

LT SUNOCO Thursday, July 26, 1945

GOOD EVENING, Everybody:

It's difficult to speak of the big news of this day, without a feeling of sadness. For today's news has brought us the story of the fall of a Titan. And he went down as great men usually ~~dx~~ go down -- engulfed by a landslide -- the landslide that sweeps Winston Churchill and his Conservative government out of office in

Britain. The greatest defeat any British government has sustained in many a decade, one of the greatest since the Mother of Parliaments came into being.

It's an astounding story. Twelve out of seventeen members of Churchill's Cabinet not even re-elected to the House of Commons, twelve out of seventeen! Churchill himself goes in again, <sup>as</sup> ~~an~~ an M.P. So also does Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. The final score: Two hundred and ten Churchill members of Parliament; four hundred and seventeen for the new government. In other words, a two-to-one defeat.

And so one of England's greatest Prime Ministers went to Buckingham Palace tonight and gave up the seals of office -- to the King. George the Sixth immediately sent for the former Deputy Prime Minister, Major Clement Attlee, ~~the~~ now becomes King George's first Minister with a clear majority of a hundred and twenty-five in the House of Commons. The first time in history for Labor to go into office in England with a clear majority. Although there have been two previous Labor Cabinets, they were minority governments.

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The first question asked over here was: "What difference will it make not only to the British Empire but to us, and the world?" Probably very little. In fact, it may even improve relations between the American people and the British people. Many, perhaps most Americans, have suspected the British Tories, looked upon them as out-and-out Imperialists -- ~~which~~ which they are. So, maybe a Labor government at 10 Downing Street will be easier to work with. There are many who think so.

Now about the British Empire? The British Labor Party has already endorsed the India policy of the Churchill government. As for the dominion governments, they may find it easier to work with a Labor group in Downing Street, since Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa are definitely on the Labor side. As for Canada, well Canada is almost the heart of the present-day British Commonwealth.

But when it comes to relations between Great Britain and the Soviet Union, that is another story. Communists seem to find it easier to work with Conservatives than with Socialists. All Communists score and dislike Socialists.

While Attlee himself is a member of the Fabians, the society made famous by George Bernard Shaw, the Chairman of the British Labor Party is a decidedly Communistic professor, Harold Laski. Socialist Party discipline is so strong, that the Executive Committee of the Party has powerful control over its members in

public office, and can even force their resignation if they do not do the behest of the executive committee. If Laski's power predominates, we wonder how far the British will swing to the left?

To us the sad part of the news is that the British people have removed from the political scene the man who led them to victory in the greatest war of all time, one of the great personalities of all history.

the other Labor Premier, though he had his weaknesses, was a dramatic, picturesque figure.

The man to watch in the British scene now is the one who holds no office, and probably will avoid holding office, Harold Laski. Never before in British history have the voters thrown out of office a victorious war Prime Minister <sup>with</sup> while the war still ~~was~~ going on.

~~That looks awfully strange to us. But, as I also~~

~~learned when I was in England, the British people did not~~ <sup>But then,</sup> <sup>have</sup> see Churchill as we <sup>have seen him,</sup> ~~saw him, they were too close to him.~~

Many of them would smile patronizingly when they heard an American describe Churchill as one of the three great British Prime Ministers, the other two being William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham, the creator of the British Empire, and William Pitt the Younger, ~~but they did not~~ ~~like the people around him, that is the Tories, the~~ ~~representatives of wealth and Tory tradition.~~

Distance gave us the advantage of perspective, an almost historical perspective. We know Churchill by his writings, by his magnificent radio speeches, and ~~xxxxxx~~ above all by his achievements. The British think of him as "Winnie", a man who has changed sides often, who never accomplished any pronounced success until this war. And the British look upon the war as being practically over. <sup>oh,</sup> Yes, they are conscious that the war with Japan still has to be fought and won. But the Nazi war was the one that <sup>the one</sup> ~~was~~ closest to them, <sup>so</sup> they feared it most. ~~It was the end of that which brought them a sigh of relief.~~

In one sense, it is not quite accurate to say that <sup>while</sup> the British have rejected Churchill himself, <sup>they</sup> ~~they~~ are still for him; ~~they are~~ grateful to him, and they recognize that nobody else could have done the job he ~~has~~ performed so magnificently.

