

SHIPS

L. J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, April 1, 1941.

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Late this afternoon the United States gave an answer to Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy <sup>regarding</sup> ~~the~~ seizure of ships. The State Department <sup>received</sup> ~~got~~ a joint protest from the Axis powers denouncing the taking over of the vessels. ~~of the Axis.~~ Give them back is the demand of Rome and Berlin. The text of the protest has not been made public, but it is believed to be emphatic -- charging a violation of international law. The United States answer now is as follows - instructions to prosecute the Italian and German crews for sabotage. Attorney General Jackson has authorized United States <sup>attorneys to</sup> ~~armies to~~ institute proceedings against officers and sailors under <sup>our</sup> ~~the United~~ States law that forbids willful damage to ships in American harbors. The penalties are twenty years in prison, a fine of twenty-five thousand dollars, or both.

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~~The~~ Indications now would seem to be that the captive freighters will be put into the United States service, instead of being turned over directly to Britain. Some <sup>of</sup> ~~them~~, however, can't go into any service for a period of time. It turns out now that all but three of the twenty-eight Italian ships were damaged -- some so badly it will take a long time to repair them. And one of the German freighters was sabotaged.

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In the case of French vessels in American harbors we have a denial of the report that the United States has placed them under surveillance. It is explained that a watch has been kept over the French ships for some time -- as a regular thing. They're still being watched -- no change. And the Washington government has given assurance to France that the French vessels will not be seized. These include the super giant French queen of the seas -- the Normandie.

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Mexico today followed the lead of the United States in taking over ships of the Axis powers. Twelve Italian and German craft were seized at Vera Cruz and Tampico. In Cuba too -- seizure -- one German freighter taken over last night.

*South America*  
In ~~Venezuela and Peru~~ the word is -- Axis vessels scuttled and burned, four in Venezuela, and three in Peru. In Venezuela the burning of ships caused a violent popular reaction. Throngs of people staged anti-Italian demonstrations. Other Latin American nations seem to be about to take over Axis merchant vessels in their ports -- a general sweep of Italian and German shipping in the Western Hemisphere.

STRIKE

Last evening the deadline in the soft coal labor dispute was -  
midnight. It still is, for that matter - this coming midnight.

The trick in the situation is that today, April First, April Fool's  
Day, is a regular holiday for the miners. The work stoppage was  
called for last midnight, but they wouldn't work today anyway.

~~So, the effective part of the strike will begin at midnight tonight.~~

~~That's a key point in~~ President Roosevelt <sup>sent an</sup> urgent request to both  
the companies and the union, demanding that there be no stoppage of  
work. He wants coal <sup>mining</sup> ~~mining~~ resumed after today's holiday.

In other words - settle the strike by tomorrow, by midnight tonight.

So what are the prospects?

All day long the conference between the companies, the  
union and the federal conciliator, went on. The union demand is  
sweeping. The mine workers want a wage increase of a dollar a day,

and an end to the difference of pay in the North and South. Two  
weeks of vacation with <sup>wages,</sup> ~~pay,~~ and a guarantee of two hundred working

days a year. Those were the points in the negotiations that went

wrangling today, and <sup>the latest word is - no sign of</sup> ~~at last word there was no sign that the~~

<sup>an</sup> agreement ~~could be had~~ by the deadline hour - midnight. Instead,

speculation <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ whether or not President Roosevelt <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ resort to stronger means to settle the dispute. The President points to the serious consequences of a strike in the soft coal industry - the bad effect it would have on national defense. More than four hundred thousand workers in eleven states are involved, ~~and the~~ ~~mines affected produce~~ eighty-eight per cent of the nation's production of soft coal.

Today the first violence flared - in a place not at all surprising. Harlan County, Kentucky, with its long history of <sup>war-</sup> ~~violence~~ <sup>fare</sup> ~~violence~~ in labor disputes - "Bloody Harlan." ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

A man was killed today, a non-union miner. He was <sup>w</sup> ~~w~~alking up the side of a hill to a mine entrance, when he was shot. A member of the union is being held. There were three clashes in all in Harlan County, as the United Mine Workers threw their picket lines around the coal pits. At one place seventy-five pickets ~~took away~~ and guards staged a savage battle. At another point two deputy sheriffs were badly beaten. They carried short clubs, which the union pickets took away from them. Then they were slugged with their own clubs.

