engaged in some harmless occupation or other. But what was Johnny Torrio really doing?

That's the question the testimony in court today undertook to answer. *π Q* Today *Q* witness who confesses that he was a prohibition

rum-runner, testified that late in 1932 in a mid-town hotel a group of bootleg chieftains formed an association. The purpose of the association was to control the sale and price of illegal liquor. He said that nineteen or twenty gangs operated through

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the association -- one called the "King Solomon Mob." They must have been wise guys -- for Solomon was wise. The bootleg money they took in was huge. The Association paid out twenty thousand dollars a month in graft to officials. The mobster who was chairman of the ~~association~~ meetings got a salary of one thousand dollars a week.

The witness testified that Johnny Torrio, ex-gang lord of Chicago attended the New York bootleg ~~association~~ meetings in the company of a a rum-runner named Zaccharini. He declared that as a distributor Zaccharini was allowed five thousand cases of liquor a month. The profit was seven dollars a case or -- thirty-five thousand dollars a month. And the claim of the government is that in this Johnny Torrio was a partner, and took a big cut of the profit. He didn't pay the right tax on this income, claims the government -- evaded income tax to the tune of eighty-six thousand dollars. Now, Johnny Torrio is on trial for that. **R** They say he created the Chicago bootleg ~~empire~~ empire for Scarface Al Capone, and then afterward he didn't do so badly in New York.

POCKETBOOK

The mind of a crook is capable of some strange twisters now and then. Take the case of a pickpocket who worked at the Chicago World's Fair six years ago. He lifted a pocketbook of William Sedgewick who now lives at Dowagiac, Michigan - a billfold containing money and papers. And today, six years later, the stolen pocketbook was returned to Sedgewick - all the papers in it but not the money. It was sent by the New York Postmaster, who explained that it had been deposited in a New York mail box. Apparently, the pickpocket had dropped it in the mail box to have it returned.

Conscience, or something, or what? It's interesting to note that the pickpocket is in New York - maybe waiting for the New York World's Fair to open.

GOLDFISH

(The height of intercollegiate something-or-other was achieved today- and please pass the goldfish.) College champions broke records - twice, in rapid succession, and down went the goldfish! Down where? Down the throats of those academic prodigies.

(It was enough goofy news for one day when the goldfish-swallowing record was broken by a student at Kutztown State Teachers College in Pennsylvania. The previous record for gulping down live fish was set at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Recently, a budding engineer there gulped down forty-two, alive and wiggling - for the human aquarium championship of the world.

So imagine the academic excitement at Kutztown, Pennsylvania, when a freshman at the Teachers College there undertook to beat that record. The event was staged at an inn just off the campus, with a crowd of students looking on. The goldfish swallower used chasers of water and soda-pop to wash down the wiggling fish. For fifty-four minutes by the clock he gulped goldfish. Cheers rang out as he neared the record of forty-two. Then he tied it. And then - a chorus of rah, rah, rah split the rafters as he swallowed still another - making forty-three in all. A new human

aquarium champion!

Yes, that was enough goofiness for one day. But the news had scarcely flashed when a student at Waltham, Massachusetts, decided he'd break the new record. (It happened at the School of Veterinary Medicine of ~~Waltham~~ Middlesex ~~University~~ ^{University.} There an ambitious young veterinarian, named Doc Southworth, took his place in front of a huge bowl of goldfish, and started swallowing them alive. And in a mere fourteen minutes he gulped down sixty-seven -) sixty-seven fish went wiggling down his throat. He washed them down with a pint of milk, just to make it healthier. So tonight he's the human aquarium champ. I don't know what it all proves, strength of stomach or strength of mind.

Or what does this prove? It's a late flash hot off the wire from Chicago University. Out there in the west, men are strong - their stomachs, if not their minds, and no sooner had the goldfish swallowing news hit the University of Chicago, than up spoke Student John Patrick, who said: "Goldfish ^{Gulpers!} They must be sissies." Whereupon he instantly ate three phonograph records. [^] He devoured three

That record-breaking. Record eating.

standard ten inch disc^s, big records. Nobody knows what the music on the first one might have been - he ate it so fast. The second, however, was - "When I Go A'Dreaming", and he ought to have some fancy dreaming tonight with all that vulcanized rubber in his stomach. The third one he ate was, "Hold Tight." And he held it tight as he took big bites out of it. *His* system of ~~phonograph record mastication~~ was to take a ~~big~~ good grip on the disc and then eat his way to the center. He didn't devour the centers, because of the paper labels pasted there. "Paper gives me indigestion," said he, taking a big bite of vulcanized rubber.

Between the intercollegiate goldfish gulping and the academic ~~phonograph~~ record eating, it was a great day for higher education in America!

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