

P. T. - Sunoco. Friday, Nov. 14, 1941.

Today's event in the coal mine labor dispute, had the sententious qualities of a dramatic scene. The spot news is that the strike in the Captive Coal Mines, scheduled for Saturday, has been put off - at least until Monday. And meanwhile there will be high pressure negotiations for a settlement. John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers made that concession to President Roosevelt.

The coal dispute today was the focus of national interest after yesterday's Congressional proceedings in passing the neutrality changes. (The whole labor issue was at the forefront, with Southern members bolting the Administration foreign policy because they were dissatisfied with the President's handling of strikes.) One of the things that got the neutrality change through was assurance from the White House that something would be done in the matter of defense labor trouble. And in all of this ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a special emphasis was placed on the coal dispute. It was known yesterday that the president today would hold a conference with John L. Lewis, and other Union officials, and executives of the steel companies, which operate the mines. So the question was - what <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ happen today?

With that background of large suspense, the coal story began this morning with a gathering of the union policy-making committee of two hundred - headed by John L. Lewis. Lewis presented <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ stand <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ the committee, and got a unanimous okay. Armed with this, he and his party proceeded to the presidential conference at the White House.

Tonight we know what the President said. The White House gives us that in quotes. The head of the nation, addressing the Union chiefs and Company executives, ~~spoke the following:-~~

~~"I am asking you," said the President. "I never threaten~~

~~I'm asking you to please talk over this problem of continuing~~

~~coal production." And <sup>it</sup> ~~then~~ he~~ laid down the Number One point of government policy --- he placed it squarely before John L. Lewis and his party of Union leaders. "I tell you frankly," declared the President, "the Government of the United States will not order, nor will Congress pass legislation ordering - a so-called closed shop."

This hit squarely at the bull's eye, because, as is well known, the only Union demand in the Captive Coal Mine dispute is -

a closed shop. Ninety-five per cent of the miners belong to the C.I.O., and the proposition is whether or not to make the other five per cent join the United Mine Workers. The President today stated outright that the Government will never compel the five per cent to join the Union against their will.

Very pointedly, he reminded the labor leaders and the industrial executives that the Administration is under pressure from Congress to do something about the labor situation. That was only too evident in the neutrality proceedings yesterday - insistent demand for anti-strike laws. And the President's reference to heavy pressure was in the nature of a pointed warning.

He <sup>spoke of</sup> ~~pointed out to~~ the needs of national defense, and made the following request: "Let me have some <sup>kind</sup> of report Monday next," said he - "a report of agreement or at least a report that you are making progress."

The answer was in the affirmative, as was presently revealed - by the announcement that the Captive Coal Mine strike, set for Saturday, has been called off by the Union until Monday at least.

RAILROAD STRIKE

In the railroad strike, which has been ordered, the Union today announced how the men will be called out. The strike will be made effective during the course of three days, beginning ~~on~~ December Seventh. On each day, certain groups of employees will stop work, certain railroad lines affected. There are a hundred and sixty-three lines in the country, and on the first day ~~the Union trainmen of~~ <sup>roads will be hit.</sup> fifty-one ~~of them will strike.~~ These ~~fifty-one railroads~~ <sup>ins</sup> will include the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, Santa Fe, and the Southern Pacific. On the second day, fifty more lines will feel the strike. And on the third day the remaining sixty-two ~~lines~~ are scheduled to be tied up.

That will be the sequence of events for the great railroad strike - if it actually happens.

## NEUTRALITY

In the neutrality aftermath, we have comment from Washington that permission for American merchant vessels to go into the combat zones won't necessarily be followed by an immediate flocking of ships under the American flag across to Britain. The United States Maritime Commission stated today that the plans are to send no more than three freighters a week with war supplies.

The foreign repercussions continue, with the Axis powers shouting that the United States is now fully in the war. Germany threatens to sink them all. And from Japan we have comment that, what Tokyo calls - "a frontal clash" between the United States and Nazi Germany is now inevitable.

London, which seldom agrees with the Axis, does not contradict. The opinion of the British press today was well reflected by a catch line in one of the big newspapers. "They're coming over!" it headlined.

Meanwhile, we have a series of negatives concerning the rumor that American naval units have fought a big battle with Nazi warships off Norway. London, Iceland and Washington are unanimous - with a Navy spokesman saying today, "There is absolutely no information in the Navy Department to substantiate this or any

similar report."

Washington has no illuminating comment in the case of the two American soldiers in Iceland who are accused of killing an Icelandic fisherman. The WarDepartment said today that the affair will be handled entirely by the United States military authorities in Iceland, and the War Department will get a report when the case is concluded. Meanwhile, there is talk in Washington about doing something to promote better relations between the American troops and the natives of Iceland.

