

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The whole world is, figuratively speaking, ~~gazing~~ ^{looking} at Rome today, ~~and~~ all because of the arrival there of an American visitor. Our Under-Secretary of State, Sumner Welles, took with him to the ~~Immortal~~ ^{Eternal} City, a confidential message from President Roosevelt himself. Nobody but Mr. Roosevelt and the Under-Secretary knows what's in that message. And that makes today's pageantry in Rome the center of wonder, conjecture and bewilderment. Even our own State Department does not know what our President wrote to the Duce, at least the spokesmen at the State Department today said they don't. ^R So the Under-Secretary carried with him in his baggage not only a message but a puzzle, an enigma of worldwide scope. Maybe he also carried in his bag a cat which will be let out when the time is ripe, or maybe sooner. Some people are even suggesting that Welles also has with him a woodpile, with an Ethiopian in it.

Undoubtedly the folks who live on the banks of the Tiber were asking many questions as Under-Secretary Welles was being driven in state along the Via Impero, that triumphal thoroughfare which Mussolini told me three years ago was his proudest achievement. Welles first called upon ^{the Duce's} ~~Mussolini's~~ son-in-law and Foreign Secretary, Count Ciano. And then, accompanied by our Ambassador, ~~W.H.~~ Phillips, they drove on to the Venezia Palace, where the Duce himself was awaiting the President's special envoy.

47
Of all the conjectures that are rampaging around the world today, I venture only one. I'm betting that Sumner Welles got a better break than I did. When I went to see the Duce I had to make that long hike across the floor all the way to his desk, all ~~and~~ alone, one lone American, unaccompanied, unfortified. Welles ^{as he entered} had the backing not only of ^{Ambassador} ~~W.H.~~ Phillips ^{A A} but of Count Ciano.

^{Sumner}
The cables from Rome tell us that after Welles was introduced he had a long confidential conversation with the Duce. They talked for an hour. If he got no better break than I did, he's a tired Under-Secretary tonight, because there wasn't a chair in sight when the Duce received your humble ^{Commentator,} ~~correspondent~~.

All the official accounts of that visit are cold, formal
vague. But one most significant, even portentous fact emerges
from the news that comes out of Rome tonight. ^{Summer} Welles is cutting
short his visit to the City on the Seven Hills. He's rushing
to Berlin with the utmost speed, to see Fuehrer Hitler. The task
of conferring with Pope Pius at VaticanCity ^{is thus} ~~was~~ left to Myron
Taylor alone.

48 { Caustic observers are saying that Sumner Welles certainly needs all the breaks he can get. They're pointing out that while he was listening to all the flowery Italian courtesies and greetings from his hosts, there must have rung in his ears vociferous charges both from Europeans and from his own countrymen, rude suggestions that the President was making him into another Colonel House.

~~With those suggestions there was sounded the warning, "Remember the situation into which these visits of House dragged us"~~

At the precise moment that Welles was handing the President's letter to the Duce, a decidedly unpromising comment was being made in Paris. And these were its words, "No mediation or peace offensive, can be made with any chance of success, whatever its patronage." No direct allusion to the United States, or to the Roosevelt foreign policy or to the travels of Sumner Welles. But the implication is obvious. That semi-official French spokesman as good as said to Uncle Sam, "It's nice of you and all that but we know what we're up to and we haven't invited any mediation."

From the German side of the fence, so far, there has been

no comment at all. In fact, interest in the explorations of
Sumner Welles seems to be vastly greater over here than in Eruope.

FINNS

The Finnish Government today acknowledged another retreat. The defending forces have not only abandoned Koivisto but all the forts of the islands of that group. Nevertheless, an American correspondent took a drive through Viipuri, the Finnish city protected by those Koivisto forts. And he reports that the battle flag of Finland is still flying from the old castle tower at Viipuri. What's more, airplanes of foreign manufacture ~~are~~ were in action over the Mannerheim Line. While three of those battleplanes from Britain were droning in the sky, a Finnish officer pointed to them and said:- "That's what we need to ~~get~~ keep Vipuri alive."

That ancient seaport is a dead city, completely evacuated, but the Finns haven't given it up yet. The Bolshevik battlelines are still ten miles away. The theory is that Stalin's generals are mopping up and consolidated their troops in the areas from which the Finns have retired.

From Washington we hear that the Finnish Government has placed considerable orders for ~~equipment~~ arms and ammunition in the United States.

