

L.I. - Sunoco. Tues., Sept. 26, 1939.

FRENCH COMMUNISTS

(Today in France the Communist Party was abolished - that Red organization which once was so powerful.) It had a paid membership of half a million. In Nineteen Thirty-Six, the Communist Party polled two million two hundred thousand votes, and controlled eight hundred municipalities. That was at the time of the far-famed Popular Front, which took power in France under Premier Leon Blum. The same sort of Popular Front that won out in Spain, and brought on the Spanish Civil War - the Communists joining in with the other parties of the Left. It all seems like ancient history now.

(When Comrade Stalin lined up with Nazi Fuehrer Hitler, he put the jinx on the French Communist Party.) And today the Paris Council of Ministers outlawed that once mighty political organization of the Reds. Any attempted party propaganda to be punished by prosecution. If there are any local Communist officials who fail to carry out today's anti-Communist ~~law~~ decree, they'll be removed from office.

It wasn't the wicked capitalists who finished off the Red comrades - it was Stalin.

DIES

There's to be a United States Government purge of Communists and Fascists, so said Congressman Dies of Texas today. The Congressman, as Chairman of the Committee investigating Un-American activities, is much concerned with the doings of Reds and Fascists. He declared that quite a number of them have worked their way into responsible jobs in various departments of the government. "Just recently," says the Congressman, "I've been informed by a ~~reliable~~ reliable source that the respective heads of the departments have been apprised of the known Communists and Fascists working for them and that the department heads are taking steps toward their dismissal." Out with the Reds and Fascists ^{in our} ~~who've got into~~ federal bureaus! *says Dies.*

They'll also be tossed out of the C.I.O. - so said the Chairman of the Dies Committee. There have been many charges of Communist influence in the John L. Lewis group of unions, ~~Reds trying to make C.I.O. organizations adhere to the Communist Party line, as laid down by Red Dictator Stalin.~~ There's to be a summary end to that, declares Congressman Dies. "I understand," said he today, "that C.I.O. leaders will announce a purge of all subversive

elements from the C. I. O. ranks, and that the process of weeding out such members already has begun."

Comrade Stalin brought it all on.

AUTO UNION

European war affairs are intruding into the business of American labor unions. At Detroit, the old fight is on between the two organizations of automobile workers - one affiliated with the A.F. of L., the other with the C.I.O. There's to be a bargaining election in Chrysler plants and today the A.F. of L. ~~union~~ appealed to auto workers of Polish extraction - appealed ~~to them~~ on grounds of the conquest and destruction of Poland. The C.I.O. faction of the auto union has been accused of being dominated by Communist elements. Communist Dictator Stalin and his Red army have joined Hitler in the partitioning of Poland, hence the A.F. of L. argument that American auto workers of Polish descent should spurn the C.I.O. group.

LEGION

The American Legion paraded today -- all day. Rain in Chicago held up the grand march for a while, but then the skies began to clear. With war in Europe, the Legion called its demonstration "a parade of peace;" A telltale sign that the Twenty-First Convention of the American Legion is the most important in its history.

AMBASSADOR

Germany may send its Ambassador back to Washington -- that's the word in Berlin tonight. Remember how we called our own Ambassador home at the time of the Nazi anti-Jewish outbreaks - and Germany retaliated by calling Ambassador Dieckhoff back to Berlin?

Now we hear that the Hitler government is considering the idea of sending Ambassador Dieckhoff back and restoring normal diplomatic relations -- on the German side anyway. This, says the Berlin report, will be meant as a "peace gesture." And the German hope is that the United States will respond by sending an American Ambassador to Berlin.

CHAMBERLAIN

Prime Minister Chamberlain addressed the House of Commons today and gave an account of the war thus far. The most important thing is this:- (Chamberlain indicated that so far as the Allies were concerned, the war was more economic than military. No tremendous charge by the British and French armies against the Siegfried Line, but slow economic strangulation - that's the idea.)

Speaking of the work of the Ministry of Economic Warfare, the head of the London Government declared:- "The general object of the Ministry is to disarm Germany's economic structure to such an extent as to make it impossible for her to carry on the war." And Chamberlain expanded the British war plan in these further words:- "If Britain," said he, "can prevent Germany from importing raw material essential for the functioning of her war industries, the result will effectively cripple her power to prolong hostilities," — *to fight.*

So Britain means it to be an economic war, ~~with British economic blockade pitted against German submarine blockade,~~ instead of army versus army on the battlefield.

CHURCHILL

The proceedings in the House of Commons ^{then} took on a more vivid tone with a declaration by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill ^{-- who is} ~~He~~ always vivid. (Churchill told the Commons that the German submarine blockade was not developing dangerously.) The British campaign against the U-boats, said he, was decidedly effective. He estimated that Hitler had already lost one-tenth of his submarines.

^{Also} The First Lord of the Admiralty gave the first official version we have of the torpedoing of the giant aircraft carrier COURAGEOUS. The mighty craft was protected by four destroyers, but two ^{of them} ~~destroyers~~ went off to help a merchant ship that was being attacked. The two destroyers that remained were insufficient to guard against ^{a U-boat.} ~~the submarine attack.~~ It was dusk, and the COURAGEOUS was just making a turn to enable some of her aircraft to land on deck. ~~Just~~ ^{the} At that moment of approaching darkness, ^{the} U-boat sneaked in and got a chance to launch the torpedo that sent the great carrier to the bottom.