MARINES

President Roosevelt today ordered the withdrawal of the Marines from China - the treaty <sup>cities,</sup> ~~ports,~~ Peiping, Tientsin and Shanghai. He announced the probability some days ago, and now it's happening - the stay of the Marines, which began way back in the last century, is ending.

Neither the President nor the State Department would vouchsafe any comment on the meaning of the withdrawal of the Marines - no explanation of international significance. Nevertheless, there's plenty of Washington speculation centering around the idea that the ~~Marines~~ <sup>soldiers of the sea</sup> are being brought home in view of possible trouble with Japan. It is pointed out that the small garrisons <sup>in those</sup> ~~in the~~ <sup>treaty cities now</sup> ~~treaty ports~~ controlled by Japan would be at the mercy of the Japanese if there should be an outbreak of war in the Pacific.

The withdrawal of the Marines coincides with the arrival of the special Japanese emissary in this country, Saburo Kurusu. His name rather reminds us of - Caruso, the king of song. He comes, presumably, to sing a melody of peace, and if so, let's hope his voice is as good as Caruso's. However, the Mikado's representative, upon landing in San Francisco today, did not

express himself in terms of the Italian opera. His phraseology was very American. "I hope to go through the line for a touchdown," said the Japanese Kususu. Meaning, no doubt, that the goal line is an agreement for a settlement in the Pacific.



PLANE

The plane carrying the Soviet and American ambassadors has been located, - all safe. After a couple of days of mystification and confusion, London tonight announces that Maxim Litvinov, new Soviet Ambassador to the United States, and Lawrence Steinhardt, American Ambassador to Soviet Russia, landed yesterday at the port of Baku on the Caspian Sea. Aboard the plane was Quentin Reynolds, war correspondent for COLLIERS MAGAZINE. It was disclosed today that Quent had accompanied the two Ambassadors when they left the Soviet capital, starting on their way to the United States. So now Quent Reynolds is safe -- along with the two statesmen.

WAR

Concerning the war, I might almost say what I said last night, word for word. A stalemate on the Moscow front, with ~~Moscow~~ claiming<sup>s</sup> that the Red Army is making successful counterattacks.

In the Crimea - the Nazis are still attacking the City of Kerch. Berlin ~~claims~~<sup>announces</sup> continued progress in the conquest of what it calls "the gateway to the Caucasus." The Germans are intimating more and more that there'll be a drive across the four mile strait from Crimea to the Caucasus, with a new military front opened in the great area of the oil wells.

North Africa is in the news with a statement by British Admiral Sir Andrew Brown-Cunningham. ~~He speaks of the successful attacks the British fleet has been making against Axis convoys,~~ ~~and says~~<sup>He</sup> ~~that the~~<sup>the recent</sup> sinking of German and Italian supply ships will delay an Axis offensive in North Africa. London recently has been talking in terms of a British drive, ~~to smash the Nazis and Fascists~~ ~~at the border of~~<sup>the</sup> ~~Egypt~~. But Admiral Brown-Cunningham speaks ~~He says~~<sup>He says</sup> instead of an Axis offensive. ~~He said~~<sup>He says</sup> the British naval successes have delayed it - but not stopped it. "~~I do not think we have yet~~ ~~sunk enough to prevent the enemy from starting a western desert~~

~~offensive," he said today.~~

The Admiral was asked about an Italian story claiming that United States submarines are operating in the Meditterrean.

"I haven't seen any," he replied.

ARK ROYAL

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It comes as rather a shock when the most often sunk ship in the world is really sunk. But that has happened - definitely. Time and again the British Aircraft Carrier ~~XX~~ ARK ROYAL, was reported - sent to the bottom. On several occasions, Berlin made positive statements of this. But the ARK ROYAL proceeded to bob up again, earning fame for having been sunk repeatedly. Now, however, the report is official - from the London Admiralty. The ARK ROYAL was torpedoed in the Western Mediterranean, not far from Gibraltar - by what was apparently an Italian submarine. <sup>TP</sup> Most of the crew were saved, says London.)

A late report from Spain states that sixty lives were ~~lost~~ <sup>lost.</sup> ~~lost.~~ <sup>other ships</sup> They tried to tow the aircraft carrier back to port, Gibraltar. But the ARK ROYAL was too badly stricken - keeled over and went to the bottom. Even so, we have a Spanish story saying that a number of planes aboard the carrier were able to take off before she sank, and landed safely at Gibraltar.

