

CHURCHILL

L.J. - Luroco. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1942.

Today we had some illuminating bits of candor from British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, some revealing flashes of insight and disclosure. These - on the subject of an invasion blow against Nazi Germany, the question of a second front. Churchill told how Stalin and the Russians ~~felt~~ ^{feel} about it - their state of mind, which is mighty important *right now!*

Churchill again pledged a second front, and referred to the recent great commando raid on Dieppe as a prelude. He said the Dieppe raid was an indispensable preliminary to far greater operations. These to be on what Churchill called - "a ~~ix~~ much larger scale." [#] He said that the United States and Great Britain were in complete agreement on military moves to be made, and that Hitler does not know where, when, how, or in what force, the attack will come. He described the ^{future} blow to come in these words:- "as quickly as possible, without

regard to losses or sacrifice, so long as the contribution is toward victory."

All of this, of course, is of the most immediate consequence to Soviet Russia - which is fighting in such desperation against the Nazi war power. ^{Churchill} He could speak with first hand knowledge because he was reporting to the House of Commons on his recent trip to Moscow and on his conferences with the Soviet leader. It was the Prime Minister's first appearance before Parliament since his return. ^{He} He said that he and Stalin discussed the war situation with what he called - "the utmost candor."

^{And commented} ~~He said~~ that Stalin was not completely satisfied. He does not think the Allies ^{are giving} ~~have given~~ the Soviets the military aid that they might. Churchill

remarked that it was hard to explain to the Russians the problems that confront the British and Americans - the difficulties that they face in striking a military

blow at the Nazis. The main point of the Russian lack of understanding concerned that mighty phenomenon - the sea. Perhaps the Russians, so much an inland people, lack intuition about navigation on the vast oceans.

~~Churchill~~ ^{He} phrased it this way:- "It was difficult to make the Russians comprehend the sea problems," said he.

And, as the British and Americans know so well, the Number One perplexity of any invasion of Europe, is the matter of ships and shipping.

However, ~~Britain and~~ ^{Washington} ~~America~~ ^{and London} have made Stalin feel confident that everything possible will be done to establish a second front - so said Winston Churchill.

RUSSIA

ward today

~~The latest we have~~ from Soviet Russia pictures

the most stubborn kind of defense of Stalingrad.

The Germans at the gates of the great industrial city on the Volga are battering away incessantly, but seem

to be making little ~~or~~ if any progress. They appear

to have Stalingrad virtually under siege, but are encountering that kind of stonewall defense of human bodies that Soviet Russia has made particularly its own in this war.

The other area of action from which we have reports is along the Caucasian shore of the Black Sea, where Moscow reports the Red Army to be in great difficulties. The Germans have feached the Black Sea naval base of Novorossisk and in the

1ST LEAD

BY M. S. HANDLER

UNITED PRESS STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MOSCOW, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9.--(UP)--MASSSED GERMAN TANKS, INFANTRY AND PLANES HAVE MADE A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON STALINGRAD FROM THE WEST, AND HAVE FORCED THE RUSSIANS BACK TO NEW DEFENSIVE POSITIONS, THE SOVIET HIGH COMMAND ANNOUNCED TODAY.

MORE CF632P

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a bulletin: -

EGYPT

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Here's a late bulletin from the American Air Force Headquarters in Egypt. Our big bombers have struck another devastating blow against the Nazis in Crete. Flying four hundred and fifty miles across the Mediterranean, the big war planes smashed at the Axis port and air base on Suda Bay. Tremendous bomb explosions wrecked vital structures, and fires that were set could be seen sixty miles away. On the ground, in the Battle of the Desert, German Field Marshal Rommel has now given up all he gained in his big offensive. He has pulled ^{the} ~~xxx~~ last of his troops out of the pocket they succeeded in driving into the southern end of the British line. So Rommel is back where he started from, having accomplished nothing ^{by} ~~but~~ the violent drive that was intended to set the panzers rolling on their way to Alexandria and the Nile.

PRESIDENT

There was prompt congressional action today in response to the demand made by the President yesterday. Senator Prentiss Brown, Michigan Democrat, announced ^S that a bill ^{is} ~~was~~ being drafted to give the President authority over farm prices. ^{TP} The President wants the power to restrict the price of agricultural products to what is called parity - while legislation already passed by Congress decrees that farm prices ~~shall~~ ^{shall} not be less than a hundred and ten per cent of parity.

