

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Answer: GOOD EVENING LOWELL!

Well, that's something new on this broadcast. That's the first time I ever got a reply to my Good Evening Everybody! So to those of you who happen to be listening-in perhaps I ought to explain that I am in the White Mountains tonight, away up in New Hampshire, on Cannon Mountain. I am in the Aerial Tramway hut, although it's too big to be called a hut - of the only aerial tramway in North America, a cableway that swings tens of thousands of skiers to the top of the network of ski-trails that wind down Cannon Mountain. Sitting around me, are more than a hundred weather-beaten skiers. And a few like myself who are not so weather-beaten. But I'll tell a little more about them, and the thrills they are looking forward to this weekend, in a few minutes. Now for the day's news as it has been coming in to me all day, from all parts of the world, over a special Western Union wire.

FINLAND

HP A rather exciting thing is reported from Finland, exciting if true - - and if it gets anywhere. A Helsinki newspaper prints a dispatch stating that the united states ambassador to Moscow is trying to negotiate a settlement of the Finland war.

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This story ^{which} is said to come to us from the Soviet Capitol, contains the following: "Great surprise, ~~it says,~~ has been aroused in diplomatic circles in Moscow by the circumstances surrounding the ^{Commissar} luncheon which Molotov gave for United States Ambassador Steinhardt."

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~~Molotov, Soviet Commissar of Foreign Affairs, having a significant talk with the United States Ambassador. About what the Helsinki newspaper story continues~~ Steinhardt tried to induce the Soviet Union to call off the finnish war on conditions which might ^{preserve} ~~accept~~ Finland's integrity. " So says the rumor. ^{HP} It wouldn't be surprising for the American Ambassador to try ~~some~~ mediation.

The question is - - could he possibly get anywhere with it?

HP The war in Finland still shows the Red army battering at the Gates of Vipuri. The Soviet forces are inching nearer to the wreck of the city. They say they are surrounding it and soon will capture it.

Most observers regard the outlook for Finland as pessimistic, but

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the Finns themselves issue a brave statement tonight. The official
military bulletin admits they've abandoned what are called -
forward positions. The retirement is characterized in these words
"Not of decisive ~~significance~~ for our defense system." A question
is propounded ; "we have every reason to ask," declares the Helsinki
bulletin, whether the success the Russians have achieved compensate
for the sacrifice of men and material." The inevitable question -
can the Soviets keep it up? It's obvious that if they can continue
to attack with undiminished force, ^{then} the Finns must be overwhelmed.

GERMANY

TP The Sumner Welles mission to Berlin is accompanied by menacing
Nazi activities and ominous Hitler threats directed at Great
Britain.

TP There's no real word about what transpired between President
Roosevelt's peace emissary and the German foreign minister today.
Welles had a long conference with Von Ribbentrop, and the report is
that the Hitler diplomatic chief presented a thoroughly nazi
view of the European ^{war-}germany's need for living room and
colonies, Great Britain's arrogance in dominating so much of the
world, Germany's confidence in winning a victory. It would all seem
to be old and oft-repeated stuff; not much use of Sumner Welles
going to Berlin to hear that. Of course his talk with Von
Ribbentrop today was only ^a preliminary - the foreign minister
would hardly speak any decisive word. That would inevitably be
left for Hitler, whom welles will interview tomorrow.

TP The menacing activities today were a series of attacks on British
shipping. Nazi planes flew far and wide over the North Sea. One
squadron attacked a convoy of merchant craft escorted by Warships.

~~London and Berlin contradict each other about what happened. London~~
~~says the sky attack was beaten off. Berlin claims that its airmen~~

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~~scored hits with bombs. Both sides are agreed, however, that in~~
~~another area, a large british merchantman was sunk.~~

TP The utterance of threats comes from Goering, who vaunted today that
the Nazi air force was ready to strike a supreme blow at Britain's
Sea Communications - only waiting for the order from Hitler.

BRITISH FINANCES

Here is one that ought to interest a distinguished financier who is here beside me -- M r. Thomas S. Lamont of the House of Morgan. How to pay for the war! An answer has just been given that startles the British people. It's in a booklet written by the Economist J.M. Keynes, who rose to fame with his financial prognostications after the end of the World War in Nineteen Eighteen. Prominent Britishers are urging the people to read the latest proposal by Keynes -- a twenty-five cents pamphlet. The result today was a stampede to the bookstores, the first edition sold out in an hour. The booklet is entitled, "How to Pay for the War".

