

ROOSEVELT

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, June 6, 1941. (Wash. D.C.)

The focus of the news tonight is that stately city on
a pleasant winding river -- Washington on the Potomac. ^{and} I'm
broadcasting from the national capital, tonight, having spent the
day in this metropolis of politics national and international.
The chief event of the day was the WhiteHouse Press Conference,
at which the President made just about as strong a statement as
he has ^{ever} made -- sharply and dynamically worded.

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The vigorous presidential words had to do with the subject
that has had Washington seething -- had the whole country at
attention, in fact. Peace rumors, reports of possible negotiations
between Great Britain and Germany, inside stuff about a message
brought back from London by United States Ambassador Winant;
There have been ~~positive statement~~ ^{supposedly coming} that the ambassador ~~came~~ home
to tell the president that, if the United States didn't immediately
enter the war, Great Britain will have to make peace -- this, **being**
a message from the London government. Along with that went the
further presumptive revelation that the British position in the
war was desperate. They might not be able to hold out until
Nineteen Forty-Two. ^I ~~He~~ told about this rumor crop last night
and it's important to have it in mind -- as we hear from the

President today.

Has he issued a denial? It's more than that. The president permitted himself to be quoted, the emphasis of quotation -- as he said that he was not issuing a denial -- he was making an accusation.

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The accusation ^{is} ~~was~~ that the rumors ^a ~~were~~ Nazi propaganda -- originating in Berlin and directed by the Nazi Propaganda Office, in Berlin. He asserted that Nazi Propaganda Chiefs had given orders that as soon as Ambassador Winant arrived in the United States word should be spread that he was bringing a message that Britain was talking peace. Britain about all in -- and ready to call off the war. The President said he had advance knowledge of this German machination and told how he had received memoranda concerning instructions given by the Nazi Propaganda Office. He wouldn't say through what channels the United States Government had acquired these Nazi Propaganda instructions. To disclose that would be telling Berlin a secret.

The President said that when the Ambassador arrived in Washington the rumors promptly began to circulate getting hotter and hotter. He waxed sarcastic by remarking what he called -- "an amazing coincidence." He said that by an amazing coincidence

THE Nazi-inspired reports appeared in some kinds of American newspapers. He declared that the ~~propia~~^{peace} and Winant stories were spread by German agents and the Duce of Nazi Propaganda.

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Winant has had nothing to say about a peace offer. The President permitted himself to be quoted in these words:- "Not even a tenth cousin of a peace offer, or anything like that, or any discussion of peace. Absolutely nothing like it." So he said, using emphasis and re-emphasis. Furthermore Ambassador Winant has not come home to say that the British are in a desperate position. They are not in any such position, declared the President. The situation is grave, but Britain is far from collapse or defeat.

Then why did the American Ambassador to London make his trip to Washington? What did he have to convey to the White House? The President said that Winant returned for two reasons. First, to report on twenty^{-five} or fifty major topics relating to the British war effort. Secondly, to get information on twenty-five or fifty topics relating to the defense of the United States.

So there we have ■ the number one event at today's White House Press Conference, which itself was number one in point of emphasis -- an emphasis of denial.

TRADE

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Among the many questions worrying this country, here's one that's frequently asked -- if the Nazis should keep control of the continent of Europe, what would be the economic affect on the United States? The affect -- in point of trade, commerce, -- especially with South America. It's quite a common opinion that a Nazified Europe would be able to outsell us, and confront us with with economic ruin.

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Today we have something decidedly to the contrary -- and from a surprising source, Bernard M. Baruch, that Barney Baruch who was Chief of World War Industries under President Wilson. *At present he* ~~Today he~~ is a Defense Consultant of the Roosevelt Administration and is reputed to exert large influence in government circles. Today the Wall Street Journal quotes Barney Baruch as saying that if Nazi Germany should hold control of Europe, it would be the Nazi's who'd be on the spot. Not the United States. Speaking of Germany Baruch asked: "What will she do? Where can she sell her products and those of the countries she has conquered?" He went on to state that a Nazified Europe would be cut off from its former large market in the United States. And he added that if we adopt a proper economic policy we would be able to beat Nazi Germany competition in any neutral country -- meaning particularly

Latin America. The way to do it said this economic expert is for us to maintain a low price structure through the present war, develop quality and economy in mass production and build national defense.