*How does*  
Naturally, ~~we wonder how~~ Winston Churchill

himself feels tonight? One of his aides said:

"You can't tell how he feels. You can hurt a champion but he doesn't show it."

All that Churchill himself would say in a brief statement to the public was that he thanked the British people for their long support of him as their servant, and he was only sorry that he could not fight the war with Japan to a finish.

ATTLEE

What sort of a man is the new Prime Minister who will lead Great Britain through the final stages of the Japanese War and at least the first stages of the peace? In background and looks he is a typical Englishman of the well-to-do middle class, old school tie and a graduate of Oxford, where he graduated with honors in modern history. Like so many of his class, he was called to the bar and meanwhile became a settlement worker in London's slummy <sup>s-the</sup> East End. And that confirmed the Socialist inclinations he had acquired <sup>in</sup> by reading William Morris and John Ruskin.

In Nineteen Seven he joined the Labor Party.

In the First World War, he served <sup>at</sup> Gallipoli, in Mesopotamia, and <sup>in</sup> France, <sup>ending the war a</sup> ~~having the rank of~~ major.

He was first elected to Parliament as a Labor member in Nineteen Twenty-One, and became Parliamentary Private Secretary to Ramsay MacDonald.

In stature he <sup>'s</sup> is rather small, respectable,

He's quiet, some say demure-- and no orator. In many ways he's the antithesis of Churchill. He's the sort whose desk is always tidy, his fountain pen always full, and he always knocks the ashes of his pipe into an ash tray. Winston Churchill is a titan among men. In comparison, Attlee is mousie. But, you can't always tell from appearances, as ~~we~~ we know.

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Attlee has left no room for doubt about the domestic policy of his government. He says it will be of an out-and-out Socialist character. At his press conference today <sup>the</sup> Prime Minister was accompanied by Professor Harold Laski of London University, Chairman of the Labor Party and an extreme Left Winger -- believed to be a believer in the so-called dictatorship of the proletariat. Some in the shadow of Laski looming over the ~~new~~ new government, think they see an omen of strict regimentation. As Chairman of the Labor Party, Laski is likely to be the power behind the ~~new~~ government. In fact, this was made clear toward the end of today's press conference. After Attlee

finished reading his statement to the newspapermen, they began to bombard him with questions. Attlee seemed about to reply, but Laski held up his hand and said: "No questions." The reports say Attlee looked astonished at this, and strode out of the room -- if you can visualize Attlee striding.

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As Attlee entered Labor headquarters today through a cheering ~~xxxxx~~ crowd, one of them shouted: "Will you take Winnie back to Potsdam as an observer?" The little man smiled and said nothing.

In his prepared statement he promised cooperation with the United States and the Soviet Union. "Our foreign policy," said he, "can be summed up as a need for a new ~~re~~ world order for the prevention of war, and a world economic policy based on an endeavor to raise the standards of life."

LABOR

Some news from here at home:

The strike of eighteen thousand men at the huge Dodge factory of the Chrysler Corporation in Chicago sheds a curious light on industrial relations. Incidentally, it is a serious threat to the war effort, since it has completely stopped the production of engines for the big Superforts.

~~It is~~ The two hundred and fourth strike at that plant since January, Nineteen Forty-Four. Two hundred and four strikes in <sup>less than</sup> ~~not quite~~ nineteen months! The management declares the Union has carefully prepared for this one and ~~was~~ called it without presenting any ~~grievance~~ grievance, without making any demands, <sup>and</sup> without attempting to follow the usual processes of bargaining. ~~This, of course,~~ <sup>That's</sup> on the Company's side. <sup>So far we</sup> ~~of it, and we do not as yet~~ have it the Union version.

