

L.T. SUNOCO. MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1940

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am in Philadelphia tonight. In a ringside seat at the G.O.P. convention. Never were issues of such world shattering importance hanging upon even a Republican convention. And that's reflected everywhere you go in the City of Brotherly Love.

There's a different spirit in the air from Cleveland, four years ago. An electric feeling of tension, anxiety, in the atmosphere.

The grapevine report tonight is that there'll be unanimous agreement in the Resolutions Committee on that ~~xi~~ ticklish and vital plank -- foreign policy. The plank is not yet finally drafted, the final job has to be done tomorrow. Sub-committees

have been at work today, ~~batting out a tentative platform~~

As a result of their work, it's apparently safe to say that the foreign policy plank will pledge the Republicans to peace plus preparedness.

The capitulation of France threw the Committee on the horns of a ticklish dilemma, the dilemma about giving aid to the Allies. There are Republicans who have expressed themselves as in favor of helping the Allies. But after the surrender of France there are no Allies. That problem will be got around by putting the party on record as promising aid to all ^{oppressed} ~~oppressed~~ peoples.

There never was a more difficult job for platform writers. For that particular plank had to reconcile Republicans whose opinions about the war in Europe and our relation to it, seemed ~~seem~~ to be oceans apart, the hundred per cent isolationists and those who wanted to give aid to the Allies.

The sub-committee that wrote this compromise was headed by the man whom the Republicans nominated last year, former Governor Alf Landon of Kansas. It included men as isolationist as the late Senator Borah as well as those who

wanted to throw in every possible aid short of war to beat Hitler and Mussolini. The plank also pledges the Republicans to increase the national defenses, planes, ships and guns and trained men, so as to protect the entire Western Hemisphere and enforce the Monroe Doctrine. It also levels the criticism at President Roosevelt that his provocative notes to Europe threaten to involve the United States in war.

~~And~~ And now to leave
Phila for a moment.
What about Europe?

WAR

48
Six weeks ago, Adolf Hitler, the Nazi Fuehrer, started his blitzkrieg. Tonight, at the end of those six weeks, the Republic of France is no longer at war.

There have been other periods in history that were full of drama and yet surprisingly short. For instance, those meteoric hundred days which followed Napoleon's escape from Elba. But, never was there a series of events so catastrophic, so swift and so brief as the six weeks that it took the Nazis to knock out Holland, Belgium and all the once mighty power of France.

In less than a hour from now, the generals of Nazi Hitler and Fascist Mussolini will sound the order - cease firing! Every fighting man in France will lay down his arms, a courageous but hopelessly ~~xxxxxxx~~ beaten army.

49
The end came in sight at one thirty-five this afternoon, that is, one thirty-five Eastern Daylight time in America, seven thirty-five in Rome. It was at that moment that the French delegates, headed by General Huntziger, signed the terms ^{stipulated} enforced by Mussolini. ^{and} All hostilities were to cease

after six hours from that minute. *So the dreadful carnage ends - in France, But at what a cost!*

All Frenchmen, though at peace, will be virtually prisoners. Oh, they will have their own civil government, but with Nazi and Fascist commissars looking over their shoulders. Even a certain number of French troops will ~~be~~ still ^{be mobilized,} ~~in~~ ^{just} mobilization, enough to preserve order. But ~~to~~ all intents and purposes, France, so long one of the great strongholds of liberty, will be virtually one huge prison camp.

Of course all this has appeared inevitable from that tragic moment one week ago, when the world heard Henri Petain, Premier and Marshal of France, announce that his country could fight no more. Actually, as our hindsight tells us now, it had been inevitable from the moment war was declared. It was inevitable from the time the Allies permitted Germany to rearm under the frenetic spell of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi idea.

Military experts over here are claiming that the Nazi and Fascist terms imposed on France are moderate from a military standpoint. From the standpoint of the rest of us, they are pitiful, crushing, devastating. For the time being,

49
50

France's entire seaboard on the English Channel, on the Atlantic Coast and along the Mediterranean will be in the hands of foreign soldiers. The Petain Government can govern from anywhere it pleases, under the Nazi thumb. It can even return to Paris, under Nazi supervision.

The military soothsayers point to an interesting fact about the French fleet. Hitler does not propose to try to use it to fight France's former allies, the British.

But the experts declare that he makes this conditions because he can't do anything else. It means, they say, that he realizes he ~~can't~~ ^{could not} get surrendered French warships through the British blockade into German waters. Moreover, it is believed that even if he could get them into German waters, he wouldn't have the officers and men to operate them.

51
As a matter of fact, ~~the~~ ^{this} business of ~~surrender~~ ^{the} of the French fleet leaves a great many people wondering. Will the French officers and their crews obey the command of the Petain Government to come back to France and surrender their ~~ships~~ ^{men o'war} to the Nazis? General Charles deGaulle, the Ex-Minister

who took refuge in London, announced that he had reason to believe that the men of the French navy would not give up their ships.

^W Again, if the commanding officers of the fleet were inclined to obey, would the British admirals permit it?

There is another significant point in those terms.

The Nazis and Fascists allow the French to retain part of their fleet to protect the colonial interests of France. That is taken to mean that the Rome-Berlin Axis now looks upon France as a virtual ally, though an unwilling one.

And that's the attitude taken in no uncertain phrase

by the British. London declares unequivocally that the terms accepted by the Petain government makes France a virtual ally of Hitler and Mussolini. In fact, the Churchill government goes within an ace of declaring war on the Petain government. It has withdrawn its recognition of Petain and his colleagues and announces that from now on, the British government will deal with the committee in London, headed by General deGaulle. Ex-Premier Paul Reynaud probably will be on that committee to carry on the war outside of France.

