

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1941

Mont Tremblant, Canada

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm way up in the Laurentian Mountains tonight, in the Province of Quebec, north of Montreal. I am here in the Land of Snow, at the foot of Mont Tremblant, highest mountain in Eastern Canada. Those of you who have followed these Sunoco news broadcasts over the years, may vaguely remember - some of you - that one night each Winter I have given the news from up here in this rather remote snowy wilderness. Seems remote. But it really isn't. Not in this age of rapid transportation. In fact I am in the same room that I have used now for so many years. It's the Ladies Room in the little C.P.R. French-Canadian Railway station in the village of St. Jovite. I've used it so often that I'll come to regard it as my Canadian Broadcasting Studio.

Each year I broadcast from here at Mont Tremblant for several reasons: my Sponsors and their products are well.

known up here; so it's only fair that I should occasionally broadcast from Canada instead of from New York City; and then I must admit I enjoy skiing on Mont Tremblant; and, finally, I happen to be one of those who think that we who live south of the Border should come north and visit our Canadian neighbors as often as possible. And vice versa.

But, what about the news of the world tonight? Here are the highlights as they have been flashed to me by my United Press colleagues here and broad, bulletins flashed to me over a special Western Union - C.P.R. wire.

Since Canada is at war I thought I might run into the problem of censorship on this visit. In Europe a censor always sits beside a newsbroadcaster, ready to cut him off the air in an instant if he deviates from his previously censored script. But none of my news has been consored - not at this end. No censor sits beside me. And I'm as free as though I were at home in the U.S.A. where we news analysits and commentators have so far had no censorship.

What's the big news tonight? Well, Canada, and all the rest of the world will be interested in this:

## WAR

The British capture of Benghazi climaxes a campaign distinguished for dash and brilliance. The Italians abandoned the chief city in the eastern part of Libya without a fight, surrendered it. No vast number of prisoners were captured, as at Bardia or at Tobruk - though Cairo reports that Italians units were cut off. Their retreat was hasty, but the British advance was swift.

The capture of Benghazi concludes a phase of the desert campaign. All of eastern Libya is now under British control. There still remain great spaces for further advance toward more distant objectives. The City of Tripoli, for example - which is five hundred miles further along the coast. Still a long way to go for the British, but the demoralization of the Italian army seems to make anything possible. The demoralization, so rapid and apparently complete, is one of the surprises of the war. London and Cairo dispatches today tend to dwell upon the fact that the beginning of it all was hardly more than a British raid, a raid in force, a plan to accomplish a limited objective. But the Italians crumbled in amazing fashion, and the mere raid turned

into an overwhelming success that ripped Mussolini's army apart. What was intended to be a local advance turned into a lightning drive, sending the enemy into retreat for hundreds of miles.

Meanwhile, reports persist that the Italians are trying to get an agreement with the British to evacuate civilians from Ethiopia. Tens of thousands of Italian colonists are said to be imperiled by the revolt of East African tribes. The Italians argue that it would not be to British interest in Africa to have a massacre. There are denials of this, but the report is insistent.

## FAMINE

Ex-President Hoover once more warned against famine in the conquered countries of Europe. This - in a statement released today by the Mid-West Committee on Food for the five small democracies, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Holland and Poland. Herbert Hoover stated that there will be a greater death list this winter than in all four years of the last war - unless some way is found to feed the starving. "Famine and pestilence," says the ex-President, "will not come to the belligerents but to the unfortunate victims of the war. The cries of these people," he declares, "will ascend above any press censorship, any war hysteria or any government official."

Herbert Hoover is soon to make public the result of an inquiry into the possibilities of European relief.

## CONGRESS

Today was a day of amendments in Washington, in the House of Representatives - most of the amendments being turned down. The one that attracted the most attention was a proposal to forbid the President to lend or give United States armament to Soviet Russia. Congressman Tinkham of Massachusetts wanted that provision to be inserted in the Lend-Lease Bill. Russia is against civilization as we know it, declared the Congressman, "against everything in the Anglo-Saxon world."

The amendment was opposed by the Administration leaders, but without anybody having sweet words to say about the Soviet Reds. The Administration argument was that it would be unwise to exempt Russia from the list of countries who might borrow or be given American war materials. "This is not the hour and this is not the place," declared Congressman Johnson of Texas, "to write in an amendment which is merely a gratuitous slap in the face." The contention was pressed that it might help drive Red Dictator Stalin into the arms of Hitler. The anti-Soviet amendment was defeated, a hundred and eighty-five to ninety-four.

