

L.I. - Sunco. Wednesday, June 19, 1940.

In Europe history took a back seat today and left the center of the stage to rumor with its hundred tongues. ~~its~~ ~~hundred mouths and the voice of from~~ Those hundred tongues were babbling all over the place. Rumors from Madrid, rumors from Rome, rumors from Berlin. One says that the dictators are going to force a cruel ~~xxxxxxxi~~ draconian peace on France. The next one contradicts it. Then there's a rumor that the French are resigned to accepting ~~xxx~~ whatever terms Hitler and Mussolini <sup>demand.</sup> ~~have in store for them.~~ The next is that if those conditions are too impossibly harsh, they will go on fighting. Still another rumor that the French Navy is to be surrendered, contradicted by one that the French warships are in a safe place. ~~Then there's one from Berlin that there is dissension in the French cabinet, the ministers are not agreed upon the necessity of surrendering.~~

The latest of these weird reports has it that the French government has left France and gone to Tunisia, bound to go on fighting the war from its African possession. That

44  
45  
46  
47

report came in curious fashion, by way of Washington. The Intelligence Division of Uncle Sam's Army got hold of it, but it is not explained how. ~~Army Intelligence is making every effort to check up.~~

The probable foundation of this was the announcement that the French Air Force is leaving the battlefront. That news was broken by a spokesman of the French War Office, ~~st~~ ~~Bordessux~~. He said merely that they were flying to new bases but did not specify where, ~~those bases are~~. Of course that led to speculation that the French planes are either going to Africa or to join the British Royal Air Force at the Eastern end of the Mediterranean. ~~Incidentally~~, we learn that the

Generals commanding the French forces in Africa and ~~Syria~~ Syria are opposed to surrender, <sup>are</sup> ~~and~~ in favor of continuing the war.

The real facts about the peace terms are - first, that nobody knows what they are except the dictators themselves;— Hitler and Mussolini and the ~~xxxxxx~~ personal staffs that surround them. Second, that the French plenipotentiaries have not yet met the dictators and it isn't even known yet

publicly where they are to go to learn their fate. Furthermore, it is not known yet definitely whom the French Government has designated to meet the dictators. But it is reported that the delegation will be headed by Senator Henri Berenger, former ~~xxxxx~~ Ambassador to Washington; <sup>- And</sup> They are to meet the dictators tomorrow.

48

The latest report from Rome, which came in a few minutes ago, emanates through Mussolini's pet editor, Virginio Gayda. He declares ~~in his newspaper~~ that the terms for France will be firm but more generous and just than those ~~that were~~ granted to Germany at Versailles. Incidentally, Gayda now refers to the war as being waged by the Anglo-Saxon peoples, ~~describes it as having been~~ desired by the Anglo-Saxons. This is taken to mean that he includes the United States among the belligerents.

A British propaganda spokesman says tonight that there will be ~~xxxxxx~~ famine in Europe within four months. Germany, he declares, is just where she was in nineteen

eighteen so far as food supplies are concerned. The British  
~~press~~ predict that the dictators will be making a plea to  
the United States in November, a plea to be fed. Incidentally,  
ex-President Hoover has been making this ~~ix~~ identical  
prediction for months. <sup>TR</sup> But the Nazis and Italians are saying  
that they are about to launch war on an even vaster scale.

*and* Meanwhile, the fighting goes on. The Nazis *today*  
captured the Great French seaport of Cherbourg <sup>— took it</sup> with a  
motorized division. And one of Hitler's eastern armies  
is advancing from Belfort to make connections with the other  
army that is advancing from the Rhine. <sup>TR</sup> The British story *tonight*  
deals ~~witk~~ chiefly with destructive air raids by the Royal  
Air Force both in the Ruhr and on Hanover, where the Germans  
had their big plant for making synthetic gasoline. <sup>However</sup> The Germans  
declare that they had moved that plant long before the raid.

49

URUGUAY

A Nazi conspiracy in South America! <sup>Tonights'</sup> ~~this~~ news comes

in a late dispatch from Montevideo. A Government Committee  
<sup>today</sup> announces <sup>definitely</sup> that it has unearthed details of a widespread plot for  
the seizing of ~~xxx~~ that republic by Nazi agents. The Government  
of Uruguay says it has evidence which exceeds even the wildest  
alarmist reports that had hitherto been published. In reply to  
an appeal by the ~~defense~~ Defense Minister of Uruguay young men  
of military age are rushing to army garrisons to enlist.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY. The biggest single bit of war news tonight comes out of Washington. The Government of the United States has transmitted ~~xxx~~ a solemn warning to the dictators.

