

C-7 - Sunoco. Thursday, Feb 20, 1941.

There's word from London that Great Britain has suggested to the United States a plan to put an economic curb on Japan. This plan is said to have been outlined to President Roosevelt's emissary, Harry Hopkins, when he was in London. And Hopkins, presumably, has since presented it to President Roosevelt - ~~fix~~ who is considering the idea.

The British contention is that Japan is now building up huge reserve materials necessary for war, and is buying such war stocks in the United States. ~~It is true, that~~ this nation ^{already} has restricted merchandise going to the Far Eastern Empire, but, London points out that the regulations apply to only a small list of products. ~~It is true that we've~~ ^{We have} stopped the shipment to Japan of high octane gasoline, such as is used in speedy warplanes. But, on the other hand, ~~it~~ ^{we} did nothing about other products of petroleum and a variety of raw materials like cotton, and various metals.

So Britain proposes the following: First, the United States and the British Empire should cut down all exports to Japan ^{over and above the normal} ~~to the normal levels in times of peace.~~ ^{time} ~~XXXX~~ ^{level}

Don't let the Mikado's people pile up wartime purchases.

Second, -- the United States should put a check on the number of American ships that are used in trade with Japan -- cut down the amount of American tonnage that carries goods to Japanese ports. Oil tankers, especially.

Third, curtail Japanese purchases in Latin-America.

The British are said to have told Harry Hopkins the Tokyo government is buying in South America large quantities of such key materials as mercury, copper, scrap iron, lead, wool, cotton, leather, and so on. But how can we stop that? The British suggest what they call "preclusive buying." We should go into the South American market and purchase a huge lot of the things that Japan wants -- which would keep them from getting the stuff. Our buying would preclude their buying.

MARSHALL

The army is transferring warplanes to the Navy -- because of the Far Eastern situation. This, it is understood, is what the Chief of Staff, General Marshall, told the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate today. It was a secret hearing, and there's no official account of what the General had to say. The word is, that he told the Committee that the Army Air Corps is transferring a lot of sky fighters, including dive bombers, to the aircraft carriers of the Navy. They, it would seem, are short of combat planes. And the purpose of the transfer is to bring the United States Pacific Fleet to war strength at once. This because of the Far Eastern War crisis. That grew still more grave today.

There is also an aid-to Britain angle. The Chief of Staff is said to have told the Senate Committee that, of the billion dollars of war equipment on order, not much will be available soon -- no great quantity will come off the production line within three or four months.

General Marshall is said to have expressed himself with optimism concerning Britain's chance of winning the war.

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The debate in the Senate today was dramatized by the fact that the Senator who did most of the debating had previously been in the doubtful column. Senator Reynolds of North Carolina is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, which okayed the ~~Lend-Lease Bill~~ Lend-Lease Bill. He voted for that okay - but with reservations. And it was not known whether he would be for or against the measure for all-out aid to Britain when it came to the Senate floor. Senator Reynolds made a four-hour speech today, ^{And he} ~~and~~ came out - ^{the bill.} against [^] He said the Lend-Lease Bill may lead us directly to a declaration of war. He described the measure in these words - "A bill for the defense of the British Empire at the expense of the ^{lives} ~~rights~~ of American men and at the expense of the American taxpayer." He said a lot more than that in four hours, all of which boils down to the fact that he's going to vote - "No."

So the Lend-Lease Bill has lost one vote, but has also gained one. Senator Burton of Rhode Island has been listed in the doubtful column. Today he issued a statement saying that he ^{will} vote - Yes. He indicated that he didn't like all the provisions of the Lend-Lease Bill, but added that it's the one effective way to aid Britain.

LABOR

The question of labor and national defense is being elucidated by the two chiefs of armament production, William F. Knudsen and Sidney Hillman. Defense Director Knudsen told the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives that no laws were needed to curb strikes in defense industries. ~~In~~ Today ⁱⁿ this he is followed by Defense Director Sidney Hillman, who ~~today~~ told the Committee that Congress needn't bother about the question of labor legislation for national defense. Because, said he, "strikes are the rare exception in defense industry."