Here's the latest - an amendment just adopted. It



puts a limit on the amount of armament that can be sent abroad - a rather complicated limit, however. Here it is:- not more than one billion and three hundred million dollars' worth of war equipment may be lent or given away - out of the material purchased by money that Congress had already put up. This does not apply to the national defense money put up under the new budget, seventeen billion dollars. Nor of course would it apply to other amounts that Congress might appropriate for lending and leasing. The limitation of one billion and three hundred million has reference only to the money that Congress appropriated for defense in the last budget. The defense money in that budget came to thirteen billion dollars, and the limitation in the amendment amounts to ten per cent of that. In other words, the President is forbidden to lend or give away armament to the extent of more than ten per cent of the money appropriated in the last budget. The amendment was passed unanimously - with the administration support, in fact it was introduced by Congressman Bloom. With this - the Lend-Lease Bill is about ready to pass in the Lower House of Congress.

## RUSSIAN BONDS

Sitting here near me, in ski clothes, in the women's room of this little Quebec railway station, is one of America's top ranking bankers. Here's news that ought to interest him. The startling statement was made today that employees of the United States Government have been investing in the bonds of Soviet Russia. This disclosure was made before the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives, by Representative Cox of Georgia.

The Committee is considering a resolution to extend the work of the Dies group, which has been investigating un-American activities. Congressman Cox told how the Dies Committee looked into deals between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia in this country. They found that the Hitler people and the Reds have exchanged as much as two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a month through the medium of New York banks. While investigating this, the Committee came upon the trail of the United States employees who invested in Soviet bonds. How many did so? "The list is a pretty long one," said the Congressman. Some put as much as ten thousand dollars into red securities.



SENATE HEARING

The Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate today heard testimony by another aviator - Al Williams this time. Al has been a famous flyer in his time. Now he is a newspaper columnist and still an expert on aviation.

Concerning war plane figures, Al Williams thought that Nazi German production might be as large as forty-five hundred or five thousand aircraft a month. He said the general supposition is that the Germans are producing about three thousand to thirty-five hundred a month. But he called these figures - ultra-conservative.

What about United States production? Nine hundred and fifty planes a month, said Al Williams, and he added: "It is time to tell the public that the nine hundred and fifty are not all combat planes," he said. In fact, that we have not a single front-line up-to-date fighting aircraft. "Not one," as he expressed it, "that can hold a candle to the British Spitfire or the German Messerschmitt Hundred and Nine."

He criticized the administration for turning over American warplanes to foreign nations - "planes vital to American

defense", said he. Bombers for example, which Uncle Sam needs for his own air fleet and for the training of pilots. Al Williams took the attitude that we should keep all our military aircraft to build up our own power in the sky.

This opinion was countered by a statement which Secretary of War Stimson sent to the Committee. He declared that the turning over of American built warplanes to Great Britain is a help, not a hindrance to United States defense. Secretary Stimson reasoned that by doing so we enable the British to defend themselves against Germany, and, he said, that is good for our defense. Moreover by building planes for Britain we are developing our own production system, the better to fill Uncle Sam's own needs.

## EMPLOYMENT

President Roosevelt is going to ask for legislation to establish a whole series of public works projects - new ones. Not that he intends to launch any big W.P.A. doings right away. He's looking forward to the time when the Defense Emergency is over, when the armament program is more or less complete. Then a let-down of employment is to be expected, and the President thinks we should be prepared for it - should be ready with plans for public works to provide jobs. Today he said he'll probbaly ask Congress to pass a law - not to provide money, but merely authorization, so that plans can be made.

## OBJECTORS

A new plan was announced for Uncle Sam today for the handling of conscientious objectors. They're to be given civilian work to do, in lieu of military service. This is embodied in an executive order issued by President Roosevelt, an order which authorizes Defense Director Dykstra to assign conscientious objectors to what is called - "work of national importance." This is to be under civilian direction and applies to citizens who are described in these words - "conscientiously opposed to combatant or non-combatant service in the land or naval forces of the United States."

From the headquarters of Selective Service, we learn that the civilian work for objectors is to be under the guidance of religious organizations, which will maintain a number of camps. Options have already been taken on sites for seven camps. These will cost about three million dollars a year to operate, the money to be put up by the religious groups. The conscientious objectors will work without wages, although they'll be supplied with spending money. It is estimated the number of men who registered and declared they had moral scruples against service in the armed forces is between six and eight thousand, only that many.