The Keynes proposal is that every Britisher, except the very lowest paid, should contribute a percentage of the wages he earns, to the war fund of the London government. This is a loan which the government would repay after the war. Keynes' proposes a rather complicated schedule of payments, but the essence of it is -- everybody give part of his wages to finance the war. As a way to win it.

The economist also argues that when the government pays back it would boost the buying power of the public and avoid a post-war depression.

INDIA

Here is about the most interesting item in the news tonight!

71 Trouble for Great Britain in India. The India national congress, which *considers that it* ~~which~~ speaks for two hundred million Hindus, today decreed - a

civil disobedience campaign, Gandhi's old idea of non-cooperation,

51 passive resistance. *IP* Negotiations for self-rule in India *have* broken down,

and the answer of the national congress is - civil disobedience.

IP It sounds grave and ominous. Just what a passive revolt will mean

in time of war can hardly be guessed. The only precedent that one

can refer back to is *some years ago in* ~~nineteen thirty~~ *when I was* peace-time, ~~Then a civil~~

in India. Then a civil disobedience campaign resulted in long drawn out troubles, killings,

riotings, arson, train wrecks and strikes. India was dangerously

demoralized for a while. Now the same thing is to be tried all

over again - - in time of war. And that will make things just a little tougher for the British Empire which is having trouble enough.

DRUNKS.

This being presidential year, the bartenders are having their trouble. So one tavern keeper in New Jersey has written to the State Alcoholic beverage commissioner ^{asking for} ~~and asked for his~~ advice.

What to do about those loud political arguments at the bar -

what to do when the presidential discussion turns into a fight

among the customers? Would it be all right to beat the customers

up? Say, with a length of rubber hose or a stick? The mention of

the stick ^{goes} rather ^{with} ~~rhymes~~ with the tavern keepers name. He is

W. Fremont Oakes, of Washington, New Jersey.

The reply of the alcoholic beverage commissioner was made public

today, and stands as a general order to ~~the~~ jersey bartenders,

~~and saloon keepers~~. He counsels - tolerance. Don't be too hard

on the democrats and republicans who get into violent arguments.

The beverage commissioner points out that such loud ~~and vociferous~~

^l wrangings can be what he calls - a safety valve in ^e presidential

year. "Tavern arguments," he writes, ^{"do not"} ~~"are not"~~ necessarily ^e constitute

disorder, even if they do shock the logicians. ~~A kindly but firm,~~

~~word, "he continues, "will do more to keep order than brandishing~~

~~a black thorn shillelagh."~~ So Jersey bartenders and saloon keepers

are forbidden to beat up customers who indulge in the cherished and traditional American right of talking politics with more noise than sense.

CENSUS

The Chorus of indignation about the census is growing louder in Washington -- although today a few angry soprano notes were lacking. A group of New York State ladies were scheduled to appear before the Senate and make their protest against the many and varied questions the census proposes to ask. The New York State delegation intended to give a ruousing demonstration of the slogan O "Hell hath no fury like a woman's -- scorn for a censux taker." However, the ladies failed to show up.

At last report they were snowbound near Olean, New York. Snowed in, but still hot under -- um, uh whatever it is the ladies get hot under, that ocrresponds with a man getting hot under the collar.

JAMES ROOSEVELT

TP At Hollywood today, the daughter-in-law of the President of the United States, took the witness stand, asking for a divorce. ~~It is~~ a counter suit by Mrs James Roosevelt, her husband having already filed his divorce plea.

Mrs James Roosevelt testified that two years ago in May of nineteen thirty-eight, her husband asked her for a divorce. "But I refused," she said, today. Her lawyer asked, "And after that, were relations with Mr. Roosevelt somewhat strained?"

TP "Yes, " she answered.

TP She testified that again in nineteen thirty-eight, James Roosevelt asked her for a divorce. "But I still refused," she testified. "However, " she added, " I went to New York and took the children with me, because it was best for them." Then she bowed her head slightly and said; "He never came back to me."

TP Mrs. James Roosevelt is charging desertion and mental cruelty, and she seeks a severance of the marriage bond.

Peabody.

Mar. 17 1940.

SKI RACE, ETC.

