

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

History was in the making all day today at the White House. Many important pages of history have been written there in the last hundred and fifty years, but seldom has that imposing white columned home of our presidents presented such an unusual sight as today. The British Chief of State there in person, arriving thru the skies in war-time to make joint war plans with our own President! One large room has been set aside in the White House as the working office for Prime Minister Winston Churchill - a room with maps on the walls and all appurtenances necessary for discussions that will affect every part of this globe.

The utmost secrecy surrounds Mr. Churchill's journey to these shores. Anybody who knows the details

is bound in honor, and indeed by law, not to discuss them publicly. But we do know now that the British Prime Minister was met at a nearby airfield yesterday evening by President Roosevelt, who then drove him to the White House. Presumably, the two chiefs of state entered the front door a few seconds before I was authorized to report the event in the last fifty seconds of my broadcast last night when apparently I put it on the air before anyone else had it.

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Later came the news that not only the Prime Minister but a formidable corps of advisors, and experts came with him. Including Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Supply, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, Air Marshal Sir Charles Portal, General Sir John Dill, former Chief of Staff of the British Army. And many many more, for Churchill's entourage includes eighty men who are described as

"experts and officials."

Shortly after noon today, it was announced that President Roosevelt had called a meeting of the United States-Great Britain War Council for a quarter to five, to be held in the Cabinet room of the White House.

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There were preliminary conversations earlier today, and Prime Minister Churchill passed part of the forenoon consulting with Ambassador Lord Halifax and the Ministers to Washington from the British dominions of Canada, South Africa and Australia.

Averell Harriman, our Lend-Lease expeditor in London, evidently came in the British Prime Minister's party. At any rate, Harriman was one of those who visited the White House this morning.

The Americans at the United War Council


are Secretary Knox; Secretary of War Stimson; Lieutenant General H.H. Arnold, Deputy Chief of Staff for Air; ~~General~~ General Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army; Admiral Stark, Chief of Naval Operations; Admiral King, the new Cincus - Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet, and Harry Hopkins. For the British, besides Prime Minister Churchill and the officials already mentioned, there were the Ministers from Australia, Canada and South Africa.

Before the meeting of the United War Council, there was another unique episode. It was a press conference at which the Prime Minister of Great Britain was formally introduced to the Press - that is, only to the Washington newspapermen who are accredited to the President of the United States. It was Mr. Roosevelt's regular Tuesday press conference, at which the President personally presented the British Prime Minister.

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Of course, Winston Churchill is an old hand at American press interviews, through his previous visits to this country as a private citizen. But this was his first experience of facing them as Prime Minister.

In introducing him, the President, who was in high good humor, told Mr. Churchill he was offering him up as a sacrifice to the wolves of the American press as compared with the lambs of the British newspapers.

Before he presented the Prime Minister, Mr. Roosevelt said that the conferences between the United States and



Great Britain were still in a preliminary stage. But he added that no other government of those who are at war with the Axis will be excluded. He said further that he and Churchill and the military and technical staffs of both the United States and Great Britain are at work on a plan for complete unity of action in the South Pacific. <sup>R</sup> Mr. Roosevelt stressed the fact that Australia and New Zealand are particularly in the Pacific danger zone. Churchill reminded him that Canada, like the United States, faces danger on both oceans. The President announced that the Latin-American countries who have declared war, also those who are helping us in the role of what he described as "active non-belligerency", will be kept informed of what the British and Americans are doing.

Churchill had a good time displaying his ability in fencing with the newspaper questioners.

They asked him whether Singapore was now the key to the defense of the Pacific. The Prime Minister replied that the key, as he saw it, is the resolution and courage with which American and British armies are throwing themselves into the battle. However, he added, <sup>that</sup> geographically and strategically, Singapore is very important.

One point he made was a warning that people should not count on any crack-up in German morale. That, he said, would be a nice windfall, but we mustn't expect it.

There are no prospects, he declared, of an internal <sup>collapse in Germany</sup> ~~collapse in Germany~~. We must whip the enemy by hard, external blows, he added, While the Nazis have suffered a

heavy rebuff in the Russian campaign, they still are in no danger from shortages of war material. Their factories have been operating and they've looted huge stores from the conquered countries.

Somebody suggested that there was a catch in

the Nazi retreat in Russia, a bit of trickery. That idea he dismissed as unsound.