At the Allis-Chalmers plant, big bertha went into action again today - that six ton armored truck which yesterday fired tear gas at the strikers. All day long there was sporadic fighting, but not serious enough for the intervention of the moving fortress. Here's the latest though. This evening the pressure of the strikers against the police line became so severe, that fire hoses were played on the mob, and big bertha went into action again - firing tear gas bombs. <sup>TP</sup> In the fighting today, the chief weapons of the strikers were bottles and eggs - shattering glass and spattering eggs. The hen's fruit was something new as a missile - although eggs of course <sup>have</sup> ~~had~~ been flung <sup>often enough,</sup> ~~many and many a time before~~ today. The Allis-Chalmers strikers have devised a novelty, filling egg shells with yellow paint, ~~and hurling them.~~ About the same color as the yolk of an egg, but more permanent, harder to get off. The uniforms of policemen on guard sustained a good deal of yellow damage, as strikers flung barrages of eggs full of paint.

The C.I.O. men held a mass meeting today, and voted an appeal to President Roosevelt. They asked the President either to

seize the plant or compel the management to yield. Putting a rather complicated problem up to the White House.

In Congress today, Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee introduced a bill to permit the government to take over defense industry plants in case of failure of production. The bill would have the federal authorities operate the plant, provide workers for it if necessary. Run the job, and put its own people on the job. This is one of a number of proposed bills dealing with labor and defense.

In Congress apprehension is increasing about armament and strike

- Here's the latest - a statement of President Roosevelt:

Before the Administration will consent to any labor legislation in Congress, the present mediation system will have to be given a full and fair trial. This applied of course to the new Mediation Board, which already has affected a settlement of two of the four strikes placed before it.

COMMUNISTS

Today brings still another expose' of the flamboyant doings of the Reds in the <sup>is</sup> country - the underground intrigues of the Communists. The statement we have is that the <sup>actual</sup> formation of the C.I.O. was instigated by the Communist Party on orders from Moscow.

At San Francisco, there are new legal proceedings to deport Harry Bridges, C.I.O. leader on the west coast. Once again they're trying to toss him out of the country as a Bolshevik.

Today's chief government witness at the trial was Benjamin Gitlow, who once upon a time enjoyed large prominence among the Reds.

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Gitlow was one of the founders of the Communist Party in the United States. He is now out of it, has been ~~out~~ for some time.

On the witness stand today he told of a program for promoting revolution in the <sup>U.S.A.</sup> ~~United States~~, a scheme of action dictated by Moscow for the purpose of a social overturn in this nation. ~~In this plan, one line of action was to foster a radical labor movement among the negroes. The aim of this was to create an independent negro republic in the South.~~

~~The fostering of Red revolution in the United States~~  
~~had one particular angle.~~ Among the means to be employed one was especially important - a disruption of the American labor movement.

That was back in the time before the split in the ranks of labor had occurred. The A.F. of L. held the field. Gitlow today testified that on orders from Moscow, the American Communist Party instigated a break in the American Federation of Labor. Forming what he called - "a broad opposition movement of progressives." How did the program of disruption work? The witness today put it in these words:- "This program was a success - when the C.I.O. was formed."

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But apparently the C.I.O. didn't live up to the hopes of the Communists. Its President, John L. Lewis, didn't exactly fit the bill, so far as the Reds were concerned. That much is clear from another statement that Benjamin Gitlow made today. He told of a Communist move to depose Lewis from the leadership of his own particular union - the United Mine Workers. The attempt was financed by Moscow. The witness today testified that Moscow put up a fund of

fifty thousand dollars to get rid of Lewis. The counsel for the government asked Gitlow whether he knew personally of this

Moscow fund of fifty thousand ~~dollars?~~ Gitlow replied in these

very positive terms:- "I know of my own knowledge, as one who

had intimately to do with the expenditure of these funds."

However, the scheme didn't work, and John L. Lewis was not tossed out.

These events go back some years, the Reds certainly were ambitious in those days. Maybe they still are!

BALKANS

The shadow of war hovers darkly over Jugoslavia tonight. At Belgrade there were reports of heavy masses of German troops concentrating on the Yugoslav frontiers. In Berlin, Nazi spokesmen talked of what they described as - "a great crisis." One Hitler *Official* ~~spokesman~~ said it seemed improbable that a peaceful settlement could be brought about. "The anti-German tendency is constantly increasing," he declared. "Matters are not so bad in Belgrade ~~he added,~~ "but in the provinces the situation is taking on catastrophic proportions - particularly in those areas where there are minority Germans," he added.

