

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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The news today pictures a hugely interesting event - which may be happening right now. The Presidential yacht POTOMAC is somewhere out on the Atlantic, and Winston Churchill may be aboard. This is only a possibility based on rumor. But the indications from London today were insistent - that the Prime Minister of Great Britain may have flown by plane to confer at sea with the President of the United States. *Anyhow* ~~That is such a beguiling supposition,~~ ~~that~~ it is worth considering the evidence in detail - as one might scan the clues in a mystery story.

Last Sunday President Roosevelt set sail from New London, Connecticut, under conditions of deep dark secrecy. The yacht POTOMAC put out to sea under a naval escort. Some kind of vacation voyage, we heard, rather indefinitely. It would be - "a newsless cruise", we were told. There wouldn't be any flash of news bulletins from the POTOMAC. And both the White House and the Secretary of the Navy asked

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the newspapermen not to speculate on the whereabouts or destination of the President during the voyage. Today we had only a navy radio dispatch, ~~xxxTodayxxxxxx~~ saying that the cruise was continuing to what was called - "an unknown destination." So there's the first element in the mystery plot - a secret voyage.

Today in London, a rather cryptic story appeared in ~~the DAILY MAIL, published by Lord Beaverbrook - who ranks so high in the Churchill government.~~ The DAILY MAIL ~~told~~ about what it called - "a very high personage." This very high personage was preparing to fly to the United States to see President Roosevelt. ^{Who was he?} ~~This promptly aroused speculation as to who the very high personage might be, and~~ The prompt London supposition was- Lord Beaverbrook, or perhaps the Prime Minister himself.

This was followed by an event in the House of Commons, where Major Clement Attlee arose to make a statement in behalf of Prime Minister Churchill. He announced that Churchill would not attend a big debate soon to be held in the Commons. "Will not find it convenient", were the words used. The debate in question will concern the conduct of the war - a full dress parliamentary discussion of the

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utmost importance. London immediately inferred that the Prime Minister would not stay away from such an event, unless he were engaged in some business of the ^{greatest} ~~utmost~~ consequence. That surmise was promptly confirmed by a statement from what are called - "authoritative sources."

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The Churchill absence ^{was} ~~is~~ explained in these words:- "preoccupation of urgent matters connected with the war." So where was Churchill?

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That promptly was tied in with another question - Where was Harry Hopkins? The personal emissary of President Roosevelt has been something of a mystery man during the past few days. Last week he was in Moscow conferring with Stalin, giving Stalin a pledge of aid from President Roosevelt. Since then there has been no news of Hopkins, ^{save} ~~save~~ ^{has} that he returned to England. His whereabouts there have been a secret.

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Today ~~the~~ British spokesman made this rather enigmatic statement:- "You 'll find Hopkins where Churchill is." He said the two men were together at some place which could not be revealed.

And London expressed the surmise more and more - that Churchill and Hopkins had flown out to sea to the yacht of the President of the United States. So that right now the interesting event may be

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transpiring - a meeting between Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. Inquiries in Washington bring neither confirmation nor denials - no comment. So it's a London guess, and it will be interesting to see if there's anything to it.

WAR

The war news all day dwelt upon new Nazi thrusts into the Soviet line. From the south to north they are as follows:- In the Ukraine, the German high command reports the encirclement of large Soviet forces. These are described as having been hemmed in by two drives that closed around in a pincers movement. ⁷⁶ ~~This~~ Ukraine advance seems to have some confirmation from the Soviet side - in a proclamation by Marshal Budenny, Soviet Commander in the southern sector. Today he called upon the people to fight guerrilla warfare and destroy everything - in the path of the invaders.

"Leave not one ounce of bread for the enemy", said ~~the~~ he.

The Germans tell of another break-through and encirclement in the center sector, the Smolensk area. They claim to have ^{trapped} ~~encircled~~ Soviet units sixty-two miles southeast of Smolensk.

