

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Nazi Germany today came forth with a denial. It concerns the reported Berlin appeal to the United States, with the Nazi press chief saying that only American intervention could avoid the flare-up of savage war, and what he called - "a blood bath." There's no denial that the Berlin press chief did say something of the sort. But now Berlin hastens to explain that this did not mean that Hitler was appealing to President Roosevelt for intervention. It might seem as if the press chief talked a bit out of turn - or maybe it was a trial balloon.

The official word is that Germany's response to the Chamberlain rejection of the Hitler peace proposal will be - consultation with Soviet Russia. Also Italy, says Berlin. We are told there will be a confab between Germany, Russia and Italy,

concerning what the German statement calls - "common defense matters." Rome has not yet been heard from - after all those Italian newspaper attacks launched against Soviet Russia.

On the Allied side, the general expectation seems ~~that~~ that the German army will burst into military action. One curious thing is noted. During several days past, Nazi patrols were exceedingly active in the skirmishing in No Man's Land between ~~the~~ the Maginot and Siegfried Lines. Now suddenly that busy military activity has ceased. Today no German patrols were in action, pushing forward, shooting, skirmishing. A lull - and the French are inclined to think it's a lull before the storm.

FINLAND

(A conference of the northern powers was called today. King Gustav of Sweden invited the Kings of Denmark and Norway and the President of Finland to gather at Stockholm on October Eighteenth.) We are informed that this confabulation of the northern governments is to be held with some hope of doing something to establish peace in Europe. The tone indicates that it is rather a vain hope. (The main purpose will be - a ~~dean~~ demonstration of Scandinavian solidarity. And this, of course, has reference to the peril of Finland.)

A Finnish government statement was issued today, an appeal to Moscow. "There is reason," announces the Helsingfors Government, "to continue the Moscow negotiations in the hope that the Soviet Government will be reasonable and understanding of our attitude."

Those negotiations continued in Moscow today, between the Finnish delegation and the Soviet leaders. We still have no official account of what Stalin is demanding - what sort of concessions he is requiring Finland to make.

DOSCH-FLEUROT

The focus of the news is so much on Finland tonight that I thought it would be a good thing if we had some facts and impressions straight from that gravely threatened little republic of the north. It happens that one of the most famous of European correspondents landed in this country yesterday, fresh from a news-gathering visit to Finland. He's Arno Dosch-Fleurot, whose native state is Oregon, and whose stamping ground for the past twenty-five years has been the troubled areas of Europe.

I myself have known Dosch-Fleurot since the autumn of Nineteen Eighteen - met him of all places, in Berlin, where the revolution was on that overthrew the Kaiswer. We were among the very first outside newspapermen to get into Germany after the Armistice - I through Switzerland, after having crawled under the barriers at the border. Dosch-Fleurot had come from Soviet Russia, where he had been adventuring among the Bolsheviks. And we met in Berlin - two lone Americans.

This European correspondent of wide renown has returned home for a stay, to tell American lecture audiences about the desperate state of affairs in Europe. For the next several months

Dosch -
Fleuret.

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he'll go on a speaking tour far and wide.

Right now Dosch-Fleurot has a report to give us about Finland, a report that will be astonishing to most of us. We've been told that the small Nordic republic would have only a pitiful chance in a fight against huge Soviet Russia, would immediately be crushed. I myself have been saying just that on the air for the past several days. But let's hear what Dosch-Fleurot has to say about it.

D.F.- I'll say just this, Lowell - the Red army is likely to have a real battle on its hands if it attacks Finland. The Finns have an army of several hundred thousand men, and they're full of fight. They'll put up a desperate struggle to save their country.

L.T.: But have they got the equipment, the mechanized, motorized armament - to meet the war machinery of the Soviets?

D.F.: They've got better equipment than you'd suppose. Right next door to them is the great Swedish armament factory

at Bofors, and you can bet that the Swedes have provided the Finns with the best they have. The Bofors plant turns out some of the finest artillery in the world, especially anti-aircraft guns, which the Swedes sell everywhere.

L.T.: So, if it should turn into a fight, the war planes of the Red army won't have things all to themselves. But what about the long frontier between Finland ~~the~~ and the Soviets? It looks wide open on the map, no mountains of any sort. Have the Finns a frontier that is at all defensible?

