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L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1938.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm away up in the Green Mountains of Vermont tonight, at the foot of Mount Mansfield, not far from the Canadian border. And before I plunge into the day's news just a word about where I am. I'm in Stowe, Vermont, famous as the home of craftsmen who make beautiful things and useful things out of wood. And, just outside my window is an old fashioned wooden covered bridge.

When I arrived here I found that the N.B.C. and Telephone Company engineers, and the Western Union, had arranged an improvised broadcasting studio for me, not at The Lodge at the foot of the Mountain where I am staying. They had it all fixed for me at The Green Mountain Inn, here in Stowe. An old fashioned, charming inn that dates way back to the early days of this country. Mrs. Leon Bodeman, wife of the proprietor, insisted that her own second floor private parlor should be my broadcasting studio. To get to it you walk upstairs, then down a long hall, then turn

and walk down another hall. Then walk down a half flight of steps. Then turn right, into another hall. And there you are. Or rather here I am. The furniture is old-fashioned. The pictures on the wall are old-fashioned. Outdoors it's bitter cold. There's lots of snow. A typical old-fashioned winter. Everything the way I like it.

This room also is full of Vermonters; about twenty of them, some sitting on the floor; members of the board of the Mount Mansfield Ski Club, headed by Frank Griffen, a merchant of Burlington. These men have made this one of the most famous Winter Sports Centers in America.

And now let's see what the world's news looks like viewed from Mrs. Bodeman's second floor bedroom-parlor window up here in the Green Mountains of Vermont.

THIRD TERM

(Two words, striking and rather ominous in American history were spoken loudly today - third term! The United Mine Workers are holding a convention in Washington. Before them appeared Representative James Gildea, Democrat of Pennsylvania. He addressed the miners and urged them to call upon President Roosevelt to run for a third term. C.I.O. Chief John L. Lewis hailed the President and called him the outstanding labor leader of our time.)

The miners took a vote on a third term proposal and said -- let's delay; defer the whole question until 1940, hold over until then a resolution to draft F.D.R. for a re-election campaign.

There's a likelihood of some high dramatics at that Miners' Convention, before it ends its session. There's a report that President Green of the American Federation of Labor may appear before the Miners, and face his arch enemy, John L. Lewis of the C.I.O.

The Convention has President Green on trial, with charges made against him. That's because he's a member of the United Mine Workers, has been all his life. He began his career as a miner. And now there's a threat to expel him, take his union card away. That would leave the Federation President - not a union man at all, which would be paradoxical.

So the report is that Green may appear before the Convention, face John L. Lewis, and defend himself -- uphold his right to his union card as a miner.

DEFENSE

There's one passage in today's presidential message which gives a striking idea of how grandiose the American Naval Program is likely to be. Calling upon Congress to appropriate eight hundred million dollars for defense, the chief of our government said:- "Adequate defense means that we must keep any potential enemy many hundreds of miles away from our continental limits. We cannot assume that our defense will be limited to one ocean and that the other ocean would with certainty be safe. We cannot be certain that the connecting link, the Panama Canal, would be safe. Adequate defense," he summarized, "affects the simultaneous defense of every part of the United States of America."

Yes, that's large in scope -- in the grand manner.

And he called for eight hundred millions to be expended on various branches of national defense, especially the Navy. He proposed the building of two more giant super-dreadnoughts, and two fast hard hitting cruisers.

The message stirred swift approval in Congress. Yet there was some sharp criticism. A number of legislators, democratic

as well as Republican, spoke up with pointed questions. They demanded to know what kind of foreign policy our expanded Navy would be called upon to enforce. Just defending ourselves, or some international combinations? Perhaps adventures far afield. There were skeptical comments concerning the kind of statecraft that might be expected, with so powerful a navy to back it up. But in general, the response was three cheers for national defense.

FOLLOW NAVY

An echo comes from Singapore, where three United States cruisers are on a visit. The Singapore report today is that those three American warships are likely to make an indefinite stay at the great British naval fortress of the Far East. A gesture of solidarity with Great Britain - "friendly handclasp," the Singapore source of information calls it.

