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There was drama today in a Congressional hearing on the lend-lease bill. Striking and dramatic statements were made, sharpened by clashing arguments. Then the committee session ended in a lively row. ^H The witness was Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, and it was he who provided the headline statements. He declared that the war situation today was more ^{for us} critical than it was in Nineteen Seventeen -- when the United States entered the World War against the Kaiser's Germany.

Another arresting pronouncement was that if Great Britain lost the war the United States would be in what the Secretary called -- "very great danger of invasion by air." He did not go into any detail on the theme of -- ~~the possible~~ invasion ~~of this country~~ by air. ^{So could} How can it happen? Could the Nazis send troops across the ocean by transport planes and land them on our American shores? We are not told.

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As ^{the} question of this nation getting into the war, he said: "The problem to me is not so much keeping America out of the war as keeping the war out of America." ^{So spoke} Secretary Stimson, ~~said~~. This line of thought was developed in a clash between the

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Secretary of War and Congressman Hamilton Fish, who is a member of the House Foreign Relations Committee. Said the Congressman to the Secretary: "If Great Britain is our first line of defense, do you favor going into the war?"

"I am in favor," replied Stimson, "of assisting Great Britain to maintain her fleet."

"Aren't we cowardly in not going in?" suggested Congressman Fish.

Stimson would not be drawn out on that point. "Oh, I'm not going into that, ^{in that way} in discussing this bill," he passed it off.

The liveliest bit of verbal fireworks between the Congressman and the Secretary concerned the President's power to transfer American warships to a foreign nation -- Great Britain for example. Hamilton Fish questioned Henry Stimson along that line, and drew an answer that the lease-lend bill under consideration would indeed give the President the authority to transfer any part of the United States Navy to a foreign nation. The Secretary said that he would object to any amendment forbidding the President to transfer parts of the navy to the British. ^{TP} Such an amendment,

in fact, was proposed in Congress today.)

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Representative Costello of California demanded that the President ~~shall~~ be restricted in the matter of transferring warships to other nations, remove the possibility of what the Congressman called "Giving away the entire Navy."

The Fish-Stimson argument went on to the question of whether the bill would give the President the right to put the Navy into the European war. Secretary Stimson said Yes, using these words: "He would have the power to send the Navy into the heart of the war."

That provoked a rather startling retort from Ham Fish. "Yes," he shouted back, "but he couldn't get away with it without impeachment."

To this Stimson responded by saying that Fish was attempting a violent interpretation of the Constitution, just as he was attempting a violent interpretation of the lease-lend bill.

The Stimson-Fish altercation was followed by a Fish-Bloom battle of words. Congressman Bloom, Chairman of the Foreign

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Relations Committee, stepped in with an objection to the way
Congressman Fish has invited witnesses to appear before the
committee -- invitations to Wendell Willkie, ^{retiring} Ambassador Joe
Kennedy and others. Fish wired them, suggesting that they
testify concerning what he called -- "the President's Dictator
bill." Chairman Bloom objected in these words: "If you invited
people to testify on the President's Dictator bill you're wrong --
because there isn't such a bill." There was a stir in the
committee room as Bloom continued shouting: "Don't give out those
statements when I'm not here. Only the committee can invite
witnesses."

"You can't invite witnesses either," Fish retorted.

It's not the Chairman who can invite them, it's the committee."

They couldn't reach any decision on the point, so the
meeting adjourned. The word was that the committee would meet
later on and come to some conclusion on the witness question --
who was to be permitted to invite whom.

The committee has a message from ex-President Herbert
Hoover, who thinks that there should be a clear definition of the

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powers the President would have under the bill to lease or lend armament. The ex-President says that on this point the public is what he called -- "apprehensive and confused." They are afraid that President Roosevelt would have the authority to involve the United States in the war -- without a formal declaration of war by Congress. "Let me repeat," Herbert Hoover writes to the committee, "that I am in favor of extending every practicable aid, short of war, to Britain, to enable her to maintain her independence." *Then he added: -* "I do not approve of our joining in the war."

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The public demand that we stay out ~~of the war~~ is to be made by Joseph P. Kennedy, retiring Ambassador to Great Britain. There *has* been all sorts of gossip about what Kennedy has been saying. Now he's going to put his attitude on the record -- in a radio address. *Kennedy* ~~But he~~ called at the White House today and had a conference with President Roosevelt. Upon emerging he said he told the President about his intention to campaign against joining the war. "What was President Roosevelt's reaction?" a newspaperman asked. "Why don't you ask the President?" Kennedy shot back.

