

P.T. Lunco. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 1942.

MESSAGE

76
We all know what kind of a war this is. We've been told often enough, and have said it ourselves, if there had been any doubt, it would have been dispelled today in dramatic and sententious fashion - by President Roosevelt's war message to Congress.

Nobody could mistake where the all important emphasis lay. Take the immediate reactions in Congress, what the Senators and Representatives had to ~~say~~ say in swift comment. The congressional response was entirely favorable, one hundred per cent, applause and nothing but. and, one after another, the lawmakers seized on the central point.

Senator Tydings of Maryland stated - a very fine exposition of the present and future facing this country.*


The President has the right ambition about production, *said Sen. Tydings.*

77
Senator Wheeler of Montana said he was particularly pleased with the President's ~~and~~ declarati^on that armament production must be increased ~~to~~ tremendously in nineteen forty-two.

Remarked Senator Byrd of Virginia, " a good speech, setting forth the productive effort as to planes and tanks necessary to make victory certain."

Republican Leader Senator McCarry:- "The President's message will cost a mountain of money, and each item of expense must be carefully scrutinized."

So the emphasis was on production, the vast expenditures of money to create an overwhelming mass of armament. This is the angle that strikes Congress with the greatest force, as indeed it strikes the entire nation. The slogan of "production and more production". The President,



himself, said it ^{today} with massive figures. ^{and}

~~These~~ Those figures for war production are ringing tonight in the public mind. In Nineteen forty-two this ~~per~~ present year, Sixty Thousand warplanes are to be built.

48
Total for ^{this year and next:} ~~the two years~~ - a hundred and eight-five thousand military aircraft. And of these one hundred thousand will be combat planes - bombers and fighters.

In Nineteen forty-two - forty-five thousand tanks. In Nineteen forty-three - seventy five thousand tanks. Total for the two years - a hundred and twenty thousand units of those moving fortresses that are so decisive in modern war.

Anti-aircraft guns, twenty thousand in nineteen forty-two, ^{and} a two year production of fifty-five thousand of that ~~type~~ type of gun to protect against sky attack.

Other items of necessary armament are huge in production. Ships, for example - eight million tons next year, and ten million tons the year following. All of which is to achieve a goal, which the ~~President~~ President stated in these words:- "The superiority of the United States in ~~munition~~ munitions and ships," ^{said he}

~~HE SAID~~ ~~SAY HE~~, "must be overwhelming - so overwhelming that the axis nations can never hope to catch up with us."

19

One response to this production call came ~~XXX~~ quickly from the agency chiefly concerned with the creation of armament. Officials of the office of production management expressed - amazement. ~~XXXX~~ They were astonished by the giant figures presented by the President for the production of planes, tanks, guns, ships, Can the ~~XXXX~~ massive program be fulfilled? Yes, they say - the schedule will be met. "Only a free people can achieve such goals", said the O. P.M. "We can do it, we will do it."

Now for the cost. The President stated that the price we'll pay during one year, the coming fiscal year, will be fifty-six billion dollars. That comes to more than half of the estimated annual income of this nation. How much does it average for ~~XXXXXXXX~~ each person? Our population figure ~~is~~ for Nineteen Forty was a hundred and thirty-one million. And on that basis, the one year of war expenditure would amount to ~~XXX~~ four hundred and twenty-seven dollars and forty-

eight cents for every man, woman and child in the United

States. As the President ~~xx~~ remarked - "war costs money".

(This was message to Congress, President Roosevelt)
He gave us a grim picture of the task ahead. "We

have already tasted defeat," said he. "We may suffer further

setbacks," and he added, "we must face the fact of a hard war,

a long war, a bloody war, a costly war". He pointed to the

disappointments we have already had. "It was bitter for

example," said the President, "not to be able to relieve the

heroic and historic defenders of Wake Island." And he said

it was bitter for us not to be able to put a million troops

and a thousand ^{planes} ~~ships~~ in the Philippine Islands.

