

U.S. - Lunoco. Friday, Dec. 26, 1941.

CHURCHILL

— with closed eyes —

Today as I listened ~~to the radio~~ between

twelve thirty and a little after one, I found myself

wondering: ^{Was this ~~was~~ in our} ~~Was the broadcast coming from~~ Congress, in

Washington? Or were we listening to proceedings in the

London House of Commons? Sometimes a near illusion

came - an illusion that it was the Commons, a statement

by the Minister of the ^{TP} Crown to Parliament. Of course,

Winston Churchill was really speaking as a visitor

invited to address a joint session of the Senate and the

House of Representatives. But he sounded, in large part,

like ^a ~~the~~ British Prime Minister making a statement in a

House of Commons debate - giving an account of his actions,

justifying his policy, explaining the world situation.

And - asking for a vote of confidence.

Our form of government does not require the

President to appear before Congress, and give an account -

as the British House of Commons demands of its Prime Minister. The two methods of government are very different in that respect, and today it seemed as if ~~we were having a~~ ~~we had the taste of the British way.~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ taste of the British way.

~~It is~~ ^{It is} Winston Churchill's way, of course, - ~~He~~ being

born and bred to London parliamentarianism. Out of

mere habit, I suppose, he fell into his House of

Commons manner in addressing our Congress. At times

you might have thought that he was responsible to ~~the~~ ^{Senators and Congressmen before him,} ~~them~~ that they could ~~have~~ ~~x~~ voted him out of office

if they disagreed with him. Indeed, Churchill reminded

our legislators that in London the Commons could

remove him from office at any time.

So, let's consider the Churchill speech from that point of view, concentrating on those things which sounded most like a statement and an explanation to

Parliament

~~illusion of a British Prime Minister reporting to the~~
~~House of Commons.~~

For example, he made ~~the~~[^] forthright statement
of the reason why the American forces fighting Japan
are short of equipment right now. He replied that it
was because of the amounts of armament that the
United States has given to Britain and other nations
fighting Hitlerism. [^] In other words - Lend-Lease.

So far as I know, the British Prime Minister is the
first prominent official to make that statement in
this country. Winston Churchill put it in these words:-

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"If the United States has been found at a disadvantage
at various points in the Pacific, we know well that it
is to no small extent because of the aid which you
have been giving in munitions for the defense of the
British Isles and the Libyan campaign."

That's the kind of downrightness that the London

House of Commons expects of its prime minister.

Indeed, Churchill expressed that ^{term of political} ~~term of political~~ responsibility to Parliament and people. He said,

"People have a right to ask me in England - 'Why have

you not got adequate airplanes and weapons of all

kinds in Malaya?" And to our Congress today he gave

reply as he would have done in ^{London.} ~~England~~ "I can only

point to the victory in the Libyan campaign," he said.

"If we had divided the forces between Libya and

Malaya, we should have been found wanting in both

places." He added that both Great Britain and the

United States had to make a choice of where to place

the supplies of armament that were being turned out.

And the choice was - Libya. To Congress he argued his

belief that the decision was right.

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In England, it's a ^{frequent} ~~foregone~~ thing for the

Prime Minister to disclose to Parliament important pieces of international information - inside facts

that might explain the why and wherefor of grave

events. ^{And Churchill} Today ~~he~~ gave to Congress his ideas on this

absorbing question - "Why did the Japs attack the

United States?" He ~~xx~~ stated that if they had struck

at the United States and Great Britain a year and a

half ago, right after the fall of France - no one

could guess how disastrous it would have been for ~~us~~ ^{all.}

But now, British and American strength has vastly

increased. So why did they attack now? Churchill

pointed to the existence of secret societies in

Japan, societies that enforce their fanatical

policies by means of assassination.

"It may be," he declared, "that these societies,

dazzled with their own schemes of aggression, have

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brought their own country into war. ^{TP} ~~if~~ They have certainly embarked on a very considerable undertaking", he commented. ^{TP} Later, expatiating on this, he spoke the proclamation that drew the greatest thunder of applause from the assembled Houses of Congress.

