

CONFERENCE

P.J. - Sunoco. Friday, August 20, 1943.

The latest from Quebec states that President Roosevelt will address the Canadian Parliament next Wednesday. When the conference began the President was invited by Prime Minister MacKenzie King to visit Canada's capital, and we heard at the time that he might address the Canadian lawmakers. This now is definite - for next Wednesday.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull arrived at Quebec today and joined the conference. He will have a special set of discussions with his British colleague in diplomacy - Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. We hear that the President and Prime Minister insisted that Hull and Eden get together for the purpose of harmonizing British-American policy and political moves. Sometimes Washington and London have ~~been~~ been at cross purposes, and mention was made of the ^{difference} ~~fact~~ in the reactions of the two capitals at the time of the overthrow of Mussolini. Everybody will recall the O.W. I. broadcast that attacked the Italian King and Badoglio. ^{Which was all} ~~This was~~ out of line and was later criticized by the President.

All sorts of rumors are current about the decisions that are being made. And one concerns the response of the conference to new Soviet demands for a second front. ~~XXXXXX~~

A Moscow Soviet publication called "war and the working class" in renewing the critical tone, with some unenthusiastic remarks about the Quebec conference and the warning that it is time to pass -- "from words to action".

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The rumor from Quebec is that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill have decided to give air power a chance to crush Nazi Germany. They want to see what those eternal bombings can do -- by way of a knock-out or at least of softening Germany for a second front.

Here's another late dispatch. It tells us of a new street named in Quebec. Today the Mayor of the French speaking city announced that a new avenue will be named "Le Boulevard Roosevelt!" ~~or how do you say that with a correct French pronunciation?~~

In Russia the Red Army is continuing its advances toward Kharkov. The latest from Moscow ~~ix~~ tells of a push forward today of six ~~xxx~~ miles, which recaptured more than twenty villages. The progress is slow because of desperate Nazi resistance and constant counter-attacks.

ITALY

Today American naval forces occupied the realm of King Aeolus, the Lord of the Winds. The Greeks of fabled antiquity told how the breezes that blow were ~~governed~~ governed by the command of a God who held his court in the Isles of the West - isles off the coast of ~~Italy~~ Sicily. These were named after Aeolus, the Monarch of the Winds, and to this very day are called the Aeolian Isles. ~~The~~ And after this breezy divinity was named the Aeolian harp, on the strings of which the zephyrs blew airy tunes.

An Other Greek legend held that these western bits of land were - "the Isles of the Blëssed". They were supposed to be an abode of bliss, a Grecian paradise, where the souls of valiant warriors went to enjoy eternal happiness.

Or perhaps you may say - Devil's island, which is quite a contrast, ^{for} One of the Aeolian Isles ^{was where} ~~is Lipari, to~~ ^{Lipari} ~~which~~ Mussolini exiled his anti-Fascist enemies; ~~Lipari was~~ an early Fascist version of the later Nazi concentration camps, ~~these~~ though hardly equal in horror.

Another of the Aeolian islands is Stromboli, also on the infernal side, but rather mildly. Stromboli has a classic volcano which is active and erupts - but in moderate fashion, not dangerous. As a show it's one of the spectacles of the world. Whenever you pass by Stromboli blows off for you - sending a column of flame and smoke high into the sky.

So all sorts of legend surrounds these islands, and today's news tells how they have surrendered to the United Nations, and were taken over by American naval forces. I envy the American Admiral, or Commodore or Captain who took possession of Stromboli. Anyhow, the white flag went up and all was peaceful, and no doubt our troops received the usual cordial welcome - to which they became accustomed in Sicily. And who knows - perhaps the breezy old shade of King Aeolus was there to greet them, the Lord of the Winds, with a sighing tune on an Aeolian harp.

It is not known whether there were any anti-Fascist prisoners at Lipari - they may have been removed, possibly some while ago. Recent stories have told of Polish prisoners kept on the island of Lipari.

From the Italian mainland, the news is not so Aeolian, not so reminiscent of gentle winds and sighing music. There it's a frightful storm, with a thunder and lightning of bombing. Allied planes are smashing the toe of Italy - it must be a mighty sore toe by now. Today's news also tells how a fleet of Liberator bombers battered the air base and railroad center at Foggia with nearly three hundred and thirty thousand pounds of bombs. Aerial photographs today showed that the three main railroad lines running north from Foggia have been knocked out of commission.

Today the King of Italy broadcast a radio address to the people of Sicily, in which he uttered a string of

melancholy words, and promised that Sicily would soon be united with Italy again. He didn't mention the war, and didn't promise that the reunion would be a reconquest of Sicily by the Axis.

The right interpretation was expressed this afternoon by Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles. He stated that the Italian King, in promising a reunion of Italy and Sicily, must have had in mind the fact that Italy as well as Sicily would soon be occupied by the United Nations.

MILTON EISENHOWER

The brother of General Eisenhower is resigning from the O.W.I. He is doing so on the advice of the General. Milton Eisenhower has been associate Editor of the Office of War Information, and some while ago he was offered another job- the post of President of Kansas State College. Should he take it? Or should he remain in the War Information service for the duration?

He sought the advice of his brother, the United Nations Commander in the Mediterranean theatre of war, and here is what General Eisenhower advised: "Take it," said he, and added: "The kind of peace achieved after this war rests largely on the principles laid down in American schools."

Today Milton Eisenhower left the O.W.I. in Washington to become President of Kansas State College.

Today Elmer Davis, Director of War Information, gave some explanation in the case of a new controversy

that has arisen around the O.W.I. This time the trouble concerns the Polish question. The O.W.I. itself is constantly getting into storms, and the Polish question can always be counted on to stir up a tempest.

