

C. J. - Lunoco Thurs., April 20, 1939.

MUSSOLINI

6
Today's Number One headline was, of course, Mussolini's reply to President Roosevelt's peace message. It's the first official indication of acceptance or rejection by either Mussolini or Hitler. Therefore, it's worth a bit of careful scrutiny - not only what the Fascist Duce said but the circumstances in which he said it.

Today was the Fiftieth Birthday of Hitler, which in Germany was celebrated in stupendous Nazi fashion, a huge military

parade in Berlin, the feature of which was a procession of new

And there were birthday congratulations -- even
giant cannon. [^] So Mussolini selected the much trumpeted birthday

of his Axis partner as the time for his own reply to the President

And --
of the United States. [^] The Duce was having a celebration of his own.

Fascist Italy is going to stage a world's fair in Nineteen

Forty-Two -- and intends to make it something gigantic, stupendous,

the biggest ever, the way a world's fair is always heralded.

They say they'll have exhibition structures as big as the Coliseum,

as big as St. Peter's - Rome is a famous place for analogies, ^{of magnitude.} ~~and~~

Preparations have already begun, and
today the Fascist Duce received a report of progress. He received

it in theatrical style, ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ Capitoline Hill, [^] the Roman Forum, the

from the King of England.

place where Caesar was assassinated, in the very shadow of an heroic statue of imperial Caesar. And to ^{on the Fair} the report [^] the Duce made a reply - talking to the assembled crowds and to a radio microphone. In this world's fair reply, the Duce chose to insert this answer to President Roosevelt's peace proposal - he just slid it in amid a lot of sonorous references to his coming ~~international exposition. His usual showmanship.~~ ~~world's fair. Now, that was showmanship using the occasion of~~ ~~preparations for an international exhibition.~~ ^{we all} You know the ideas that surround a world's fair - peaceful progress, industrial advancement, ^{zation,} ~~civilization,~~ enlightenment, and the glorification of the arts of peace. Such was the ^{scene} ~~saying~~ of benevolence and uplift the Duce selected for his reply to the Roosevelt proposal, ~~that Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany guarantee the peace for ten years, in return for which they'll get an international conference for the purpose of providing them with trade benefits.~~

The Duce's words dramatized the world's fair angle ^{of} ~~for~~ international peace. He began this way, ~~as~~ with his own kind of sententiousness and with the innate stateliness of the Italian language:- "This solemn meeting of ours on

Capitoline Hill," he declaimed, "is the first act of a great mobilization." He bore down on that warlike word - "mobilization", then he cut loose with these staccato phrases: "Let not the few, the many, the too many who beyond our frontier abandon themselves to hysteria of comment, be alarmed at the sound of this word. It refers to a civil, pacific mobilization without arms, save those used in the labor of fifteen thousand workers."

(After a few ~~more~~ remarks about his international exposition, Mussolini tied it to the subject of peace. "If we ever had any intention of lighting the fuse," said he, "and if we were cherishing obscure aggressive designs, we would not be dedicating ourselves to work of such vast proportions - that of organizing a world exposition.) This," he proclaimed, "should be considered a promising indication that we do not intend to attack anyone." And from that he drew this conclusion: "It is therefore absolutely unjust and unjustifiable to attempt to place the nations of the Axis on the seat of the accused." And right there he touched upon President Roosevelt's peace proposal, which singled out Italy and Germany as the nations ^{called upon} to promise non-aggression.

(As for the President's two points, peace guarantee and world conference - Mussolini denounced them both.) ~~One may well surmise that~~
About one, he said: "No less absurd is the proposal of reciprocal guaranties lasting ten years which do not take into account the pyramidal errors of geography into which individuals have ~~fallen~~ fallen." That's a significant phrase, "pyramidal errors of geography." Meaning the opinions of people who do not agree with Italian Fascist ideas of geographical expansion, acquisition of new lands. ~~One may well surmise that Mussolini may say something like this to President Roosevelt: "If Italy were to give the ten year guarantee, what would Italy get? Not mere trade advantages, but territorial acquisition? Maybe a reference to Italian claims on France."~~
So ~~One may well surmise that~~ *later on* ~~Mussolini may say something like this to President Roosevelt:~~
in a formal reply ~~"If Italy were to give the ten year guarantee, what would Italy get? Not mere trade advantages, but territorial acquisition? Maybe a reference to Italian claims on France."~~

49
Speaking of the President's proposed world conference, Mussolini said scathingly: "As for the proposed expansive conference in which the United States would limit itself effectively to its customary role of distant spectator, experience ~~gives~~ gives us some bitter lessons on this score. Namely, that the greater the number of conferees the more certainty there is of

failure."