After yesterday's incident, the slapping of a United States consul by a Japanese sentry, Washington and London are more firmly convinced than ever that a strong stand against Japan is necessary -- so the information goes.

LEAGUE

At today's proceedings in Geneva, the United States occupied a foremost place in all discussion - though of course we are not members of the League. The statesmen were debating what could be done to help China against Japan, and they agreed upon what they called:- "a tentative plan." Some sort of action, though we're not told what. We are told, however, that the League plan to help China depends upon the United States. But what will America do? Will Washington join in?

The plan has been sent to Washington.

BOYCOTT

When those charming creatures, the ladies, take up such imposing matters as international politics, there are likely to be complications. Such is the case in the action the lovely girls have taken against Japan.

Tonight there's to be an extravaganza of society and statecraft in Washington, with debutantes displaying their shapely limbs - in lisle. The society girls in their "wear cotton drive" against Japanese silk.

But today, there was a march of girls through the streets of Washington, and they weren't debutantes. They were working girls. And, while the debs are wearing lisle, the working girls I presume had on silk stockings. They were silk-workers, protesting against the society boycott of silk. They marched under this banner: "Wear silk stockings and save our jobs."

They claim the boycott, instead of hurting the Japanese, will merely hurt the American working girls.

GLENN FRANK

I've talked a lot about the President tonight. Here's one somewhat different from Topeka, Kansas:- A new Republican voice to be heard from Topeka - the eloquent voice of Glenn Frank, the new head of that new Republican Committee - addressing the nation over the air, tomorrow night at 8:30. We wonder what his first pronouncement will be. Up here in Vermont I suppose they'll vote Republican no matter what anyone says. Is that correct, gentlemen?

CROWD:- (Shout) Right you are!

MOUNT MANSFIELD

Not that it matters to you, but you may, some of you, wonder why I am broadcasting from Stowe, Vermont. Well, in my profession there are few vacations, unless your sponsor gives you a permanent one. So, just for a change of scenery, to get away from the New York City point of view, I've come to do some skiing. For years I had been hearing about the Chin Clip and the Nose Dive, two exciting ski trails on Mount Mansfield. So I spent this morning on the mountain, with Bob Isham of The Lodge, and Jacques Charmoz a ski wizard from France. And, there was an English diplomat along.

It was fifteen below zero when I came in this morning, ten below when we started up the mountain, climbing with sealskins on our skis to get up the steep side of Mansfield. Up and back a distance of nine miles. Near the summit it grew colder and colder. The pine trees were buried deep with powdery snow; the branches hanging with ice crystals that gleamed in the sunlight. On the wind-blown barren summit of the highest peak in the Green Mountains there was a freezing high wind. One of Charmoz's fingers started to turn black, and freeze. We took off our skis and began

to cut ice steps down the nearly vertical descent on the western slope. Cold! Well, about forty below! The diplomat's face was blue, icicles hung from his mustache. I pointed to the marvelous, almost breath-taking panorama, looking into Canada to the North, to Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks to the West, and the White Mountains to the East.

With my teeth chattering I shouted into the wind:-
"Isn't it gorgeous?" To which the Diplomat replied:- "It's too blankety, blank cold! I'm going back the way we came! "

The rest of us, probably not so wise, went on cutting ice steps down the western side. We thought the diplomat would surely beat us to the bottom because we stayed around the summit so long. But after we had slid down the mountain, we found he hadn't come in. An hour passed. He was still missing. Two hours passed, and Bob Isham of The Lodge saw visions of having to organize an expedition to go up the mountain. He said if a man got into difficulty near the summit he might freeze to death in a half hour. But, two hours later in he came - okay.