The O.W.I. circulated a questionnaire among Americans of Polish ancestry, making a survey of Polish-American opinion concerning the post-war future of Poland. This has led to charges that the questions were so framed as to favor Soviet Russia. John O'Donnell, Washington Columnist of the New York News and Chicago Tribune, makes the accusation, and cites some of the questions. One reads as follows: "Do you think the United States should guarantee a fair territorial settlement for Poland, even if it means fighting Russia?"

Another question concerns the Polish Government in exile, which has been bitterly attacked by Soviet Russia and by Communists everywhere. The questionnaire

asks: "Do you think the Polish government in exile really represents the Polish people or do you think it represents only a certain group of Poles?"

The question of the questionnaire attracted the attention of the Polish Embassy in Washington, which has asked the State Department for a copy. And today we have a statement from Elmer Davis, Director of the O.W.I.

He says the survey of Americans of Polish descent was made not ~~from~~ ^{for} the O.W.I. itself, but at the request of another government agency. He refrained from saying what other government agency it was, and he added that he did not know just why the other agency wanted to make an investigation of Polish-American opinion concerning Poland and Soviet Russia, and the post-war settlement in Eastern Europe.

DRAFTEE

Today brings a new burst of argument in the case of Angelo Herndon, a Communist leader who has been deferred from the draft. He is twenty-nine years old, is the Editor of a Negro quarterly magazine, and used to be a member of the Central Committee of the American Communist Party. He appealed from the draft on the grounds that his services were indispensable to the Communist literary publication. His draft board said okay, and he was deferred. That brought a protest from Colonel Arthur B. McDermott, Director of Selective Service in New York. The Colonel filed an appeal against the deferrment of the Communist leader.

Now the case has come up again, and meanwhile it appears that the Communist Literary Magazine suspended publication. So how could the services of its Editor be indispensable? When the Red periodical had gone out of business Herndon appeared before the Draft Board and announced that the magazine is going to be published again. He submitted proofs - galley proofs of the next issue.

So once again the draft board gave him a deferrment. And now once again Colonel McDermott is appealing - saying that he sees no reason why the Editor of a communist magazine should be kept out of the Army. The question would seem to be - is Red literature an essential industry in the winning of the war?

SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC

In the Solomons the Japs are making continued efforts to land troops on islands where our forces have established themselves -- like that South Sea place called Vella Lavella. And today's news tells how this led to a dramatic seafight, in which American naval and air forces scored a brilliant success.

They ambushed a Japanese convoy that was sneaking its way to Vella Lavella. In thirty minutes of violent fighting our warships sank three landing barges crammed with enemy troops and battered three destroyers. One was heavily damaged, and an eye-witness insists that a warship was sunk.

In New Guinea, Australian troops and American air squadrons continued their progress in the job of wiping out the Japs at Salamaua. The enemy is resisting bitterly and progress is slow, but Salamaua seems doomed -- especially after the brilliant air blow that smashed the Japs and their ships at Weewak, the big enemy base.

This brings another of those thrillers of heroism, a story that tells how an American bomber was

saved by the almost incredible deeds of a twenty-year-old radio man -- staff Sergeant Joe Carroll of College Point, Long Island.

"We were approaching the Wewak target in ~~formation~~ formation," he relates, "when something gave us an awful jolt. The next thing," he continues, "we were right in the middle of a big fight with Zeros coming from all directions. I saw Zero tracers coming through the fuselage, and I knew we were getting hit plenty."

That was the state of affairs when the pilot called Sergeant Carroll to come forward. There the Sergeant found everybody wounded - the pilot, co-pilot, and navigator. He gave them first aid. And then the pilot, half stunned and in a daze, pulled the bomber up to seventeen thousand feet in an effort to fly back home. At that altitude he called for oxygen. "I found only one bottle that was not smashed," relates Sergeant Carroll, "and I took it to him. The pilot," he adds, "had difficulty in finding our homeward course."

The facts were utterly dramatic. The pilot, only half conscious, lost his way, and instead of flying home was heading ~~xxx~~ back to the target -- back to Wewak, back to certain destruction. And the navigator was so badly hurt he couldn't sit up and study his maps - to direct the course.

"I propped up the navigator," the Sergeant relates, "so that he could look at the maps, and then he told me what to tell the pilot." With the Sergeant holding up the navigator and calling directions to the pilot, the bomber was enabled to get on her correct course - homeward bound. And so badly damaged that at the flying field the pilot had to make a crash landing.

FATHER DIVINE

As if there were not enough trouble in this cantankerous world, here is news about a disturbance in Paradise. A saint was kicked out of heaven today. Which one? Why, Saint Thomas. No, his first name doesn't begin with "L". Still the question is - which one? There is St.Thomas the Apostle; and St.Thomas Aquinas, the angelic doctor of the Middle Ages. However, today's story is about a different kind of heaven - Father Divine's heaven. And a different kind of SaintThomas - a Negro prizefighter who has too much of a liking for gin.

He was a devout follower of Father Divine, and in a series of boxing bouts he scored eight consecutive knockouts. So there was joy among the Angels. Then it was discovered that St.Thomas, who fought like a demon in the ring, had acquired a liking for that must unangelic beverage called - gin. And today Father Divine passed judgment on him.

A plea for St.Thomas was made by his

prizefight manager, who is also an inhabitant of heaven.

He said that St.Thomas used the gin - externally.

He didn't drink it, merely employed it for prizefight rubdowns. That argument moved Father Divine not at all. He called the manager "a poor fallen ~~an~~ angel," he intimated that gin was not celestial, taken either inside or out, and he expelled St.Thomas from Heaven.

And that brings us to you, Hugh.