~~the American~~
 Not once did the Duce name ~~President Roosevelt~~ - all he referred to was what he called "the well known message."
 Will he make any other reply to it than his speech ~~any formal~~ diplomatic reply? That's left up in the air, left uncertain by ~~these~~ ^{today's} words: "Whether or not any reply is sent to the well known message," ~~said he~~ ^{he pointedly said:} "I cannot pass up this occasion to reaffirm that the policy of Rome and of the Axis is a policy inspired by the ~~experience of~~ ~~the~~ criteria of peace." ~~No~~, Mussolini

didn't mention President Roosevelt, but there is no doubt whom he meant in this declaration, when he ^{added:-} ~~said~~ "We do not allow

ourselves to be impressed by newspaper campaigns or convivial vociferations or by Messiah-like messages." ^{"Convivial vociferations"? Now just who did the Duce have in mind when he made that crack?} So that's the first response to the American presidential

peace message - non-impressed. ^{And what's} ~~was~~ the world response to ^{Mussolini's response?} Encouraged, for the most part; because of the unwarlike tone,

all that dramatization of peace ~~text~~ through the medium of a world's fair. Great Britain, always hoping that Mussolini will return to the ways of international harmony, expresses guarded

50
approval. In Washington, administration circles say that the Mussolini attack on the President's proposal was just about what was to be expected. And, that the Mussolinian phraseology seems to leave the way open for further discussion - further proposals, if the President sees fit to make any. In Wall Street the response was more positive than any place else. There was a Stock Market rally with prices going up all along the line. Foreign bonds went up, with Italian securities leading the way. (It would appear that war talk causes Wall Street to take a sinking spell, while peace talk causes a rise.)

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS

Developments in the European political situation go something like this. (The word from Paris is that Great Britain and France have offered Soviet-Russia a formal military alliance, a three-power alliance ~~arriving~~ reviving the old Triple ^{Entente} ~~Alliance~~ of World War Days.) The power of the Red Army to be linked with the French and British ~~army~~ armed forces.

This may strike a snag or two -- all because of Comrade Stalin's Red Army. Poland and Rumania have been guaranteed by Great Britain and France against Hitler's Germany, but neither Poland nor Rumania want the Communist legions under the Red Flag marching through their country to do battle with Germany. Word from Bucharest today tells us that Rumania and Poland are discussing that Red Army question -- what to do about it. And late word from Warsaw makes the positive statement that Poland won't let the Reds in. The dispatch states that Warsaw has officially informed both London and Moscow that if Great Britain and France form a military alliance with the Soviets -- Poland will not be in it, not ~~even~~ even passively. The Poles will fight against the Red Army as well as against the Nazi Germans. They want protection against ~~the Nazis~~ Hitler, but being protected by Communists is rather like having a tiger save you from a wolf.

IRISH

I personally am not so much worried about what Mussolini or Hitler think, so long as that presidential peace proposal doesn't offend the Irish. Mussolini may have his bombers and Hitler may have his giant guns, but we need not fear them - so long as the Irish don't start throwing bricks.

52
Secretary of State Hull is a stern and upright statesman and he'd never apologize to the dictators, but today he apologized to the Irish, all because of the presidential peace message. In naming the thirty-one nations that Mussolini and Hitler were asked not to attack, President Roosevelt named - Great Britain and Ireland, linking the two together. Whereupon certain foreign newspapers took up the implication that the American State Department regarded Ireland as still joined ^{ed} ~~to~~ to Great Britain - look out for the bricks!

Today Secretary Hull, dodging his head, issued the following declaration: "The last thing anyone here had in mind," said he, "was to raise a question as to the status of Ireland as an independent country. Everyone knows that we recognize Ireland as an individual entity," said he, dodging again,

"and we accredit a minister to Ireland and receive a minister from Ireland." Having given these fervent Hibernian reassurances, the Secretary of State crawled out from under the desk and cried: "Bring on your Hitlers and Mussolinis!"

DEBTS

3
American relations with the democracies and the dictatorships were complicated a bit by action in Congress today. Send them a bill, is the idea proposed. A bill for what? A bill for billions.

We are for the democracies and we're against the dictatorships, but, as is well known, the democracies owe us money and so does one of the dictatorships, Italy. There's a resolution in the Senate, introduced by Senator Reynolds of North Carolina, to jog the memories of the war debt nations, send them a bill, a bill for billions. And there's even a proposal to send a bill-collector.

Representative Reed of Illinois today introduced a resolution asking President Roosevelt to appoint a war-debt-collector. The collector named to do the dunning is William Griffith, who publishes a newspaper in New York. The congressional suggestion is that he be appointed as a special envoy to remind the various European governments of the billions upon billions they owe the United States. ^{TF Now} Wouldn't it be a sight to see the

4
American bill-collector walking into the Palazzo Venezia and handing a bill for a couple of billion dollars to Mussolini - dunning the Duce! Unfortunately, he would also have to do the same to France and Great Britain. *The* money they haven't paid us is something stupendous. *But,* we share their political if not their financial ideals. It would be all right to dun the Duce, but think of dunning the democracies! *Surely not.*

POUND

The news gives us a shock this evening, but then Ezra Pound is always producing shocks. That American ultra-modernistic and hyper-futuristic ^{Idaho} poet, who for years has lived in Europe, ~~concocting~~ concocting transcendental expressionistic and super-aesthetic ~~verses~~ ^{verses} ~~phrases~~ -- or something. Today ^{Ezra Pound} ~~he~~ returned to his native land on a visit, and promptly said shocking things.

