

P.J. - Sunoco Friday, April 4, 1941.

LABOR

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President Roosevelt today spoke out in the strike situation. He mentioned in particular the Allis-Chalmers walkout, which has lasted so long and produced so much violence. The President stated that the Allis-Chalmers strike constitutes a serious tie-up in the defense program. ~~But it's~~ Bad business, and something has got to be done about it. He intimated that there might be presidential action. The White House attitude still is that the existing mediation machinery should be given a full chance. Let the Mediation Board have its try, but something had better be accomplished quickly. The President said that no long periods of weeks would be allowed. He will give mediation a few days more; ~~to end the strike, and~~ then if it fails - there'll be action. The President did ^{not} say ~~just~~ what kind of action.

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Negotiations in the Ford strike were being delayed. Various things keep cropping up to ^{prevent} ~~keep~~ the Company, the Union and the Federal Conciliator from getting together to talk over a settlement. One factor of delay is the injunction which the Ford Concern obtained last night, an injunction restraining the

Union from stopping people who want to enter or leave the River Rouge plant. Then there are complaints ~~by the Union~~ about conditions inside the plant. There, some Union men are on the job doing maintenance work, according to agreement. And ~~they are~~ ^{these are} having trouble, so say the strikers. They ~~are~~ ^{are} being molested by some hundreds of non-union workers who likewise remain within the strike-bound gates. The claim is made that these non-union workers, mostly negroes, are running wild. They ~~are~~ ^{are} said to be charging around ~~on the grounds~~ ^{inside} in automobiles, wild rides. The Union claims that some have been tearing around in blitz-buggies, those speedy armored cars which Ford has been building for the Army. The C.I.O. demands that the non-union men be removed from the plant, and late today the word was that they will be removed. So stated a C.I.O. leader, who said he had the information from the state Mediation Board.

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Here's the latest word - and it's hopeful: ~~words~~

Federal Conciliator James F. Dewey speaks of the outlook for a settlement of the Ford strike in these terms:- "more hopeful than at any time during the negotiations."

President Roosevelt has ordered the construction of two hundred and twelve merchant vessels for Britain -- and for the other democracies. This was stated by the President today. He added that the freighters will be built in fifty or sixty new shipyards. He was asked -- will this affect the idea of convoying? Will the constructing of so large a number of ships for Britain avoid the need of having American war vessels protect British convoys across the Atlantic? The President didn't say, had no comment to make on that point.

The President revealed that five hundred million dollars of war material has been released to the democracies -- Great Britain and Greece. This is out of existing stocks of the Army and Navy, and does not come under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Bill.

Today's White House press conference produced interesting word on how the war materials are to be got to Greece. The normal route is via the Mediterranean, a dangerous area. The President mentioned the port of Aden on the Red Sea. That port now is in the war zone, as at present defined, and is forbidden to merchant vessels. President Roosevelt indicated that he might decree Aden out of the war zone so that American ships might take military cargoes to that

port. From there it's a reasonably shorthaul from the Suez Canal to eastern Mediterranean waters. So, aid to Greece is to be routed around South Africa, and north via Suez.

SHIPS

It's hardly news to say that the United States today rejected the German and Italian protests because of the seizure of the ships. It was a foregone conclusion that this nation would rebuff the complaint. So the principal interest is to scan the terms in which Secretary of State Cordell Hull makes his reply to the Ambassadors of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

In the case of Germany, the Secretary of State refers to what he calls -- "extreme assertions and demands." This characterizes the request made in the German protest that the ships taken over be returned to their crews at once. Secretary Hull refers to the sabotage aboard the seized ships as a violation of American hospitality. We granted the hospitality of our ports, and we are repaid with a violation of our laws.