The bill announced by Senator Brown would give the President the control that he requests, but would not permit him to put a ceiling on farm prices at any figure less than parity - or some prevailing rate that obtains right now. Farm prices now average about a hundred and one per cent of parity.

The bill ~~now~~ being prepared would also confer upon the President the power to restrict wages, put a

ceiling on earnings. Yesterday the President stated that, once he got the right to hold farm prices down to parity, he himself would act to regulate wages. He implied that he needed no legislation for this, that his own war time authority was enough. However, the bill would specifically bestow the wage-fixing power.

This bill also provides for floors, as well as ceilings. That is to say, minimum prices as well as maximum prices. Yesterday the President said he thought that a floor should be put under farm prices, to keep them from falling too low at some time - like the end of the war. A floor - to keep the bottom from falling out. The President intimated that this could be done some time in the future. Today's bill, however, would permit him to do it right away - fix a floor for farm prices.

TP It goes further than that, and includes a floor for

wages - the President empowered to fix a lower limit

beyond which the earnings of workers would not be allowed to fall.

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Senator Prentiss Brown states that the legislation will be introduced into the Senate tomorrow, and a bill will immediately go to a committee for quick action.

"There is but one course to take," said he, "and that is immediate and brief committee consideration by both Houses simultaneously, and prompt action by Congress."

And then the Senator went on to say something that takes us to a further theme. He emphasized that swift action was needed - even though the Congress may feel some resentment. "Some may feel," said the Senator, "that the President put the proposition rather bluntly by telling us - you-do-it-or-I-will." Which, of course, refers to the presidential warnings - that if Congress does not give him authority over farm prices by October First, he will act on his own - under his

war-time powers. ^{TR} There is a good deal of Congressional opinion that the President has no constitutional authority to change the farm price figure that has been set by legislation in Congress. The argument is that even his war-time power does not permit him to alter a

Congressional law.
~~law passed by Congress.~~ However, I heard today some solid legal opinion to the effect that in war time there are few limits to be placed on the authority of the President and Commander-in-Chief.

~~Some loud opposition is being expressed, as by Senator Taft of Ohio - charging the President with an attempt to override Congress. And some political experts~~

are saying that it all may result in a battle between Congress and the White House - which would be no thing

to have in the middle of a war. ^{But} The Washington news is

dwelling on the likelihood of a strained situation

between the President and the lawmakers - hard feelings.

And there is some belief that Congress may counter to the presidential demand by passing not only legislation

concerning farm prices but also a provision to fix wages - Congress imposing a wage ceiling of its own. ■ This, among the rumors.

INFLATION

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In the battle against inflation, Price Administrator Leon Henderson stated today that hereafter the price control regulations will be enforced "to the hilt", as he said. As a follow-up to the President's anti-inflation declarations of yesterday, the Price Administrator announces a policy of "get tough". He indicated that there had been many violations of the price controls - people charging prices higher than the ceiling. Some of this, he assumed, was because of ignorance of the regulations - but that is not an excuse any more. "It never has been a legal excuse," said Leon Henderson, and he went on to explain that the O.P.A. had just been tolerant. But no more.

The Price Administrator, speaking in New York, gave one reason for the new and tougher policy. He stated that in war boom communities there had been a lot of violations of rent control - landlords charging

rents higher than the ceiling. And this has caused the loss of man-hours in war industries - workers having to take time off in search of housing that they could ~~not~~ afford. Leon Henderson told about one landlord who, by raising rents, had kept eight war production workers from their jobs.

TAXES

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The Senate Finance Committee today tossed out the proposal for a tax on spending. This idea had been presented by the Treasury Department, which argued in favor of a program for taxing people on the money they spend. The Finance Committee manifested plenty of opposition right away - saying that the spending tax, as planned by the Treasury, ^{was} ~~is~~ too complicated and clumsy. Today the Committee rejected it altogether - by a unanimous vote.

Whereupon the finance group began consideration of another kind of tax. ~~This is~~ ^a scheme to take five per cent of all incomes of more than six hundred and twenty-four dollars a year. ~~This~~ ^{is} new tax would be in addition to the regular income tax, and most of it would be collected at ^{the} source. That is - withheld from wages. The plan has a provision whereby some of the money thus collected would be returned to the

payers after the war. It is believed that this levy of five per cent would bring in three billion and six hundred and fifty million dollars a year. And they call it - a "victory tax."

The Committee has been feeling around with the idea of a sales tax, a five per cent levy on all sales. But this has been shelved - at least for a while.