A dramatic
~~again~~

chapter of the world's history was made public today, a chapter that will be news to most people. It's about the Armistice of Nineteen Eighteen. Everybody knows that after the collapse of Germany, ~~the French~~ Marshal Foch thought the terms given to the vanquished were too easy. He wanted to march into Germany, give the Germans a taste of what the French, Belgians, Rumanians and Serbs had suffered.

50
But it has not been generally known that two important Americans agreed with Foch. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State for Woodrow Wilson, was one of them. The other was the head of our Army, General John J. Pershing.

This comes to light because the State Department today published the second volume of the confidential papers of Robert Lansing. As early as twelve days before the actual Armistice was signed, Pershing sent a memorandum to the Supreme War Council of the Allies. In that memorandum ~~Blackjack~~ Pershing said that a complete victory can only be attained by forcing an unconditional surrender from Germany. And Pershing continued that if an armistice were to be granted, the terms should be so rigid that Germany never could

take up arms again under any circumstances. Lansing, for his part, prophesied that future peace could only be assured for the world if Prussia were conquered so completely that ^{she}~~it~~ could never rise again.

51
Lansing is dead now, but ~~Blackjack~~ Pershing is still alive, hale and hearty at the age of seventy-nine, and today he repeated what he ~~said~~ had said in October, Nineteen Eighteen. He is passing the winter at Tucson, ^{Arizona} and when he was asked about that memorandum, he said that he had ~~z~~ told the Allied leaders that if they allowed Germany to quit with her army intact, she would be ready to resume hostilities at a future date. And today he said:-
"Nothing that has transpired since then changes my views."

ARMISTICE FOLLOW LANSING

But a still more interest fact came to light in those confidential papers of Lansing. It concerns the phoney armistice, the premature truce which we celebrated so uproariously in these United States four days ahead of time. Vast torrents of printers' ink, ~~have been used since then in a~~ ^{poured into the} controversy over that premature report. You may recall that it was published only by the United Press. The dispatch was sent by the head of ~~United Press~~ ^{U. P.} Roy Howard himself, who got the news through the office of Admiral Wilson at Brest. Roy has been taking the gaff for it ever since, in spite of the fact that his dispatch was not untrue, just a bit previous. One suggestion ~~for an explanation that~~ ^{has} he himself made in print was that ~~it~~ ^{the report he got} might have been due to the presence of a German spy in the American Embassy at Paris. ~~For~~ ^{It} was from the American Embassy that Admiral Wilson's office got the report. The motive of the spy would have been to create a peace psychology among the Allies, break down the Allied will to prosecute the war. At any rate, Roy Howard was acting in perfectly good faith.

Now here's what comes to light from the memorandum of Robert Lansing, Secretary of State. ~~The memorandum is~~ ^{It's} dated November Seventh, Nineteen Eighteen, and in it Lansing wrote

these words: I QUOTE:- "At ten o'clock this morning I was handed a secret copy of a telegram to the War Department. That telegram read:- 'Armistice signed.' And the telegram was signed by the name of Warburton, who was a military attache of the American Embassy in Paris." Lansing showed the telegram to Counsellor Polk of the State Department, and said that he thought it must be a mistake, as it was physically impossible for the German representatives to have reached the French lines and conferred with Marshal Foch. So the State Department refused to believe that telegram and later on got word from the American Embassy that the cable had been a mistake.

So it now becomes clear that Roy Howard, head of the United Press, was not the only man to get that premature information.

RUSSIA

There was a renewal today of the fight to break off *American* diplomatic relations with Russia. It broke on the floor of the Senate. ~~Senator~~ Lodge of Massachusetts opened the party, with an amendment to the bill appropriating money to the State Department. The gentleman from Massachusetts wanted to cut out the money appropriated for the salary of our Ambassador to Moscow. Vandenberg of Michigan jumped into the fight, ^{and} agreed thoroughly with his colleague from the Bay State. He said that the record of the Soviet Union in international affairs was unspeakably vile. And he added that the Union's diplomatic relations with Uncle Sam were based on a broken contract. He admitted that as a general rule he didn't approve of using an appropriation bill as an excuse for arguing about foreign policy. Then he took a fling at his colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee; ~~he~~ said it was no use expecting any action from that Committee on such an issue.

54

BERMUDA

The limelight continues to play on the ~~pleasant little~~ ^{lovely isles} islands of Bermuda. ~~They~~ ^{It seems they} have not been entirely eliminated as a stopping-off place for clippers between here and Europe. It's only on the eastbound voyage that the great air boats will avoid Bermuda and fly straight to the Azores. On the westbound trips, the clippers will continue to stop off at the islands. That's because they have to battle headwinds on the westward voyage and so need to have an extra base.

