

L.T. SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1941

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight the news from the Balkans reaches a peak that is a high point of rumors. Today's crisis of the war has turned on a prodigal fountain of reports attributed to those well known gentlemen called - "authoritative sources", "official quarters", "diplomatic opinion", and "well informed spokesmen." From any Balkan capital you can get almost any rumor you want. Some are undoubtedly well founded and true, but you can't tell which. It's all a bewildering maze of news gossip stirred by the mighty events that are developing under the surface.

Just let me give you a sample of the work of the rumor factory today.

Great Britain is going to send part of her Mediterranean fleet through the Dardanelles to help Turkey against an impending attack by Nazi Germany. This is reported by Budapest, which says it has the word from diplomatic sources in Istanbul. The Turkish fleet has been ordered to prepare facilities in the Bosphorous for the warships of Great Britain. The British were told that if the Turks

are to present a firm front to Nazi Germany, they must have the British fleet and its guns to aid them. Perhaps so -- but the British fleet passing through the Dardanelles would seem to be ^a daring venture, - with the war machine of Nazi Germany so near those all-important Straits. With a brief push, they might cut the Dardnaelles, and trap the British warships in the Black Sea.

From the Turkish capital of Ankara, the word is that the Turks are taking a firm and calm attitude in the face of the Nazi menace. One story is that members of the Turkish Cabinet were invited by the German Ambassador von Papen, to attend a motion picture show. Now going to the movies wouldn't seem to be any portentous affair of state. But the film was the German production called - "Victory in the West." It shows the Nazi blitzkrieg machine in thundering action. It's to be noted that in the past, when nations have succumbed to German policy, heads of their governments attended performances of German blitzkreig motion pictures. So what about the Turks? The words is that the Cabinet members invited declined - wouldn't go. That's taken as a sign of Turkish firmness.

At the same time we hear that the Turks will not go to the defense of the Greeks. They'll fight only if their own territory is

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attacked. The rumor supply from Ankara states that the crisis of this whole situation will be reached some time next week.

On the other hand, we hear that tomorrow is the day, the day the Germans have set for the invasion of Greece. This comes from Belgrade, in Jugoslavia, and is quite insistent - tomorrow.

From Bulgaria we hear that the Nazi attack might be what they call - "a token affair". Bulgaria says that a hint has been given out that the German army may send its air fleet for a "token bombardment" of Salonika. This - as a gesture, rather violent, to make the Greeks give in. "Persuade Greece", is the expression used. Token or no token, Bulgaria reports huge masses of Nazi troops and armament on the move - (hurrying their transit at an increasing pace southward through Bulgaria to the frontiers of Greece and Turkey.)

London thinks that the Greeks will not attempt to defend their province of Thrace; ~~this is~~ the narrow strip lying between Bulgaria and the Aegean Sea; So narrow, it couldn't be defended. The Greeks would be fighting with their backs to the sea, and so ~~would be~~ ^{also} the British if they came in to aid them. The Allies had an army in that narrow strip during the World War, and it never

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was able to accomplish anything much.

One report is that the Greeks will retire from Thrace and take up a position along the Struma River. That would give them a short line to defend between the Yugoslav frontier and the Aegean. And it would enable them to hold onto the important port of Salonika. But, on the other hand, they ^{still} could be out-flanked by a German thrust through Jugoslavia.

Another rumor says that the Greeks will retire still further, to a line which could not be so easily out-flanked - further west. But if they established that front, they would have to give up Salonika.

From Jugoslavia come reports that Regent Prince Paul ^{now} has [^]gone to meet Hitler. Others, that he has already met Hitler. Anyway, Jugoslavia is still expected to line up with the Axis powers in a very short time. Some say that it probably won't be a case of joining the Axis outright - but a declaration that Jugoslavian policy is dictated by friendship toward Nazi Germany. There are stories of Yugoslav protests. They say that the leaders of the opposition party have gone to Regent Prince Paul and

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denounced the pro-Nazi plans that have been made.