In the north, where the Red army is defending Leningrad - there's evidence of a new sixty mile drive by the forces of the blitzkrieg. This is revealed in rather ^{oblique} ~~bleak~~ fashion by today's Soviet war communique. Moscow tells of a successful defense at a place called Kohlm. The last previous point that the Red army mentioned in that area was a town called Novorzhev, which is sixty

miles west of Kohlm. This seems to imply that a German column has driven to that distance, sixty miles.

In the Baltic area, Berlin reports the capture of the town of Tapa, in Esthonia, a railroad center. This they say isolates the Soviet forces in the region of Tallinn, capital of Esthonia.

Still further north, in Finland, Helsinki states that the Finns and Germans are advancing. But we hear a report that the Red army is assembling a huge force for a counter-offensive - and that this counter-offensive is likely to be hurled against Finland.

SOVIET EMBASSY

Berlin comes forth today with a fantastic story about the Soviet Embassy in Paris. The Nazis declare that they've ~~searched the large imposing building that had been the Paris headquarters of Red diplomacy, and claim that they~~ made sensational discoveries in it. The story reads like something out of a melodramatic shocker.

They say the Soviet Embassy in Paris was equiped with armor-plated doors - controlled electrically. And there were secret observation windows - cunningly placed for spying on things that were happening. They say the place was stocked with a weird lot of apparatus - from machine guns to sinister chemical paraphernalia for the use of acids. - ~~stuff to dissolve things.~~ There were bottles of poison, handcuffs - and an electrical incinerator for destroying human bodies. ^{It} So say the Germans, and they express the belief that their discovery solves a famous mystery of several years back. The strange disappearance of two White Russian generals, who were heads of a White Russian organization operating against the Stalin regime. They vanished, and there was a

SOVIET EMBASSY - 2

lot of outcry and investigation - but no trace was ever found of them. The Nazis profess to believe that the mystery of the two White Russian generals is to be explained by the electrical incinerator found in the Soviet Embassy in Paris - that's how the two generals disappeared without trace.

JAPAN

2 Japan reveals that a clash has occurred between the Japanese and Soviet armies. There have been rumors of fighting on the border of Japanese-controlled Manchukuo and Soviet Siberia. Tokyo now says - yes, but represents the affair as of little importance. A Japanese spokesman today said that two weeks ago, some Red army troops crossed into Japanese territory and a few shots were exchanged. One Japanese soldier was wounded.

Tokyo has made a demand on a South American country - Ecuador. The Japanese want Ecuador to apologize for what Tokyo considers anti-Japanese acts. This word comes from the official Japanese news agency and contains one curious item - a report that the Japanese participated in the recent war between Ecuador and Peru. Ecuadorians claiming the Japanese soldiers fought in the Peruvian army. Which does sound picturesque. Anyway, Tokyo claims that because of these rumors, there were anti-Japanese acts in Ecuador - one subject of the Mikado barely escaping with his life.

MANIFESTO

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A manifesto was issued today of prominent leaders of the Republican Party and other headline personalities. It calls upon the United States to put a stop to moves that threaten to get us into the European war.

The statement declares that the purpose of the Lend-Lease Bill has been exceeded, that giving economic aid to Britain has been followed by naval action and the promise of Soviet aid to Russia.

"Recent events," says the declaration, "raise doubt that this war is a clear-cut issue of liberty and democracy. It is not purely a conflict between tyranny and freedom. "The Anglo-Russian alliance," the manifesto continues, ~~has~~ "has dissipated that illusion." In other words, with Stalin in the war - it's not a fight for freedom and democracy. That's the contention of the signers of the declaration, who continue as follows:- "Few people honestly believe that the Axis is now or will be in the future in a position to threaten the independence of any part of this hemisphere, if our defenses are properly prepared."

The statement was issued by former Governor Lowden of Illinois, and is signed by fourteen others. These include

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Ex-President Hoover, former Vice-President Dawes, one-time Republican candidate Alfred M. Landon, former Republican National Committee Chairman Fletcher, John Lewis of the C.I.O., Author and Humorist Irvin Cobb, and Opera Singer Geraldine Farrar.

An ~~the~~ echo of this kind of opinion was heard in the House of Representatives today. Congressman Anderson of California declared that a tremendous majority of the American people are opposed to any close alliance with Soviet Russia, and he called for a ban on Communist activities in the United States.