Hands off American territory, hands off the Western Hemisphere, ~~xxxxxxx~~ hands off any Dutch, Danish, French or British possessions near

us. That's the intent and purpose of communications that were sent today to Rome and Berlin, communications that were identical.

Of course the State Department didn't put it quite so bluntly. In diplomatic language, it served notice upon the Nazis and the Fascist that the Government of the United States ~~xxxxxxx~~ adheres to the Monroe Doctrine. Consequently it will decline to recognize any change that the war of the dictators may have brought about <sup>or hope to bring about</sup> in the titular sovereignty of possessions in this hemisphere.

Having dispatched that warning, the State Department got busy on another move. The United States has called for a special meeting, an emergency session, of the twenty-one republics throughout the Americas. There is no detailed revelation of what's to be done at that meeting. The announcement merely says that it's to discuss new problems that arise out of the war of the

51  
dictators. When the Pan-American conference at Panama adjourned, the Foreign Ministers of the American republics agreed to meet again at Havana on October First. But of course it's obvious that too many things may happen before October. Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State, reports that thirteen of the American republics have already said "okay" to that emergency session.

Of course one of the motions to be submitted to the emergency Pan-American Conference will be President Roosevelt's proposal for an economic union of all the Americas. Several of the top officials of the Administration have been working on it. They've <sup>gone</sup> ~~got~~ ahead so far that it is even reported they'll have some concrete ideas to offer to Mr. Roosevelt tomorrow. They are formulating a structure for the cartel, the giant combine to handle all American products.

And here's the exact wording of part of that communication sent to Germany and Italy:- "The Government of the United States will not recognize any transfer and will not ~~xxx~~ acquiesce in any attempt to transfer any geographic region of the Western Hemisphere from one non-American power to another non-American power."

52  
~~xxxxxx~~ Incidentally, that warning is being backed up by the United States Navy. Several warships are on neutrality patrol duty near the Caribbean Islands belonging to France and the Netherlands. And other Men-O-War in the waters around Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone are also on the lookout.



DETROIT

It becomes known today that <sup>our big auto plants</sup> ~~the big motor companies~~  
are already making war material and on a big scale. This comes  
to light through the move of Michigan's Governor Dickinson to  
provide extra State Police and to protect Detroit against  
Fifth Column attacks. Dickinson wants extra money from the  
Legislature and incidentally he wants to build an armory in  
Detroit for an anti-aircraft regiment of the Michigan National ~~Guard~~  
Guard.

Here's a skimpy account of just a few of the things  
that are ~~xxx~~ being done in the great automobile capital. Henry  
Ford's company yesterday received orders for nine thousand  
airplane motors. Six thousand of these are for the British, three  
thousand for Uncle Sam. General Motors, we hear, is making  
airplane engines in huge quantities. Packard is manufacturing  
marine engines for Uncle Sam's Navy.

Experts have been making a survey of what could be  
done in Detroit. There are no fewer than a hundred and fifty-seven  
factories in the big city and the outlying suburbs. Some of them  
are enormous, some of them not so big. They call it a small  
plant in Detroit when they employ only ~~a few~~ <sup>some</sup> hundred <sup>s of</sup> men. The

~~Ford factory at River Rouge covers miles of ground. And the establishments of General Motors are immense.~~ An industrial expert declared <sup>today</sup> that, after they've got the tools and made the necessary adjustments, Detroit could make munitions, guns, trucks, tanks, planes, all kinds of motors, even small ships for the Navy. The only thing that stops them from making destroyers and cruisers is the lack of a deep water channel to the coast. It is declared authoritatively that the automobile factories in Detroit have such a huge capacity that they could arm and equip the entire world for war and still turn out the usual number of motor cars.