There ^{is} ~~is~~ [^] one place which is not in the rumor factory tonight - Berlin. Today a Hitler official gave a warning to foreign newspaper correspondents in Berlin, ^{He} talked harshly. Like a Dutch Uncle, ^{you} ~~as one~~ might say; ~~He~~ told them that for the next few days they won't get any information about German moves in the Balkans. Nazi diplomacy in that area is being surrounded with all possible secrecy. The Nazi spokesman put it in these words:- "It must be understood that at this interesting juncture, it is our policy to launch no sort of declaration whatsoever or to reveal anything regarding the details of German diplomacy." He warned the newspapermen not to try to get any stories or speculate. With that delicate German tact, he called it "attempt to meddle." The newspapermen are not to meddle in Nazi diplomacy.

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This was amendment defeating day in Washington. A series of proposals to curb the powers of the president under the Lend-Lease Bill were turned down. They were stongly opposed by the administration forces and so the voting ⁱⁿ the Senate affords a pretty clear idea of the strength of the two sides -- for and against. ^{the} measure for All Out Aid to Britain. ^{TP} The O'Mahoney amendment was the first to be defeated. It was a declaration against the use of American armed forces to deliver war supplies in the war zones. It wasn't phrased exactly to suit Senators Maloney and Bone, and they helped to revamp it. The vote against the O'Mahoney Amendment was sixty-three to twenty-eight, a majority of thirty-five. But that was no accurate test of strength. Five of the Senators opposed to the Lend-Lease Bill were also ~~the~~ ^t opposed to the Amendment. It wasn't ~~strong~~ ^{strong} enough for them so they voted against it.

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Much stronger was the Johnson Amendment, which ^{was} along the same line -- designed to keep the army and navy from being sent into war areas. Senator Hiram Johnson, the veteran California law-maker made an impassioned plea for his proposal -- as a way to keep the United States out of the war. But it was defeated fifty-six to

thirty-five, a majority of twenty-one.

The Amendment that got the most support was the Taft proposal.

This was the original Ellender Amendment which made a declaration

against the sending of American armed forces abroad -- no A.E.F.

had withdrawn it yesterday,
Senator Ellender ~~withdrew it~~ agreeing to accept a substitute

proviso of a milder sort which was drafted by the Administration

leaders. That substitute is still to come up for a vote. *Sen.* Taft

today introduced Ellender's original proposal, and it got the largest

minority. The vote was fifty-one to ~~32~~ thirty-eight. How were the

Democrats and Republicans divided? The *Administration* majority ~~of forty-nine~~

majority against the amendment consisted of forty-nine Democrats and two

Republicans. In the minority of thirty-eight were twenty-five

Republicans, eleven Democrats and one Independent, -- Senator Norris.

of Nebraska. It's to be noted that Senator Norris voted in favor

Taft - previously Ellender -
of this amendment although he was against the others. The administrative

majority ~~was~~ was thirteen, and I suppose we can safely figure this

as the lowest minimum for the bill when it comes to a vote.

LABOR

In Washington, plans are being made for a labor board - an agency to deal with disputes in national defense industries. This was stated by President Roosevelt today. He said it was not at all clear - just what form the projected labor board would take. Plans, he explained, are still nebulous. He referred back to the labor board of World War days, ^{which} ~~this~~ was a mechanism of mediation. The new board, thought the President, would go further than mere mediation. It would have quite a comprehensive scope, would survey the whole problem of labor and production. Moreover, it might be something that could be carried beyond the crisis - a permanent government institution. The President emphasized that no definite plan had yet been decided upon, and pointed to the many problems and difficulties involved.

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This announcement was accompanied by a presidential denunciation of jurisdictional strikes in the defense industries - the kind of walkout that is brought about by a conflict between unions. The President said he was absolutely opposed in all circumstances to jurisdictional strikes in the realm of defense. He pointed to the trouble at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. There

they've had two jurisdictional strikes in the past six weeks,-

both tracing to the same cause. The A.F. of L. Building Trades Union walked out at the army air field because a contract was given to a company that employs electricians of the C.I.O.

The government suspended the contract temporarily, whereupon

the A.F. of L. men went back to work. Recently, however, the

Army put the contract into force again. The contract still

employed C.I.O. labor, and once more the A.F. of L. unions walked out.

