

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Today Laval of France was in conference with Ciano of Italy. Another of those diplomatic meetings which have been in the headlines for several days -- the Axis powers seeking to line up France and Spain.

Today's word from abroad develops and expands the hint we had last night -- that the purpose of these big time German and Italian manoeuvres is to force a negotiated peace. This interpretation is insistent in France. Hitler and Mussolini, they say, are seeking to create a continental front which will confront Great Britain with the alternative talk peace or face a campaign with France and Spain included.

The London rumors are that Hitler has failed to persuade either Marshal Petain or Generalissimo Franco to join in the war. But it is assumed that both the French and Spanish governments might well join the Axis powers in a formidable drive for peace. A late bulletin rumors Petain has accepted Hitler's terms. Both France and Spain are being offered concessions. One report today outlines supposed peace terms, according to which France would not be required to give Italy the City of Nice and would merely be called upon to

share the control of Tunis with the Italians. ^{Also} France ~~is~~ to give up some of Morocco, as a concession to Spain.

The peace offensive theory is that Hitler will offer Great Britain ~~what~~ what the Germans call -- a compromise settlement. Nazi Germany, of course, to be left in control of continental Europe, and arrange what ~~is~~ the Nazis are calling -- A New Order. The rumor frequently mentions the United States, the possibility that the Washington government might play a part ^{the} in negotiations. This notion inevitably focuses European eyes on the election Tuesday after next. Will the Presidential election influence the American attitude toward ^a ~~the~~ peace drive? Conversely, might a peace drive influence the presidential election? The rumors, mostly out of France, are exceedingly vague on the American angle.

So far as Great Britain is concerned, the reports have it that the Germans will threaten that the continental lineup will launch a huge and overwhelming campaign -- striking at Gibraltar and at ~~the~~ Suez. It is to be noted that today Rome reports a ^{renewal} ~~renewal~~ of the advance in Egypt. The Italians claim that Marshal Graziani's forces have ^{advanced} ~~advanced~~ forty miles beyond Sidi Barani which

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would put them one hundred and fifteen miles into Egypt and only thirty-five miles away from Marsa Matruh, the big British base. That's where the British resistance is concentrated and Rome claims that its forces are advancing toward a big battle with the defenders there. Meanwhile, Italian war planes have joined the Nazi sky raiders in the bombing of Britain. Italian flying units, based on German controlled airports, are flying against London tonight.

Germany, says the peace rumor, will launch a series of terrific air attacks against Great Britain during the next few days hoping to put the British more in the mood to call the whole thing off, and make a settlement. There might seem to be confirmation of this in today's air news. London reports that the Luftwaffe today launched and tonight is launching some of the ^{most} ~~vii~~ violent ~~est~~ sky assaults since September Sixteenth. That was the day of the biggest ^{the} German air attacks when the Luftwaffe lost one hundred and eighty five planes -- according to the British account. Today the number was only a fraction of this. The bulletin issued By the London Air Ministry numbers the Nazi Plane losses, by the dozen, instead

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of by the hundreds. The British explain this ^{by saying} that the Germans are now using, not the heavier and slower bombers as before, but the smaller and faster bomber-fighters. These don't carry so much high explosive, but get away much more readily. Of recent days London has had a comparatively quiet time. The peace rumor states that this was because of a reorganization for new and heavier attacks -- the reported peace offensive bombing ^{which} maybe is now ^{developing} ~~contemplating~~. Tonight's United Press dispatch from London reads as follows:- "Germany ^{is} hurling a terrific day and night air attack on London, equalling in intensity some of the heaviest assaults the Luftwaffe has ever made on Britain."

With all this ^{thunder} of explosion, there was continuous and heavy fire across the English Channel today, ~~and~~ German and British big guns bombarding each other. And the Royal Air Force is making its usual bombing raids into German territory -- bombing constantly.

DEFENSE

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Today the automobile industry was summoned to join with the aviation industry in the program of national air defense. Defense Coordinator Knudsen, in a conference with motor car leaders, told them of plans to combine the work of automobile and airplane plants - in the joint task of building overwhelming air power for this nation. The auto plants will be called upon to manufacture various types of parts for warplanes, parts to be used in the construction of twelve thousand bombers next year.