The outcome of all this now is a tragic succession of recriminations and counter-recriminations between the former

52

allies. The Petain government replies to London with ^{acid} ~~passive~~ complaint that the British war efforts were insufficient, that ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{London} government tried to wage war in accordance with the traditions and ^{with} compromises. There is vehement criticism in Bordeaux of the former French ministers now in London, especially George Mandel and General deGaulle. Incidentally, General deGaulle has been officially rebuked, reduced in rank to a colonel, and will be court-martialled in his absence for his failure to obey orders and come home.

4
53
Long after ^{the} cables had flashed us the news of the final signing of the Armistice, it also brought us bulletin after bulletin of further disasters to French arms. Nazi communiques continued to flash out cries of triumph. ~~xxxxxx~~
In the heart of the Vosges Mountains, ~~the~~ advancing Nazi armies captured an entire army corps at Donon, north of Colmar, on the Maginot Line. The Nazis announced that they had taken twenty thousand prisoners, including the commanding general, three divisional commanders, one thousand officers and twelve complete artillery detachments. ~~ff~~ Once again the Nazi high command is

growing about the booty captured from the French.

On the Italian front, the Fascists also announce that they have penetrated the French line. In some places they were attacking the French from the rear while the Nazis were crushing them from the front.

The Italian front was 150 miles long - from the Alps to the Mediterranean.

But all that slaughter is over now, or at least will be within the hour. And now the French are sitting down once more to the humiliation they suffered sixty-nine years ago, ~~in~~ ^{lated} the military occupation by enemy troops.

54
—

DIES

A Trojan Horse in the Middle West! That's the sensation offered today by Congressman Dies, Chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee. A good many people have been given to understand that the so-called Fifth-Column business was confined mostly to the eastern seaboard. Pursuing the work of his Committee, Chairman Dies has been traveling. He was in Chicago today, and declared that his Committee's investigators had found the Middle West a regular hotbed of Fifth Column conspiracy. Therefore, he has issued subpoenas for forty or fifty people, members of three German organizations and two Italian societies. And Dies added that his agents have been watching Communist, Nazi and Fascist outfits in the prairie states for six months.

Reporters asked him what German and Italian organizations he had been investigating. That he refused to answer for the time being, but he proclaimed that they're as bad as anything in Europe and he added that the United States right now has a greater system of foreign espionage within its borders than France or England ever had.

Dies has begun to spread his investigation to cover the

Mexican border ~~line~~ in Texas. He declared today that he has big surprises in store for us regarding ~~the~~ Nazi propaganda ^{and} Fifth Column plots that are ^{right now} being fomented south of the Rio Grande.

Philadelphia, the man who is to speak tomorrow night, the man whom so many are looking toward in this time of world crisis, *the* former President ^{Herbert} Hoover.

If Dewey and Taft can get together, ~~xxxxxx~~ well, it is easy to see what would happen. But the political wise men are saying that unless they do their getting together before the balloting it will be too late; and then, the others — Vandenberg, Willkie, and ~~Mr.~~ Hoover will be in the running. So, *perhaps you can see why I am in a* ~~you can see from what I have said that I am indeed in a~~ daze. ^{TP} I wish you could all, well, one or two at a time, stand with me for a ^{while} ~~minute~~ in the lobby of the Bellevue-Stratford. Although some of the candidates have their main headquarters in other hotels they nearly all have, ~~also,~~ rooms at the Bellevue. The National Committee offices are there. The broadcasting chains have their headquarters in the Bellevue. Also, the press;—the U.P., A.P., ~~xxx~~ I.N.S., and the telegraph companies. ^{And,} ~~In fact,~~ everybody seems to be milling around in the lobby of the Bellevue. If you stand ~~there~~ long enough you will meet every person

57

connected with this convention. As Alice Longworth and ~~XXXXXXXX~~
Eleanor Roosevelt, Colonel Theodore's wife, said to me a few
moments ago "Why, it [']is more exciting here than it is at the
Convention Hall".

And
~~There~~ there is a double thrill to a national
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ convention for many of us: The thrill of watching
the greatest American show; and, the thrill ~~ex~~ of seeing so
many of ~~your~~ old friends. As you stand in the lobby of the
hotel, you get a slap on the back and when you turn around
it [']is an old pal from Texas. Someone grabs you by the elbow
and it turns out to be Bert Mattei from Honolulu. You
put your ~~head~~ head in a room where you hear clicking
typewriters and there ~~are~~ Damon Runyon and Bugs Baer, in
their shirt sleeves, ripping out their stories. You come
around a marble column and bump into Boake Carter and around
the next one into Wythe Williams. You get into an elevator
and encounter Congressmen and Senators. You get off ~~at~~
a floor upstairs and ~~inx~~ in the crowd trying to jam into the
~~elxx~~ elevator for the trip down you see George Sokolsky,

58

~~the~~ famous writer and speaker ^{looking as tho' he} ~~who apparently~~ has lost
thirty or forty pounds during this first day of the Convention.

58 1/2
A moment later you bump into the head of one of the largest
corporations in America, ^{you} ask him who he ^{is} for and he pulls

his button out of his pocket saying that he is not wearing
it, ^{for the reason that he is} ~~well, since he is~~ called an "economic royalist", ^{so} perhaps
it wouldn't do his favorite any good if he wore the button.

Committee
And one lovely gray-haired ~~Congress~~ woman, Grace Rennolds
from Indiana ^{you of how you} came up to remind ~~me~~ ~~that we~~ were in school
together thirty years ago.

I could go on indefinitely telling of ~~little~~
incidents, and people ~~that I have~~ met. But in this hour
of world crisis ^{that} ~~is~~ all seems too unimportant. You are
anxious to know who the candidate will be. And, right now
no man knows.

59
59 1/4
But Hugh, what
do you know?