From the back of the room, one correspondent shouted to Churchill the question:- "When will we lick 'em?" That brought a laugh from the British Prime Minister, who replied that if we manage it well, the defeat of Naziism will take only half as long as if we manage it badly.



Events in Washington were so momentous and exciting that they have taken precedence over the actual fighting. Of that The War Department reported late <sup>today</sup> ~~tonight~~ that the battle of Lingayen ~~& the~~ Gulf is growing fiercer and that the Japanese invaders are making heavy attacks with light tanks to the south of Agoo. The communique adds: "Enemy <sup>that</sup> airplanes have been particularly active in supporting landing and shore operations. American army bombing planes attacked several enemy troopships off Davao with undetermined results." <sup>TR</sup> And the <sup>goes on to say: —</sup> Communique ~~adds:~~ "There is nothing to report from other areas." But we have dispatches about other areas from other sources. For one thing, help from the Dutch. The Royal Netherlands Air Force claims to have hit a ten thousand ton Japanese tanker off Davao with a five hundred pound bomb. The tanker,

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said the Dutch, caught fire.

AN American reporter telephoned the first dispatch from the American <sup>fighting</sup> ~~flying~~ front at a point just a quarter of a mile from the scene where American planes and tanks were blasting away at the Japanese. Overhead while he was telephoning he could hear the drone of Japanese planes." We have tanks," ~~xx~~ he said, "and tough seasoned Army forces both American and Filipino. Our forces," he adds, "gave a good account of themselves. <sup>R</sup> According to Maneuver reports three Japanese transports were sunk with a ~~xx~~ loss of three thousand men.

Perhaps the most spectacular news comes from Hongkong where the British are still fighting valiantly and are resisting the Japanese, who ~~xx~~ now have command of the entire Western half of the island. However, the British add, in that Western

half there are still isolated British groups fighting for all they are worth. There is also a report that the British sank two Japanese vessels. Meanwhile the advance guards of Chinese forces are moving to the relief of the British and have ~~fight~~ fought their way to points forty and twenty-seven miles from ~~xx~~ Hongkong. Chungking says that guerilla fighting has broken out against the Japanese at a point ~~of~~ only fourteen miles from the <sup>besieged</sup> island ~~of~~ Hong Kong.

A communique from Singapore tells us that there <sup>has</sup> been no change in the military situation in ~~northern~~ Malaya. But unofficially we learn that the long expected pitched battle may <sup>start</sup> ~~be~~ begun at <sup>some</sup> any time along the British empire line <sup>^</sup> three hundred miles north of Singapore.

WAKE

The Japanese have landed on Wake Island. The gallant  
*of U.S.*  
~~little~~ garrison has kept them off until yesterday. *a*  
~~The~~  
*says*  
Navy communique ~~said that~~ there was a strong air attack  
in the forenoon of the Twenty-Second, which the marines  
*shooting*  
beat off, ~~and shot~~ down several enemy planes. But an  
enemy force effected a landing on Wake the morning of the  
Twenty-Third. Of course this *today* is the Twenty-Third *over*  
~~in the~~  
*here,*  
~~United States,~~ but it's December Twenty-Fourth, Christmas  
*& The announcement*  
Eve, in the middle of the Pacific. ~~That~~ does not mean  
*Japs have taken Wake. The*  
necessarily that the ~~enemy has the island. The~~  
communique says nothing of what has happened to the  
garrison or whether the invaders were able to overrun  
*TP Wake,*  
the place, ~~which~~ is only a dot on the map, about one  
square mile, and could be tucked away in a small corner  
of Philadelphia or Boston.

The Navy announced further that, I QUOTE: "The  
Japanese claims of seizure of a large number of American

merchant vessels are without foundation. The only  
U.S. merchant vessel known to have been seized by the  
Japanese is the S.S. PRESIDENT HARRISON."

ARIZONA

Uncle Sam's Navy released some historical photographs today. They were the official pictures of the battleship ARIZONA, sunk in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. In those photographs you can see the ARIZONA resting on the bottom, though a good deal of her super-structure is above water as well as the stern-gun-turrets and the stern mast. From the flag-staff ~~yes, with all the bombs bursting in air our flag was still there.~~ flies the Stars and Stripes. Naval experts, judging from the photographs, are now estimating that some of the equipment and material of the ARIZONA may be salvaged.

