

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Twenty-First Convention of the American Legion now at Chicago is perhaps the most important in its history. It is natural that at this time everybody should look with interest at the attitude of the man who fought in the last war. What will the Legion say about the Neutrality Law, and the embargo? The keynote of the opening session was expressed by National Commander Chadwick, when he said that the most solemn mission of the Legion today is peace for America. And he added these words: "I've confidence that if need be America can walk its way in this troubled world alone."

He also notified the French Department of the Legion, the Paris Post, that it would be a breach of the spirit of our Neutrality Law for the Legion over here to sponsor any such procedure in the European war.

NEUTRALITY

(We now know the exact details of the new Neutrality Bill that President Roosevelt wants Congress to pass.) As a matter of fact, the text is hardly news, since most of the details have been foreshadowed for several days:~ It provides that when war breaks out ^{between} ~~with~~ foreign states, the President shall issue a proclamation naming the states involved. As and when others join in they are to be named too. Immediately after such proclamation, it will become unlawful for any American vessels to carry passengers or any articles or materials of any kind whatsoever to any of the states named. For disobedience, fifty thousand dollars fine or five years in prison, or both.

(The Administration ~~bill~~ ^{bill} then goes on to embody the famous cash-and-carry clause. Before any goods can be shipped in belligerent vessels, title to them must be transferred to some foreign government, agency or corporation.) If any citizen ~~of the~~ in the United States loses in any such transaction, he must not look to the United States Government to help him. (The President is also authorized to proclaim combat areas on the high seas. It will be unlawful for any ~~United States~~ citizen or American ship to proceed into or through any such areas.) Also, ~~it is~~

unlawful for American ship owners to arm their vessels. ^R No person in this country will be allowed to ~~either~~ purchase or sell the bonds, securities or other obligations of a nation at war, or ~~to~~ lend money or extend any credit to a ~~like~~ belligerent state.

Such is the broad outline of the Neutrality Bill that President Roosevelt asks the Senators and Representatives to pass.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate took an adjournment until Thursday at the ^suggestion of Senator Borah of Idaho. He said he wanted time to study that draft and made the caustic remark:- "I've always been prejudice against voting for or against a measure until I've studied it." "However," he added, "We're not going to keep the bill in Committee for the sake of keeping it there."

The indications today seem to be stronger than ever that there ^{is} enough of a majority in both Houses of Congress to pass the bill as the President wants it, with perhaps certain amendments. The opponents are going to make a strong fight but it looks as though they'll be outnumbered.

WEIR

Still another big shot manufacturer comes out in favor of not selling munitions to Europe, not lifting that embargo. A man whose line would profit by war sales to Europe. He's Ernest T. Weir, President of the American Iron and Steel Institute. "American Industry," says Weir, "must give up the profits and employment of any type of business that might drag us into war." He says that's the reason why he's against lifting of the embargo.

He admitted that at present the fighting in Europe is tremendously stimulating to the steel factories. But he says that stimulation isn't healthy. "War," he declares, "never produces anything healthy." He added that personally he sympathizes strongly with the Allies. Nevertheless he says:- Don't lift the embargo!

PAN AMERICAN

Uncle Sam is trying to get the twenty-one Republics of the Americas to send a sharp message to all the European nations at war. The gist of that message will be -- Hands off the Americas, Keep your warships out of our waters. That would be sent not only to Germany, but also to France and Great Britain.

It was expressed at Panama City to the Pan American Congress by Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State. What he said was regarded as almost equivalent to a pronouncement from the President.

WAR

(Here's the ~~actual~~ war news tonight, as reported with the laconic brevity of the French War office: It reads -- "There was activity of the advanced elements of French infantry east of the Saar. There was strong activity of enemy artillery in the same region.")

In other words, there has been an artillery duel on the Western Front and French infantry were fighting in German territory, on the other side of the Saar River.

The French War Office also says that during aerial battles that took place on Sunday, French pursuit patrols twice encountered enemy squadrons of superior numbers. Several German pursuit planes were shot down, two of them falling in French territory.

The French War Office also denies the claims made by German headquarters of numerous French planes shot down by Germans. Such are the available facts about what has been described as the greatest aerial battle so far in this war. It is unofficially reported that the French were using American-made combat planes.