At the beginning of this broadcast I mentioned that I was up here in the White Mountains, at Franconia, tonight. And I spoke of the special Western Union wire over which news has been coming to me with just as much speed, from all parts of the world, getting to me just as quickly as it would at my New York broadcast headquarters in New York City. Well, that Western Union key we set up in the first aid room, and the operator has had to do his work sitting on a cot. The last time I was here that cot was occupied by a lovely young lady, Lydia Dupont, from Delaware. A two hundred pound skier had crashed into her on the trail, knocked her unconscious, and broken five or six ribs. She was in the hospital for weeks. But did that dampen her ardor for skiing? I have just discovered that she's sitting in this crowd, and has been here skiing for a month! And that's the kind of hold the sport has on you once you get the bug. And there are not many accidents either. Roland Peabody, head of the N.Y. Aerial Tramway Commission, and an authority on skiing is here beside me. How about the accidents, Roland?

ROLAND PEABODY:- They seem to be getting fewer and fewer, Lowell. Our American skiers are getting more conservative, using better judgment - skiing better. Why, your chances of getting hurt on a ski trail are nothing compared with your chances of getting knocked down by a taxi if you live in a city -- say at 280 Broadway or some place like that. Or on Tremont Street. Am I right you, you Bostonian Hochgebirgers?

(Shout from crowd)

L.T.:- The way you said Bostonian Hochgebirgers, Roland, it sounded like some new swear words. So maybe I ought to explain that thousands of skiers and spectators are either here now or on their way to Cannon Mt. to see the Hochgebirgers go yodeling down the Taft Racing Trail tomorrow. Over a hundred racers will take part; among them some of the fastest in the world. Alec Bright, the Boston patriarch, an old-timer with a long beard, who smashed the record on the Thunderbolt Trail on Mt. Greylock only a few days ago. And speediest of them all, Dead Pan Toni Matt, assistant to Hannes Schneider. Greater crowds than ever are using the ski trails of this Franconia Region this Winter. Twice as many ~~xx~~ for February; so the Commissioners of the N.H. Aerial Tramway tell me.

SNOW TO FLORIDA.

Here's a weird one I ran into today; beside the trail I saw Charlie Lovett and some other Franconians, furiously shoveling snow. Puzzled, I asked them why. And they answered that they were gathering snow to send to St. Peterburg, Florida, where the New Hampshireites are going to stage a sugaring off party in honor of the visiting snow queen. Bob Ripley would have to go some to beat that one. Snow, and a sugaring off party, in Florida!

HERO

The army air corps today named its outstanding hero of nineteen
thirty-nine, the flyer who received the cheney award. ^{with that} ~~There~~

^{there} should be a thriller to tell, and there is.

On December eighteenth last, First Lieutenant Harold Neely was
piloting a big bomber, flying over Kansas. He ran into a dust
storm. The air was so thick he couldn't see more than a few feet
ahead. He was in an opaque, sightless murk of dust, flying
blind. And just then his motor went dead. No motor - in the
dust.

He had three army men in the plane with him, and signalled them
to jump, the parachute way. And he himself prepared to bail out.
Looking down through the dimness of the haze, he saw one parachute
open, and then the other - but not the third. Only two of his

three passengers had bailed out. ^{So} reflected First Lieutenant
Harold Neely. ^{he figured} The other must still be in the back of the ship.

58 ^{he -} So, if the Lieutenant himself ^{- bailed out, and left} ~~took the parachute way down and left~~
^{- the 3rd army man -} the ship to crash - that other passenger would probably be killed
in the smash - up.

^{So} That was not Harold Neely's way. He stuck to his bomber, as it
went gliding and descending through the blinding dust. Risking his

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life to save a life. He took the gamble of a sightless landing on ground he could not see. Down to earth he came in his disabled war plane. Controlling it as best he could, he maneuvered for as safe a contact with the ground as he could make. In the thick haze of dust, he managed to skid his plane along a field. ^{Down} safe.

First lieutenant Neely was a bit irked, as he went to take a look at his passenger. Why hadn't the fellow jumped? He opened the back of the bomber - it was empty, nobody there. What had happened was a simple and tragic. The third passenger had indeed jumped.

The ^{en}liutenant had failed to see his parachute open - because it never did open. Parachute failure - and the passenger was killed.

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Lieutenant Neely had risked his life to save a life that had already been lost. And today the Air Corps proclaimed him its No 1 hero. For 1939.

And now back to N.Y. where
Hugh James is going back to 13 yrs.
ago.
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