CONSCRIPTION

Here are some of the regulations that will govern the selection of men for military service under conscription. President Roosevelt today issued a set of rules. One is that every man called into the army shall have at least five days' notice, so that he can finish up his personal business affairs before being sent to camp. Another rule is, that men may be taken only after the commander of the corps area has adequate facilities for them - such as shelter, housing. Further, in every community the draft officials are to be sure that volunteers are called before non-volunteers are ordered into service. *So in some sections few non-volunteers may be called at first.* Meanwhile, in Washington, eight girls were locked in a room today, and ~~now they've~~ started filling ⁱⁿ capsules with bits of paper each marked with a number. The capsules will be used for the conscription lottery. There'll be a big jar of them, and they'll be picked one after another - a drawing of numbers to determine the order in which the seventeen million men who registered will be called before the local draft boards.

GENERAL

Today President Roosevelt created the first negro brigadier-general in the history of the United States. The President announced a whole list of army promotions, and one of those named is a negro colonel, Benjamin O. Davis. He now becomes the first black brigadier-general.

POLITICS

Today President Roosevelt gave an answer, and Wendell Willkie propounded a question. The answer and the question were along similar lines - a bit of a coincidence.

At the White House ~~today~~, ^{this afternoon} President Roosevelt was asked about a thing which has been a subject for rumor now and then - whether, if reelected, he would serve the full four years.

Some have ventured the supposition that if the President gained a third term, he would step out and let his running mate, Henry ~~xxxxx~~ Wallace, assume the presidency.

Today at the White House press conference, one of the Washington correspondents made the remark, that ~~xxxxxx~~^{on} ~~xxxxxx~~ Wednesday night, in his ~~xxxxxx~~ Philadelphia campaign speech, the President spoke of providing jobs during the next four years. "Does this mean," the newspaper man asked today, "that if reelected, you will, God willing, serve out a full four year term?"

President Roosevelt replied:- "Of course." He was so emphatic about it that he gave permission to be quoted directly, to the extent of those two words - "of course."

Then reflectively, he referred to two other words.

He said he was glad that the newspaper man's question had
the clause: -
contained _λ - "God willing."

So that should silence any doubt about whether or not
Franklin D. Roosevelt is determined to serve a full four years
more, if reelected again.

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About the time ^{*Mr.*} ~~President~~ _λ Roosevelt was giving his
answer, Wendell Willkie was asking his question. ^{*And:*} _λ It didn't
concern any third term. Willkie was wondering about a fourth
term. He said the question was pertinent, and he gave this reason.
"Because," said he, "there is no argument that can be advanced
for a man serving three terms that cannot be made more persuasive
for a fourth term - and still more persuasive for a fifth term."
He said that if eight years in office was so much of a
qualification for a third term, why then twelve years in office
would be
~~was~~ _λ still more qualification, and sixteen years in office an
even greater qualification. And so on ad infinitum. In other
words, what a president Methuselah would have made! ~~Not to mention~~
~~Ged, who could serve innumerable terms for all eternity.~~

~~(Attention Burghill)~~

BROWDER

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Communist Candidate Earl Browder had his say in Washington today - and he said it with frills. Browder is opposing the elimination of the Red ticket from the ballot in New York State, and he testified today that the Communists were being chucked out of the election, so that President Roosevelt might get the Communist votes. Browder gave this testimony before the Senate Committee on Campaign Expenditures.

He stated that two years ago, in the election for Governor, the Reds cast a hundred and six thousand ballots, in New York State. And he claimed that it was the Communist vote which elected Governor Lehman. *The Communists did Officially support* ~~He~~ pointed out that Lehman had a majority of only sixty-four thousand over New York City's racket busting District Attorney, Thomas E. Dewey. So, declared Browder, it's a fair conclusion that the hundred and six thousand Bolshevik ballots were decisive. ^{TP} So ~~now~~, said he, the third term leaders are convinced that they cannot carry New York State without the Communist vote. They want to get the Red ticket off the ballot, argued Browder, because they know that Communists will never vote for Willkie. If they can't vote for Browder, they'll vote for the

him as a branch of the American Labor Party. Browder

President. He charged that therefore there has been a campaign *of*
New Deal
~~of~~ terrorism, which has made Communist W.P.A. workers repudiate
their signatures on the Red election petition, and that has
caused the courts to toss out the Browder ticket on the charge
of fraud.

RELIGION

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The injection of religion into politics is always dynamite, and today the charge was made that theology is being introduced into the ~~present~~ harum-scarum scramble for the presidency.