D.F.: Yes, it is defensible. The country is flat or rolling, but not easy to attack. There are masses of lakes and forest. You'll find thick woodland all the way from Lake Ladoga to Lapland - with only the most primitive roads. The motorized equipment of the Red army won't have much luck in getting through the dense northern forest. Anyway, there'll soon be deep snows up there near the Arctic - to make things harder for tanks and tractor artillery.

L.T.: I saw that General Mannerheim is now in command of the Finnish army. He'll be the leader if the Soviets attack. Field Marshal Baron Karl Gustav Emil Mannerheim, the national hero of Finland. How did he impress you?

D.F.: I'll just say this, Lowell. I first saw him surrounded by staff officers and there was no mistaking the commanding officer - he was that impressive. He was taller than most of the Finns, something Swedish about him - and in military bearing he was as correct as a German general. One look at Mannerheim, and you knew he was the Commander-in-Chief. A couple of years later I saw him in Stockholm at a gala performance of the opera. He was a guest of the King - and the general from Finland looked more regal than the democratic King.

L.T.: So that's the military figure who will rally the Finns to war with Soviet Russia, if need be. And I think, Arno Dosch-Fleurot, that most of us Americans will be heartened to hear that the sturdy northern republic of Finland is not as defenceless as we've been supposing.

BRITISH

The British government today reports German losses both in the air and under the sea. Six Nazi planes shot down or forced ~~to land on the sea in~~ ^{down in the} fighting between aircraft and the British fleet on Monday - so claims the London Admiralty.

This is followed by a story from Copenhagen, in which four German aviators tell their story. ~~She~~ It's a tale of aviation chivalry, such as was so notable during the first World War. The German war aviators say that their plane was one of eighteen which struck from the air at a shipbuilding center in Scotland. Their own bomber was shot down by three British fighters and landed on the water. The three British planes kept circling the sea, waited until they saw the German fliers had got away from their disabled sky craft and into a boat.

Then the Britishers bombed the German plane and destroyed it. *After*

that the British airmen

~~Then they~~ radioed a Danish ship and called it to the rescue of the

four Germans in the boat *who today tell the story.*

Today's British Admiralty report about the undersea, tells of the destruction of German submarines. ~~three of them~~ apparently. It happened today, Friday the thirteenth, an unlucky

day apparently for the raiders of the deep. The Admiralty adds that some of the U-boat sailors were saved.

But the submarines had some success, ^{also} ~~today~~, as the United States liner, the PRESIDENT HARDING, had occasion to find out. The PRESIDENT HARDING was called to the rescue of a French tanker which had been submarined. On the way, the American liner picked up thirty-six survivors of the British steamer HERONSPool, ~~that was~~ a five thousand ton British freighter, torpedoed by a U-boat, all hands rescued. When the PRESIDENT HARDING reached the French tanker which had sent out the original distress call, the tanker was found to be ablaze on the sea, a roaring mass of flames, no sign of the crew.

~~The subject of submarines was discussed by President Roosevelt today, who stated the White House does not give out any newspaper stories unless these have been verified. The President said this in connection with reports of submarine activity in the Caribbean Sea - especially statements that a submarine off Florida had been refueled by two Italian oil tankers.~~

~~"Not verified," said the President - just another example of unconfirmed rumors, of which the White House takes no notice, said he.~~

SPY

Back in the previous wartime, there was a master German spy whose name made headlines - Captain Franz von Rintelin, chief of German espionage in the United States. Today this notorious secret agent of the first World War faced a British tribunal, as the second World War is raging. Present at the proceedings was Admiral Sir Reginald Hall, British Director of Admiralty Intelligence twenty odd years ago. It was he who was responsible for the unmasking of von Rintelin in Nineteen Fifteen.

But no
~~And today~~ the World War master spy *was not* ~~went~~ on trial for his life *today.* He was given a secret hearing, and allowed to go free. He is at large in London tonight. He said the reason he went before the tribunal was to get full permission to go about as he pleased in England. ~~He has not been a German citizen since Hitler took power.~~ Today he described himself as - "a conscientious objector to Naziism." And he went on to say:- "I believe in western Christian civilization, which excludes anti-Semitism." And he added, "I was brought up in a Catholic home."

The one-time spy for the Kaiser declares that he has

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been providing the British Government with important information concerning Nazi ~~plans~~ plans and schemes, and says he has applied for a commission as an officer in the British Army. — the

Kaiser's ace-spy.

