

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, Aug. 9, 1940.

There's complete contradiction in today's final figures concerning the big air and sea battle of yesterday -- the greatest ever. Revised British figures give the number of Nazi planes shot down as sixty, instead of seventy -- though unofficial reports place the number as high as seventy-five. Compare this with the Berlin figures which give the German loss as a dozen -- ten planes shot down and two forced to land. The Germans claim that they shot down forty-nine British sky fighting craft. The British admit the loss of sixteen. The Nazis ~~xxxx~~ claim twenty-eight convoys, were sunk or badly damaged. London admits the loss of five.

The air and sea fighting continued today on a lesser scale -- that three-way war of Nazi bombers, torpedo speed boats, and submarines attacking British shipping.

In Africa the Italians are still pushing along in British Somaliland -- across the desert spaces. Rome is saying that the ultimate objective is the stronghold of Aden, just across the narrow gulf from Somaliland. There is even talk that the Italians have trained native soldiers as parachute troops -- to drop out of the sky in an attack on Aden. This seems a little theatrical.

CUDAHY

The United States Ambassador to Belgium will leave  
Great Britain on Saturday - sailing <sup>for</sup> home. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Ambassador Cudahy has been called back by the President, ordered  
to return immediately - for ~~xxx~~ consultation. This because of  
statements he made about the danger of famine in Belgium, the  
need of American food relief to keep the Belgians from  
starving, the good conduct of the troops of Germany in the  
conquered country, and the propriety of King Leopold in  
~~XXXXXX~~ surrendering the Belgian Army. These remarks by the  
American Ambassador have aroused anger in Great Britain - and  
now he's recalled to the United States.

Not only that - Ambassador Cudahy is officially  
rebuked by Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles, who today  
<sup>again</sup> declared: "The Ambassador's interview was given without prior  
authorization from, or without prior notification to, the  
Department of State." Then the Sumner Welles statement continues:  
"I am sure that no one will question the sincerity of the  
Ambassador's sympathetic interest in the future well being of  
the Belgian people, an interest which is shared by the people  
of the United States."

~~as a commentary on the Ambassadorial statement which~~

Here's the latest - from London. Ambassador Cudahy states - that he's going home to be crucified. This London dispatch quotes him as saying to friends that he knew the statements he made would be unpolular, but he had to make them. And today he remarked:- "I know I am going home to be crucified, but the truth must be told."

As a commentary on the ambassadorial ~~statement~~ statement which has raised all the rumpus, here's a report sent from Europe by the American Society of Friends - the Quakers. The Quaker Relief Committee on the scene reports that France is facing starvation right now. The French have from five to ten million refugees on their hands, and must feed them. The Quaker report distinguishes between the part of France held by the Nazis, and the unoccupied part. In the German-held-area, there still seems to be adequate food supply. "But," the statement goes on, "in the unoccupied parts a very serious food shortage already exists." John F. Rich, Secretary of the Quaker Relief Committee, refers to the forecasts made by ex-President Herbert Hoover, and uses these words:- "The food situation is exactly, if not worse, than Hoover said it would be."

DUEL

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What happens when a nation is seized by Nazi invaders is illustrated by a story that comes from Denmark. At ~~xxxxx~~ Copenhagen, a newspaper critic wrote a review of a play and panned the leading lady. An actor in the drama resented what he called - "the unkind words" so he challenged the critic to a duel. The critic accepted. Whereupon they faced a dilemma. What could they kill each other with?

It happens that the Nazi conquerors have forbidden the Danes to possess weapons - except maybe bows and arrows. Well, there was the answer. The actor and the critic faced each other on the field of honor with bows and arrows. The ~~xxxx~~ actress who had got the panning was there watching, as her histrionic honor was ~~defended~~ defended. The two duelists took aim at each other, each with an arrow and a bended bow. They let fly, <sup>both</sup> and missed. Honor was not satisfied. They took a second shot at each other, and this time the arrow launched by the critic was so accurate that it pinked the actor in the arm.

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Honor was thereupon satisfied, because they couldn't go ahead and shoot each other full of ~~xxxxxx~~ arrows, until they locked ~~xxx~~ like a couple of porcupines, *could they?*

WAR CONTRACTS

Congress got a shock today when the Secretary of War gave the number of airplanes that have been ordered under the new giant defense program. The number is - only ~~thirty~~ thirty-three. Billions have been voted for armament, ~~especially~~ especially aviation equipment. The Army has been granted funds to place contracts for four thousand planes immediately. It has been able to place contracts for just thirty-three.

