

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There were important events today, not on the war front, but on the diplomatic line - events that have the world speculating and guessing. Two things - a speech in Moscow, and a Cabinet shake-up in Rome.

The speech in Moscow had been expected, had been discussed in advance. (What declaration did Foreign Commissar Molotov make to the Supreme Council of the Soviets?

He denounced Great Britain and France for fighting Germany. He termed it "senseless" and "criminal." He called Great Britain the "aggressor.")

Continuation of war, said the Soviet Commissar, "on the grounds of the restoration of Poland, is senseless. Germany," he continued, "is striving for peace, but Britain now is the aggressor." He said that the talk about Hitlerism and

democracy was mere camouflage. The real issue was colonies - the great possessions of the colonial powers. "It is fear of Germany's claims to these colonial possessions," cried Molotov, "that is at the bottom of the present war of England and France with Germany. It is the fear of losing world supremacy," he blasted. "This war promises nothing to the working class but bloody sacrifice and hardships," he shouted.

He declared that the British and French were oppressing the native populations of worldwide colonies, and proclaimed with some dark significance that the present war would spread far beyond the confines of Europe.

What did he mean? Possibly some Soviet threat against the colonial empires? India, for instance?

As for helping Hitler, that most immediate and pertinent point - Molotov said that the Soviets were giving Nazi Germany what he called - "practical help." Presumably that means Stalin supplying Hitler with the raw materials Hitler so badly needs. Molotov made no mention of any possibility of the Soviets giving the Nazis any military assistance - throwing the Red army to the support

of the German army.

He took occasion to have a fling at the United States, denouncing the repeal of the Arms Embargo in the Neutrality law.

Altogether, today's address to the Supreme Soviet must sound darkly ominous to those of the Allies who cherished the hope that Stalin does not intend to stick along with Hitler. In London and Paris there was one saving grace today, not in anything that Molotov said, but in what he didn't say - his silence on the subject of Soviet military aid for Germany.

Stalin's Foreign Commissar touched upon another Number One theme of world affairs, Finland - and he produced some illumination. Hitherto no one has really known what demands the Soviets have been making on the little republic of the north. Today Molotov gave an outline of the Soviet demands, an accurate outline very likely, because the demands sound exceedingly heavy. He said: "We want a pact of mutual assistance approximately along the lines of the pacts with the Baltic countries." Well, we know that those Soviet mutual assistance pacts with Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania virtually amount to Soviet domination of those small nations.

Molotov told the Supreme Soviet that Finland had turned down the Russian demands; the government at Helsingfors was willing to make some minor concession, but otherwise its answer was a refusal. The Commissar didn't give any indication of what the Soviets intended to do about it.

Here again he took a fling at the United States. Washington made representations to Moscow in behalf of the independence of Finland. To this Molotov countered with a reference to the Philippine Islands. "The Philippines," he said, "ironically have no independence, while we," said he, meaning Russia, "have recognized Finnish sovereignty."

Of course we might point out to the Commissar that, while we did take the Philippines from Spain, we have since passed a law decreeing their independence, an independence which the ~~Philippines~~ Filipinos themselves now don't seem any too eager to accept.

ITALY

In Italy Mussolini has shaken up his Cabinet in a way that has everybody trying to figure out what it all means. He has replaced the chiefs of staff of the Italian army and air force, has replaced six Cabinet Ministers and the Secretary-General of the Fascist Party. The changes were of such sort as might well indicate a drawing away from Nazi Germany. Certainly, they indicate that Italy is strengthening its neutrality.

The changes that particularly have that appearance are these:- as Secretary-General of the Fascist Party, Starace is succeeded by General ^{Muto} Muti. The post of Secretary-General ~~of the Fascist Party~~ is of peculiar interest in a Fascist nation dominated by one-party ~~is~~ Totalitarianism. And ~~it was~~ retiring Secretary Starace ~~who~~ was known to be a strong supporter of the Axis with Germany. So what about his successor?

General Muti is a popular Fascist hero, only thirty-seven years old. When he was fifteen, he volunteered and served as a private soldier in the World War. He marched with the Poet, d'Annunzio, in the seizure of Fiume. He was one of the first to join the infant Fascist movement in Nineteen Eighteen. As a leader

of Fascist bands battling the Italian Reds, his career was violent. He was wounded in street fighting, and served a term in prison. When Mussolini took power, his advance was rapid. He was an aviator in the Ethiopian War and won a string of medals. When the Spanish Civil War broke out, he was the first Italian officer to volunteer for service in Spain. He flew in Franco's air force, and after that was all over, he fought in the Italian invasion of Albania.