WAR

There is little war news tonight. That is in active fighting. The principal item ^{tonight} tells of the bombardment of Gibraltar by Italian planes. What Rome called -- a violent attack. This is the first time that the Rock has been bombed for a period of months, and the dispatch comes right after yesterday's news of a heavy German air raid on Alexandria. Gibraltar and Alexandria, the bases respectively of the British fleets in the eastern and western Mediterranean.

VICHY

The Vichy government of France is -- astonished. Today an official spokesman of the regime of Marshal Petain made comment on yesterday's declaration by Secretary of State Cordell Hull -- his warning against the collaboration between France and Nazi Germany, a warning with all sorts of implications. How does Vichy like the Hull pronouncement? What's the reaction? The spokesman declared that the Petain government is -- astonished.

He repeated the contention that France in collaborating with the Nazis is interested only in maintaining the integrity of the French Empire. Hence the surprise.

Today the question of France becomes still more acute -- with a statement issued by a functionary called the Official French Military Analyst, who informed the press that fighting may break out in Syria at any time. He gave the reason in these words:- "Because it appears that Britain has decided to move in."

On the British side we continue to hear of Nazi German infiltration in Syria. And here's a dispatch from Cairo. It states that the R.A.F. has bombed the airport at Aleppo in Syria. Blasting war planes on the ground. Italian planes, says Cairo -- indicating that the Fascists as well as the Nazis are in Syria.

A late dispatch from Turkey. It states that Germany is moving forces into Syria at such a rate that in two weeks they'll be able to menace the British in Palestine.

JAPAN

The Far Eastern crisis becomes more tense. Japan has been making demands on the Dutch Colonial Government. Notes have passed back and forth, with Tokyo sending a message of premtory tone.

Now the government of the Dutch East Indies has replied, and from Tokyo we get the reaction -- "not acceptable." The Japanese declare that it contains -- "many unsatisfactory points." That the Dutch Colonial authorities fail to understand the Tokyo viewpoint, and if they continue so to fail the Japanese will break off negotiations altogether; -- so says Tokyo.

Our own capitol city of Washington is tonight the source of headline news concerning Japan. There have been rumors that Tokyo Ambassador Nomura has proposed a non-aggression treaty between Japan and the United States. A non-aggression treaty - reminding us of those multiple pacts between Germany, Italy Japan and the Soviets. It would be indeed a number one political sensation if such an agreement were being considered between Tokyo and Washington.

So what does today tell us? We get a series of denials. The clincher was given by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who not only issued a denial but stated out-right that a non-aggression pact between the United States **and** Japan would be contrary to the policy of this nation. So that seems to settle it.

PICKETS

Emerging from the White House today with a couple of Washington correspondents, we walle d down the street to take a look at the pickets -- the peace delegation, ^{that} day after day parades back and forth carrying banners denouncing war, ^{opposing} intervention. Peace mobilizers they call themselves. There was an especial reason for taking a look.

"Look!" ^{N.B.C.} "Do you know", [^] exclaimed Earl Godwin -- "the pickets are being picketed?"

That sounded astonishing but it was only the half of it.

"They're [^] bing picketed by a Congressman," he continued.

"And, [^] as if there were not enough surprises," he added, "the congressman is peeling potatoes." I thought for a moment I was being kidded, but as ^{we} ~~he~~ [^] walked down the street ^{by} ~~beside~~ [^] the White House -- there was the miracle. The pickets picketed by a Congressman who was peeling potatoes.

It was Representative Luther ^{Patrick} ~~an~~ of Alabama, and the sign he was carrying read -- "Appeasers, Communists, Bundists can picket -- but can they work?" The work part of it explained the potato peeling. The Congressman carried, hung around his neck a bucket -- ^{or as the Patricks in Ireland would say, "murdhies."} a bucket containing spuds, [^] And as he ~~peped~~ paced back and forth he peeled

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potatoes dropping the peels in the pail -- not on the White House sidewalk.

