

RUSSIA

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, March 12, 1943.

In Russia it was give and take today -- with the Red Army giving in one sector and taking in another. It would appear that Soviet forces have lost the city of Kharkov. Berlin claims the capture of the place, and Moscow gives no indication that the Nazi claim is untrue. Berlin's latest statement declares that German troops have broken into the Red Square at Kharkov. "Thurs," states the Nazi dispatch, "the town is again in German hands after three weeks of temporary Soviet occupation." Indications from both sides are that some of the war's most savage fighting has been raging around the Kharkov area, with desperate street battles within the city.

~~This climaxes the German counter-attack on the southern Russian front, the recoil that carried the Nazi<sup>s</sup> forward for a hundred miles -- after they had retreated so fast and so far, ~~all~~<sup>all</sup> the way from Stalingrad on the Volga. It isn't clear what German strategy may be expected to follow the recapture of Kharkov --~~

~~whether or not they will try to keep driving on.~~

<sup>at</sup> If the Soviets gave <sup>at</sup> Kharkov, they certainly took <sup>at</sup> Vyazma. The Red Army capture of that great salient was announced by both Moscow and Berlin today. Soviet forces stormed into Vyazma, and found a scene of utter ruin -- much of the city having been destroyed in the battle and the Nazis having blown up the water works, the railraod, and the airport. Moscow announces the capture of huge quantities of booty, mauntains of abandoned enemy supplies.

~~The Red Army has been closing in on Vyazma for days. And evening after evening we have noted the city seemed nearer and nearer to a fall. Now its capture wipes out the last great German salient thrust toward Moscow.~~

STALIN

An astonishing <sup>picture</sup> ~~vision~~ was evoked today. Think of it - Stalin under the table! Who suggested that? ~~vision of the Soviet war leader hidden under the board that stands on legs? Why, President Roosevelt. Where and when? At the Casablanca conference - President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill sitting there, discussing affairs of state - with Stalin under the table.~~

At the White House news conference today, the President was asked about a remarkable story that is being told - a story that emanates from Erika Mann, daughter of the famous German writer, Thomas Mann. She has been giving some lectures, and in these she has been saying that Stalin was actually present at the Casablanca conference. Her version is that he was there <sup>confabulating</sup> ~~conferring~~ with the President and Prime Minister, and that this has been kept a secret.

Today the President gave the story the following comment. If Stalin was at the Casablanca conference, he must have been under the table. Because neither Roosevelt nor Churchill saw him. To which the echo adds - if they saw him they certainly wouldn't recognize him, with those mustachios.

## AFRICA

In North Africa the British have driven the Germans into retreat west of the Mareth Line. This means, of course that the British are inside that fortified position along which Rommel and his Afrika Korps had been expected to make a stand. With the Mareth Line a thing of the past, so far as the present military operations are concerned, General Montgomery's Eighth Army is herding the Nazis north into the corridor that leads to Central Tunisia.

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Rommel's retreat followed a violent battle in which the Afrika Korps smashed hard at the British, but was repelled. It was a wild melee of armor and air power, Rommel's tanks launching a blow and British planes battering them badly. Whereupon the Afrika Korps abandoned its attempt, broke off the action and retired northward.



AIR WAR

the  
Last night, British Royal Air Force hit  
the German industrial city of Stuttgart. Four engine  
bombers dropped tons of block busters and incendiary  
fire makers on Stuttgart, and that ~~xxx~~ key industrial  
center was left ~~blazed~~<sup>sted</sup> and aflame.

Today the Nazis responded with a daylight  
raid against London. They bombed the outskirts, but  
none got through to the center of the British capital.  
One German plane machine-gunned a crowded passenger  
train.

That wasn't much of a ~~raid~~, but this was --  
and it also happened today. American Flying Fortresses  
hit the Nazi-controlled French<sup>h</sup> City of Rouen, a great  
rail center. The Fortresses protected by swarms of  
fighter planes hit Rouen so hard<sup>d</sup> that flames leaped  
high into the sky -- flames ~~xxxx~~ and immense clouds  
of black smoke from burning oil cars. (Not a single  
fortress or fighter plane was lost, while three Nazi  
fighters were shot down.)

HITLER

The State Department in Washington has been receiving rumors that Hitler has had a collapse. This was disclosed today by Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles, who added that the reports were entirely unconfirmed.

It has often been said that Hitler was the kind of neurotic who likely enough would have a mental breakdown in the face of Nazi disaster, and recently worldwide attention has been directed to the fact that the ~~Nazi~~ Fuehrer has not been seen in public in weeks. That produced the supposition a while ago that he might actually be dead - or ~~ix~~ at least kept out of sight by the German generals. <sup>It</sup> More recently, the word ~~was~~ spread that it was a case of collapse. We hear that the rumors have <sup>ve</sup> been so <sup>world wide</sup> ~~widespread~~ and so insistent that State Department agencies <sup>to</sup> ~~ies~~ abroad have been picking them up, and relaying them on to Washington.

