

L.T. SUNOCO. THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

It was stated in Washington that the government may resort to a universal fixing of retail prices -- if the present price levels do not remain within reasonable limits. This was stated today by Deputy Price Administrator Galbreth.

What might the level be? Well, it would work this way:- The Office of Prime Administration would pick some date in the past and proclaim that the prevailing prices for goods on that past date would hereafter be tops. And no retailer could charge more.

That, of course, raises the question -- what past date? How far back? The answer would probably be somewhere between October First, and October Fifteenth of last year. For that period

is mentioned in the Price Control Act. Any price increases since the date named would thus have to be cancelled. The figures would have to be lowered -- and then kept to the level of that date in question, six months ago.

Deputy Price Administrator Galbreth stated today that all these possibilities depend on the question of new taxes that are to come. The Treasury Department is proposing a rate of taxation so high that it would absorb a lot of purchasing power. In other words, people wouldn't have so much money with which to buy things -- and that would keep prices from going up too much. However, if Congress should put through a much lighter tax bill, one that would not absorb enough purchasing power -- then there might be a rise in prices that would make it necessary to impose drastic measures of price control.

## CIGARETTES

Today in Washington, a cigarette manufacturer appeared before a congressional committee and advocated higher taxes -- on cigarettes. Carl Robbins, President of the Axton Fisher Tobacco Comapny of Louisville, Kentucky, told the committee today that higher cigarette taxes would be one of the least painful methods of increasing taxation, and would bring in an extra five hundred million dollars -- he estimated.

The cigarette manufacturer went on to state the following:- "Cigarettes," said he "certainly cannot be classed as essential to the national welfare - and they may be even harmful to it." And that, I think, should come under the heading of refreshing frankness. Sounds like Gene Tunney!

## TROUSER BOTTOMS

The War Production Board issued an announcement today concerning the regulation to prohibit trouser cuffs hereafter. A huge amount of woolen cloth saved by the cuffless order will be collected by the Red Cross.

This applies to men's clothes already on hand in stores throughout the country. The trousers now in the retail establishments have cuffs, and these are to be removed -- to be reprocessed as new woolen cloth. There are some fifty million pairs of new trousers in retail stocks. Two legs to each pair, and the number of cuffs comes to a total of one hundred million. Enough to provide cloth to manufacture at least three hundred thousand new suits.

## CITIZENSHIP

In New York, the federal government today began its first case to cancel the citizenship of a person who has been naturalized - the first case since the previous World War.

Paul Huissel was born in Germany, and became an American citizen in Nineteen Thirty-Four. The day after he was naturalized, he became a member of ~~the~~ Nazi groups - like the notorious Bund. He is quoted as stating, that the German blood in him was all that counted. He refused to work in a war factory, quit his job as a machinist - saying he would have nothing to do with making materials to be used against Nazi Germany. He refused to register for the draft, and thereby violated the Selective Service Law. He is to be tried for this.

The government in opening proceedings to

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cancel the citizenship of Paul Huissel, is acting on the p<sup>r</sup>emise that when he swore allegiance to the United States, he was not sincere about it. In taking the oath of citizenship, he retained a mental allegiance to Germany - so therefore it was fraud.

## INDIA

We hear that President Roosevelt may be asked to mediate in the problem of India. This comes from Chungking, the Chinese national<sup>ist</sup> capital, where it was stated today that the President of the United States may be asked to intervene in the discussions between British Envoy Sir Stafford Cripps and the Indian Nationalist leaders. The idea would be to use the influence of the United States to prevent a collapse of the negotiations for a settlement that would bring India fully into the war.

There's a further report that Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has sent a personal message to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian Nationalist leader - Chiang Kai-shek intervening personally to prevent a break-down of the negotiations. All of which indicates the importance the Chinese place on the question of India - a sense of importance in



which the whole world shares.

In New Delhi, Cripps is still negotiating with Indian leaders, ~~Azad and Nehru~~. After yesterday's nationalist rejection of the Cripps offer, they are trying for a compromise. And we hear that the talks today took on a more hopeful tone, what they call - "a more optimistic atmosphere."



## BURMA

There's some mystery about last night's account of the Japanese capture of the important Burmese port of Akyab. We had the story officially from the Chinese, but today it was just as officially denied by the British.