And the Right Honorable Winston Churchill had a telling little story to relate - he's a rare and gifted story-teller. While

condemning the inhumanity of many of the submarine sinkings, he admitted that some of the German U-boat commanders were humane and even chivalrous. And he told this anecdote:- "One German Captain," said he, "signalled me personally ~~to~~ the position of a British ship he had just sunk, and urged that rescue be sent. I was in some doubt," Churchill continued, "as to what address the reply might be sent. However," he concluded assuringly, "that German U-boat commander is now in our hands and being treated with all consideration."

Just how the British caught the humane U-boat commander is not related, ~~but they're glad to treat him with~~
~~consideration.~~

NAVAL BATTLE

The mystery of the big naval battle still continues -- or does it? For a couple of days heavy firing at sea has been heard along the coast of Norway -- in the same area where the historic battle of Jutland was fought during the World War. If a naval battle is going on it certainly is lasting a long time. The mightiest fight ever fought on the sea, the Battle of Jutland, lasted only an afternoon -- with some sporadic night attacks. But this new titanic struggle at sea has been going on for days! So its' reported!

Sounds extraordinary, if not incredible. Anyway, how could they have a really big naval battle -- when Germany hasn't much of a fleet, a couple of pocket battleships and a few cruisers -- nothing like the Kaiser's navy that fought at Jutland.

Here's a supposition: refreshingly unsensational. The United Press today quotes the Naval General Staff of Norway, quotes it in a statement with these words: "It seems that a mistake has been made, and the sounds came from dynamiting in quarries in the fjords outside Bergen." So says the Norwegian Naval General Staff-- the cannon fire of the supposed battle was just dynamite blasting

off a lot of rock.

And that may be the real explanation of another war sensation -- the mysterious **second battle** of Jutland! Which produced those big headlines yesterday.

ZEPPELIN BOMBARDMENT

Here's another splash headline exploded tonight -- the Allied bombardment of the great German Zeppelin Works at Friedrichshafen. Now a factory manufacturing aviation motors. The story was reported from nearby Switzerland -- people heard the shooting and saw explosions. French bombers were said to have hit the great plant.

But this is denied, by Paris officially. And now there's a rumor that the air raid story was just a German invention -- designed to cover up an accidental explosion in the Zeppelin plant.

RIBBENTROP

Nazi Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop is going to Moscow -- that 's announced by both the Germans and the Soviets. The last time he went was to sign that Hitler-Stalin Non-Agression Pact, which shook the world. This time nobody knows what Hitler's Foreign Minister is up to, visiting The Red Capitol. The supposition is that he's going to negotiate with Stalin concerning the final disposition of Poland, make an agreement for the creation of some sort of an abbreviated and mutilated Polish state between the territories of Germany and Russia.

FOLLOW VON RIBBENTROP

There's a late bulletin from Roumania, a rumor that ~~states that~~ Hitler and Stalin have agreed on a plan to divide up eastern Europe, ~~between them~~, divide it either as outright possessions or as spheres of influence. The Bucharest report states that the Soviets have agreed that Nazi Germany shall have Roumania in its sphere of influence.

FLEET

Moscow announces that the fleet of Russia has been put on a war footing. It isn't so much of a fleet, though the Soviets are reputed to have a lot of submarines - and submarines are very much in the news of this present war. It isn't clear what the war mobilization of the Red fleet means, but it's exciting all sorts of speculation and worry in the Allied countries, ^{as} every Soviet move does.

OIL

In Washington today the Congressional Committee investigating monopoly took up the subject of oil, that invaluable substance - petroleum. And right away a war-time angle appeared, when an expert of petroleum told the Monopoly Committee that the United States is the only nation on earth that has enough oil to provide instantly for any emergency. Especially -- any military emergency. Sixty-two per cent of the world's entire oil industry is in the United States -- this was testified by J. Howard Pew, President of Sun Oil.

The theme of monopoly in petroleum brought reference to the fact that a hundred and seventeen oil companies are listed. Are they monopolized? Witness J. Howard Pew testified grimly in these words: "If anybody suspects," said he, "that monopoly is likely to be established among these six score of fightin independent determined competitors -- I should like to have him sit at my elbow during the working hours of a few business days. He would learn what competition really is," said the President of Blue Sunoco.

BASEBALL

In Cincinnati today Bill McKechnie took two chances with pitchers, two surprises. The Cincinnati Reds started their most important series of games during their entire season -- the old baseball expression "crucial series" certainly does apply. A desperate pennant battle during the stretch, Cincinnati leading the battling, clawing, mauling St. Louis Cards by three and a half games. Now -- a four game series with the Cards. Cincinnati Manager Bill McKechnie has two outstanding pitchers: Bucky Walters and Paul Derringer. Bucky has won twenty-seven games, Paul Twenty-four. Derringer pitched yesterday, so was not available for today. So the inescapable logic was -- Bucky Walters, in a supreme Cincinnati effort to win the first game. To the astonishment of the huge crowd in Cincinnati -- in went Junior Thompson to pitch. Junior is hardly more than a rookie. Junior Thompson hurled a peach of a game, they only got one run off him. The Reds got three. And the crowd went wild.

Now came the logic for the second game. Certainly it would be Bucky Walters this time, Bucky the ace, the star. But

once more McKechnie crossed the logic. He put in Lee Grisson. At the beginning of the season Lee was rated a star on the Cincinnati staff, but the promise failed. He went badly all season. What happened with Grisson in there? Cincinnati lost six to three. So it's now up to either Bucky Walters or Paul Derringer to win one, and put it on ice.