

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, is always the hardest day in any four years - when a fellow has a broadcast at this hour. A presidential election! the great American event! - and between six forty-five and seven, the figures are ^{just} coming ⁱⁿ - ~~in~~ ^{and they make merely} ~~in to form~~ a tantalizing puzzle. Scattered returns, just enough to mean something, not enough to be conclusive. You may think you see a significant turn in the voting, some place or other - but you ~~don't~~ don't dare ~~to~~ commit yourself. I recall last election day vividly. The way the early scattered returns came in, it gave ^{me} ~~one~~ a strong feeling that Franklin D. Roosevelt was winning, winning heavily. But the returns were so early and so scattered - ~~one~~ ^{you} ^{couldn't} just ~~didn't dare to~~ come out flat.

Presidential elections always begin the same way - first returns from New England, odd towns counting their votes early.

Then the South, where they also count early. That was true, as usual - today. ^{TP} In Nineteen Thirty-Six, the most prominent feature of the afternoon was Kansas, which did some prompt vote counting. And that's again the case this year - the ~~XXXXX~~ sunflower state coming through with early figures. Kansas today was joined by Missouri - a key state with a vote of the utmost significance. The Missouri vote rather dominated the interest this afternoon. Along with this, were some returns from other states - tantalizing, Oh so tantalizing.

NEW ENGLAND

New Hampshire,

In New England, the town of Sharon[^] was the first to report, ^{giving} ~~it gave~~ twenty-four votes to Willkie and seven to Roosevelt. *You've all heard that one.* Four years ago, Sharon was thirteen for Landon and three for

Roosevelt. That's rock-ribbed Republican country up there; but *here's* one town ^{that recorded} ~~reached~~ a third-time majority - a place called Heart's Location - ~~it~~ sounds rather ~~romantic~~. Today Heart's Location voted

Roosevelt five; Willkie three. In Nineteen Thirty-Six, Heart's

Location also went Democratic - Roosevelt eleven; Landon four. *More for F.D.R. that time. Half the population seems to have abandoned Heart's Location.* New Hampshire, like Maine and Vermont, ~~are~~ virtually

conceded to Willkie, ~~So~~ let's go on to a more critical New England state - Massachusetts. Goshen - Willkie one hundred and forty-one; Roosevelt eleven. Goshen is a Republican stronghold. In Nineteen Thirty-Six, the vote was Landon a hundred and fifteen; Roosevelt ten. So Willkie gets a bigger majority this time than Landon did.

Mount Washington, also in Republican territory - Willkie thirty-two; Roosevelt ten. Four years ago, it was Landon twenty-six; Roosevelt fifteen. The Republicans have a bigger percentage this year.

Savoy, Massachusetts - the last time President Roosevelt carried Savoy, sixty-nine to sixty-one. But today Willkie wins out -

eighty-three to fifty-six. The town of Mashpee on Cape Cod, shows a similar reversal of form. The President carried the town four years ago by eighty-eight to eighty-one. Willkie gets it this time - ninety-seven to eighty-seven.

These are mere examples of various scattered figures, figures that show one general thing. For the most part, Willkie is running better in ^{New England} ~~Massachusetts~~ than the Republican ticket did four years ago. This is the case in the critical state of Massachusetts.

SOUTH

Now let's go to the other end of the political scale - the solid South. From below the Mason-Dixon Line, the figures are all Democratic, as was to be expected. The only interesting thing being - how do the Roosevelt majorities this year compare with those of four years ago? Let's look at some examples. One early district in North Carolina cast all of its twenty-four votes for Roosevelt; Willkie zero. You can't do much figuring with percentages there.

This sort of thing, with lopsided majorities, was true in general of other states of the old South. But Texas came along with a contrast or two. Houston, for example, gave an early figure of Roosevelt seven thousand, eight hundred and seventy-two; Willkie two thousand, one hundred and fifty-seven. That's nearly four to one. Four years ago, the New Deal majority in Houston was more than seven to one.

El Paso today turned in a scattering vote of seven hundred to three hundred - two and a half to one for Roosevelt. Four years ago, the President's El Paso majority was about seven to one. The general report from Texas was that the President was carrying Texas but that Willkie was getting a vote heavier than

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normal in that Democratic state.

West Virginia too showed Roosevelt ahead. For example, in Marion County, the President had one thousand six hundred and fifty-six votes to Willkie's eight hundred and eighty-eight.

