

L.T. - SUNOCD. MONDAY, September 15, 1941

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The principal source of head line news tonight is President Roosevelt upon his return to Washington from a cruise on the Chesapeake - a cruise that capital observers believe to have been of the utmost importance. Several heads of defense production were aboard the POTOMAC with the President - Director General Knudsen of O.P.M., Price Control Chief Leon Henderson, Lend-Lease Administrator Harry Hopkins, and Director Floyd Odlum of the Contract Distribution Service. The assumption is that the President discussed with them the latest suggestions for reorganizing the defense machinery worked out by Justice Samuel Rosenman of New York, Sammy the Rose.

Back at his desk in the White House, the President sent Congress a message which conveyed the second report on what has been done with all the Lend-Lease billions. Since the Act was passed last March, Uncle Sam has handed over war materials,

essential supplies and services to the tune of almost three hundred and twenty-five millions to the countries fighting Hitler. Most of it went to Britain, with small quantities to China and the exiled governments of Poland, Greece, Jugoslavia, Norway, Belgium and the Netherlands; also to the South American republics. Supplies for the governments of those conquered nations were sent to equip the Polish, Greek, Jugoslav, Norwegian, Belgian and Dutch foreign legions that are being organized and drilled to fight against the Axis on various fronts. Of those three hundred and twenty-five million two hundred and forty-six went for materials and foods, the rest for what the President describes as "essential services."

Along with his report, the President said in a letter:-
"We are not furnishing this aid as an act of charity or sympathy, but as a means of defending America. We offer it," he added, "because we know that peaceful resistance to aggression is doomed to failure. The people of the United States," he declared, "know that we cannot live in a world dominated by Hitlerism."

"Planes, tanks, guns and ships have begun to flow from

our factories and yards," he announced, "and the flow will accelerate from day to day, until the stream becomes a river, and the river a torrent."

Defense was also the subject of a message from the President to the convention of the American Legion at Milwaukee. It was delivered by Secretary Knox of the Navy. In this the President reminded the Legion about the tremendous national defense program. And he added, "We all know that in the successful accomplishment of such a vast undertaking there must be unity of purpose, unity of sentiment, and a keen desire to make whatever sacrifices may be necessary in order to attain our objective." He then paid tribute to the importance of the American Legion in stimulating strong patriotism and true citizenship.

Having delivered the President's message, Secretary Knox made a speech of his own. He wound up with the announcement that "beginning tomorrow, the American Navy will provide protection as adequate as we can make it, for ships of every flag carrying lend-lease supplies between the American continent and the waters adjacent to Iceland. Our ships," he added, "are ordered

to capture or destroy by every means at their disposal, Axis-controlled submarines or surface raiders encountered in these waters."

Talking about defense production, the Secretary told the Legion that despite the harping of ill-informed critics, a tremendous job has been done in an unbelievably short time.

Getting back to the White House, one of the important events of the day was a conference between the President and the leaders of Congress. It was a conference not only important but loaded with dynamite. Ever since the President's broadcast, some have been anticipating that he would ask Congress to revise the Neutrality Law. As they left the White House today, Speaker Say Rayburn told reporters that such had been the subject of the conference. Nothing was decided, nothing definite.

So there are several questions up in the air. The Neutrality Act at present forbids the sailing of American freighters into British ports or combat zones. It also forbids their being

armed against raiders. It isn't definitely known what it is the President would like Congress to change, the prohibition against sailing into combat zones or the prohibition against arming the merchant ships. There is also talk about American bases on the Azores or Cape Verde Islands. That could be done without doing anything to the Neutrality Act. But, any request for a change in that act would start a battle royal in the Senate.

CENSORSHIP

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The generals and admirals are getting together on a censorship plan. Acting Secretary Forrestal of the Navy admitted as much today. Joint plans have been prepared, ~~xxxxxx~~ establishing measures which will need to be taken to give the heads of our military establishment control of all international communications between the United States and the rest of the world. However, Forrestal assured Congress that these plans contain no provisions for compulsory censorship on the press. They're limited to the control of communications passing between the United States and foreign countries and between ships and shore, ~~But~~ the plans, he added, are subject to approval by higher authority and it may be necessary to have a special law passed by Congress.

