

LABOR

L. J. - Sunoco. Friday, Nov. 7, 1941.

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The recommendation made by the President's fact-finding board, in the railroad labor dispute, ~~was~~ was today accepted and rejected. Accepted - by the heads of the ~~xi~~ railroads. Rejected - by the chiefs of the ~~xi~~ railroad union.

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The railroad workers are demanding wage increases, two months ago the men of the brotherhoods voted to authorize a strike - whenever their leaders might see fit to order a walkout. The President appointed a fact-finding board to make a ~~recomm~~ recommendation to settle the dispute. Day before yesterday, the board turned in its report, and recommended a raise of seven and one half per cent. They called it a "wage bonus".

Today the railroad companies said okay, but they added that they ~~are~~ were accepting with reluctance. They declared that they were disappointed by the finding of the board - the seven and a half per cent pay bonus. But anyway - all right.

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This was followed promptly by a decision of the chairman of the five great brotherhoods of railroad labor. They said - no. They flatly rejected the seven and a half per cent ~~inxxx~~ increase, and urged that a railroad strike be called. They said they regard the seven and a half per cent pay bonus as what they called - "an insult".

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~~So there's the prospect of a railroad strike, which would be one of the most threatening events in the current labor ~~sit~~ situation. The fact-finding board announces that it's all done, its work is done. "The case", says its chairman, "now rests entirely in the hands of the President.~~

Here's the latest. A. F. Whitney, President of the Brotherhood of ~~raixx~~ railway Trainmen, stated tonight that the five big railroad unions have fixed a deadline for strike action. The deadline is one forty-five P.M., ~~REMY~~ December Fifth. If the brotherhoods don't get a satisfactory ~~xi~~ settlement by that time, a railroad strike will begin - a little less than a month from now.

The news today carried the usual quota of stories of strikes. For example - a walkout at the Ford Motor

guarantees if the war goes on?" it demands. The Helsinki radio declaration went on by stating that it was all a British-American attempt to whitewash the Stalin regime. "All the white wash in the world," the broadcast declared bitterly, "could not make the Soviet white."

Company. Two hundred and fifty skilled milling machine operators went on strike in a Ford Detroit plant making axles. This tied things up and five thousand workers were idle.

In Washington, the Labor Department today gave out figures showing that ever since aid to Britain began on a big scale, in the middle of Nineteen Forty, there has been an almost constant increase of labor trouble.

NEUTRALITY

A Senate vote on the neutrality change is due at any moment now. This afternoon, Administration leader Senator Barkley stated that a time limit would be put ~~on~~ the debate - after five o'clock this afternoon each Senator would be restricted to ten minutes.

The speech-making was begun today by ~~assistant~~ Republican Senator Austin of Vermont, <sup>who once</sup> ~~he once~~ more declared himself in favor of permitting American merchant vessels to go into the combat zones.

Late this afternoon, as the debate neared its close, Democratic Senator Tydings, of Maryland declared himself. Hitherto, he had not made clear what he intended to do about the Neutrality Bill. So there was a bit of suspense when he arose.

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He <sup>said he was</sup> ~~declared himself~~ against it. He stated that in the ~~form~~ U-Boat attacks on the Greer, Kearney and Reuben James, these destroyers had hit first. The Senator used these words:- "It is clearly shown, That the United States, ~~when~~ whether rightly or wrongly, was the aggressor in all

three cases". From this he judged that the Navy had taken war action on orders from the President and without any authorization from Congress. "The President in pursue Hitlerian ~~technique~~ technique," said the Senator, "arrogated to himself the complete power of Congress. War was declared by executive fiat", he added.

And so the debate went on - nearer and nearer to a vote.

EUROPE

Stalin made another speech today - on this the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. On Red Square in Moscow the cohorts of Communism were assembled, and Stalin told them that Hitler's Nazi regime will crack up within a year -- or less.

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In England Prime Minister Winston Churchill chimed in with an address of vigorous encouragement. "We've passed through the darkest and most perilous period", he cried, and added, "we are once more masters of our own destiny."

From Berlin comes an answer to Stalin's figures of yesterday. The Red Dictator declared that the Nazis had lost four and a half million men, compared to Red Army losses of about a million and ~~xx~~ three quarters. Berlin answers with ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ astronomical figures of its own, saying that the Red Army has lost between seven and eight million men.

On the war front the word today was -- all quiet.

The war in Russia is the subject of a significant bulletin from Australia. A commander of an Australian division is quoted as saying that Anzac troops may soon be fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army in the Caucasus.

London tonight gives us an official version of one of the dramatic episodes early in the war -- the death of Balbo. When that Number Two man to Mussolini was killed in air action in North Africa, all sorts of surmises were raised. Rome said Balbo had been killed in action. And that was received with a lot of skepticism. Later we had the rumor that Balbo's plane had been shot down by Italian anti-aircraft guns, and this today is confirmed by the London story. Royal Air Force Headquarters in the Middle East explains that there was a surprise British air raid. Fascist anti-aircraft guns went into action, -- and Fascist airplanes took off to fight. Balbo was in one of these, and his plane was hit by one of his own anti-aircraft shells and crashed in flames.



FINLAND

Last night we had Helsinki's denial claiming that no Stalin peace offers had been received. Also -- the intimation that Finland would soon make public certain diplomatic conversations between its minister in Washington and the State Department. To this the State Department today responded by making its own disclosures of those diplomatic conversations.