About the only hazard in skiing on these high

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mountains, well, about the only one, is going off alone. The Skimeister, Friday night ski special run by the New Haven, Central Vermont and Canadian National, comes up here regularly. And all the throng of skiers are warned: "Go alone where you will, on the flat country, and on the many gentle lower hills. But, they are warned, if you go on Mount Mansfield, make sure there are three in your party. So that if one gets into trouble there'll be one to stay with him and one to go for help.

Jacques Charmoz who went up the Mountain with us this morning, is a young fellow from Paris, an artist with a pencil and brush as well as with skis. As a boy in Paris, at the age of fifteen, he was selling illustrations to ~~that~~ famous magazine La Vie Parisieene, under an assumed name so his family wouldn't know. He learned his skiing in the French Army, with the Chasseur Alpini, the Blue Devils. Now, part of each year he spends up here at The Mount Mansfield Lodge, skiing and drawing pictures for "Esquire" instead of "La Vie Parisieene." And the rest of the year he skis in the High Andes, instructor for the Chilean Army.

Jacquest is not a militarist but he has a suggestion

to make to the American Army. But, let's get him to tell about it. What was it Jacques?

M. CHARMOZ:- It is this, M. Thomas:- I think it would be fine if you put your American Army on skis.

L.T.:- But we haven't any frontier of high mountains as you have, You have the Alps between you and Italy.

M. CHARMOZ:- Ah, mais non, but it is the finest way in the world to make your soldiers strong and rugged and fit.

L.T.:- So, Uncle Sam should put all his soldiers on skis! That's a new idea. And then maybe the War Department would move up here to Stowe, Vermont.

NIAGARA

(They'll have a new honeymoon bridge at Niagara Falls -
to replace the twisted wreckage in the ice and water at the foot
of the falls. This was announced today.)

Meanwhile, a conference is being arranged between American and Canadian government engineers to discuss the problem of the fallen span, which is sprawled across the river like a dam. Ice is packing up behind it, and there will be an immense mass, a mountain of ice - before the winter is over, that might break and go drifting down the river, smashing things up along the banks. And when spring comes, the thaw may turn the vast weight of ice into a dangerous flood.

Being up here in Vermont I've just learned that I missed working on the motion pictures of the bridge collapse, which were rushed to New York from Niagara. My sports colleague, Ed Thorgersen, did my job for me today and I am told on the wire that the immense spectacle of the Niagara Bridge collapse is shown dramatically on the film. And - it was a cameraman's ordeal. Larry Kenedy of Movietone had orders to stand by his camera, never leaving his post, his camera ready and focused for the crash of

the bridge. And stand there he did, in the bitter cold, hour after hour. And that's how the film got it all when the honeymoon bridge tumbled into the river at the foot of Niagara Falls.

FIRE

A whole town wiped out by a fire today. Richville, New York. Only a hotel and two gas stations remain tonight. The blaze started in a store, and ate its way to a place where kerosene and ammunition for hunting were stored. There was an explosion; and fire raced through the town. Richville is no metropolis, but just about all there was of it went up in flames.

COPS

New York in my absence today, witnessed an episode of murderous bandits and heroic policemen. Five thugs held up a pawn shop in the Bronx, and a burglar alarm brought a police car with two patrolmen. Shooting began at once. Sergeant David Kilpatrick was killed. And Patrolman Royal Pollitt was shot through the arm. But even so, he put three bullets into one of the gunmen and blasted the life out of him. Another of the robbers was captured.

AUTO

It's tragic about Rosemeyer, the German speed driver. He won the Vanderbilt Cup here in the United States last year, but he'll never win another race again. He was driving in a speed competition in Germany today, doing two hundred and seventy-five miles an hour. A tire blew out and the madly skidding car was catapulted for two hundred yards through the air and did two somersaults. Rosemeyer was instantly killed, having dared death once too often.

END

And now, out into the cold - how cold is it now, Bob?

MR. ISHAM:- below right now.

L.T.:- So out into the snow and cold, thru a covered bridge
and over to The Lodge at the foot of Mount Mansfield, for a
weekend on skis. And - SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.