SERVICE

The Senate today defeated the Taft Amendment to the Bill to extend the training term under selective service. Senator Taft of Ohio proposed that the soldiers taken by subscription should not be kept in the army for more than eighteen months. That would have added six months to the original term of a year. The Senate said -- no, by a majority of fifty to twenty-seven. So they're sticking to the bill now under consideration, which would expand the original term of one year to a period of two and a half years.

OIL

On the oil front, today's news features the term -- pipeline. Oil Coordinator Ickes states that work will be rushed on a projected pipeline from Portland, Maine, to Montreal Canada. Aid to Britain, oil supplies for the manufacture of British munitions - that's the purpose.

Ickes stated the pipeline to Canada will be given - the highest possible priority. There's a shortage of steel and machinery -- the kind of equipment needed for the construction. But the pipeline will be given the first choice, the right of way.

The shortage in the east will apparently be alleviated somewhat, by the pipeline from Maine to Canada. This, when completed, will release three and a half oil tankers, which are now ferrying oil to Montreal.

Here's a story about the gasoline curfew that had to be expected - something that had to happen. At Boston, in the early hours of today, Frank Callahan got out the family car, put his wife into it, and started for the hospital. Not such a new experience for Frank, because there were ten children in the Callahan family already.

Sure enough, a mile from the hospital, the motor sputtered and stopped. Out of gas. Nearby was a filling station, but it was closed, so Mr. Callahan had to hitch a hike for the Missus. He hailed half a dozen automobiles, before he finally got a lift. The latest from the hospital is -- mother and daughter are doing nicely.

Here's the latest:- a s trike vote has been ordered in the railroad unions. The companies today rejected wage increases And the Railway Union Leaders gave the order for a strike vote.

UNION

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There was a lively bit of dramatics today at the Convention of the United Automobile Workers Union. The U.A.W. is meeting at Buffalo and a showdown is expected between the Communist and anti-Communist elements. One point at issue is that headline strike a few months ago of the North American Aviation Company in California. The walkout was denounced as being incited by the Communists - and was broken by the United States Army when the Government took over the plant. Foremost in opposing that California aviation strike was Richard Frankenstein, Director of the aviation division of the Auto Workers Union. And, at the convention now in session, he's the leader of the anti-Communist element.

Today there was a lively slap in the direction of Frankenstein - a bit of dramatic stage play. The California delegation is against him, and on the table where they sat appeared - lines of toy soldiers with miniature tanks and guns. The symbolism was obvious - a reference to Frankenstein's attitude toward the strike which the Army broke.

When Frankenstein^e saw the toy army on the table, he was disconcerted not a bit. He jumped to the public address microphone, and shouted, "I just want to say in regard to that display - that I'd rather have the American flag which those soldiers represent, than the Red flag of Moscow." ^{ff} The significant part of it is that he got an ovation from the U.A.W. convention. His blast against the Red flag of Moscow was applauded for five minutes. ~~xxxx~~ This was taken as a possible ^{hint of the} outcome of the fight between the Communist and anti-Communist factions of the Union.

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Here's the latest. The convention got around to a test vote on ^a ~~the~~ question of seating a group of delegates. The issue was between the Right Wing and the Left. And the conservatives won the vote by a large majority.

BASEBALL

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Today at Cleveland, some doctors announced a fact that was already perfectly well known to the batters in the American League. Namely - that Bobby Feller is physically fit. That ace young pitcher of the Cleveland Indians has been called under the Selective Service and had his physical examination today. "There's not a thing wrong with him," said the doctor. "He's A-One physically." I suppose the doctor found that Bobby's right arm is ^{most} physically fit ~~most~~ of all.

The sensational young pitcher has stated his position in these words: "ready at any time for the call." Will he be able to finish the baseball season before being called for service? The general opinion is that he has got about an even chance of pitching his remaining quota of games.

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The American League batters would like to see Bobby doing "squads right" tomorrow.

And now Maj. Gen. Hugh,

9 1/4 Carry on!