As for actual military operations, the ~~Pres~~ President

told little. He was concentrating on the main theme -

^{and -} production. He indicated that we shall send our soldiers

~~see~~ to fight abroad - an A.E.F. ^{In fact} ~~and pres~~ probably more

than one A.E.F. "We shall carry the attack against the

enemy," cried the President. "We shall hit him and hit him

again, wherever and whenever we can reach him".

One specific military fact that he stated was the

MESSAGE - 6

51
sending of American land, air and sea forces to Britain.

"We will take our stations in the British Isles," said the

President. And ~~he~~ he repeated the call for a victory that will

guarantee liberty in this world - political freedom and

religious freedom.

EUROPE

The Red Army announces new vast victories - five hundred and seventy-two towns and villages recaptured during the past five days. This in the north. And in the Crimea the Russians have now completed the reconquest of the Kerch Peninsula, a narrow finger of land in the extreme East of the larger Crimean peninsula.

In Libya, things are rather quiet, with British attacks against Axis forces in the Halfaya-Solum area, along the frontier of Egypt and Libya.

The battle has been slowed down because of the weather - the paradoxical sort of weather that we've noticed before. Violent rainstorms are sweeping the desert, and this has particularly hampered air activity. Planes can hardly fly through the deluge pouring down on what are supposed to be the burning sands.

In Malaya, the British tell of a local offensive - a counter-blow of the enemy, ^a spokesman at Singapore ~~has~~ merely said this:- "A local offensive is now under way, and is achieving most satisfactory results".

This followed a bulletin telling of the smashing up of a Jap landing attempt on the West Coast of Malaya. However, new landing operations ~~xxxx~~ are going on, with the enemy again trying to put troops ashore. In previous landings on the coast of western Malaya, the Japs have used ~~xx~~ small boats, fishing craft, launches, Chinese junks and even row boats. With these they got ashore, and imperial troops are now fighting with them.

The scene of these hostilities ~~is~~ is North of the ^{important} inland Malay city of Kuala Lumpur, ^{an} ~~area of Kuala Lumpur. That's an important British military~~ important rail center and the capital center in Western Malaya, and it's the next Japanese objective of the Federated Malay States, and the next Japanese objective. They now appear to be about a hundred and ninety miles from

Singapore - this as a result of new British withdrawals.

We hear that familiar term - scorched earth.

Singapore reports that the scorched earth policy has been

applied to parts of Malaya ^a abandoned to the ^{enemy} ~~Japanese~~.

enemy. The story we have, mentions the removal of rice and other ~~food~~ foodstuffs. So the Japs ~~wouldn't~~ wouldn't

be able to get it. ^{And,} Other kinds of property are being

destroyed. But, we aren't told about the great rubber plantations and tin mines. ^{Those Malayan rubber plantations} ~~The rubber plantations in particular~~ represent

a vast amount of wealth, and the Singapore story does not

state that the rubber trees have been destroyed. It would

take a long time to replace them, ^{For a} ~~the rubber~~ rubber tree taking ^{ea}

years to mature.

General Sir Archibald Wavell, allied Commander-in-Chief, in the ~~Far~~ Far East, is going to establish his headquarters in the Dutch East Indies - probably on the Island of Java.

That's where the Dutch capital, Batavia, is situated. From ^{there} ~~this point on~~ in the Dutch East Indies, General Wavell will direct the allied campaign.

There are more reports of Chinese troops moving into Burma. Today's announcement comes from the Japanese Radio. Tokyo says that the Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, is going to send a total of two hundred and fifty thousand

54

veteran soldiers into Burma - to protect that ~~six~~ strategic
land against a Jap advance. Or - take the ~~effien~~ offensive -
— Burma gateway to India
for a drive to cut enemy land communications with Malaya.

In China, Chiang Kai-Shek's men are described as
battering the remainder of the Japanese army that tried to
capture the important city of Changsha. The Japs that tried
it are now said to face annihilation - some seventy thousand
of them.