Sidney Hill^{man}, a C.I.O. chieftain and prominent labor leader for many years, declared that right now for the first time in our industrial history, employment is increasing swiftly without any corresponding increase in the number of strikes. He pointed back to the period of World War emergency, from Nineteen Sixteen on, and stated that right now less than half' as many workers ~~were~~ on strike ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~than~~ during a similar period in those days. This, he described as - a remarkable record.

Inevitably, Hillman was asked about the Henry Ford affair - in which the Number One motor magnate failed to get a

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defense order for trucks because he refused to abide by labor regulations. The Associate Defense Director related that when the production effort began, he suggested that defense contracts contain a clause requiring companies to abide by the labor laws. This was approved by the President. The contract on which Ford was bidding contained this clause automatically, and Henry Ford did not approve of that.

Concerning the question of defense contracts and violations of the labor regulations, Hillman said today he did not approve of - a blacklist. He said he didn't think that defense work should be refused to companies that do not square with the labor code ^{— that} they should ^{not} ~~be~~ be blacklisted.

WAR

The latest important item of war news, tells of a trip to Cairo. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Sir John Dill, have gone to the headquarters of the British Army of the Near East. London says it's of the greatest importance.

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The story is that the Foreign Secretary and the Chief of Imperial staff are confabulating with the British Near Eastern command in preparation for some important move. In what direction? The answer is - the Balkans. Britain may take major action to bolster up Greece, which is now threatened with the German demand that Athens make peace with Rome. One version from London is that as soon as General Wavell succeeds in knocking out the last bit of Italian resistance in Tripoli, his victorious army will be transferred to Greece, as a counter-poise to the situation that has developed. That situation has been advertised to all the world - the Turkish-Bulgarian Treaty apparently clearing the way for a Nazi push into Bulgaria to the border of Greece, the rear of the Greek army.

The news today tells of Germans throwing a pontoon bridge across the Danube, leading from Rumania into Bulgaria, though they say this was merely a practice manœuvre preparing for real bridging operations soon to come.

Beyond the Greek angle, lies the vastly more important possibility of a Nazi move through Turkey toward the Suez Canal. This the British would have to guard against ^{by} every means. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Chief of Imperial Staff Sir John Dill, are said to be conferring with the Near Eastern command on the subject of backing up Turkey. Presumably the Turks would fight, if Hitler tried to drive through their country. And Britain might throw to their aid the army that defeated the Italians in North Africa.

The picture is one of expanding strategies, ^{of vast} ~~of much~~ move and counter-move in a possible theatre ~~of~~ that extends from the Suez Canal to the frontier of Rumania.

In all this theorizing, ~~xxx~~ there's one definite fact. The British today swiftly occupied the island of Lemnos. This is one of the ancient isles of Greece, a highly strategic bit of land in the northern part of the Aegean Sea, ^{it's} ~~-~~ not so far from the area where the Greek army is fighting the Italians and might also have to face the armored cohorts of Nazi Germany. It's also in the region of the Dardanelles, which Hitler would have to force to begin any threat against the Suez Canal.

Hitherto, Great Britain has occupied only one Greek island - highly strategic Crete, from which air operations ^{have been} ~~were~~ launched against the Italian peninsula. Now Lemnos, [^] which has a pertinent relation to possible moves by the Nazi armies in the ~~the~~ Balkans.

There's air-raiding over Britain again tonight, as two British cities are still recovering from their injuries of last night. London - with the tragedy of a hospital hit

squarely by a bomb, more than two scores of patients killed in an episode of horror. The other British city is Swansea, in the Welsh industrial area. Swansea was raked with bombs last night - heavy damage, loss of life. They say though, it was not another Coventry, ~~it~~ - or anything like it.