CITY COLLEGE

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There are sensational disclosures telling of Communist activities in one of the biggest universities in the United States. The College of the City of New York has thirty thousand students and a thousand teachers. For months a New York State Legislative inquiry has been going on, investigating the infiltration of Communists into institutions of learning. The College of the City of New York is the subject of the quiz right now, and the chief witness is Instructor of History - William Canning.

Prior to today's hearing he named a long list of City College teachers who, he said, were Communists - dozens of them. Today he added to the list, and gave some spectacular details. Teachers who are apostles of the Red flag ^{have} use^d their classrooms to preach Bolshevik doctrines - slanting their lectures in Marxian fashion. ^{TP} They took special care to get into the registrar's office, because that key location gave them a chance to spy on members of the faculty. "Everything that happened," declared the witness, "would be known to these men because ~~all~~ all members of the faculty come into the office at some time or other, in the performance of their duty." He declared that the

registrar himself was a Communist.

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He ^{also} told of Red penetration into the Reserve Officers Training Corps, said that Communist teachers urged Communist students to join up. It was part of a scheme to "democratize" the army", as they call ^{ed} it. Democracy a la Dictator Stalin and his Red army.

A touch of detective story was added, when the witness told how careful the Red pedagogues were to keep their membership ⁱⁿ of the Communist Party from becoming ^{known} public. A Bolshevik publication was got out, called - "The Teacher-Worker"; ^{edited} ~~it was aided~~ by a group of the professorial comrades. One of the editors was so cautious that when he handled pages for "The Teacher-Worker" he wore gloves - so that he wouldn't leave any fingerprints. They might identify him.

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The American Students Union is on the job, announcing that they're going to throw a picket line around the County Court House where the hearings are being held. The history class of today's witness has likewise been picketed. Altogether, ^{it's} ~~there's~~ quite a crimson extravaganza of Communism in college.

HANGINGS

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There's a flicker of dark sardonic humor in the story of the four hangings in Louisiana today. These are of nationwide publicity because of a morbid plan that was made. The four condemned men, convicted of murder, were to have spoken on the radio. The program to have been called - "Crime Doesn't Pay." They were quite willing, even eager. They had become converted to religion in their last days, had repented of their crimes, and wanted to speak of religion and warn people against the ways of ill-doing. One of the four condemned, William Meharg, intended not only to speak - ~~xxxxxx~~ but also to play the harmonica. He practiced diligently a harmonica solo for the ^s ~~occasion~~ ^{broadcast.}

But these weird doings were stopped in the last hour by the Governor and the Attorney General. Any such performance would be against the laws of Louisiana. When the condemned men were informed of this, they were disappointed - so we are told. Particularly disappointed was William Meharg - because he couldn't play his solo on the harmonica.

The end of the story is - ~~that~~ the hangings took place according to law.

DIVORCE

At Portland, Maine, some little while ago Mrs. Calvin Grenier won a prize for mending. The way she could mend a sock was nobody's business -- although you might think it would have been her husband's business. But it wasn't. Today, hubby sued for divorce, alleging that he had to do all the mending. If there was a hole in the old sock, he had to get out the needle and thread. He even had to mend the clothes of wifie the needle-and-thread-champ.

HITCH-HIKER

58 1/2
Here's something that sounds like a joke, but it's a tragedy. It happened in Spain, where almost anything fantastic can occur. In Barcelona, a truck was rolling along, carrying an empty coffin. A farmer who was hitch-hiking thumbed a ride. He was bouncing along the rear of the truck, which was open, and it was raining. He examined the coffin, found it ~~was~~ empty, and crawled inside to keep dry. ^{Then} He fell asleep.

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Further on, two other hitch-hikers got a ride on the truck. They were going along at a lively clip when the farmer inside the coffin pushed open the lid, stuck his head out and observed, "Oh, it has stopped raining." ~~Thereafter~~ The two other hitch-hikers were so terrified that they leaped from the speeding truck - and one was killed. Perhaps they picked him up and put him in the coffin - the story doesn't say.

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And now what does Hugh say?