Ezra Pound is accustomed to shock one's eyes and ears with poetry. I'll read one of his poems to illustrate. It goes this way:-

"To the serenissimo D^{no} (pronounced Domino)
and his most serene aftercomers
things, persons et omnia alia juva whatever
and the cash in the Pawn Shop (Mount of Pity)

Now if you understand that, or if you do not, you'll realize that Ezra Pound is original. Today on landing he uttered no poetry -- just prose, but he was equally original. He spoke on the subject of the European situation -- and you know how everybody is raising Cain with the dictators, denouncing ~~totalitarian~~ totalitarianism, shouting for a fight against Fascism. So here's what Ezra Pound says. He describes Fascist Italy in these words -- the seat of culture in the Occident. He says there is no

Oh no?

^
censorship in Italy. He praises Mussolini's mentality, and he had some hard words to say about the literature of social significance that we have over here. He called it -- pseudo pink blah. And he compared it most unfavorably with what he called -- the practical economic stuff being written in Italy. What about the war talk? Ezra Pound says that if there's a world war it will be instigated by what he called -- the financial octopus of London, Paris and New York. He says that he has come over here to find out ~~where~~ whether there's a group in this country trying to foment a European war. ^{*He says*} ~~the~~ impression abroad is that there is.

~~After all the war talk we've been getting over here~~

Yes, Ezra Pound's prose sounds almost as astonishing as his poetry.

French ship

Today at La Havre in France, formal charges were lodged -- accusation that the French liner Paris was deliberately set on fire, that the blaze which destroyed the great liner was a case of arson. Against whom are the charges made? The legal accusation describes them as -- unknown persons. *But foreign sabotage is still suspected.*

At the same time the city officials and the harbor police issue a complete denial that a bomb was found on the liner NORMANDIE, ^{that} ~~the~~ story of an attempt to sabotage the French Queen of the Seas ~~was~~ rumoured yesterday. Today the authorities announce -- nothing to it -- no bomb. And this denial was echoed by officials of the French Line in New York.

SUBMARINE

There's a ^{regular submarine hunt} ~~whole fleet of~~ ^{destroyers} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ tonight off

the coast of Nova Scotia. Reports in the past few days of a mysterious undersea craft have brought official action by the Canadian government. The Minister of Defense at Ottawa today

ordered four ^{destroyers} ~~patrol boats~~ to search for the ^{mysterious} ~~missing~~ sub. Some

reports say there are as many as four subs. ~~The United States Coast Guard cutter CHAMPLAIN was reported to be in the hunt for the diving craft, but reports about it have been contradictory and confused.~~

The United States Government gives assurance that there can be no U.S. submarine in Nova Scotia waters. But what about a German U-boat? ~~with~~ Reminiscences of World War days. The Hitler propaganda office was asked today, and the reply was: "There's no German submarine in American waters." The Nazi spokesman suggested it was probably a whale, and not a Nazi whale either, said he. Or - it might be the sea serpent!

POPE

The talk of peace ~~is~~ as against the talk of war was re-enforced today by Pope Pius the ~~Eleventh~~ ^{Twelfth}. The Pontiff appoints the month of May to be ~~the~~ ^a time of prayers for peace. He asks Catholics throughout the world to dedicate ~~them~~ this coming May to supplications for peace on earth.

ROOSEVELT VISIT

In London today court circles were talking about a visit of state, the principals being - President Roosevelt, King George and Queen Elizabeth. No, not the visit of Their Majesties to the President in Washington - we know about that. It's the other way around - a possible visit of the President to Their Majesties in London. Court circles point out that according to international courtesies, when ^{the} a king calls on the head of a state, the call is usually returned. So, ^(after) ~~if~~ the royal journey to Washington, a presidential visit to London would be in order. They say that King George and Queen Elizabeth are likely to extend the invitation when they are at the White House.

28
Court circles, however, don't believe any such return visit would happen until after Nineteen Forty - until after Franklin D. Roosevelt has retired from the presidency.

ROOSEVELT HANDKERCHIEFS

In Paris there's a new fashion for smartly dressed women - quite political, ¹ international politics, in fact. ¹ ~~and~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{stylish} refrain is -- Vive Roosevelt! In the ^{smart} ~~stylish~~ shops along the boulevards, a new kind of handkerchief was put on display today, white linen handkerchiefs embroidered on the corner with two words - "Vive Roosevelt!" It's a Parisian way of expressing applause for the American presidential peace policy. They express it with feminine finery, on ze ~~handkerchief~~ handkerchief "Vive Roosevelt!" The pro-Rooseveltian hankies are to be worn in the breast pocket - over the heart no doubt, an embroidered corner sticking out where it can be seen - like a badge of heartfelt approbation - "Vive Roosevelt!"

Wouldn't it be tragic if one of those fashionable French ladies should have a cold and should suddenly need the handkerchief! Wouldn't she have to be careful about that embroidered corner? ~~Vive!~~ "Vive Roosevelt!"

Too bad the French women can't vote in the United States - they can't even vote in France. So what's the use of -- "Vive

Roosevelt?" *Just feminine fancy in Paris. And s-l-u-t-m.*

8 1/2

59

59 1/4