A dispatch from Luxemburg, which is not official, reports that the French have forced Hitler's armies to quit using one of the German railroad lines, the line that runs along the Luxemburg frontier. There are other lines the Nazis are able to use only at night. They have dynamited a couple of bridges across the Moselle, ~~River~~, also torn up the tracks which the French engineers are repairing. We have to bear in mind that this report is not official, a rumor from neutral territory.

As usual, rumors came from all over the continent.

One of them was, a naval battle supposed to have taken place at the entrance to the Baltics. Heavy gunfire heard at Oslo, ~~the~~ capital of Norway. *But Germany has only a small fleet.* ~~With that rumor, the questions arises, what fleets could have been fighting a naval battle there?~~

The most interesting rumors come from Moscow; ~~a regular hot-bed of them.~~ ~~One of them was~~ ^{one} to the effect that the Russians had ^{we} closed the port of Odessa with its surrounding territory and also the Roumanian frontier. ~~There was still~~ ^{another}, that they had ^{we} closed the mouth of the River Neva, *which concerns Finland.*

The presence of the Turkish Foreign Minister in Moscow

is naturally breeding conjecture. The suspicion is that he is negotiating a non aggression pact with Stalin. The Esthonian Foreign Minister, an envoy from Jogoslavia, and the chief of aviation of the Bulgarian army are also either in Moscow or on their way there.

Perhaps the strangest part of tonight's vague news is that Warsaw, after eighteen days of seigh, still holds out. It is said that the Poles are running out of bullets and are holding back the Germans in hand-to-hand fighting. Constant broadcast from Warsaw to England are saying, "We are still waiting and hoping for help from France and Britain."

AMERICAN FARMER

The passengers and crew of an American ship had an exciting free show on their journey home across the Atlantic. When they were four hundred miles off the coast of Ireland, they came upon a British freighter which was sinking and there standing by was the German submarine. The steamer, the AMERICAN FARMER, lowered its boats and started to pick up the survivors of the British freighter. All of a sudden they heard a noise in the skies. A British plane swooped down and the sound of machine guns was heard. The British pilot flew around in a circle, came close to the surface of the ocean, dropped a bomb, and then rose, circled again and dropped another bomb. But the crew of the German submarine had closed their conning tower as soon as the plane was sighted and had dived below the surface.

The captain of the AMERICAN FARMER declares that the commander of the submarine gave the crew of the British freighter time to get into the lifeboats, then fired a torpedo.

FLEET

A drastic change for our Navy. They are sending a considerable portion of the fleet from the Pacific Coast to Hawaii, to Pearl Harbor; destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers, to Pearl Harbor for training. But, the twelve battleships now on the west coast will not be transferred, so it is said in Washington. So this does mean moving the entire fleet to the Hawaiian Islands.

DIES

A witness before the Dies Committee today was a former member of the Reichstag, the German Parliament. He told the Congressmen that the Deutsch-America Bund is definitely an agency of the Nazi government in Germany. Members who belong to the Bund, he swore, have taken an oath of allegiance to the Reich, *an oath* far stronger than the ~~oath~~ ^{one} they swore to Uncle Sam when they were allowed to become citizens. He backs ~~it~~ ^{this} up with extracts from official Nazi documents, also writings and statements by officials of the Bund. Every Nazi organization throughout ~~the~~ the world is an agency for the German government. ~~All organizations affiliated with the Nazi Party are part and parcel of the Nazi regime.~~

The Nazi organizations in America represent about five per cent of the seven or eight million German-Americans of the first and second generation. Another five per cent of those seven or eight million hate the Nazis and everything they stand for. But the rest, said this witness, are either indifferent or afraid because they have kinsfolk ~~in and~~ and friends in Germany.

He also declared that
~~He said~~ he believed the Nazi government rather enjoys the

DICKINSON

We have another Dickinson ^{son} today. The Governor of Michigan, ^othat enemy of sin, addressed a question to a conference of Methodist ministers at Lansing, Michigan. First he denounced the playing of golf and bridge on the Sabbath, watching baseball games and drinking at wine parties. Then he asked the momentous question;—

"How many golf games, baseball games, bridge parties and wine parties are started with prayer?" inquired the Governor in his latest Dickinsonism. Especially the wine parties, Governor, they so seldom begin with prayer. And s-l-u-f-m.