AUTOMOBILES

The number of motor cars to be manufactured in the United States in December will be limited to two hundred and four thousand, eight hundred and forty-eight passenger cars. That's the figure that was handed to the industry by the Office of Production Management today. ~~That~~ ^{ing} Represents a cut of forty-eight point four per cent below the number manufactured in Detroit and elsewhere last December. In the last month of Nineteen Forty, the industry turned out nearly four hundred thousand.

MOVIES

The Senators investigating the movies are decidedly annoyed at certain newspaper columnists. ~~SENATOR~~ Senator Worth Clark of Idaho, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, declared ^S that there ^{has} ~~had~~ been a mass attack on the work of his Committee by newspaper columnists, and he added ^S that it smacks of conspiracy.

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If the Senator only knew how jealous columnists are of each other he might change his mind. You can hardly get any two ^{in one room for a tea or} of them together ~~for a~~ cocktail party, let alone a conspiracy.

MINERS

There's a ^{most unusual} ~~queer sort of~~ mine strike going on at Hazelton, Pennsylvania. Twenty-two thousand insurgent miners are striking against their own Union, the United Mine Workers. What they don't like is a special assessment slapped on them by the Union chiefs. The Union chiefs acted promptly, ordered them back to work. But twenty-two thousand of them defied the order and have the anthracite mines of southern Pennsylvania sewed up tight. And they announce it's going to stay that way until the Union revokes that assessment.

WAR

War news tonight from Africa. Two German and Italian columns crashed through the frontier between Libya and Egypt and were well on their way when the British Imperial forces caught up with them. The axis columns were mechanized armored divisions, and they had gotten thirty-five miles into Egypt before a line of British tanks caught up with them. There was a short, sharp, decisive engagement. The Germans and Italians were driven back into Libya with heavy losses and at the same time the defenders of Tobruk sailed out and caught them in the flank.

British officers in Cairo told newspapermen that this was obviously a reconnaissance raid. So, it is believed in the Egyptian capital tonight that the Nazis are organizing for another drive into Egypt.

It will soon be the anniversary of the date when Marshal Graziani started that push over the desert towards the Nile, the one that ended so disastrously for the Italian colors.

From Soviet Russia? Nothing really new. Such information as does come from that eastern front furnished an antidote to the premature optimism promoted by Saturday's news, the recapture of

twenty-six towns by the Red Armies in the center. This morning Moscow acknowledged that the Russians had given up Kremenchug.

- Berlin doesn't say much either. The high command declares it's ring of steel and cannon around Leningrad has been tightened and that all the efforts of the Russian tanks to crash out have been driven back.

In London, military experts are deeply pessimistic about the Red Army's withdrawal from Kremenchug. If the Nazis reach the top of the Crimean peninsula, they'll cut all railroad lines to the Crimea.

SPIES

Here's the latest instalment of the Phillips Oppenheim spy serial that is being acted out in the Federal Court at New York. Testifying today was a plump, middle-aged German stenographer, one of the prisoners who has confessed. Incidentally, she's a naturalized American citizen.

Calmly and coolly she told the court of the parts played by some of the sixteen defendants who did not confess. One of the things she told, was that in Nineteen Thirty-Eight, the head of Hitler's Gestapo in Hamburg, was in the United States with his brother. In fact it was in her apartment that this Gestapo head laid the plans and organized the espionage ring to operate here in the United States. His brother he sent to Mexico for sabotage and subversive work there. The name of that Gestapo chief was Nikolaus Ritter, also known in New York and elsewhere as Dr. Rankin.

Her statement about Ritter's brother was investigated in Mexico City and it turns out that he is known there as having been paymaster for Nazi agents throughout Mexico, also in Central America.

Officers engaged in army intelligence have often told me that incredibly silly things are done and said in espionage work. All of which was borne out today by the testimony of another witness

in that spy trial who said that in Nineteen Forty, the Nazi Government was full of perfectly fantastic ideas about new secret weapons believed to have been invented in the United States.

Almost any European will believe almost anything about American inventors anywa. The Nazi Military believed that an American engineer had developed a shell directed by a ray -- a shell with an electric eye. Also that a professor had perfected a uniform proof against mustard gas. Gadgets for dispelling fog and crush trenches were also devices with which the Nazis credited us. Their spies had been ordered to procure the plans of these devoices.

BEAR

Here's the weirdest bear-hunting story I ever heard.