HOOVER

During the past several weeks, some fascinating bits of past history have been revealed about American War President Woodrow Wilson, his mind, his mood - and the way he had of breaking suddenly and completely with his closest friends and advisors. History tells how Wilson so abruptly split with such intimate associates as Colonel House, His Secretary of State Lansing, and his Secretary Joseph Tumulty. But the War President of those days had another Number One associate - Herbert Hoover. We know <sup>TP</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>how</sup> Hoover, after making an international reputation with Belgian war relief, became President Wilson's war-time food administrator, and then was a member of the American delegation to the Versailles Peace conference - an advisor to the President. Afterward, with the election day defeat of the Wilsonian Democratic Party, Hoover became a member of the succeeding Republican administration, and was himself on the road to the presidency. That was a change much noted at the time. But, so far as I am aware, the record hitherto has not told us how and in what fashion there was a break of personal relations between Wilson and Hoover. <sup>TP</sup> The revelation is now made, at this late date, in a series of articles in the SATURDAY EVENING POST - articles written by Ex-President Hoover.

They tell an intensely dramatic Wilson-Hoover story, a story of profound interest in these days of another world conflict.

In previous articles in the SATURDAY EVENING POST, Herbert Hoover has told how the Treaty of Versailles was concocted in secret sessions by the big time statesmen x of the major Allied powers - Wilson, Lloyd George and Clemenceau, in particular. Then came the time when the document, finally completed, was passed around to the members of the delegation. Herbert Hoover tells vividly of the first time he saw the Treaty of Versailles. At night, in a Paris hotel, he sat and read it - and was appalled. He says he was startled by its follies and mistakes, the absurdities, the impossibilities. It's a matter of record that during the Versailles <sup>-making</sup> Treaty, Herbert Hoover, in official memoranda submitted by him, displayed an uncanny gift of prophecy - predicting that the terms of peace would produce ~~an~~ an era of revolution - and another World War. And all of these forbodings loomed in his mind as he, for the first time, read the document - the Peace of Versailles.

He says he was so appalled that he ~~thought he had to go~~ <sup>left his room - went</sup> out for air. He left the hotel, and ~~went~~ <sup>ed</sup> walking down the street -

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to get over the shock ~~of the peace terms~~. He saw another man out for a walk, and recognized him. It was General Smuts, the South African Premier. He too had just read the Treaty of Versailles, and similarly had gone out ~~for a walk~~ to get some air. The two men joined up for their stroll, and General Smuts said he felt the same way about the peace terms as Hoover did.

~~Oddly enough, I've just been hearing some things about this same General Smuts, from an American newsman, Frank Gervasi of COLLIER'S. Frank is just back from a tour of the British Empire, and gives a vivid impression of Smuts of South Africa - in these later days of war. He tells how in an interview, the old statesman said ~~that~~ with simplicity and power: "We will win this war. Our cause is right, and God will help us." He believes idealism will win out this time. Gervasi contends that Smuts is the wisest man of all the leaders in this war, and Frank knows most of them.~~

Herbert Hoover goes on to say that he gave to President Wilson a set of memoranda expressing his opinion of the newly formulated Treaty of Versailles. And in the current issue of the SATURDAY EVENING POST Hoover writes as follows: "A few days <sup>Mr.</sup>

after I had sent my memoranda on the subject, I had what proved to be my last discussion with the President - and my first and only break with him."

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Hoover repeated to the war-time President his arguments against the Treaty, reciting in detail the reasons why it could only lead to another war. He now says that his words perhaps were over-vigorous, and he gives Wilson's reaction. "He flashed angrily at these expressions, as being personal accusations against him - which I, least of all persons, intended. But his nerves, like those of all of us, were taut. And like Colonel House and others who were deeply devoted to him, I was not again invited to his private counsels. Other than a formal good-bye at the railroad platform at Paris, I never saw him again - but at a distance."

So writes Ex-President Herbert Hoover, revealing the secret of his break with World War President Woodrow Wilson.



SAW

Over in England today, a man was found guilty, and the judge imposed a heavy fine. The offense was - claiming exemption from military service. The defendant founded his claim ~~for exemption~~ on the argument that he held a job of vital importance, vital for defense, and therefore should not be taken into the army. The authorities investigated and found that the job ~~of vital importance~~ consisted of playing music for a magician's act. Also -helping to saw the lady in two. You know that kind of sorcery, which consists of putting a lady in a box, and thereupon the magician saws her in two halves - apparently.

The British military authorities did not consider that task so vitally importance for the defense of the British Empire, - and you can't blame them. Of course, in some households sawing a lady in two might come under the heading of "home" defense, but hardly national defense.

And with that profundity  
let's turn to Hugh.