The accusation is made by Democratic National Chairman Flynn of the Bronx. He used the word "scurrilous", in describing an appeal that is being made in Pennsylvania. Now, how is this appeal to religious prejudice being made? Ed Flynn said that billboards in Pennsylvania are blazing with a campaign argument which reads:- "Save your religion. Dictators hate religion. Vote straight Republican." Well, who could they mean by that?

Anyway, it has ~~got Ed~~ Flynn of the Bronx ripping mad. He speaks of - "this attempt to stir up religious hatred," and accuses the Pennsylvania Republican Committee of ^{what he calls} "doing such dastardly things."

NEW JERSEY

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For weeks there has been a hullabaloo about election conditions in New Jersey. Mayor Frank Hague's organization in Jersey City, Hudson County, has been under fire - charged with fraudulent election practices. There has been a loud outcry against the burning of some books - election registration books. ~~By~~ ^{With} the charges against Hague raising ructions, a Senate sub-committee investigating elections is opening hearings in New Jersey, and ~~in~~ ~~stated~~ today statements were made that voting in Jersey is a good deal less than a hundred per cent pure. One witness was State Senator Stout. He's a Democrat of Hudson County - Boss Hague's bailiwick. On the witness stand he said:- "Certain^{ly} there is fraud in Hudson County."

But the State Senator did not limit himself to that area. He also included Republican places - all Jersey in fact. Speaking of fraud, he uttered these words: "It's all over the state. Look down in Atlantic County if you want to see fraud. And you might take a look at Camden County too. My humble opinion" ^{the Democratic State Senator, 'is} ~~is, he~~ summarized ^{^^} "that in every large city and to some extent in small towns, there is fraud in elections."

Well, dear old Jersey. I'll stand up for the state. I don't know about the elections, but the fishing is fine.

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It was announced in Jersey City today that Mayor Hague
would provide free bus transportation to Jersey City inhabitants -
when President Roosevelt visits the place on Monday. All ~~of~~

Jersey City residents who are not within walking distance of the

~~so they can line the streets~~
President's route, will get free bus rides - by order of Mayor

Hague; *so they can line the streets.*

EGGS

The man who threw the eggs at Mr. and Mrs. Willkie appeared in a Chicago court today. He's the marksman who hurled ~~a hard boiled egg~~ ^{an egg - a frozen egg -} and hit Wendell Willkie over the eye, raising a welt - and who also ~~with a raw egg~~ spattered Mrs. Willkie ^{with egg.} Mrs. Willkie, by the way, has her own comment to make on the episode - explaining why her husband was angry. Talking about the ~~xx~~ eggs, she said:- "He doesn't mind so much when they hit him, but he gets furious when they spatter me." Well, imagine a man who wouldn't get furious when somebody hits his wife!

The judge today granted the egg thrower a jury trial. The charge against him is serious - assault with a deadly weapon. Now, an egg may hardly seem to be so deadly, even though ~~hard~~ ^{frozen.} ~~boiled~~ But get this. Charles Mulhain, the W.P.A. egg thrower, is a former baseball player. He used to buzz the ball around ~~the~~ professional diamond, ~~and as we all know, baseball players~~ ~~have got to have quite a throwing arm.~~

There's a sharp bit of irony in all this. Previous to the Chicago affair in which both the Republican candidate and

his wife were hit, Wendell Willkie had made light of the gentlemanly business of throwing things at him. He laughed it off, saying that the bad aim of the political marksman^e made him fear for the future of the United States as a baseball playing nation. That was a typical Willkieism, turning it all into a smile, with a reference to baseball. Then in Chicago, the marksman proved to be not so bad - ~~a square hit~~ ^{a bullseye - right} over Willkie's eye, not to mention the spattering of Mrs. Willkie. And now the high-minded sharpshooter turns out to have been an ex-baseball player!

In the court proceedings today the statement was made - "eggs in the hands of an ex-ball player can be deadly." ^{Hence} ~~well,~~ ^{the deadly weapon charge. For} Willkie was hit right over the eye and it raised a welt, and the smash of a ~~hard boiled~~ ^{frozen} egg might easily put an eye out. ~~The~~ ^{is set} ~~court said that set~~ The trial for November Twelfth. The prisoner asked for a delay. He said he wanted to line up testimony. As he said, "to bring friends to testify that I had been drinking." The drinking part of it hardly adds any more dignity to the ugly affair. ^{And s-l-u-Monday}

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