

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1938.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A snowy Good Evening. For I am broadcasting tonight from the heart of the Province of Quebec, away up here in the Laurentian Mountains. Perhaps you wonder how I can get my day's news up here. Well, I have a special Western Union wire right here at my elbow, and flashes have been coming through to me all afternoon, getting to me just as quickly as though I were at Radio City.

As for the scene of my broadcast tonight, it's so unusual that I'd like to tell you about it. I'm in the tiny C.P.R. station at the village of St. Jovite. The N.B.C. engineer, the Western Union operator, and I are set up here in the ladies waiting room. And I've had a lot of competition while preparing my material: at one elbow the telephone linemen checking the wires; the Western Union key going all the time; the French Canadian Station Master, M. Desjardien chattering away in French; his daughter playing a piano right overhead; five little French

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boys playing marbles on the wooden floor behind me; and a train whistling and clanging its bell right outside. All this has been going on around me the whole time. So I may be a bit mixed up this evening. If so I hope you won't mind.

WASHINGTON

Two headline stories that flashed this morning were denied this afternoon.

Number one, the report that a Latin-American nation had come forward through diplomatic channels with a proposal for an alliance of the nations of this hemisphere - a pact to unify for inter-American defense. This headline seemed to have a rather dramatic significance in the light of recent talk about the possibility of aggressor nations having designs on Latin-American countries. However, the State Department denies the report. Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles said today that the Department had no information, either directly or indirectly about any suggestion of an All-American alliance.

Number Two - this headline related that one of President Roosevelt's conferences yesterday concerned the War debt question. Last night I told how the President had held a discussion with the senator and congressman who are most concerned with finance. And Vice-President Garner and Secretary of State Hull were there. That sounded like a mixture of finance and foreign affairs. The surmise was that it might have something



to do with Mexican-American financial relations. But later on the rumor broke that this secret conference took up the perplexing matter of the War debts. With that came a report that our War debtors might make a move towards some sort of settlement - by having a small nation make the first approach, and feel the ground out for the big fellows. The War debt question right now takes on a larger aspect, with all the talk about naval cooperation between the United States and Great Britain. American public opinion could be keenly sensitive to a jeering remark about our going into another war to make the world safe for democracy when the boys haven't paid us the debt they owe us from the last war.

Once more there's a denial. At the White House press conference today, President Roosevelt was asked whether yesterday's secret conference had anything to do with war debts. Had he discussed the subject in the last twenty-four hours? The President said "No", he had no conference about war debts in the last forty-eight hours, or the last forty-eight days, or the last four hundred and eighty days. Yes, he made it emphatic.



Now you wouldn't think I would run into any American news up here in the snowy Laurentians of Quebec would you? And above all you most certainly wouldn't think I'd run into any inside Washington news up here! But that's exactly what happened this afternoon. Tens of thousands of my fellow countrymen from the U.S.A. are visiting the Laurentians these days. The New World has gone ski-mad. But there has been a scarcity of snow in many localities this Winter. So Americans have been pouring across the border, thousands of them skiing here in the Laurentians all the way from Shawbridge to San Sauveur, San Marguerite, Bal Morin and on to St. Agathe and St. Jovite. There always seems to be snow up here, and they measure it in feet, not in inches.

Well, almost the first person I ran into was one of President Roosevelt's closest advisors, the somewhat mysterious Tommy Corcoran, the man credited with writing or contributing to many of the President speeches. The man who also entertains the White House these days with his gaiety and his piano playing. He skis a while, then talks to the White House on the Long distance phone, then goes out on these Laurentian snowy slopes

and skis alongside a group of gentlemen from the House of Morgan who are up here also.