The State Department tone in replying to the German protest is more stern and severe than in response to the Italian complaint. Yes -- the reply to the Italian protest is milder, and that's interesting -- because the number of Italian ships that were sabotaged is twenty-five, while only one German vessel was damaged. At New Orleans today, a federal grand jury indicted sixty-four officers and men of the crew of two Italian ships that were wrecked. They are

charged with conspiracy to commit acts against the United States.

President Roosevelt, at his press conference today, said it has been clearly proved that a great deal of the sabotage was ordered by the Italian Naval Attache -- Admiral Lais. The recall of the Attache has been requested, but it appears that Admiral Lais has not yet received orders from his government to return home. He will remain here until the formalities of his recall are complete. Then, so they say, he may find it difficult to return to Italy, - because of the hazards of wartime travel. His wife is going to stay here. This was revealed today. She's an American -- daughter of a New York family. She was a music student in Rome, when shortly after the World War she met the naval officer - Lais. He had made a name for himself during the war, and had won the distinguished service cross of Great Britain. There's some irony in that, as there is also in a statement often made by Admiral Lais -- that he is seventy-five per cent American. And now, he is being sent back, persona non grata, because he instigated the sabotage of the ships, acting against the United States in a war crisis.

His wife said today that she'll remain, and her nineteen year old daughter will apply for American citizenship.

ARRESTS

The State Department revealed today that one of the eight Americans recently arrested in Berlin was an employee of the United States Embassy. And Washington makes a protest to Berlin for the following reason:- It's diplomatic courtesy to inform an embassy in advance if any member of its personnel is to be arrested. This courtesy was not observed by the Hitler secret police, the notorious Gestapo.

JUGOSLAVIA

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The Yugoslav situation still remains poised. Today Matchek, the leader of the Croats, took his oath of office as Vice-Premier in the Belgrade Cabinet. This seals an important act of Yugoslav unity. The Croats are a powerful minority, often at odds with the Serbs, and if they fail to join in the resistance to Nazi demands, that resistance would be fairly hopeless. Hence, the importance of the oath of office by the Croat leader today. ^H The Yugoslavs are mobilizing at a feverish pace. Today train service throughout the country was cancelled for an indefinite period - clearing all lines for troop trains. The Yugoslavs believe the Nazi attack may come at any moment.

The ^{Hitler} ~~Nazi~~ press today screamed louder than ever about Yugoslav atrocities against Germans, a familiar prelude to a Nazi attack. And there's mobilization in Turkey, a summoning of the full army ^{ed} strength of the nation. Turkish troops are streaming to the Bulgarian border, where the German army stands in force.

Belgrade buzzed with a sensational rumor today, a report about what is described as - "a large group of Hungarian political ~~xxx~~ leaders." These are said to include the Regent, Admiral Horthy.

~~What are these Hungarian leaders about to do?~~ The Belgrade rumor is that they are about to flee from their country and take refuge in Jugoslavia. This ties in with the commonly ~~expe~~ accepted belief about the suicide yesterday of the Hungarian Premier - that his act was a protest against Nazi demands that Hungary join with Germany in an attack on Jugoslavia.

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LIBYA

British empire air forces were in action all day in Libya, bombing the German and Italian armored columns that forced the evacuation of Benghazi. London estimates are that the Nazis ^{now} have possibly three motorized divisions in North Africa, with two more in Sicily - ready to cross when they get a chance. Cairo describes the Axis columns as consisting largely of mechanized infantry - but little aircraft cooperation, with the support of tanks, and observe that they have driven a hundred and ninety miles in ten days. ^{And} The Empire forces ^{may} have retired still further, - according to Cairo. A high British military spokesman said today, "If they push on, we will withdraw until they reach the place where the commander-in-chief thinks the battle can best be given." And he added: "Let them come, we are ready for them."

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The British are discounting the loss of Benghazi by saying that the abandonment of territory doesn't mean much in the campaign of the burning sands. Military quarters points out that desert warfare resembles sea warfare, in which forces advance and then withdraw. It is a mistake to attach any importance to geographical gains or losses in desert fighting, ^{So} say military men at Cairo.