"What kind of a people do they think we are?" cried Churchill. "Is it possible that they do not realize that we never shall cease to persevere against them until they have been ~~xxxx~~ taught a lesson which they themselves and the world shall never forget?" This was delivered in the best ^{Winston} Churchill style - and did it bring the rafters down!

The gist of the political philosophy that the Prime Minister of Great Britain addressed to the Congress of the United States ^{today} was the ideal of a final peace arrangement based on British-American

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cooperation. He argued the benefits that might have derived, if such cooperation had been effective in the past. "Long years ago," he said, "it would have been easy for the United States and Britain to have insisted on the fulfillment of the terms of the Treaty that Germany signed after the last war." And he added that this would have assured the Germans of those supplies of raw materials which, in Churchill's words, "should not be denied to any nation, victor or vanquished."

From this regret that the two nations had not acted in concert during those past years, he drew a vision of the future. "I avow my hope and faith,"

the Prime Minister
proclaimed, ~~Winston Churchill~~, "that in the days to come the British and American peoples will, for their own safety and for the good of all, walk together in

in majesty, in justice, and in peace."

And that state^ment was an excellent example of ~~that~~^{the} famous Churchill gift of expression and choice of words - so familiar in the London Parliament and now heard with rich and powerful expression in the Congress of the United States. *on this historic day.*

PHILIPPINES

Manila is an open town tonight. The Philippine Government has moved to some other place - just where it is not disclosed. Troops marched out of the capital of the islands, guns removed, anti-aircraft batteries dismantled. Every step has been taken to save Manila from devastation by bombs and the destruction that might accompany a military assault on the city - if the enemy should get that far.

What do the Japs say about this? Earlier reports were that they had refused to recognize Manila as an undefended place ^{and therefore} not subject to bombing under international law. But later the word was to the contrary. An enemy controlled radio station ~~in~~ Siam declares in a broadcast that the Japanese military authorities have recognized Manila as an open city.

TF were
There ~~xxx~~ some uncertainties in the stories of bombing today. There was air raiding in the Manila area, but

it would appear that the Japs aimed their bombs at the harbor and at the seaport on the outskirts.

The abandonment of Manila as a stronghold does not mean any relaxation by the ^{Philippine} defense. (The announcement that Manila was to be considered an open city was accompanied by statements from American Commander Douglas MacArthur; United States High Commissioner Sayre; and Philippine President Quezon; who stated that the battle will continue unremittingly.) "We will fight to the last man," declared High Commissioner Sayre.

From the battlefronts around the city, we hear of the heaviest kind of fighting. In the critical area of Lingayen, the American-Philippine forces have been reorganized and strengthened and they are beating back violent enemy assault. This is announced ~~to~~ in

today's Army communique, but it's admitted that the Japs continue to bring up what the communique calls - "heavy reinforcements." They appear to have reached the town of Baguio, a favorite summer resort for the people of the city. This vacation place ^{in the mountains} ~~appears to be~~ ^{has} ~~of~~ no large strategic importance.

The other important sector in today's war news is the Atimonan region, seventy-five miles southeast of Manila. There the Japs are driving with tanks, trying to thrust forward with a mechanized spearhead and are meeting with stern resistance at a point about ⁵⁰ ~~thirty~~ miles ^{from Manila} ~~northwest of Atimonan~~. The Army communique speaks of heavy casualties on both sides.

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We've scored a naval success in Philippine

waters - our submarines torpedoing a Jap transport and

mine sweeper. And probably they've also sunk another transport and seaplane tender. Blows like that at sea are of the highest consequence - the United States undersea fleet striking at the enemy transport, so important for the invasion.

The surprising story of the Dutch in the East Indies continues. They've sunk two more enemy ships, and this brings their total up to fifteen.

In Malaya, the British report they are holding firm along the Perak River. That's on the west coast of the peninsula and about three hundred miles north of Singapore. The Japs have been attacking heavily,

but have been repelled with heavy losses.

On the Perak River - I remember it being as a wide muddy stream full of crocodiles.