POST WAR

Today President Roosevelt stated that the giant program for public works to provide jobs after the war is up to Congress. He referred to the huge program for post war planning that he has submitted to the legislators, and made comment on that one feature ~~of the program~~ - enormous public works. (~~It is up to Congress, to decide whether we shall plan and appropriate billions right now to take care of an after-war <sup>WW</sup> employment situation, or whether we shall let the whole thing ride.~~)

Congress, meanwhile, is manifesting a good deal of opposition. (~~to the President's post-war program and is preparing to study the problem on its own.~~)



## SALARY LIMIT

The House of Representatives today voted to kill the twenty-five thousand dollar salary limit set by the President. This is a number one blow launched at the White House by the legislators, who are in revolt against what the insurgents call "government by executive decree."

President Roosevelt when he ordered that salaries be limited to twenty-five thousand dollars a year, ~~based~~ based his authority on the price fixing bill passed by Congress. This led immediately to the charge that Congress when it passed the bill had no intention of giving the President the power to restrict salaries to twenty-five thousand ~~dollars~~. The President, in return, proposed to Congress that not only should the salary limitation be retained but the idea should be extended -- that all income should be held down to twenty-five thousand ~~dollars~~ <sup>a year.</sup>

Congress refused to accept that and now has voted to put an end to the original limitation;

SALARY LIMIT \* 2

The action taken was in the form of an amendment,  
a rider to <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ bill about which there was no controversy  
at all -- the bill to raise the national debt limit  
from a hundred and twenty-five billions to two hundred  
and ten billions. The rider procedure is an old one  
in Congress -- whereby something ~~that~~ the President  
may not like is tacked on to a bill of which <sup>he is</sup> ~~is~~  
heartily ~~xxxxxx~~ in favor.

Administration forces tried to kill the  
amendment, which was sponsored by Congressman Disney  
of Oklahoma, but lost out.

The abolition of the twenty-five thousand  
dollar salary limitation now goes to the Senate where  
the whole thing is in doubt. The tactics of the  
Administration leaders will be to try and separate  
the amendment from the main bill -- thereby permitting  
the President to decide about each separately. In that  
way, he could veto one without vetoing the other.

TAXES

President Roosevelt once more today voiced his opposition to the Ruml pay-as-you-go plan for income taxes. He stated that the Ruml idea of skipping a tax year would cost the government money. It would mean that the Treasury would collect less revenue than it did last year. This was stated at the White House news conference, and reporters pointed out to the President the contention made by Financier Ruml - that the Treasury would not lose. The President replied that there is only one answer to that ~~not so~~ <sup>--- taint so.</sup> And he said the answer is mathematically correct.

~~He said that~~ <sup>Also</sup> under the Ruml plan some taxpayers would save money. - Some in the higher brackets. ~~He argued, they~~ <sup>the President argued</sup> would save a great deal of money. Presumably, ~~the President~~ <sup>he</sup> meant some people who made a lot of profit last year and a smaller amount this year. They would save by having this year's income ~~being~~ taxed.

instead of last year's - which would be skipped under the Ruml plan.

The Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representative, having tossed out Ruml and pay-as-you-go, today added a new gadget to the twenty per cent withholding tax. Under the system of twenty per cent deductions from all wages, a taxpayer could get on a pay-as-you-go basis by doubling up. That is - if he paid last year's and this year's taxes both during the course of this year, he wouldn't owe anything to the Government next year - and the twenty per cent deduction from his wages would take care, at least in part, of the tax he would owe on his next year's income. The Committee today approved of a clause whereby anybody doubling up like that for pay-as-you-go would be granted a ~~three~~ <sup>four</sup> per cent discount - ~~three~~ <sup>-- up to four</sup> per cent off his income tax bill.

We hear of a perplexing tax situation in some

industrial areas - like Cleveland. The Collector<sup>or</sup>~~for~~ of Internal Revenue there stated today that thousands of Cleveland war workers are refusing to pay any attention to income tax this year. Their notion is - they won't file any returns or pay any tax. He says he has reports that war workers are taking what he calls a - "Come and get me attitude." They've decided they<sup>just</sup> won't file or ~~pay and then~~<sup>They'll just wait and</sup> see what happens. The Collector adds that a good deal can happen. "These people," said he, "are laying themselves open to severe penalties if they do not file returns."

Today tax returns in Cleveland are thirty per cent below the total received at this time last year. A million are to be filed by the March<sup>F</sup>ifteenth deadline-Monday. But only half a million ha<sup>ve</sup> come in to date.