This career is an expanded illustration of the fact that the new Secretary-General of the Italian Fascist Party is a bitter anti-Communist. And this is important with respect to the Hitler-Stalin alliance of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia.

The Minister of Popular Culture is superseded. That's an important ministry, dealing as ^{it}~~it~~ does, with propaganda -- so dear to the Fascist heart. The retiring Minister, Alferi, was a partisan of the alliance with Germany. He is succeeded by a member of a distinguished intellectual family of Florence -- Pavolini by name. What is pointed out as significant and surprising, ~~is the fact that~~ a brother of the

new Minister of Popular Culture is married into a Jewish family. This does sound somewhat astonishing in view of the anti-Semitic laws which Mussolini has decreed. ^{It} ~~and~~ hardly represents the new minister as a partisan of the German Nazis.

The retiring chief of the Italian army was known to be in favor of ~~collaboration~~ cooperation with Nazi Germany. His place is taken by General Graziani, one of the two chief commanders in the conquest of Ethiopia. Graziani's political opinions have not been publicized. He is strictly the soldier, with a reputation as a colonial fighter.

London and Paris today were quick to hail the Italian Cabinet changes as evidence that Italy was pulling away from Germany - away from the Hitler-Stalin combination. Berlin, on the other hand, looked at it as just another one of those sweeping changes that Mussolini has been in the habit of making - the Duce's theory being that office-holders should be switched around every so often to keep them from becoming stale. To support the Berlin view, there's one change that was not made - in the Rome Foreign Department. Mussolini's son-in-law,

Count Ciano, remains the Foreign Minister, which is taken to mean that there will be no radical alteration of the foreign policy of Italy.

Rome is describing the new Ministry as a Cabinet of - "brain and brawn". The new appointees are of the strong man type. And they seem generally to be in harmony with Italian neutrality - a set-up to enforce Mussolini's policy of keeping out of the war.

FLINT

Late this afternoon the State Department was still waiting for a report to its messages addressed to Berlin and London. These -- on the subject of the City of Flint.

Earlier in the day Secretary of State Hull asked the British and German governments to give assurances they would not expose the American crew to unnecessary dangers.

As for the ship itself, ^{it's} shrouded in mystery.

Presumably with the German prize crew aboard and the American crew as prisoners, the City of Flint is being navigated through blockaded waters. The Germans say that to disclose any information of the vessel's whereabouts would be to expose it to attack by British blockading vessels. And British warships must be combing every inch of the waters ^{at} the entrance of the North Sea. So how can the City of Flint escape them? Presumably capture ~~was~~ by the British need not endanger the American crew. ^{The boat} ~~The City of Flint~~ couldn't put up a fight. The Germans aboard might sink her, with all hands taking to the lifeboats. The chief peril seems to be floating mines which infest the waters through which the City of Flint must be navigating tonight.

DIES

Today a witness testified about Communist activities before the Dies Committee, and when he was through, the Committee turned him over to the police. ~~He is William G. McQuiston, once a Communist and now a protagonist against the Reds.~~ ~~Maxix~~ He's under arrest in connection with the murder of a labor leader in New Orleans. The Dies Committee, in surrendering him, ~~to face the charge,~~ expressed the opinion that it might all be a frame-up by radical elements to discredit the investigation of the Reds. ~~And~~ the Committee called upon the Department of Justice to look into this angle of the case.

In his testimony, Witness McQuiston ~~stated that as a Communist he had gone to Spain, on the Loyalist side. What he saw there turned him against Communism, made him talk out against the Reds. When he returned to America, he was threatened by Communists here and was beaten up - several times, he said.~~ ~~He is a sailor, a member of the maritime union, and~~ told the Committee all sorts of things about Communist domination of waterfront organizations in American cities.

As for the murder charge against him, members of the Committee today pointed out that nothing was done to have him arrested, until he appeared and testified before the Dies Committee. ~~This, they believe, caused Red elements to lay charges with the New Orleans police - charges leading to today's arrest.~~

The doctor tried to get from her an account of her...
...wandering about for a week, hunted...
...reported in one place and on that, yet...
...appearing. She had with her a satchel in which was contained...
...the shells of bread, a few ears of corn, and a half ripe...
...grapefruit. She seemed to have got the bread and ears of corn...
...from a kitchen into which she broke. The grapefruit indicates...
...she spent most of her time wandering in various citrus groves...
...a fugitive hiding among the trees.