So we don't know the Rooseveltian reaction to

5 | Kennedy's keep-out-of-the-war radio speech *that will come*
on Saturday.

Colonel Lindbergh today denied that he had any connection with the No Foreign War Committee. ^{The Lone Eagle} He said he had agreed to speak

for that group which is involved in so much controversy, ^{but he added} ~~by the~~ [^] ~~the~~ [^] that the conditions he prescribed were never met. "I have at no time been

a member of the Committee nor have I contributed to its financial support," ^{said Lindy.} This is confirmed by Chairman Verne Marshall. "Colonel

Lindbergh," he says, "is not associated with the No Foreign War Committee, and never was."

Another setback for the group comes along in the statement by the Mayor of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His name was in the articles of Incorporation of the committee, but now he steps out. ["] ~~He~~ [^] signed the articles of Incorporation before [^] ~~he~~ was aware of the true nature of the committee," says Mayor Hahn of Cedar Rapids.

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BATTLE

The London Admiralty today made a new disclosure concerning the sea and sky battle which has been reported piece-meal for days. The Cruiser Southampton was lost in the clash of planes and ships -- went down. In the London dispatch that we had last night it was stated the Southampton had been damaged, along with the great aircraft carrier ILLUSTRIOUS and the destroyer HMS GALLANT. Now the British Admiralty states that the SOUTHAMPTON was hit so hard by Nazi dive bombers that she was sunk by her own crew. The bombs set her afire, and the fire could not be controlled. No chance of towing the SOUTHAMPTON to port. So the crew abandoned ship, and the SOUTHAMPTON, one of the crack units of the British navy, disappeared beneath the waters of the Mediterranean.

Today's account also tells of the terrific pounding that was taken by the great aircraft carrier ILLUSTRIOUS. A thousand-pound bomb hit her amidship, and huge explosions alongside smashed the hull so badly that the ship was leaking. Nevertheless the ILLUSTRIOUS steamed on to port. The latest -- A London report of a German claim that the ILLUSTRIOUS was bombed again today.

British retaliation has been heavy R.A.F. attack on the Sicilian base at Catania. That's headquarters for

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the Nazi dive-bombing squadrons that are cooperating with the Italian air force. The R.A.F. blasted German planes on the ground, and reported that thirty or forty were burned or severely damaged.

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In the Royal Air Force bombing of Germany, Berlin admits the heaviness of last night's raid on Wilhelmshaven -- the great naval base. Twenty persons killed and thirty-five wounded, was the German version -- and fires were started. The Germans disclaim military damage, but London tells of havoc in the great shipyards -- thousands of square yards of fire.

One R.A.F. pilot said -- "It was more like stoking than bombing.

We just <sup>shoveled</sup> ~~shoved~~ bombs into the fires, and watched them increase," <sup>said he.</sup> ^

One point of attack was a construction yard where the Germans have been building U-boats -- <sup>on the ways</sup> twenty-four <sup>^</sup> at a time.

LONDON FIRE

From London today came a news dispatch which reminded me vividly of a job I did last night. Vivid is precisely the adjective to fit the case. At Movietone newsreel I worked on motion pictures that had just come in -- pictures of "London Aflame." ~~They are~~ Scenes of the recent Nazi fire raid on the British capital, the most <sup>stupendous</sup> ~~sixty six~~ fire pictures the human eye has ever beheld. Inevitable -- because it was the greatest of fires. Homer tells how Troy burned, and Carthage was destroyed by fire. <sup>And</sup> ~~So was~~ Jerusalem. <sup>But</sup> Troy, Carthage and Jerusalem were mere small towns ~~xxx~~ <sup>present day</sup> beside the metropolis on the Thames. London had ~~xxx~~ its own Great Fire in Sixteen Sixty-six, which destroyed a large part of the city. But the London of those days was <sup>hardly</sup> ~~certainly~~ <sup>the of</sup> not a tenth of the size of London today.