Tommy Corcoran let me listen in on one of his calls this afternoon. It concerned that dinner next Thursday evening at the Commodore in New York, the dinner the young Democrats are giving to Robert Jackson, the Assistant Attorney General, the man we hear may be put up by the New Deal to run for Governor of New York. On the phone the word came that his appointment as Solicitor General of the United States may come through next Monday. Also Dick Patterson, former Vice-President of the National Broadcasting Company, told us that Joseph P. Kennedy, our new ambassador to London, who was to have presided at the Jackson dinner next Thursday, will sail for London the previous day and that he has just issued a statement praising Jackson and inferring that he has been misunderstood by many business men.



## PRICES

Last evening's story about the President and prices is ~~xx~~ amplified today by a formal statement from the White House, which declares it will now be the policy of the Administration to promote a moderate rise in prices. The President believes that by curing the present price market, the business recession can be ~~xx~~ cured.



R.F.C.

The R.F.C. is starting business again. Chairman Jesse Jones announced today that the President has instructed him to go on lending money again. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation stopped advancing cash to business last October -- by Presidential order. There had not been su much need for loans during the several previous years. But (now there's a recession, and the Little Business Men in the Washington Conference clamoured loudly for easier financing, and so R.F.C. loans will be made once more to boost things a bit in the present slump.) Chairman Jesse Jones said today that he had a billion and a half dollars to lend to business -- on the right kind of proposition, of course.

## DEFENSE

In Washington the House Committee considering appropriations for a bigger Navy heard some spectacular testimony today on that familiar theme -- airplane versus battleship. One witness was Lester Barlow, who has something of a place in aviation history. He's described as the first flyer to do air bombing in the World War. So it isn't difficult to guess what side he took in the argument - airplane versus battleship.

He told the Committee of a new and spectacular system of sky-bombing that has been developed, ready to be put in practice. He used the word - blanket, a blanket system of aerial attacks on warships. He spoke of twelve hundred planes flying at fifteen thousand feet, out of the reach of anti-aircraft fire, too high to be hit. He said that a swarm of bombers like that would blanket the ocean, and cover every square yard of water and blast every ship in an area ten miles square. It could be done in three to five minutes - one titanic shower of bombs blanketing the sea with destruction, systematic, mathematical, worked out according to chart.

Then Expert Barlow came to the point - saying that twelve hundred bombers, capable of laying the explosive blanket, capable



of destroying a whole fleet, could be built for the price of one super-dreadnought. So you see where he stood in the controversy of-airplane versus battleship.



## LIGHT

Concerning the six Army bombers in the great South American formation flight, one of them at Buenos Aires today came streaking in a bee-line, and made an immediate landing on the airfield. It seemed to be in a hurry. The other four circled the metropolis of the Argentine, gave the city a bit of a show, and then landed. Four plus one makes five - and there are six planes in that formation flight. The answer is that one remained behind at Lima, Peru, needed fixing a bit. That flying fortress will soon follow it's companions and go winging across the South American continent.

I can't give you any thrilling story about today's ~~magnificent~~ magnificent flight of the five, commanded by Colonel Olds. It is described as completely uneventful, which is the way a sky voyage should be. There's only one picturesque detail. The planes kept in wireless touch at repeated intervals all the way - except for one stretch. That's when they were soaring over the towering Andes, wireless contact with the flying fortresses was lost - no word from them. But that had been expected, reckoned with, too much height and too much mountains for radio communication - so

there was no anxiety, no worry. Completely uneventful are the words.

The daring flyers are in for a good time now - at the inauguration of President Ortiz of Argentina - not Peru as I said with a slip of the tongue, last night.

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I had an invitation to do some flying today, fly from New York to the heart of the Laurentian Mountains keep in the Province of Quebec. But it turned out to be non-flying weather. So I came up by train, last night. After broadcasting as usual from Radio City, from the R.C.A. Building Studio where I usually am, we caught the New York Central midnight train for Montreal, changed trains early this morning and came on by the Canadian Pacific to St. Jovite. Arrived in a snow storm.