We stopped and talked to him and he said:- "At least I am working. I admit it's not heavy work, but at least it's more work than that crowd is accomplishing!" *So said* -- ~~quoth~~ the lawmaker who was picketing the pickets. He was genial and laughing about it, saying that he was tired of seeing a minority express itself in front of the residence of the president. *Said he:-* "It's about time that the majority let their views be known."

So he was letting those views be known, marching along back and forth along one side of the pavement -- while a line of half a dozen peace mobilizers paraded on the other side. ~~The~~ It seems to me that the pickets looked rather bewildered and baffled at the congressman who was picketing them.

LABOR

On the labor front a statement made by President Roosevelt at his press conference today indicated that there may be further federal action to enforce labor peace in defense industries -- action against strikes, under the proclamation of unlimited national emergency. The President did not indicate just when such federal action may be taken. Soon perhaps.

He told of favorable factors in the labor situation, revealing he has received several hundreds of letters from unions pledging their ~~in~~ support ^{to} of the defense program.

One from the Teamsters' Union -- transmitted to him by

Union President Tobin. In this the Teamsters pledge their

allegiance to the leadership of the President.

ADD LABOR

Three strikes on the West Coast were today denounced by the office of Production Management. Associate O.P.M. Director Sidney Hillman voiced the indignation. The three strikes he named are;-- the ship building walk-out which has stopped defense ship building ^{at San Francisco.} ~~there~~. The tie-up of the North American Aviation plant at ~~the~~ Inglewood, California, ^{which} ~~That plant~~ has contracts for one fifth of the defense aircraft ^{now} being constructed. And, the work stoppage of lumbermen and loggers in the Puget Sound area in Washington. The O.P.M. denounces these strikes and their leaders.

Here's ^a lugubrious item in the labor news. At San Francisco today a shipping clerk killed himself, because he was so bitter about what he called "the dictatorship of labor unions". He left his estate, Five Hundred Dollars to Westbrook Pegler -- the New York ~~columnist~~ columnist who has been waging a bitter campaign against labor racketeers.

END

This trip to Washington leaves me disappointed in one respect. It concerns that softball game of tomorrow in which I and my Nine Old Men are to play a team of statesmen -- leading lights of Congress. Representative Hamilton Fish has indeed collected a formidable aggregation of legislating hitters and fielders. They not only make laws, they also hope to make homeruns -- says Ham Fish. The First Lady of the Land is to pitch the first ball. Vice-President Wallace will ~~px~~ play short field. And as for Senators and Congressmen you'll see them all the way from catching behind the plate to running their legs off in the deepest outfield. They'll even try to catch a softball tossed from the top of the Washington monument -- which is five hundred and fifty and a half feet high. That's a stunt which has been accomplished only twice in history. It would be just too bad if some Senator happened to get cracked on the coco. I suppose they'll probably try to catch the ball in a net -- the bigger the better. That stunt at Washington monument will be followed by the ball game at Griffiths Stadium.

Well, my Nine Old Men will be up against a formidable line-up. We'll need every hard-hitter and expert fielder we can get.

And there's one in particular that we certainly do need. Who, why Hugh James. It would be great to have Hugh out there hitting the ball over a Senator's head or throwing out the Vice-President. But, alas Hugh James can't be with us. He has more important things to do, or less important -- depending upon the way you look at it. Hugh is getting married tomorrow. So he will have nothing to do with Senators and Vice-Presidents -- nothing to do with lawmakers. Or is a wife a lawmaker? Come to think of it those household ~~igi~~ legislators certainly can lay down the law.

However that may be, Hugh, can't play baseball tomorrow because he's getting married. Could hardly do both at the same time. He won't be making hits on the diamond but, he's already made a hit with a diamond. He won't be catching flies, but he's likely to be swatting them in the kitchen before the summer is over. Anyway -- best of luck Hugh.