The Nazi fire raid destroyed a large area of the <sup>City</sup> ~~heart~~ <sup>the old part - the financial district,</sup> ~~of London -- the city.~~ The <sup>motion pictures</sup> ~~Movietone~~ show an ocean of

flame, square miles engulfed by a blazing tempest. <sup>motion picture</sup> ~~The Movietone~~ <sup>The</sup> screen is filled with fire, dazzling, terrifying -- frightful in vividness.

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The news story today that ties in with this relates the following:- The Minister of Home Security, Herbert Morrison, has signed an order providing that all persons in ~~the~~ Britain between the ages of sixteen and sixty shall register as fire guards -- all save those who are already in the Government war services. The whole population mobilized to fight fire, in the battle against incendiary raids to come. <sup>Q</sup> ~~That~~ measure ~~is~~ as wholesale and sweeping as the fire you see on the ~~movie screen~~ Movietone screen.

STUDENTS

The world of education was thrilled today by the arrest of -- the ghost. He's an academic ghost who has been running an outfit called Students Services, Incorporated.

The serving<sup>ees</sup> being -- to provide college students with academic papers which would enable them to win scholastic honors.

{ If you wanted a thesis for the degree of Master of Arts ~~or~~ or Doctor of Philosophy, they'd write a most learned thesis for you -- at so much per. The ghost writer would get you your degree -- cum laude.

The authorities decided that all this was against the law, <sup>a</sup> the violation of a New York Statute which penalizes fraudulent diplomas, certificates, <sup>and so on,</sup> etc. So they picked out an investigator from the New York State Department of Education, an investigator who looked young enough to play the part. He went to the Student Services, Incorporated, and said he was a student who wanted to get a Master's Degree. Sure, they said, that could be fixed. On what subject did he want his thesis? He named the subject as follows: "Experience as a factor in the success of business teachers." And that certainly sounds like a dull one. (It would take an inspired ghost to make <sup>that</sup> interesting.)

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But then, an academic thesis doesn't have to be interesting.

The deal was made, and in due time, the investigator posing as a student was given a thesis half-an-inch thick. A regular tome on the subject of - "Experience as a factor in the success of a business teacher."

What a monstrous lot of dullness it must have been. He was charged fifty-five dollars, paid the money, and immediately arrested Earl Coleman, head of Student Services. Academic Ghost Number One.

It is stated that more than seven thousand students got by - the ghost-written way. The claim was that when a student bought a thesis, it would be adapted to his own particular style. If he happened, for example, not to be so good at spelling they would definitely insert a few misspelled words. They had a special style in preparing a thesis for a girl. They'd put in those feminine touches.

Ghost Writer Number One is quoted as having said: "I write in the usual ~~was~~ style for girls unless I am handling an abstract subject where she has to think." That, I suppose, was a rare exception - a girl winning academic honors, and having to think.

The ghost writing expert, having been arrested today,

faces a possible penalty of a five hundred dollar fine and a year

*to think it over*

in jail. As for the professors, they're overjoyed. The Registrar

of New York University chimes in with the following comment:

"Ghost writers," says he, "have been a thorn in the flesh around

here."

*A ghost that was a thorn!*

BETTE DAVIS

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In the world of motion pictures Bette Davis is regarded as one of the finest of actresses. So we wouldn't want anything injurious to happen to her. Moreover, Bette Davis was recently married. She may be classified as a bride -- all the more reason for not wanting anything injurious to happen to her. So the following is indeed painful to relate -- though hardly as painful as it was to Bette.

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A story from Hollywood tells how she was playing in a thrilling <sup>movie</sup> scene of aviation in the desert. The plane in which she was riding dug its nose into a sand-dune, whereupon Bette made a leap from the cabin to the ground. In ~~re~~-enacting the scene, however, something went wrong -- and the Bette Davis leap turned into a spill. It was not a violent shattering fall. Nor did Bette hit the ground in such a way as to be in danger of breaking her neck. She landed sitting down, which is perhaps the safest way to make a forced landing. The unfortunate part of it was -- she hit square in a clump of ~~xx~~ cactus. You know what cactus is! that pestiferous plant of the western desert -- simply loaded with sharp and penetrating thorns. Cactus is like

a bouquet of needles.

The latest from Hollywood is that the Doctor removed forty-five slivers of cactus from Bette, who is such a splendid ~~xxxx~~ actress, and also a bride. For the time being Bette, in playing dramatic roles, is doing her acting -- standing up.

Yes, even eating her vitamins, standing up, Hugh.

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