This Nazi statement may be taken as pointedly significant - with its intimation that the Yugoslavs are mistreating Germans. This has been a standard feature of the Hitler type of aggression, preparing the way by shouting complaints about the maltreatment of Germans. In the Nazi press today, a rash of such stories broke out - charging Yugoslav atrocities. This is in accord with the pattern of previous *attacks* ~~aggressions~~.

In Italy today, demonstrations against Jugoslavia broke out. Military lines were formed to keep exotic crowds of

Fascist students from getting at the Yugoslav legation. The United States Embassy too is being guarded.

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Berlin claims that British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and British Chief of Imperial Staff Sir John Dill are in Belgrade, and this is supported by a rumor from Yugoslavia. If those two British chieftains are in the country, it would indeed seem that the Yugoslavs are determined on a strong resistance - rather than yield to Nazi demands. A variety of signs point to this, and war speculation is now trying to envisage the possibilities that lie in a German military campaign against Yugoslavia - a general flare-up in the Balkans. Britain and Greece involved, and probably Turkey - with Soviet Russia in the background, as usual.

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*In East Africa, Asmara has fallen, capitol of Italian Eritrea. It surrendered to the British.*

MEXICAN TREATY

Today the United States acquired the right to use military air bases in Mexico. The agreement is reciprocal, Mexico can also use our military air bases. The agreement was signed by the State Department in Washington.

The immediate importance for us is that it facilitates military air communications between the United States and the Panama Canal. It removes previous restrictions that limited Canal Zone planes which crossed Mexican territory -- and landed there.

JAMES ROOSEVELT

Here's a personality story of headline proportions - if it turns out the way we are told. It concerns the President's eldest son, James Roosevelt, and deals with that theme so familiar in this world of men and women - marriage, <sup>— also, religion.</sup> For some time Dame Rumor has been ringing wedding bells for the President's eldest son. He has known what it is to be married - and divorced. He has also known what it's like to be ill in a hospital. He had a nurse there, and the report has been that he intended to marry her. All of this has been gossiped about, and is repeated today - with additions. The additional angle concerns - religion.

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The story was printed today in the BOSTON POST. It states that <sup>Vinnie</sup> ~~James~~ Roosevelt will be married to Miss Romelle Schneider, his one-time nurse - shortly after Easter. The placing of the date after Easter is significant, for we are told that the wedding is to be solemnized by a ~~Roman Catholic~~ Priest. According to Catholic custom, it is not usual to celebrate weddings in the sombre time of Lent, the season of fasting and penance. The BOSTON POST states that the marriage was to have occurred this week at Miami, but the plan was

abandoned because of a reason which the Boston newspaper expresses in these words:- "because of the fidelity of the bride-to-be to the tenets of her faith which does not encourage weddings during

Lent." The religious phase of the story concludes with the

statement that <sup>Jimmy</sup> James Roosevelt plans to become a Catholic. The

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BOSTON POST states that it has learned what it expresses as

follows:- "that James Roosevelt has been taking instructions quietly in the Roman Catholic faith."

This story was immediately taken to the eldest son of the President, who spoke as follows:- "I haven't any comment," said he. "Tell them it's time they forgot about me." And he added: "I'm in the Marines."

APRIL FOOL

I have a news dispatch here which might have suggested an idea - but it's too late now. If I had thought of it at the beginning of this broadcast, it might have been a good thing.

8 1/2  
The news bulletin as flashed by the United Press, relates that in the House of Representatives today, Congressman Rich of Pennsylvania, arose and asked for permission to ~~address the House~~ <sup>to speak.</sup>

It looked as if he had some profound problem of statecraft to discuss, ~~wanted to deliver~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> a mighty oration, ~~maybe~~ about Lend-Lease, the strike situation, the seizure of the ships, or something. So the

House promptly gave him permission to speak - the consent was

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unanimous. ~~So~~ <sup>And</sup> here's <sup>what</sup> the Congressman <sup>said:</sup> ~~s address.~~

"April Fool", ~~he cried, and~~ <sup>Then he</sup> sat down.

Well, that would have been an idea for me, if I'd thought about it at the beginning of this broadcast. I could have just said, "April Fool", and ~~shut up.~~ <sup>signed off.</sup> But as it is, it's too late.

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However, maybe tonight's theme for Hugh James is April Fool.