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Mr. and Mrs. Earl Howes, Ernest and Clarence Andrews of Madison, Maine, were fishing on Clear Pond near Pleasant Ridge, not far from Bingham, Maine. They were angling in a small boat, with no yen to mix it with any big game whatsoever. But a bear decided otherwise. A large black bear, full of unfriendly feelings. He came bursting through the thicket on the shore of the lake, and as soon as he saw the boat with that fishing party, it enraged him. He didn't like intruders in his fishing waters. So out he went, splashing through the shallow waters of the lake, right for that boat! All as unprovoked as a Hitler blitzkrieg!

The folks in the boat had no weapons. Well, one man had a hunting knife. The three males in the boat tried to fend the brute off with the oars, but the steely claws of the bear ripped the hand of one. Another 'got in a lucky wallop with an oar on the skull of the bear, stunning it. And that gave them a chance to get in a few swipes with the hunting knife. And that was the end of the irate bruin.

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The story is told and vouched for by a Maine game warden,
with the exceedingly New England name of Fletcher Hale. He says
the party have the pelt of the bear to prove it. *And they*
all swear that 'tis not a tall
story!

BASEBALL

The Brooklyn Dodgers, as everybody knows, are a hardy lot. That's not news, but Our Bums have just done one of the hardest things in their tempestuous career. They have challenged fate by announcing that they are open to mail orders for World Series tickets.

That certainly is tempting fortune, since Our Bums are quite a few steps away from having that National League Pennant in the bag. The Gas House Gang of St. Louis is hot, hot enough to have taken ^a ~~the~~ double-header from the New York Giants yesterday, and the Dodgers are only one game and a half ahead of them. What makes the Brooklyn team and management so cocky is the fact that seven of those thirteen games are with the Phillies. Poor old Phillies, everybody picking on them. The Dodgers might remember that historic year when Bill Terry of the Giants, thinking he had his pennant cinched, gave birth to the ~~REMAX~~ comic question, "Is Brooklyn still in the League?" Brooklyn's answer was to knock the Giants out of the race, and let the Cardinals in.

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While the home office was brashly daring the fates,
Our Bums themselves were out in Cincinnati, mixing it up with
the ex-champion Reds. Just by way of a retort, the Reds played
like the champions they were last year and gave ~~our Bums~~ ^{the Dodgers} the
fight of their lives. It was a ding dong runless game for
most of the afternoon: seventh inning - nothing to nothing;
ninth inning, - nothing to nothing; tenth inning - nothing to
nothing, *eleventh inning - nothing to nothing.*

8 1/2
And now at the end of
the 12th — nothing to
nothing! And it's still on.

SOFTBALL

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There is a young lady from Tulsa - who's voice is not so sweet and dulce; - that sounds like the beginning of a limerick. But it isn't, it's a softball story. Nina Korgan, twenty-four, of the Higgins Midgets Team of Tulsa is the champion lady pitcher of America. At Detroit, the Higgins Midgets won the world's championship over the Erin Brews of Cleveland. The score, three to nothing, a shut-out with only three hits. Pitcher Nina Korgan fanned eleven batters. Throughout the tournament she has fanned sixty-four and pitched one no-run, no-hit game.

'At a girl, Nina! And now,

59 1/4

 Attaboy Hugh!

WINDSORS

One thing everybody wants to know is whether the Duke and Duchess of Windsor will be guests at the White House when they come to Washington toward the end of this month. Mrs. Roosevelt was asked about it today. Her reply is that she imagines they will if the President and Mrs. Roosevelt happen to be in Washington on that particular day.

Mrs. Roosevelt took the opportunity to rebut a story that had been circulated about ex-King Carol of Rumania. The fable was that the First Lady declined to receive Carol's flame, the famous red-haired Magda. For that reason, Carol and Magda have stayed away from Washington -- so ran the legend. Mrs. Roosevelt said today that there is nothing to it. Just one of those stories, she declared.

At nine o'clock, September Twenty-Ninth, the First Lady is going to report for work. And she's going to work hard at the job assigned to her by New York's Mayor LaGuardia as Administrator of Civil Defense. But she isn't going to let it interfere with her daily newspaper column, or her radio programs, or the lectures she has contracted to deliver.

BOOZE

Booze
In Beauce County, Quebec, they're having an election.

A prohibition election, of all things! That isn't the least curious part of it, for Beauce County would hardly seem to need prohibition. When the Quebec Government established the liquor commission, one of the government stores opened was in that same Beauce County. Inside ~~of~~ a year it ^{had} ~~was~~ closed, ^{up} for lack of business. In short, it would seem that the people of Beauce ~~had~~ don't care for booze.