Everybody concerned today made light of that decision not to stop at Bermuda on the eastbound flight. ~~across the ocean~~

Pan-American Airways said it was done on account of the weather reports, not to avoid having American mail seized, held up and read by British censors. Furthermore, it was ^(emphasized) ~~emphasized~~ that the United States Government has nothing to do with that decision.

At the same time, it was hinted at when the State Department made a protest to the British. And many Congressmen in Washington were furious, and have been insisting loudly that such a step should be taken.

At any rate, the argument ^{seems} ~~is~~ settled ^{for the moment,} ~~now and everybody~~

~~seems to be satisfied.~~

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt needs more protection, not only he
but his entire family.. The United States Secret Service, ^{has to have} ~~needs~~
more men because its job has been made more difficult and, says the
Secret Service Chief, it's all because of conditions in this country
arising as a result of wars in Europe.

^{becomes known}
All this ~~comes to light~~ because of an Appropriation Bill
recommended to Congress. The sum allotted for guarding the President
and his family ^{is} ~~has~~ to be increased.

There has been a lot of gossip about the breaking of the once beautiful friendship between John L. Lewis ~~XXXXXX~~ of the C.I.O., and President Roosevelt. The Labor Committee of the House heard an explanation of it today, heard it from Lee Pressman, general counsel of Lewis's Congress of Industrial Organizations. He said the main reason is that Lewis feels the President has become more interested in Europe than in America. Pressman made the charge that the administration is spending huge sums for armaments but cutting down on relief and social services in the U.S.A.

Some of the Congressmen are still in high state of indignation about the census. For instance Representative Short of Missouri got up on the floor of the House today to ~~xxx~~ tear into the census fund. He describes it as "an utterly amazing, shocking and perfidious proposition to place before a body of intelligent men." Fighting words those would be in some parts of the country. ^H Then, he went on to tell the Congress what his constituents in Missouri would say to the census takers. They will say it is none of your so and so business (I'm sorry to have to leave a word out ~~the Honorable Gentleman~~ but the Congressman in the House ^{used} a word that I'm not allowed to say on the air). Then he went on to declare that the country will have to build a prison on ~~xx~~ every forty acre lot if people who refuse to give the census takers intimate information about their bathtubs can be sent to ~~a~~ jail. Congressman Reed declared that the nineteen ~~forty~~ forty census was an invasion of the most priceless heritage of Americans -- the Bill of rights."

He drew a picture of census takers quizzing
the wives of the citizens on delicate personal subjects
and insulting our families.

LONG

Down in Lousiana the politicoes are still fighting.

Earl ~~RL~~ Long, brother of the late Huey, is not going to let his name vanish from the public payroll, not if he can help it. You will recall that he was wiped out in the last election for Governor. But unexpectedly the office of Secretary of State became vacant. The man who won that job died last Monday, and Long wants to step into his shoes. In fact, he was nominated as Democratic candidate by the Democratic State Central Committee, and that means that he's ^{already} as good as elected. ^{HP} But the new Governor, Sam Houston Jones, will do everything he can to keep Earl Long out of any office. He announces today that the men who nominated Earl Long as Secretary of State, are nothing but lame ducks, dead-heads, repudiated candidates, and a former Governor who was indicted. So probably there will be more fireworks over that Secretary of State job.

28

PHILLIPS

Here's a challenge that has a startling sound in these
bellicose days - a threat of war against the United States
Government! But take it easy, it doesn't come from any foreign
nation. The threat comes from the Governor of one of our own
sovereign states, Oklahoma.

— the land of black gold —
Down in that fascinating part of the world, [^]Uncle Sam
is on the verge of starting two big projects, hydro-electric dams
on the Red River and on the Grand River. In order to build them,
a lot of land has to be flooded, roads and bridges torn down.

The state authorities have been arguing ~~that Uncle Sam~~ with Uncle Sam
about compensation for that inundated land, highways and bridges
which will have to be rebuilt.

Governor of the land of the Cherokees
Today Governor Phillips of Oklahoma took the warpath.
He says if necessary he'll declare martial law, [^]and [^]U.S.
[^]stop the Government
Oklahoma
by the force of National Guard bayonets. That is, unless the
Federal Works Administrator promises adequate compensation.

That would be an interesting sight, *Oklahoma*
[^]~~a National Guard~~
mobilized to fight Uncle Sam!

*And now Hugh what are you
mobilized to do?*