France reports food riots in Paris - the first ^{incident} ~~affair~~
of its kind ^{to bear on} the much debated peril of starvation in the
occupied countries. Shortage of milk and cereals for children, and the story tells of a stormy mob. Women holding their babies high, and shrieking for food. They say the food riot was instigated by Communists.

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SOLDIERS

There has been an outbreak at Camp Dix, New Jersey - mutiny. Fifteen non-commissioned officers ripped the chevrons off their uniforms, and today were placed in confinement. And that does sound like an outbreak of - mutiny, or worse. The story of the revolt of the sergeants and corporals is as follows:

Company K of the Hundred and Seventy-Fourth Infantry has a captain who believes in being kind to the recruits. He wants the top sergeants to be gentle and understanding with the rookies of the gawky squad. According to the old ways of the army, the to^P-kick has commonly been a formidable individual, whose blistering language and raucous tones have frequently searched^{ed} the soul^s of the greenhorn soldier who has just joined up. That ^{is} ~~was~~ all wrong, declared the captain of Company K, Hundred and Seventy-Fourth Infantry. Because rookies have souls like anybody else, and the top-kick should have a heart.

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The non-commissioned officers didn't like it. They complained that the enlisted men were getting all the breaks - the sergeants and corporals no breaks at all. ~~All~~ the kindness and consideration was for the rookie, and none for the top-kick.

The non-com discontent was brewing for days, and then came to a climax when the captain issued another order. This described the proper relation between the non-commissioned officers and the privates. The captain explained what a sergeant or a corporal should be to a rookie, expressed it in these words:- "Mother, father, and brother." Well, it's kind of hard for anybody to be a mother, father and brother to anybody' else -- especially a top sergeant to a soldier. In that case it would be more natural to be two-mother-in-laws, and step-father.

The non-commissioned officers proceeded to explode. They ripped the chevrons off their uniforms. They didn't want to be any rookie's mother. Well, for that fifteen sergeants and corporals of Company K, Hundred and Seventy-Fourth Infantry, were ordered confined to quarters. They won't be set at liberty for a week or so, and then probably will be reduced to the rank of private -- with motherly sergeants over them.

OCTOPUS

This may sound like a Republican trick, but it isn't. Imagine, talking about - the Roosevelt octopus! Or, in Latin - "Octopus Roosevelti." ⁿ ~~Latin~~ _^ is the right language, because it's all scientific. The long outreaching tenacles are zoological - nothing but.

In the present state of world affairs and national politics, the Smithsonian Institution today baptized a critter taken out of the tropical ocean during President Roosevelt's cruise to the Galapagos Islands in Nineteen Thirty-Eight. The presidential expedition, ~~organized~~ in the interest of science, fished out a collection of tropical marine life. One of these was an octopus of a new type, a species hitherto unknown. Ever since, the zoologists, ichthyologists and invertebrate anatomists have been studying the peculiar octapod, and now have given it a scientific monicker. A new species is commonly named after its discoverer. Hence today's new addition to the zoological family, ~~Octopus~~ "Octopus Roosevelti."

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PLANETS

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If your window is facing south, and the sky is clear tonight, you'll see two bright stars close to each other. They're Jupiter and Saturn in conjunction. And this, happening right now, is an astronomical phenomenon of the greatest rarity. True, Jupiter and Saturn draw near each other, pass each other ^{that are} at intervals, not so ~~very~~ long apart. They'll be seen together in the night sky again in NineteenEighty. The extraordinary thing about the two planets at the present time is that they've been in conjunction three times within a period of six months. They came together last August; then, they passed each other for a second time on October ~~XXXXXX~~ Eleventh. Their third conjunction occurred this afternoon, when both were invisible. But when evening came, they were still close together, and now ^{are} slowly drawing apart.

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The last time Jupiter and Saturn had three conjunctions within six months was nearly two hundred and sixty years ago; and astronomers have not ^{yet} figured when the triple prodigy will be witnessed again.

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And now Hugh have you anything astronomical about the stars, the planets, the sun. sun oil? As I say S-L-U-T-O-M.