## RATIONING

It is interesting to compare what we'll get under the rationing of meat, butter, cheese, and so on - with what the British get under their wartime rationing. *We will* ~~we~~ get a lot more meat, two and a quarter pounds a week, while the British get one and a quarter pounds; four and a half ounces a week <sup>*of butter*</sup> compared with the British ration of two ounces. But we'll get much less cheese - less than two ounces a week compared with four ounces in Britain.

It is well to keep in mind that this new rationing begins at midnight on March Twenty-Eighth, and that the limitation will apply to every kind of meat; <sup>*but*</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>*^*</sup> not poultry or game, ~~however~~. Nor will fish be rationed, except the canned varieties. <sup>*H*</sup> The hard types of cheese will come under rationing, but not the soft and perishable kind - like cream cheese, or Camembert.

The food shortage is certainly with us,

when the United States must resort to food rationing  
so extensive *as all this,*

NIGHTMARE

At Minneapolis, a passing automobile driver was hailed early this morning by a boy who came running, and shouted in excitement: "Take me to police headquarters!"

The lad, sixteen years old, was in his pajamas. He had run four blocks, after jumping from the window of his bedroom at home - ~~he~~ <sup>-- and</sup> had a slight cut on one leg.

"Get the police," he panted. "We've got to rescue mother from those Nazi spies!"

It appeared, from his breathless explanation, that the spies had locked his mother in a closet and were stealing the hidden blueprints of the secret war invention.

It was all mighty bewildering to the man in the automobile - until suddenly the lad woke up, <sup>there</sup> ~~he~~ in the car. The boy was just having a nightmare - probably from too much of <sup>of those</sup> ~~those~~ spy movies, <sup>and mince pie.</sup> ~~The motorist drove him him and aroused the astonished mother, who was sound asleep in her bed.~~ <sup>And was his mother astonished when he got home.</sup>

WOMEN WORKERS

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins made a prediction today about absenteeism - what we may expect. She said that most of the absentees had good reason for not showing up on the job and only a small percentage were what she called "willful and deliberate truants."

~~This~~ <sup>These</sup> latter, ~~group~~, however, <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ the ones that <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ causing most of the complaint and uproar. And they, in the future, are more likely to be <sup>women</sup> ~~men~~ than ~~women~~.

She spoke of - "young men who drink too heavily." <sup>But</sup> ~~And she~~ added that these, in time to come, are less likely to be the absentee element than what Miss Perkins called "young girls who stay out dancing all night." <sup>TR</sup> She pointed to the fact that the number of women war employees is increasing immensely, and hence the worker problem will be more and more in the feminine gender. So will the absentee problem <sup>be,</sup> ~~and~~ the feminine gender of <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ is found mostly in the girls and their

dancing. "They aren't bad girls," said the Secretary of Labor, "but they must be made to feel their new responsibility."

Well, that's always a problem - how to make people feel their responsibility. Sometimes your venerable grandfather doesn't feel his sufficiently - let alone the girls <sup>who dance.</sup> ~~and the dances.~~ And why shouldn't they?



WAR WORKER

I had a telephone call from Washington <sup>this afternoon</sup> ~~today~~ which told me that Lloyd Converse of Massena, New York, is likely to get some sort of war decoration in addition to the congratulations that were tendered to him by War Production Chief Donald Nelson <sup>today.</sup> Lloyd Converse is being hailed as a hero of the production line, and a Number One enemy of absenteeism.

He is forty-two years old, and he tends a furnace for the Aluminum Company of America at Massena, New York. Lloyd ~~Converse~~ lives twenty miles from the plant, <sup>and last weekend</sup> ~~and~~ all traffic was tied up by a blizzard that for two days choked the highways with immense drifts of snow. Up to then Lloyd Converse had not missed a shift all winter; - a ~~public~~ record. So what did he do when the blizzard stopped all transportation, and he had twenty miles to go?

His regular shift began at eight o'clock in

the morning, and he left home at nine o'clock the night before - and started walking the twenty miles through the huge drifts of snow <sup>and in bitter cold.</sup> Toward midnight he stopped at the home of his sister and had a bite to eat and a few minutes of rest. Whereupon he continued plodding his way through the snow for the rest of the night.

He got to the plant on time the next morning - and was he all in? Not at all. Today a Company official stated: "Lloyd came to see me as soon as he reported for work, and was as fresh as <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ man with ten hours of sleep behind him." <sup>H</sup> ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> not only did his job that day, but filled in for an extra eight hour stretch to take the place of a fellow employee who hadn't dared to venture out and brave the storm.

A hero of the production line!

think about, Hugh.

And one to

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