The new victory tax plan was introduced today as a substitute for the sales tax. And, if the Committee adopts it - the sales tax will be out.

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The latest is a tentative vote - in favor of the victory tax. However, the vote did not constitute a final decision by the Committee.

COMMUNISTS

Down in Oklahoma they are having a big time Communist case - with four top officials ~~in~~ of the Red party sentenced to prison, ten year terms. Oklahoma has a law of criminal syndicalism, outlawing any party that advocates the overthrow of the American form of government by force and violations. The Communist Party was adjudged to be just that, and its leaders were convicted.

The case is now being appealed, with various persons rushing to the defense - and demanding that the ten year sentences ~~should~~ be tossed out. They argue that the conviction^s should be reversed because Soviet Russia is our ally in the war. This plea will be presented by Congressman Marcantonio of New York, who will fly to Oklahoma City and appear before the Court. An organization called the International Labor Defense has sent a lawyer down there, and today he stated:-

"It is no time to jail men and women because they have a friendly feeling toward Russia and Communism."

On the other hand, the County prosecutor says that the war has nothing to do with the case. ~~Th~~ He argues that the Communist leaders were convicted ^{under a} ~~by~~ state law - a law not at all affected by the fact that the ~~Soviets~~ Soviets are battling the Nazis.

This Oklahoma Communist affair is likely to kick up a good deal of discussion.

RAIL



The changes wrought by time are a favorite subject for philosophers to dwell upon - those alterations that come in the affairs of men with the passing of years. Today witnessed an example of such - in the form of a ceremony on the shore of the great Salt Lake in Utah. A golden spike was pulled out of a railroad tie, and that began the job of ripping up a hundred and thirty miles of ~~railroad~~ track. And thus will pass as historic a length of railroad line as the world can show.

Seventy odd years ago, they laid those hundred and thirty miles of track across the desert lands of Utah, and thereby completed the first railroad across this continent. ~~Specifically, they completed a link in the old Central Pacific and the Union Pacific, and that linked our Atlantic and Pacific coasts with rails of steel.~~ ~~A lot of ceremony solemnized the event.~~

~~On May Tenth, Eighteen Sixty-Nine, two wood-burning~~

locomotives drew toward each other at the place where
the two railroad lines met, and a lot of dignitaries
climbed out, and they celebrated the ceremony of the
golden spike. Solid gold, the glittering spike was
driven into a wooden tie with sledge hammer blows.
Today they removed it - symbolically, for the original
golden spike has long reposed in a museum. The other,
the substitute, was removed today.

The hundred and thirty miles of track, that
historically completed our first trans-continental
railroad had long been obsolete, just a *seawater*
New lines of railroad
have taken their place in trans-continental railroading.
For years the once famous link skirting the northern
shore of the great Salt Lake, has provided a minor
kind of railroad *line* service for a few isolated ranchers
in *a* the sparsely populated *section* country. Hardly needed any
longer - but the steel rails are needed. There is a

shortage of steel, and ~~there is~~ a national campaign to collect scrap metal, - ~~and~~ So they are tearing up the history-making track; ~~that was laid more than seventy~~ ~~years ago.~~ The ~~steel~~ rails ~~will~~ be used for the ~~z~~ construction of tracks in war production plants. New use for old things - as time transforms the ways of men.

FIGHT

Here's news about a fight between a corporal and a private soldier. And you may be inclined to say - that ~~when~~ when a buck private presumes to take a sock at a non-commissioned officer, he is likely to find himself in the guardhouse. However, in this case the two scrappers are Corporal Joe Louis and Private Billy Conn.

The War Department announces that the champion and the challenger have been authorized to battle it out for the heavyweight championship of the world on Monday, October Twelfth - Columbus Day, *— afternoon.* The entire proceeds will go to the Army Emergency Relief Fund, and no ~~private~~ *promoter* agency will get a penny. Nothing will be paid out even for advertising. ^{TP} So army relief is going to get quite a bundle of cash. ~~xxx~~ Colonel "Cappy" Wells tells me that there is a ~~good~~ likelihood that the figure will be *— or more,* one million dollars, _x And that would mean - a return of the

52/2 old million-dollar-gate of the era of Tex Rickard and

his "battles of the century."

Anyway, ~~xxxx~~ the Corporal and the Private will reenact their previous thriller - the one in which the fast and flashy Billy Conn out-stepped and out-punched Champion Joe until that jaw-breaking moment when the Brown Bomber landed his bombs, and Billy Conn said what I am saying now: -

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S-L-U-T-morrow!