Oklahoma - four counties gave Roosevelt two thousand, two hundred and eighty-seven; Willkie one thousand, two hundred and fifteen ; less than two to one.

Generally speaking, the ~~the~~ early figures show the South standing firmly for a third term.

KANSAS

In Nineteen Thirty-Six, the key state in the early election returns was Kansas, ~~the~~ home state of the Republican candidate. The ~~xxx~~ fact that Landon failed to carry Kansas was a tip-off to the overwhelming New Deal victory. - *And 4 years ago* ~~and~~ the afternoon figures showed him running behind. So what has the story been thus far today? The first Kansas figures gave a Willkie majority - the small town of Pittsburgh voting twenty-six to fourteen in his favor. Then came the count from twenty-two scattered precincts in five counties. Willkie nine hundred and fifty-one; Roosevelt seven hundred and twenty-one. Then along came larger figures, from two hundred and five precincts - Willkie twelve thousand, four hundred and fifty-two; Roosevelt ten thousand one hundred and fifty-one. Still later - from a hundred and forty-seven other precincts! - Willkie seven thousand two hundred and twenty-two; Roosevelt six thousand, four hundred and ninety-two.

These very meagre figures show Willkie running ahead in Kansas. In Nineteen Thirty-Six, the same sort of early figures were the other way around - they showed F.D.R. running ahead.

MISSOURI

The surprise in the early count today was Missouri. The third term was regarded as having a decided edge in that state. In the last election, President Roosevelt carried Missouri by a huge majority, a million and a hundred and eleven thousand as against six hundred and ninety-seven thousand. So today's first figure was rather startling - Willkie one thousand three hundred and ninety-nine; Roosevelt three hundred and seven. Those returns were from rural districts. A later count from twenty-four precincts gave Willkie two thousand and thirty-nine; Roosevelt eight hundred and thirty. Then from some more precincts. Willkie four thousand and seventy-nine; Roosevelt three thousand eight hundred and eleven. Then came a Roosevelt majority from forty-eight ^{other} precincts - the President five thousand two hundred and twenty; the Republican candidate four thousand and seven hundred and twenty-one. All these from the farm area - the farm vote. Cities are still to be heard from.

MISCELLANEOUS

have had
From Colorado, we ~~had~~ some city returns - from Denver.

Twenty voting precincts tallied up their vote and it was mighty close - in favor of ~~F.D.R., President Roosevelt~~ *F.D.R.,* twenty-five hundred to twenty-four hundred. Let's see how it was ~~when F.D.R. ran~~ *in the race* against Landon. The Denver vote was not close at all, ~~then.~~ *then.* Ninety-nine thousand to fifty thousand, almost two to one *for Roosevelt.*

While waiting for some more returns let's look at the Foreign news:-

GREECE

From Greece, reports of Greek successes continue. Detachments pushing into Albania are said to have surrounded an Italian force of some four thousand. Dispatches tell of Fascist retreat and confusion in that area.

Rome reports that the key to the Greek line of defense in the Janina area has been broken, and that the Italians are driving through. But, generally speaking, Rome is exceedingly reticent, giving out very little war news.

If these various accounts are true, it would appear that the Greeks are slashing into Albania at the northeastern side of the fighting area, while the Italians are driving into the Greek defences at the southwest. The Fascist air force is busy raiding along the coast of classic Attica, with repeated bombing attacks on the harbor of Piræus.

JUGOSLAVIA

A town in Yugoslavia was bombed twice today. Nine people killed and thirty-five injured. The first air raid was described as having been made by Italian warplanes and the supposition was that the bombers had made a mistake - intending to bomb a Greek town nearby. Later, however, came the second raid, and it appeared unlikely that the same mistake had been made twice. So apparently the bombs were intended for the town in Yugoslavia. The news in the second raid again described the planes as Italian. A countercharge, however, was quickly made - that they were really Greek.

Now we have an official bulletin from the Yugoslav Government at Belgrade. It tells of the raids, and states that the nationality of the planes has not been definitely ascertained - Italian or Greek. The bulletin continues with these words:- "An expert commission has been established to obtain evidence on the spot regarding the nationality of the airplanes."

The incident has created a lot of excitement in Yugoslavia and caused the summoning of an emergency meeting of the Cabinet.