ITALIAN DESTROYERS

Two more Italian destroyers have gone to the bottom in the East African area. The British Admiralty reports that these two were scuttled by their own crews off the coast of Arabia. They were fleeing the port of Massawa in the Italian colony of Eritrea. That East African colony is being rapidly overrun by the British and Massawa apparently is about to fall. So the two destroyers in the harbor put to sea attempting a get-away. No chance, however, and they were sunk by their own crew^s.

This brings the number of Italian destroyer losses in that region up to five. Two were blasted by British aircraft, and still another was lost in action. Only one Italian destroyer remains to be accounted for, and the British are hunting for it. Also, they are seeking a couple of torpedo boats and several submarines. These are all that are left of the small fleet that the Italians had in their east African province.

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ETHIOPIA

The British report that in Ethiopia native troops ~~of the~~
~~Italians~~ ^{the Italians} are deserting, in large numbers, and there are ^{graver} ~~greater~~
possibilities than ever ^{of} ~~that there may be~~ a massacre of Italian
soldiers and colonists by the natives. More than ever, the question
is raised, will the Italian Viceroy, the Duke of Aosta, surrender
the Fascist East African empire to save the people from the rage
of the tribes - or whether the Italians will insist on a last
stand resistance. The British are closing in on all sides, and are
now reported at the Awash River, only ninety-seven miles from the
capital city of Addis Ababa.

MEXICO

The drama of a man ordering the prosecution of his brother was witnessed in Mexico today - and in the highest political circles. The ^{top}~~highest~~ personality concerned is the President of Mexico himself - Avila Camacho. He today ordered the police to prosecute his own youngest brother for killing a man.

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The affair of homicide occurred at a refreshmen^t stand in Mexico City, a well known place near the American Embassy. The young ^{er}~~er~~ Camacho, an army captain, got into an altercation with a wealthy citizen, a member of a prominent Mexico City jewelry family. The two men clashed with blows, and the brother of the President drew his pistol, shot and killed.

The younger Camacho was arrested, and today his elder brother, the President, sent an order to the Mexican chief of police - "prosecute the case to the fullest extent of the law."

TELEGRAM

In Washington, a man named O'Hara has put in a claim against ^a ~~the~~ Telegraph Company. He wants a thousand dollars to make up for a lot of trouble that came to him, because of a mix-up in a telegram. You know, how sometimes you send a wire, and the message on the other end turns out to be not exactly the same. It seems that O'Hara sent a telegram to the girl friend at Manhasset, New York. The message was nothing commonplace, none of those prosey and uninspired statements saying - "~~HOPEXX~~" "Am having a good time, wish you were here." O'Hara compounded something sprightly, something that sparkled with the wit for which the Irish are famous. The telegram he wrote for delivery to the girl friend was as follows: "Nothing but the best ^{for} ~~from~~ the best - from the world's worst red-headed Irishman."

That was gay and rollicking, but the way it came out at the other end was still gayer and a lot more rollicking.

The message the girl friend got read this way:- "Nothing better to wish the world's best lover - than lots of luck from the world's worst lover, the red-headed Irishman."

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You can imagine how the girl friend felt when she read that! Especially in a small town where ^{nearly} everybody knows ^{all about} ~~of~~ ^{the} telegram you ~~may~~ get. The part about the best lover and the worst lover is what hurt the most.

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Today's complaint charges that the mistake the Telegraph Company made caused the lady the following injury - "much humiliation and embarrassment among friends and associates who held her up to contempt and ridicule." It also caused the red-headed Irishman a good deal of woe - because the girl friend ceased to be his girl friend any longer. So he demands damages, and hereafter whenever he sends a telegram to a lady it'll be on --- such as strictly conventional lines - "Many happy returns of the Day."

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Or - "Best wishes to you and yours," or meet my Sunoco friend Hugh James.