The management goes on to say that there has been ~~factional~~ trouble in that Union, squabbles among the

leaders which have been at the back of all these work stoppages. The management says further that these troubles became so serious that on March Twentieth of this year the International Union suspended the officers of the local union and appointed an administrator. So long as the administrator was in charge, the strikes virtually stopped. When the officers of the local union were reinstated, trouble began again.

At Pittsburgh, there has been a strike among the workers of a packing company, and an Army officer declares that it has resulted in the spoiling of thousands of pounds of meat.

At Detroit, fourteen lumber yards have been struck for some time, and last Tuesday employees of the U.S. Rubber Company walked out. Their reason was that the Company had discharged twelve of their fellow employees, discharged them at the request of the Union. For the

past two days, Army officers have been driving around Detroit in sound trucks, imploring rubber workers to disregard the picket lines, which kept fifty-nine hundred men idle for ten days. As a result, more than a thousand workers crossed the picket lines today and went back to work.

CHINA

There is not much time for news about China tonight, except the winning of Namyung, a hundred and fifty miles northeast of Canton. Namyung was one of the eleven places where our people once had air bases. The Japs now have just four of the eleven left. However, the Japs have won some success in the Province ~~XXXXXX~~ of Hunan, where they have driven eastward eighty miles in two days.

## AIR WAR

The bombing of Japan goes on with more and more violence. The Mikado's cities, most of them, are already flatter than Cologne, Berlin and other German centers. So says General Jimmy Doolittle, who adds that the mass air raids now being planned ~~for~~ will reduce the subjects of the Mikado to a nation of rice growers and goat herders -- a nation without homes.

The Stars and Stripes were raised today over Doolittle's headquarters on Okinawa, which makes that island the official base of the Eighth Air Force. General Jimmy told newspapermen that he expects eventually to have something like a thousand B-29s on Okinawa, as well as all his other planes. In fact, he foresees the time when five thousand planes of all types will be over Japan each day. Although the 8th will have only eight airfields on Okinawa, as compared to sixty-five he had in England, nevertheless, Doolittle's squadrons of the skies, when they get going, will drop

about the same tonnage as they did in Europe.

When? Well, along in August. Doolittle agrees with Vice Admiral McCain, who says the Japs are saving their planes and pilots for the peak moment of their emergency.

Jimmy Doolittle also remarked: "It's a lot easier to lead the boys in than to tell 'em to <sup>go</sup> and do it." And he added regretfully: "That's the way it is with me now. As one gets older and acquires more military information, his superiors keep him on the ground -- out of combat."

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Today ~~some~~ three-hundred-and-fifty B-29s attacked three more Jap cities and dropped two thousand two hundred tons of incendiary bombs. Also, more than five hundred land-based planes of lesser size backed up the B-29s.

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Ten Jap torpedo planes, by the way, attacked Halsey's fleet; and four of the ten were shot

down. The others ran.

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And here's the score for Tuesday's battle :

Twelve hundred of our carrier planes put twenty Jap warships out of action -- at least that many, including three battleships, six carriers, five Jap cruisers, and four of their destroyers.

PROCLAMATION FOLLOW AIR WAR

Japan's plea for more lenient surrender terms was answered today in a spectacular proclamation issued from Potsdam by President Truman, ~~ex~~<sup>and</sup> Prime Minister Winston Churchill, ~~and~~<sup>also signed by</sup> Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. It stated the terms of the Allies in no uncertain language. The terms are: Unconditional surrender of all armed forces. Next, the Allies to have occupation zones in any place in Japanese territory that the Allies decide. The punishment of all war criminals and the complete destruction of the leaders of the entire war clique of Japan.

Also, Japan must give up all territories gained by conquest or any other means whatsoever since Eighteen Ninety-Five, the date of the China-Japanese War. That would mean Korea and Formosa.

The final condition, ~~is~~ the confining of Japanese sovereignty to the four main home islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku, with a few other smaller islands.

These terms, ~~as you will readily see,~~ would mean  
the elimination of Japan ~~for all time~~ as a major power,  
for ~~at least~~ decades, ~~to come.~~