## LABOR

The statement was made today that the labor situation in regard to national defense in the U.S.A. is "very satisfactory."

This word comes from headquarters, from Associate Defense Director Sidney Hillman in Washington, D.C. As C.I.O. Chieftain he represents labor on the Supreme Defense Agency. Hillman spoke in response to a question as to whether he intended to propose any changes in the labor laws.

"My position," he replied, "is that the situation has been so satisfactory that there is no need to make any changes." And he emphasized "if things are satisfactory, why make any changes?" He made the comment that in his thirty years of experience as a Union leader he had never seen better cooperation between labor and industry, than right now. There have been a number of strikes in the realm of national defense but fewer than might have been expected. So said Sidney Hillman at his first press conference as a Defense Director.

But with this comes word of a threatened railroad strike - a huge affair if it happens. On February Fifteenth strike-ballots will be sent to seven hundred and fifty thousand railroad workers.



this was announced today by B. M. Jewell, who is Secretary of fourteen railroad labor unions in the States. What's it all about? Why, it has to do with vacations. The railroad employees are demanding vacations with pay. And seven hundred and fifty thousand of them will cast ballots to determine whether or not to stage a walkout. These ballots will be counted by a gathering of union chiefs, who thereupon will plan a course of action. There can be no strike immediately because the present railroad labor law decrees a sixty day period of waiting after a strike vote, sixty days before a walkout is permitted.

## MANHATTAN

Well, the big American passenger liner MANHATTAN is on her way back to her home port. Having been released from the sandbar on which she ran aground early a month ago, the big liner left West Palm Beach this afternoon - steaming north under her own power.

## INVITATION TO VISIT CANADA

A moment ago, just before the storm took down the telegraph line, I received a wire from an important Canadian official and I am going to read it almost in full. It really is addressed to the American people. Here is what it says:-

"Would appreciate if in your broadcast tonight you would point out that Canada today is still the same attractive and pleasant vacationland. Despite the fact that this country is at war there are no restrictions on travel of United States citizens to the Dominion. Please tell them also that our border crossing is made with the greatest of ease. Furthermore, Canadians at this time welcome United States citizens because American tourist dollars are helping this country wage an all-out war on Hitler and the things he stands for. Every American tourist dollar which comes to Canada today is being sent back to the United States for the purpose of war supplies, airplanes and the essential materials that we require to make Canada the great arsenal of the empire. In brief, American tourist dollars spent in Canada today do a double duty: they provide you with an enjoyable Canadian vacation and go directly back to the United

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States providing greater employment and a faster tempo to the defence program you are carrying on in your own country."

### THIRD CANADA STORY

I wish we had television so that you could see my impromptu broadcasting studio tonight. Outside sleighs are going merrily by; also Harry Wheeler's dog teams that run every year in the famous Val Dor, Valley of Gold dog team race up here in the North Country. Inside here with me is a Scot, Douglas Rattray of the C.P.R., who has been operating my telegraph key all day, taking the news bulletins as they came in -- until the storm took down the line a little while ago.

Across the room sits a young Englishman - a Canadian - Lloyd Moore of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with the sending equipment needed to put me on the air. Both are men who have helped me in other years.

Crowded round, on chairs, benches and on the floor are skiers who are enjoying the thrills of the new trails on Mont Tremblant, and the new lift just opened up by my old friend, Joe Ryan, the one that goes right up to the top of the mountain. Last week Joe had his biggest crowd, a record for the two years since he created this, one of the most spectacular and complete ski developments in the world. Ted Shane, who writes articles



for COLLIERS and THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, is acting as my timer in a confused sort of way, with Tom Wheeler checking him. Although Joe Ryan is our host at Mont Tremblant, here in this little railway station we are the guests of Jovial Stationmaster M. Oscar Landry.

In the States you sometimes hear people say: "Wonder what the French-Canadians think about the war?" Well, M. Landry answered that a moment ago. Said he: "Up here we live our own lives, we work for whoever we want to work for; we vote for whoever we like; and without a gun at our backs. Britain is going to win the war! We are all positive of that."

(Shout of HEAR HEAR!)

And now if the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation will switch us over to the United States, let's hear from Hugh James, in New York.