Secretary of War Stimson went on to explain, and he discounted the stories that monopoly and excessive demands for profits are tying up the defense program. The Secretary used these words:- "The fault, gentlemen, is not with the Army. The fault has certainly not been with the ~~Advisory~~ Advisory Commission." Then he added:- "Nor has it been the fault of industry. I have received no evidence," he stated, "that at any time there has been any tendency on the part of industry to hold back on the Army in these negotiations."

Then what's the trouble? The Secretary said the chief ~~stumbling~~ stumbling block has been the lack of a satisfactory amortization program. *There's the trouble. Amortization is the villain.* Amortization? - that has to do with the expansion of plants and tax concessions. It is

tied up with taxes on undistributed profits. Secretary Stimson pointed out that, to take the giant orders the Army wants to place, the aviation industry must build a huge lot of new factories. Then a sudden change in the situation might cut down the orders, and the companies would have all those factories on their hands. So the need is for a tax concession, this of a sort that would enable the aviation industry to expand its plant facilities without so much risk. It's rather a ~~MAZE~~ maze of complicated finance, but, says the Secretary of War, it explains the hitch in the defense program - only thirty-three warplanes ordered. *And Hitler just around the corner they say.*

TAXES FOLLOW WAR CONTRACTS

The taxation snarl impeding the placing of aviation orders was discussed also by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. He appeared before the ~~xxx~~ Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, and urged that something be done about the amortization business. The Secretary also urged that something be done to provide the Government with more money -- more taxes for greater revenues.

He stated the deficit this year will be the highest in the peace time history of the United States, greater than any of the previous ~~xxx~~ New Deal figures in the red. This, of course, because of the National Defense Program. ~~The deficit~~ of the present fiscal year will amount to five billion and seven hundred ~~xxxx~~ million dollars. So stated the Secretary of the Treasury. He forecast that the total expenditures would probably be more than twelve billion dollars. The Government income will be about six billion three hundred million. Subtract one from the ~~xxx~~ other and you have five billion and seven hundred million in the red. Hence the urgent need for more taxes. The Secretary mentioned specifically -- excess profit taxes.

TROOPS

President Roosevelt today announced some betting odds - a hundred to one. That's a long shot - and what does it apply to? It's a hundred to one that the National Guards and the regular Army will never be sent for service outside of the United States or its possessions. So said the President. Meaning - no new A. E. F.

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The bill passed by the Senate yesterday gives the President power to call up the National Guard for service, and send it anywhere in the Western Hemisphere or in American territorial possessions. That limitation, of course, would keep the soldiers out of the war in Europe. However, it would permit of an American Expeditionary Force in some part of the Americas. ~~That would be possible under the law the Senate passed.~~ The President was referring to that possibility when he said that there was very little likelihood of American troops going outside ~~of~~ the United States and its possessions. And he quoted the odds, a hundred to one against it.



CONSCRIPTION.

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The debate on conscription got going in the United States Senate today. Senator Shepard of Texas opened the argument in favor of compulsory military service. He described it as - a tragic necessity. He said it had to be - to meet the threat of Nazi Germany. Senator Holman of Oregon said that our Pacific Coast is in danger. He used these words:- "Imminent peril of an invasion of Alaska and the entire Pacific slope." The Senator said he had this from what he called - "authoritative military sources."

There was a sharp bit of verbal fencing between Senator Danaher of Connecticut and Senator Shepard. The gentleman from Connecticut asked:- "Does the Senator expect that the United States fleet is adequate for our defense?"

"I do not," responded the ~~gentleman~~ gentleman from Texas.

"Then do we need all our ships," demanded the gentleman from Connecticut.

"We need twice as many," responded the gentleman from Texas.

To which the gentleman from Connecticut retorted with

AIR RAID SHELTERS

New York City to be provided with air raid shelters - that sounds dramatic, as if the bombers were just around the corner. Today a proposal was laid before the New York Board of Transportation, a proposal to construct a series of bombproof shelters, such as could be turned into subway stations if and when the city ever gets around to building a Second Avenue tube. They've been planning one for a long time.