PHILIPPINES

The Army tells us it now appears probably that more than one Jap destroyer was sunk yesterday when big Army bombers attacked Japanese naval units off the Island of Mindanao in the Philippines. The bulletin just in gives us some terse details about that sea and air engagement.

It reads as follows: "the Japanese fleet consisted of one battleship, five cruisers, six destroyers, twelve submarines, and twelve transports. As previously reported", the bulletin goes on, "three direct hits were scored on the battleship -- and now it seems probably that more destroyers were sunk. Numerous hits on other vessels", adds the dispatch, "are believed to have caused extensive damage."

Earlier in the day, we heard that the Jap assault on the American lines had slackened down after General MacArthur's men inflicted such a sharp check on them yesterday. As for Corregidor the word is again -- enemy bombing with little result.

CINCUS

54

There ~~ix~~ isn't going to be a cincus any more - and that will be a shock to the Navy. You can hear officers and sailors gasping - "what, no cincus?" how can the fleet get along without one - without the ~~ix~~ big boss?

The snappy word "cincus" derives from an official abbreviation of the term - Commander-in-Chief of the United States fleet. The abbreviation has been - c-[^]in-c-[^]us. That's the way the number ~~ix~~ one Admiral of the fleet has signed himself for many years/

But now there's a change. Our new Commander-in-chief, Admiral King, has adopted a different abbreviation. He signs himself com-in-[^]ch. So maybe the ~~ix~~ big boss will now be called the Cominch. (I wonder whether the fellows in the Navy will like that as well as Cincus. I don't k think it's as snappy to say - Cominch. Somebody might think it's a new type of communist.)

No reason is given to explain ~~any~~ why Admiral King has departed from the venerable usage - Cincus. Maybe in war-time he doesn't like the sink as in Cincus. But, anyway, he's the Cominch.

ENLISTMENTS

57
Today in a Broadway restaurant a husky, square shouldered fellow with a dark fighting face, sat at a table listening to the radio. It was Jack Dempsey, former heavyweight champion of the world. The broadcast - was President Roosevelt's message to Congress. Jack, together with several friends, listened intently to the President's tense and stirring call for the utmost measures of war and production/

When the broadcast was complete, Jack Dempsey rose abruptly, reached for his hat, and said: "I'm going to join the Army right now." The others looked in surprise. The former champ had been thinking of enlisting for some time - but this was so sudden.

A few minutes later, Jack Dempsey appeared at a recruiting station, and joined the Army. This, in spite of the fact that he is forty-six -- eleven years above the present age limit of thirty-five. His enlistment will have to be certified by the War Department. However, the former champ didn't want to wait for that formality. So, at his own request, he was ~~XXXXX~~ sworn in as a rookie.

ENLISTMENTS - 2

Officers were asked whether Dempsey would be assigned to a post similar to that held by Gene Tunney, in the Navy. Gene is a Lieutenant-Commander, in charge of physical training. To this an officer in charge replied: "Mr. Dempsey enlisted as a buck private."

Jack Dempsey is a bit over-age, while Bitsy Grant, on the other hand, is somewhat under size. Bitsy, the tennis star of Atlanta, is trying to get in the Navy. He's a veritable midget of athletics, only five feet four -- that's why they call him "Bitsy". He's two inches under the Navy minimum but hopes that they'll make an exception in his case.

CONGRATULATIONS

President Roosevelt sent a message of birthday congratulations today and it was exceedingly sympathetic. So sympathetic -- it sounded more like condolences. The gentleman felicitated or rather commiserated was Speaker Sam Rayburn of the House of Representatives. He was sixty today.

The President's birthday note read as follows:- "Ever so many happy returns of the day. It must be awful to be so old -- I don't get there for twenty-three days." So wrote the President.

F.D.R. will be sixty on the thirtieth of this month. He's twenty-three days younger than the speaker of the House -- which seems to make him feel like a blithsome youth.

And now let's turn to that truly blithsome youth, Hugh James.