CHURCHILL

Today Winston Churchill made another one of his reports on the war, and those Churchill accounts are always worth noticing. The most immediate aspect ~~of the war~~ is of course the Greek affair. And the Prime Minister stated that the British have taken over the Island of Crete. This has been rumored repeatedly, and denied - denied by London. But now it's official. Winston Churchill declared today that the British have established a naval and air base on that strategic island.

He announced that the bombing of military objectives in southern Italy will be increased, and added that Britain's position in the Near East has been strengthened. In this connection he delivered a bitter attack on France. He stated that France's dropping out of the war had deprived Great Britain of the French armies in Syria and North Africa. Britain, he said, had also lost the use of valuable French naval and air bases in the Mediterranean. "Unfortunately," said he, "the Vichy Government is engaged in collaborating in Hitler's scheme for a new order in Europe."

Winston Churchill spoke jubilantly of what he called -

"An historic victory for Great Britain." By this he meant the fact that Nazi Germany has not ventured to launch an invasion of the Isle of Britain. Churchill regards that omission as - "an historic victory." But at the same time he warned that the danger of an invasion is not passed. A Nazi attempt to land may still be launched - Britain still in peril. Characteristically enough, the Prime Minister ~~of Great Britain~~ regarded that peril with a zest. He gave what he said should be the British watchword during the coming winter. According to Churchill, the British should say, "It's a grand life if we don't weaken."

Britain must still expect to be bombed, he warned - but the defense is making headway against the air raids. The present lull in the bombing is being explained by weather conditions, but Churchill made this comment:- "The ^{so}diminution in the scale of attack is not entirely due to weather", said he, *significantly.* He gave the latest figures for civilian casualties - fourteen thousand killed and twenty thousand wounded. That much loss of life, that much injury to person, because of the war of the air.

Churchill focused attention not only on the sky attack

but also on the submarine war. He said that Britain must be prepared to face an increasing campaign of the undersea by both German U-boats and Italian submarines. In fact, torpedoes from the undersea may be more serious than bombs from the sky -

according to Winston Churchill. And he flung a reproach at Ireland - because the Irish are neutral. He used these words of rebuke:-

"The fact that we cannot use the south and west coasts of Ireland," he said, "to refuel our flotillas and aircraft and thus protect the trade by which Ireland as well as Britain lives - is a heavy and most grievous burden and one which never should have been put on our shoulders."

To summarize it all, Churchill foresaw a long war - *several* ~~four~~ years more of war. He stated that Great Britain is preparing for hostilities to extend through Nineteen Forty-Three and Nineteen Forty-Four.

END

Now for some more election returns. I'll read them off, as they've been handed to me:—

Kansas,— which has been leaning toward Willkie in all the figures we have. The latest from the state have the same aspect. Willkie six thousand nine hundred and twenty-two; Roosevelt five thousand three hundred and ninety-four.

Missouri, the figures from ^{there} ~~from~~ leaned at first rather surprisingly to Willkie. The latest ~~that has come in~~, however, gives an edge to the President. Roosevelt, three thousand one hundred and ninety-two; Willkie two thousand, seven hundred and ninety-eight.

Massachusetts, the critical state in New England, has also been showing signs of inclining to Willkie. Let's see what we have here. Massachusetts gives Willkie three hundred and eighty-five; Roosevelt one hundred and seventy-nine. All these figures, of course, are from the latest precincts to report.

New Mexico, in the southwest — Roosevelt leading in the earliest scattered figures. The President gets seven hundred and forty; the Republican candidate — five hundred and fifty-one.

An early scattering from Indiana, Roosevelt eleven hundred, ~~Willkie~~ eight hundred.

Here's Connecticut, one of the most important of the New England states. The earliest figures from Connecticut, from various scattered areas, show - Willkie one thousand and forty-three, Roosevelt nine hundred and sixty-nine.

Latest Figures

Nov 5

Now what do these figures signify, the ones we've had thus far? Well, ^{Early election figures} they indicate that Willkie seems to ^{is} be running far more strongly than the Republican ticket did four years ago.

Of course, he was expected to do that. And the question is,

can he do enough better to overcome the terrific ^{Democratic} ~~Republican~~ majorities

of Nineteen Thirty-Six?) From the scattered figures,

you might surmise that he's winning in Kansas. You might get

a hint of Willkie chances in Massachusetts. But (for the most part,

the scattered returns of what they usually are at this hour on

presidential election day - a tantalizing puzzle.)