~~(The scheme for air raid protection, however, doesn't mean that New York City is anticipating a bombing attack in the near future. The real logic of the matter is to be discovered in the financial aspect.)~~

The bomb shelters would cost a million dollars a piece, and that sounds pretty expensive. But it's quite all right, because the idea is to get the money from the Government. It is suggested that the air raid protection funds could be provided out of the ten billion dollar National Defense Fund. Or maybe, the Government would lend the money, P.W.A. Here's the real catch. The New York Board of Transportation may have to lay off a number of engineers and technical men - because of a lack of funds. This lay-off could be averted, if the Government would put up the money to build a series of a million dollar air raid shelters to save the big town from bombing.

Information please: - Bombed by whom? →

COMMUNIST

The American Labor Party, a powerful political outfit in New York, has always been regarded as inclined to the left. Today one of its principal leaders resigned - Louis Waldman, who was an A. L. P. candidate for the State Supreme Court. ~~XXXXXX~~ He says he is getting out because the ~~XXXXXX~~ American Labor Party is so much under Communist domination. He states by continuing to be a member <sup>he'd</sup> ~~XXXX~~ only be helping the Reds. "I can find no justification," says he, "for men like myself who abhor Communism, its Fifth Column and Trojan horse techniques, to continue in a party with Communists."

This brings a retort from the State Executive Director of the American Labor Party. He suggests that if Waldman feels he must resign from the A. L. P. because its membership includes Communists, he should also leave the United ~~States~~ States, since the citizens of this nation include Communists. Well, that raises an interesting question. Should we, who are not Communists get out of this country and leave it to the Reds? Or should the Communists get out? The comrades might think that one over.

WRITER

At Hollywood Noel Jones was in jail again today. That seems rather astonishing - after Charlie Chaplin proved to be so magnanimous. Noel Jones is a San Francisco writer who submitted a script to the Chaplin studios. Yesterday he went to see Charlie - about that script. At the Chaplin office he was told it would not be possible for him to interview the comedian-producer, and that irked the soul of Noel Jones. He was so angry, he made a grab at the telephone switchboard, and ripped out the back of it. He was arrested and hauled away to the hoosgow. It was up to Charlie Chaplin to prosecute, but Charlie refused. He was magnanimous. He ~~six~~ said - "Oh, let it go at that."

So today Noel Jones was let out of jail. As he emerged, he walked over to a police car and started to drive off. ~~(Now you cannot do that - a fellow released from a hoosgow cannot depart, taking a police car with him.)~~ Noel Jones, the writer, was arrested all over again, ~~(and confined to a cell. I don't know what he's up to.)~~ maybe he's working out a scenario - in real life, one of those comics.

ALEXANDRIA BAY AUTO RACE

The most unusual auto race of the year is scheduled for tomorrow. "Round The Houses" it is called. Up at Alexandria Bay, on the St. Lawrence River, metropolis of the Thousand Islands region. All the drivers are amateurs. Cars of American make, Italian, French, British, from everywhere. Seventy miles through the streets of a town. Past the drug store, past the church, whizzing by the meat market. No wonder thousands of people come from miles around to see it. So, if you want some fun tomorrow, fill up your gas buggy with Nu-Blue Sunoco, dash to Alexandria Bay, and maybe they'll let you enter the "Round The Houses" Race.

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*But make sure you drive round - the houses. Not into them.*

INDIANS

Small boys were playing a game of Wild West in Worcester, Massachusetts. A pack of Indians seized five year old Johnny Kemowski, and tied him to the rear bumper of an automobile. The idea was for the cavalry to arrive on the scene and save Johnny - untie his bonds and rescue him. But, unfortunately, the cavalry was late. Before the soldiers of the U.S.A. got there, the owner of the car arrived -- Roger Rice. He never noticed five year old Johnny tied to the bumper. He jumped in his car and drove off -- taking Johnny with him, dragging the kid along. Passersby observed the astounding sight of an automobile towing a small boy along behind it. They shouted, the car stopped, and Johnny was released. It is not recorded what he said to the cavalry when he found it. He probably said -- "Gee, I ain't going to play with you any more." And I'm going to say, Gee, look who's here'. Why it's Hugh James!