Then later, Chinese headquarters denied the report, with the following statement:- "News by a Chinese spokesman yesterday that the Japanese had landed at Akyab on the west coast of Burma is incorrect. No Japanese landings have been made," say the Chinese today.

Anyway, the enemy has not captured Akyab, the port that would enable the Japs to threaten a dangerous outflanking move against the British and Chinese line in central Burma.

On the other hand, the British forces have retired from the key point of their defense the city of Prome. This is explained partly by the outflanking menace of Burmese rebels who joined forces with the enemy. And also -- the Japs launched

a powerful drive and the British retired.

To counter-balance that, the Chinese have staged a drive on their side of the line. They announce that they have recaptured an airdrome north of Toungoo, which was formerly the key to their position.

Balancing one thing against another, the situation is not as serious as it seemed last night, though it is still too serious for comfort -- the comfort of the United Nations forces in Burma and for the safety of India.

PHILIPPINES

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Fighting is still going on in the Batan  
Peninsula - and, successfully, for us. Today's  
enemy attacks were rather light, compared with their  
fierce assaults of yesterday - in which Jap units  
broke through General Wainwright's line but were  
trapped and mopped up. At Corregidor too, the daily  
bombing was lighter than usual, with ~~reports of~~ the  
American stronghold exchanging cannon fire with the  
Japanese battery<sup>ies</sup> across Manila Bay.

## AIR RAIDS

The Royal Air Force struck again today at Nazi-controlled France. This time they smashed at ports along the Channel, and the British coast shook with heavy explosions. Today's R.A.F. attack followed last night's assault staged by the Nazis against British ports, a large scale affair, that some think was the heaviest bombing the German air force has launched against England.

## NORWEGIAN SHIPS

London believes that Norwegian ships trying to escape from Swedish waters may have been partly successful. Nearly a dozen Norse ships, tied up in Sweden, got out secretly and tried to get into British waters - through the Straits of the Skagerrak.

*Taking*  
~~They took~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ advantage of a heavy snowstorm.

~~But~~ Some at least were detected by the Nazis - and were destroyed or had to turn back. Others, however, may have got <sup>ten</sup> through and may be on their way to England - so thinks London.

## SINKINGS

The news today brought several dramatic stories of ship sinkings on this side of the Atlantic. One tells of cunning tactics by a U-boat commander - cunning that did not work, ~~however~~. This ~~was~~ because of the hardihood of thirty-three survivors in two lifeboats.

Their ship was torpedoed at noon, and sent to the bottom in fifteen minutes. All hands got off safely, and shortly afterward the submarine came to the surface near the lifeboats. On its deck appeared men of its crew, young, blond, and stripped to the waist. They spoke with the survivors, and then a strange and prolonged bit of drama began.

The lifeboats went along over the sea, and the U-boat followed them. The survivors understood the submarine was trailing them - with the intention of sinking a vessel that might come to their rescue.

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This continued for five days -- for five hundred and forty miles. Twice the survivors saw ships go by, but refrained from trying to signal for help. "We were glad to see them go over the horizon," the Captain said today. "We didn't want them torpedoed while taking us aboard." And so the nerve-racking drama continued -- until finally a ship came along when the pursuing U-boat was several miles away. The survivors were quickly picked up, and they told the rescuing skipper "get out of the way in a hurry!"

Another story gives us a weird turn of personal adventure. A freighter navigating in the Caribbean off Trinidad -- on a voyage that had already been marked by hair-raising peril. This vessel had been attacked by dive bombers at Suez, and got away. Later, it went aground on rocks in the Red Sea, but it survived that. Now, in the Caribbean, the ship finally met its doom by the explosion of a torpedo.



The hero was a radio operator, who kept sending distress signals until the craft was on its way to the bottom. Then he leaped into the water - but not without his monkey. He had a small pet monk, which he held between his teeth by the harness, to save it as he took the dive into the water. Oil was spurting from the torpedoed vessel, and a stream of oil splashed in his face and blinded him and the monkey as he swam. He had a pocket light in one hand, and this he flashed from time to time, as he kept afloat on the oily water. I wonder what the monkey thought of all that grim monkey business?