On the eastern side of Malaya, the enemy has penetrated to within two hundred and twenty-five miles

of Singapore - at a place called Kemanen. There they are being held, says Singapore.

ADD PHILIPPINES

And here's a bulletin:- The British forces in the Far East have a new commander. It is just announced that Lieutenant General Sir Henry Pownall takes over tonight in Singapore. Pownall succeeds Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham on Britain's Far Eastern front

GERMANS

In the battle of the North African desert, the British Imperials announce that they are driving broken forces of the Axis into a sector ninety miles beyond Benghazi. The capture of the important City of Benghazi was stated yesterday - it was taken without resistance. A London military spokesman tells us that the Nazi North African Corps has lost much of its war material, but still has a number of tanks. These are ~~is~~ trying to escape the British, who are driving hard, ~~trying~~ to trap them.

The Soviets tell of a whole new series of successes. They announce the capture of a town fifty miles southwest of Moscow. Also - ~~the~~ ground gained in the Leningrad area. The Red army is striking as hard as it can to break the line of land encirclement, and accomplish the relief of Leningrad - so long besieged.

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The Red army tells of the use of ski troops on a large scale - tens of thousands of ski soldiers sliding over the frozen waste.

ISLANDS

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The tangle concerning the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon is even more intricate tonight. It would seem as if the DeGaulle Free French forces had stuck their finger in the wrong place at exactly the wrong time. ^{TP} Today in London the headquarters of General DeGaulle loudly defended the Free French seizure of the two islands off the coast of Newfoundland. They argued that, under Vichy control, the island of St. Pierre had been broadcasting radio information useful to the enemy. The information consisted of weather reports of a sort to be helpful to Nazi U-boat commanders in attacking North Atlantic convoys. That's the reason why DeGaulle's Free French sent their forces in boats to seize the islands - as a blow to Nazi Germany.

In Washington, the disclosure today was - yes, there's a good deal to the story about the radio station at St. Pierre and the messages it was

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sending. The British, Canadians and American^S were bothered about those weather reports - as a possible aid to Nazi submarine commanders in the Battle of the Atlantic. However, something was being done about it, negotiations were being conducted for the purpose of having Allied observers sent to the islands, keep a watch on the radio activity, and make sure that no information useful to the Axis sea prowlers was being sent. These negotiations had just about reached a successful conclusion, when the Free French ^{Admiral}~~people~~ jumped in and seized the islands. That, as today's Washington dispatch remarks, tends to complicate the negotiations, to say the least.

Furthermore, it is said that the United States had given to the Vichy Government assurances that the status quo of French possessions in the Western

Hemisphere will be maintained.

The seizure of the islands obviously complicates relations between the United States and Vichy, and a Washington dispatch tells us that these relations have been improving lately. They're delicate, at best, with the United States trying to induce Marshal Petain to take a firm stand against Nazi Germany.

One Washington reports tells us that President Roosevelt recently sent a message to Marshal Petain, expressing his appreciation of the fact that when war broke out between the United States and the Axis powers -- the Vichy Government declared its neutrality.

All of which would seem to indicate that the DeGaulle people committed a faux pas. A French term which expresses its meaning better than any other, faux pas, a false move -- wrong thing, wrong time, and all that.

~~And that - just as negotiations concerning St. Pierre,
Miquelon and the radio station were in good shape.~~

58 1/2 Today, the Vichy Government, in a note to our State Department, expressed its appreciation of Secretary Hull's declaration yesterday - his sharp rebuke of the Free French forces and his indication that the United States wants to have St. Pierre and Miquelon returned to the control of the Vichy authorities. The general indication from Washington is that Secretary Hull has started things moving to abolish the Free French seizure - joint action by the United States, Canada and Great Britain to give the islands back to the Petain Government. ^R It's all a bit embarrassing, the more so because the Free French went ahead promptly and held a plebiscite at St. Pierre and Miquelon. And the people of the islands voted overwhelmingly in

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Down in the Great South Bay - all the fishermen at their
beaches in his city, all the fishermen at their
this is one of the most beautiful and
needless.

And now Hugh I must
9 1/2 Forget you!