The Washington declaration relates that both Secretary of State Hull and Acting Secretary Welles talked with Finnish Minister Procope, informing him that the Stalin government was prepared to negotiate a treaty of peace and make territorial concessions. Meaning -- Finland would get back the areas it lost. Secretary Hull, in fact, congratulated Finland on winning back this lost territory in the present conflict with the Soviets.

It doesn't seem any too likely that the Finns are prepared to draw out of the war. It's a question whether they could, whether Nazi Germany would permit it. A broadcast from Helsinki today deals with the Washington suggestion and raises that same question of guarantees. Who will assure Finland that Stalin would not make another move against the Northern Republic, The broadcast expressed doubt about the value of any assurances. "Who will enforce these

FAR EAST

Here's an important question -- what's the meaning of the prospect of withdrawing the American troops in China?

President Roosevelt stated today that the United States government is considering the idea of bringing home the fifteen hundred Marines stationed at Shanghai, Tientsin, and Peiping.

The President's announcement today coincided with the arrival of the special emissary from Tokyo, who comes in an attempt to work out an agreement. The President today told about the withdrawal idea at his press conference, and warned newspapermen it was useless to do any guessing.

R.A.F.

Today the appearance of a magazine article in the United States caused an uproar in London. It was greeted with a chorus of -- nonsense, absurd, nothing to it. The article in COLLIERS was written by a retired United States Admiral, one of the best known figures in the recent history of the United States Navy -- Admiral Yarnell, who commanded American warships in the Far East.

The Admiral's article appeared today and it largely concerns the R.A.F. That's a romantic subject, the Royal Air Force of Britain -- the ultimate skill and heroism in the sky.

The article is a shocker and tackles that most controversial question -- an independent air force. The commonest argument in favor goes like this -- the British have an independent air force, and look at the R.A.F. To which Admiral Yarnell responds, yes, look at the R.A.F. He contends against an independent air force and writes as follows: "The evidence shows that as an all-around military tool, the R.A.F. has been ineffective. Its work over the British Isles," he continues, "has saved England from defeat," but he adds that in other fields of action, the R.A.F. proves that an independent air force is a mistake.

"Forty-eight hours before the Germans actually invaded Norway,"

he writes, "R.A.F. scout planes saw transport ships churning through the North Sea. Only mildly interested in the phenomenon they reported it through routine channels -- and it finally reached the Admiralty after the Nazi invasion was under way. Whereas they might conceivably have changed the entire course of the Nazi invasion of Norway.

In the battle of Crete, the R.A.F. was really futile, declares Admiral Yarnell. He relates that during the Nazi attack, few British planes appeared, until evacuation had begun. "Most of them," <sup>he</sup> declares, "might almost as well never have come -- because the pilots could not recognize the British ships they were supposed to escort to Alexandria." This declaration is followed by a rather startling statement: "After the whole terrible affair was done," says the Admiral, "three-fourths of the British naval craft were damaged and a few sunk. And resentment among the evacuated soldiers was so strong, he tells us, "that R.A.F. enlisted men were forbidden to be on the streets of Alexandria when the rescued soldiers were disembarked."

The Admiral informs us that during the episode of the Bismarck, which was sunk by British torpedo planes and gunfire,

the R.A.F. staged a bomb attack on a British cruiser. He claims furthermore that the Royal Air Force planes have at times sighted Nazi submarines and refused to attack them -- saying that was the job of the Navy.

So there's the attack on one of the most cherished institutions of the day. So no wonder there's a blast from London. British-air men particularly are indignant about the statement that R.A.F. pilots have refused to attack German submarines, because its the Navy's job. This they deny with the utmost indignation.

## ESSAY

In wartime Britain, they're having a rather painful scandal - a disillusioning ~~aff~~ affair which started out as something bright and inspiring. A few days ago the British public was ~~re~~ delighted when the Ministry of Health made public a funny little essay written by a ten year old boy. It was all the more agreeable, because the young author was a cockney lad, evacuated to the country from the East End slums of London. The subject of the ~~ess~~ essay was that interesting animal - the cow. Children of the slums don't often see a cow, which made the cockney lad's observations all the more refreshing.

The essay on the cow was made public by the Minister of Health, Ernst Brown, who read it to a swanky audience at the smart Dorchester Hotel. There was a gale of aristocratic laughter and pleasure, as the Minister of Health recited the following:

"The cow is a mammal", wrote the cockney lad, "it has six sides. The head is for the purpose of growing horns, so its mouth can be somewhere, under the cow hangs

milk . How the cow does it I have not yet realized." Yes, that was pleasingly unsophisticated, from a cockney boy of the slums, where cows are so rare.

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All ~~Enges~~ England enjoyed that literary bit - until today, when the scandal broke. It is now revealed that the ~~xxxxx~~ essay on a cow was written and published twelve years ago, ~~It was~~ written by a German boy, and published in a German book. A bit of astonishing plagerism, presented to the public by the Minister of Health, Ernst Brown.

Today the following official statement was issued:-

"We know for certain, that the essay was submitted by a billoting officers in southern England, who is in charge of numerous East End children. Mr. Brown wouldn't think of stealing anything - especially from the enemy," the statement adds.

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So it would appear that the ten year old cockney lad did the swiping. Angry London critics protest however, that the Ministry of Health should have known better. They

They argue that in the essay there's one sentence which should have been a tip-off, that it was never written by a cockney boy. The sentence - "how the cow does it, I have not yet realized." No cockney talks like that. It is typical of a translation from the German. So the Ministry of Health is accused of not knowing much about English as it's talked in England.

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Anyhow that was a good sentence: "under a cow hangs milk!" And here's another: - "into a car, if you are wise, goes Mr. Blue Sunoco!" Isn't that right, Hugh?

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