The flashing of the light should have attracted one of the lifeboats, which were near - but the effect was just the opposite to what was expected. The lifeboat sheared off from the flickering gleam. They thought the wireless operator with the monkey was the U-boat -- from which they wanted to keep away. It was pretty tough, but eventually a lifeboat got

the idea, rowed over -- and rescued man and monkey.

Whereupon the monkey siad:- "What does Lew Lehr

mean, saying "monkeys is the craziest people?"

NAME

President Roosevelt propounded an apt question today. "What war is this anyway?" In other words -- what's its name?

Of course, there are a couple of names already in vogue. We say "The Second World War" or maybe -- "World War Number Two." The President said he didn't think either of these was particularly good. And you can see his point. It's rather weak terminology to refer this stupendous world embracing conflict back to that other War of Nineteen-Fourteen-Eighteen -- which was not nearly so gigantic. The present terrifying affair deserves a name of its own.

The President remarked that any new name for the war must be short, and he added that it ought to convey the idea that this is a struggle to conserve the democracies and the small peoples of the world. He urged his news conference today to give plenty of publicity to the question - to the search for a new name.

The news conference proceeded to flash the publicity to the various newspapers, news services, and radios, and there were immediate responses. One of the first came from Associate Editor Greene of the Paterson Evening News and President of the National Boxing Association, who telegraphed his contribution to the White House; and here it is:-

"Liberty War."

I wonder what ideas the radio audience will have.

## DUEL

Today at Santa Barbara, California, the story was told of a pistol duel in which two majors blazed away at each other. One was killed, the other wounded, and the wife of one desperately hurt.

Major Buell Hammett is a Home Guard officer and socially prominent. In a hospital bed today he told of a quarrel with Major William Wenstrom, a retired army officer. Major Wenstrom in a letter published in a newspaper, criticized Major Hammett's direction of the Home Guard unit.

"I called Wenstrom on the telephone last night," said Hammett today, "and told him there should not be so much criticism of the Home Guard - and he became very abusive." <sup>1)</sup> ~~I still wanted to talk to him,~~  
~~the wounded man continued, "as I believed we might be~~  
~~able to settle the differences. 'All right', he said,~~  
~~'you come to my place in half an hour.'~~

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So Hammett went to Wenstrom's home, and on the front porch there was an angry argument. Wenstrom abused Hammett and then drew his pistol and fired - wounding the other man. Hammett says that, feeling himself hit by a bullet, he pulled his own gun and started shooting. "I tried to hit him in the shoulder, so he couldn't use his gun to shoot me any more," said

major  
^ Hammett today, but major  
^ Wenstrom was killed. And his wife was injured - with a head wound from a stray bullet.

The two men had been friends - and together had helped ~~to~~ organize the <sup>disputed</sup> unit of the Home Guard.

## MAGIC

Today at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, two ten year old boys confessed to the crime of breaking into a local theatre -- committing burglary and considerable havoc. They pried among the properties of a magician's act, ~~xxx~~ and stole the wizard's wonder-working wand.

Robert Jones and Marvin Stoy attended a performance at the theatre last night, and gazed with wide eyes at the act put on by Blackstone, the Magician. They were puzzled mightily by all the mystery and the miracle. In particular, they were baffled by the Hindu rope trick. You know -- the one in which the magician tosses a rope into the air, and it hangs there attached to nothing, and somebody climbs it. And the two ten year olds were deeply perplexed by the wonder-working stunts the magician performed with his magic wand,

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They were so puzzled <sup>that</sup> afterward, deep in the night, they broke into the theatre, found the sorcerer's equipment, and started investigating it -- to discover how it worked. Groping around in the dark, they upset



several cages of birds -- the cages bounced open, and away flew a dozen of Magician Blackstone's canaries and doves. ~~He uses the~~ <sup>used</sup> Birds in one of those bedazzling vanishing acts. At last reports two ~~of the birds~~ were still missing. <sup>Yes,</sup> And the boys found that wonder-working magic wand. This they took away with them to examine at leisure, and figure what made it do such mysterious tricks.

Today the ten year olds informed the cops in tones of disgust:- "We threw the wand in a mud puddle - it was a fake." Yes, they found that the magic wand contained mechanical tricks and gadgets. ~~And the wonders it produced were all a fake.~~ At last reports Magician Blackstone was seen hunting in mud puddles, looking for the magic wand.

9 And now a magical incantation from you James.