## SUBMARINES

More submarine attacks off the California coast. First a report from the Twelfth Naval District headquarters:- <sup>that</sup> the oil tanker LARRY DOHENY was shelled at three o'clock in the morning. . But, the shelling wasn't effective, <sup>and</sup> the tanker docked at a town on the shore nearby. <sup>That's</sup> ~~That was~~ the fifth tanker ~~to be~~ attacked off ~~the California coast~~ since last Thursday.

The event caused quite a commotion around the picturesque old California cities in the neighborhood. All the sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, and constables, in the neighborhood had a busy time answering telephone questions. The constable of one town declared that the noise of the shelling had continued for an hour and a half, and it was heard as far off as a hundred miles away.

The Twelfth Naval District reported that there

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had been unsuccessful attacks on two American ships,  
but did not give details.

Later on, came the announcement that an oil  
tanker, the MONTEBELLO, had been torpedoed and sunk.  
Four boatloads of survivors landed on the coast. The  
survivors told the sheriff's deputies that the Japs had  
fired on their lifeboats after they had abandoned their  
tanker. <sup>that</sup> But they didn't aim straight. <sup>Result:—</sup> nobody hit.



## AMERICAN FLYERS

At Chungking, a high-up spokesman of the Chinese Government waxed enthusiastic today about the American volunteer flyers who are protecting the Burma Road. Speaking about the action in which they shot down four Japanese bombers at one clip, the Chiang Kai-shek spokesman declared that those American volunteers were the most efficient combat group in the world today.

Even if they are flying in  
obsolete combat planes.

RAILROADS

A Federal Director of Transportation!

That follows the precedent of the last war. Only

this ~~year~~<sup>time</sup> it's called "defense transportation." President

Roosevelt today signed an order naming Joseph B. Eastman

of the Interstate Commerce Commission as Director of

*Defense Transportation, - to*  
~~that office. He will~~ coordinate the transportation

needs of all federal agencies, also of private

transportation groups. He will also direct the move

of domestic traffic.

LABOR

The strike problem has been settled -- we hope, we hope, we hope. At any rate, President Roosevelt's conference of representatives of labor and management has done its job. <sup>And have</sup> They <sup>^</sup> <sup>^</sup> agreed upon a plan which, roughly speaking, can be summed up in three points: First - no strikes, no lockouts. Therefore, Second - all differences to be settled by argument, peaceful means, and to that end; - Third - the President is to appoint a War Labor Board to iron out all disputes. Such, in a nutshell, is the plan which was proposed by Senator Thomas of Utah, the Associate Moderator of the conference.

<sup>TP</sup> <sup>TP</sup> Nor did This agreement ~~didn't~~ come any too soon.

Congressmen were beginning to get hot under the collar.

You will recall that already the House had passed the Smith Bill, a measure ~~far~~ too stringent to suit labor,

and not at all to the ~~w~~ taste of the Government.

The storm broke on the floor of the Senate

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while the conference was actually getting ready to make its announcement. Senator ~~Styles~~ Bridges of New Hampshire arose to speak apparently more in sorrow than in anger, saying that he was discontented, disheartened and disillusioned by the failure of the conference to produce. And he added -- to read that they were on the point of a breakdown on the closed shop issue, with the country in danger, was ~~quite~~ saddening to him. That issue, he said, should not be brought up at this time. Then he

criticized his colleague, Senator Thomas <sup>of Utah,</sup> for offering a government plan which was rejected. While ~~the~~ <sup>H</sup> Senator

<sup>Bridges</sup> was talking, the <sup>Labor</sup> conference was in the throes of accepting the Thomas plan.

<sup>well,</sup> President Roosevelt has accepted the program of the conference without reservation, <sup>He has written</sup> ~~and wrote~~ a letter congratulating the men upon what he called "their great contribution to labor peace."

It was learned subsequently that the twelve representatives of labor had accepted the three point program without demur, but the men speaking for industry had insisted upon a fourth point, that the Board should have no jurisdiction over disputes about the closed shop. However, that was ironed out: the management side agreed to accept whatever decision Mr. Roosevelt would make upon that closed shop business.

That's about all -- and I haven't even mentioned Christmas shopping. Guess I'll have to leave that to Hugh.