Harry Wheeler famous dog team driver, put us in his dog sled, ~~xx~~ wrapped us up in buffalo robes and bear skins, and off we went through a snow storm, drawn by fifteen Siberian Huskies -- a famous dog team. Just a few days ago at Laconia, New Hampshire, seventeen dog teams were entered in a ninety-mile test,



a three day race, thirty miles a day, a race for the dog-team ~~xxxxx~~ championship of the world. This team that met us at the C.P.R. Station and pulled us a couple of miles to Gray Rocks Inn this morning, won that race.

We often read of the ferocity of sled dogs, the huskies of the North. But these Siberians, new champions of the world, nuzzled up to us, allowed us to pet them - as ~~friendly~~ friendly as any dogs I ever saw. Harry Wheeler has fifty of them, many are dogs he acquired from Leonard Seppala who made part of that famous run with the serum, across Arctic Alaska from Fairbanks to Nome. He allows little children to go right in a romp with all fifty of his huskies at the same time.

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Right back of me here, a bit farther north in the Laurentians, is the rich mining country of Quebec where Premier Maurice Duplessis is urging ~~xxxx~~ far-sighted young French Canadians to go in search of their fortune.



## HURRICANE

The wind brought havoc and horror to Rodessa, Louisiana, last night, but the wind brought relief from a new danger today. Last night it was a tornado, one of the dreaded twisters. It hit the oil town shattering houses and buildings, killing people and smashing the tall derricks of oil wells. From the oil-wells-burst-open poured huge volumes of gas, which blew over the stricken town with the peril of an explosion that would just about blast everything out of existence.

But today the blowing of the wind changed all that -- for the breeze shifted and blew the clouds of inflammable gas the other way -- out over empty land. So tonight, Rodessa, without fear of explosion, can perform its melancholy task of finding bodies and clearing up the wreckage.

## AUSTRIA

The latest from Vienna is an official declaration by the Austrian government which states that Germany agrees to forego any interference by the Nazi party in the internal affairs of Austria. The statement explains this by saying that the Austrian-Nazi party, taking part in the government, will confine its activities to ways permitted by the present Austrian constitution.) Vienna has a one-party system, and that one party system will be retained. Only what is called the "Fatherland Front" will be allowed to function. The Nazi party will join up with the "Fatherland Front", and will act only within the framework of that organization.

There are further statements that there will be no anti-Semitism in Austria, no legislation against the Jews - as in Germany. The present Austrian Constitution grants full religious equality and under an agreement between Hitler and Vienna that Constitution remains in force.

Behind these confident statements is the belief that Hitler will be satisfied with the control of Austrian economies and foreign affairs, and, with this huge power over the nation



will be content to let the Austrians manage their own ~~international~~ internal social problems.

On the broad international horizon, we find Dino Grandi Mussolini's Ambassador to London, in a long conference with British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden today. They conferred on the Austrian situation. It is reported that Eden formally asked Grandi - "What's the idea of Mussolini doing nothing about Hitler and Austria?" Grandi is said to have replied that he was in no position to discuss that at the moment. And, moreover, that Italy demanded British recognition of the Ethiopian conquest, before there could be any discussion of Austrian affairs. Whereupon Eden is said to have made a proposal - which is called, a new approach. This new approach, they say, points toward negotiations for a settlement of the ~~the~~ broadest kind, a general agreement on European affairs.



## FLAG

The United States Steamship "Nantucket Chief" has had a stormy career of late, and it figured in another lively incident today. After having made a trip from Soviet Russia loaded with oil for Left Wing Spain, and having been seized by the Franco people, and having been finally released she's now at Gibraltar scheduled to sail to the United States.

In a Gibraltar saloon one of the sailors of the NANTUCKET CHIEF was telling about that oil-carrying voyage from the Soviets to the Left Wingers. And he announced loudly - that he had spat on the American Flag. He made one mistake, he told about the flag-spitting within the hearing of a sailor of an American destroyer, which is in harbor at Gibraltar. There was one hefty swing, as the gob knocked the flag-spitter cold. And now with Tom Wheeler and my Laurentia Mountain friends it's time for me to go out into the cold - by dog sled across the snows. And

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.