Last night she terrorized a church warden and...
...his wife, coming to their house, threatening them with a knife...
...scolding them up and in fear she went off the night. Finally...
...she persuaded her to get into their automobile and they were

JUDD

Today Winnie Ruth Judd was quiet, the mad murderess in tranquil repose - under the influence of sedatives administered by the doctors. Late last night she came banging at the door of an Arizona institution, asking to be admitted, surrendering. She was half hysterical and weak from hunger.

The doctors ^{vainly} tried to get from her an account of her amazing experience - wandering about for a week, hunted everywhere, reported in one place and another, yet always disappearing. She had with her a satchel in which was contained a few crusts of bread, a few cans of corn, and a half ripe grapefruit. She seems to have got the bread and cans of corn from a kitchen into which she broke. The grapefruit indicates she spent most of her time wandering in Arizona citrus groves, a fugitive hiding among the trees.

Last night she terrorized a church paster and his wife, coming to their house, threatening them with a knife, keeping them up and in fear ~~new~~ most of the night. Finally, they persuaded her to get into their automobile and they were

driving her to the State Hospital - when she ~~suspected~~ suspected their purpose. She leaped from the car and disappeared in the darkness. Then of her own accord she went to the institution and surrendered.

WORLD'S FAIR

Tonight is Hallowe'en, and as a result a force of two hundred and twenty-five policemen has been ordered to the World's Fair as a special guard. They're to protect stately structures and exhibits against what are called - "Hallowe'en hooligans." If on the day dedicated to all the Saints, you yield to an impulse to play prankish tricks and rip up things with destructive mischief - you're a Hallowe'en hooligan.

Tonight, moreover, is the last night of the Fair. It's closing for the winter - to open again next May. And you know how crowds on the last night may get out of hand - especially ~~with~~ that pillaging breed of vandals known as souvenir hunters. They're afraid that between the Hallowe'en hooligans and the souvenir hunters, they may not have any fair left to open for business next May. So ~~they'll be plenty~~ there'll be plenty of cops on the job - and other precautions as well. ~~In the Ford Exhibit of the display cars have been locked up and all the leather furniture removed from the salon. Some exhibits are closing at six o'clock - taking no chances with the antics of the Hallowe'en hooligans and the souvenir hunters.~~

ROCKEFELLER CENTER

The largest building project in the history of the world is about to be completed - Rockefeller Center. The last rivet in the last building is waiting to be driven. We are told that the construction of these fourteen huge buildings ranks as the largest architectural job ever undertaken. Today this city within a city has a daily population of a hundred and twenty-five thousand, including tenants, employees, and visitors.

There'll be quite a ceremony tomorrow, a ceremony that will be broadcast between three thirty and four thirty tomorrow afternoon. In this Nelson Rockefeller, President of the Center, will preside and tell the dramatic story of the development. Then his father, John D. Jr., will go on the job as a riveter. He'll take one of those trip hammer machines - and drive a silver rivet.

JUROR

The world concedes that a woman has a right to change her mind, but there would seem to be one exception - when she's a juror. Having cast her vote in the jury room, she might be expected not to change her mind when she gets back into the court room. ~~You wouldn't think there would be any argument~~

~~about that.~~ ^{But} Oh no? ~~Why~~ you just ask Mrs. Katherine Merrifield of Chicago.

In Chicago, they've had the first federal trial with women on the jury - a seventy thousand dollar contest to break a will, with six men and six women giving the verdict. They deliberated, and in came the jury decision. It found in favor of breaking the will. There was the customary routine of polling the jury. When they came to Mrs. Katherine Merrifield, she spoke up and said:- "That was not my verdict."

"Didn't you sign the verdict?" she was asked.

"Yes, I signed it," she replied, "I signed through cowardice. I submitted to the will of the majority."

That's how a woman juror changed her mind in Chicago's first federal trial with women on the jury. ^{And} It threw

the case into confusion. There was a call for a mistrial.

The judge hesitated - it was a complication the like of which he had never known before. Finally, he let the verdict stand, and gave the defense ten days in which to file a motion for a new trial.

So now they'll spend ten days in trying to figure out how the law applies to a case in which a woman changed her mind!

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And Hugh, before I sign off, what have you on your mind?

S - L - U - T - M.