SAFETY BAND

We have soothing British word this evening about the safety band which the Pan-American Conference decreed, a belt three hundred miles wide off the coast of the Americas, an area in which warlike activities by belligerent powers are forbidden.

Today, the British Admiralty issued a statement. London is likely to accept the Pan-American restriction voluntarily, out of mere good-will -- without renouncing what it considers to be British legal rights at sea.



RED CROSS

The Red Cross is in the news, in the same old way -
girding itself for works of mercy. ~~SEVERAL~~ Chairman Norman Davis
announces that the Red Cross Committee has increased its
authorization for money to be spent on war relief. An American
delegation is in Europe, surveying the relief situation in the
war areas and this delegation has reported in these words:- "Most
urgent relief needed." So the Red Cross ^{has} ~~has~~ boosted its war
appropriation from a quarter of a million to a million - that
much to aid those who are suffering from ^{this} ~~the~~ war.

DIES

Some more sensational testimony before the Dies Committee, given by Maurice Malkin, who stated that he had been a charter member of the Communist Party of the United States, also a leader of a strike among New York fur workers, a strike directed by the Communists. In this bit of labor trouble he was convicted of felonious assault and served two years in jail. In all of this, the witness identified himself as a one-time prominent member of the American Communist Party; resigned in NineteenThirty-Six.

The merest outline of the testimony that Malkin gave is sensational. He said that in NineteenTwenty-Two, Moscow ordered all members of the American Communist Party to join the unions of the American Federation of Labor. And - "bore from within." That was the phrase used at the time - in Nineteen Twenty-Two. After that there were various Communist shifts in union policy ordered by Moscow.

Malkin gave elaborate evidence to show how various and sundry unions were dominated by the Reds and how all sorts of important people from prominent artists to longshoremen officials, were member of the Communist Party. And he named them. Tonight many of these are

responding with vigorous denials.

Malkin hit a picturesque high-spot, when he connected Communist strike activities with the late Arnold ~~Rotstein~~ Rothstein, the New York gambler who was reputed to have all sorts of underworld ~~underworld~~ connections and was killed mysteriously some years ago.

The witness said that Rothstein had advanced a million, seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars to finance a Communist strike.

"Why did Rothstein lend all that money?" the witness was asked.

"It was a question of how much profit Rothstein could make," he answered.

It certainly sounded odd, the Reds tied up with underworld finance. The testimony grew still hotter when the name of the notorious gambler Rothstein was connected with ~~the~~ New York police officials. The witness said that the Communists bribed the police to the tune of a hundred and ten thousand dollars. He said that between forty and fifty thousand dollars were given to five detectives on what was called the "industrial squad." And he named those detectives. The purpose of the

bribery being to get favorable police action for the Reds and their strike. ^RThis part of the testimony created such a stir that when it became known in New York, Police Commissioner Valentine immediately announced that he was sending a confidential investigator to Washington to study the testimony and ~~in~~ ^{whatever} collaboration ~~with~~ Malkin might be able to give - any proof of the New York Police being bribed by the Communists.

^{All this}
~~That~~ might seem to be enough sensation for any one day of evidence, but the former charter member of the Communist Party went on to state that the Reds had what they called nuclei at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Communist groups deep in the workings of the United States fleet. And he swore that each Communist nucleus gathered secret information about naval affairs, information which was transmitted to Soviet Russia. This, he said, has been going on for years. And once more he named names. He told the Committee that secret information from the Brooklyn Navy Yard went to Moscow through Ogpu agents in the United States. ^HHe said the chief of the Ogpu agents over here was a man named Dirba, who is operating in New York City right now. "Unless," the

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witness added, "unless he has skipped the country since yesterday." Chief OGPU Agent Dirba, he related, collected the American naval ~~SECRET~~ secrets and sent them by messenger to Moscow.

Altogether a fine kettle
of Communist fish.

C.I.O.

Another election of a labor president. Yesterday it was the A.F. of L. reelecting its perennial President, William Green. The C.I.O. is also having a convention, at San Francisco. And today votes were cast. There's no surprise. In a wild forty-five minute demonstration, John L. Lewis was reelected President of the labor organization that he founded. No not fired. That would be news. And Hugh, what news from you?