53

CONSCRIPTION

President Roosevelt is going through with his program for compulsory training of boys and girls. Plans are to be drawn up to put the idea into ~~XXXXX~~ execution. And the job of drafting those plans was turned over to Sidney Hillman, C.I.O. labor leader, labor-coordinator in the President's Civilian Defense Commission. Hillman will have help from Secretary of Commerce Harry Hopkins, from the Civilian Conservation Corps and from officials of the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

Secretary Steve Early told newspaper men that the White House has not <sup>noticed that there has been</sup> ~~observed~~ much public reaction to this proposal. Maybe there's none in the executive offices of the White House, but there has been violent reaction in several places. Both the labor chiefs, William Green of the Federation, and John Lewis of the C.I.O., let out a blast against it. *And* Criticisms from Republicans in Philadelphia have been too numerous to repeat. Lewis dived into his thesaurus and came up with the phrase that Mr. Roosevelt's proposal was "a fantastic suggestion from a mind in full intellectual retreat."

54

REPUBLICANS

Sharp words came from Philadelphia ~~xxxxxx~~ today, acid comments on the foreign policy of President Roosevelt, his repeated gestures toward Europe. It began to look today as though the Republicans were going into action on a "keep out of the war" slogan. Former Governor Alf Landon was ~~ixxx~~ impelled to make the strongest statement that has ever come from him. "The United States," he said, "cannot possibly keep out of the war if President Roosevelt continues to say and do every dern thing he pleases." Only Landon didn't say "dern". And he said too that the President is going so fast, you can hardly keep up with him. Then he added:- "It looks as though Mr. Roosevelt has to have an idea a day to keep Hitler away." Landon was particularly caustic about Mr. Roosevelt's proposal to conscript lads and girls <sup>to</sup> ~~who~~ work in clothing factories. He wanted to know what about that unemployment problem that we had been hearing so much about? And he suggested that we hardly need conscription in order to make clothing in America.

Another bitter critic was <sup>George</sup> ~~George~~ N. Peek who used to work ~~xxx~~ for Mr. Roosevelt as Administrator of his Farm Deal Program. He declared that the President was gambling with our

national security, and that his foreign policy was full of ~~xxx~~ restlessness and emotionalism. "If he isn't stopped," said Peek, "he will draw us into war abroad and set up a dictatorship here."

54  
But one of the chief topics around the Philadelphia hotels was Wendell Wilkie. Most of the political leaders are astounded by the extraordinary publicity that has been lavished upon the former utilities president. In a few short months, without financial backing, without any organization, he has everybody ~~xxx~~ talking about him. In the Saturday Evening Post issued today, there's an article about Wilkie by Hugh Johnson, and another article by Wilkie himself. On this same day the Scripps-Howard newspapers come out for Wilkie. Each one of them publishes a leading editorial, clamoring for the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ nomination of Wilkie and promising to support him for election. The Scripps-Howard papers believe that Wilkie is the man who can do the job that must be done, the job of getting the industrial machine into high gear for national ~~xxx~~ defense.

The atmosphere in Philadelphia is electric with ~~xxx~~ tension. The keen interest in the question, "Who will be the candidate," is naturally more ~~xxx~~ acute and more portentous than ever. Every move, every thought is overshadowed by the consciousness that we are about to have the most important election, literally the most important, since eighteen sixty. Indeed, Republican leaders are saying that in many respects this one will be even more fateful than the campaign that <sup>ended up</sup> ~~finished~~ with Abraham Lincoln in the White House. That not only made history, it created irrevocably a new destiny for the United States. This one will affect the destiny of the whole world. What will happen in Europe, what will happen in Asia, what will happen in the remotest corners of the <sup>earth-- it will all be governed to</sup> ~~xxxxx~~ <sup>no small extent by the man</sup> ~~hangs in the balance upon the man~~ whom the Republicans will select and the course they will choose to steer.

MEDWICK

A baseball player lies unconscious in a xxx New York hospital, and the whole country is interested. The beaming of Ducky Medwick has become a police matter. So much was announced this afternoon by the District Attorney of Brooklyn. One investigation was conducted today by Ford Frick, President of the National League. That became obligatory when Larry MacPhail, President of the Brooklyn Dodgers, roared out the charge that Pitcher Bowman of the St. Louis Cardinals had intentionally hit Outfielder Ducky Medwick behind the ear with a fast ball. Ford Frick didn't say what action the National League would take. When that accusation was published, the District Attorney stepped into the picture. He was aroused by the report that Pitcher Bowman had had a quarrel with Ducky Medwick before ~~xxx~~ the game, ~~and~~ had threatened to get him.

8  
-  
Of course <sup>it's</sup> ~~it's~~ no secret in sporting circles that Medwick was on bad terms with many of the St. Louis Cardinals, his teammates until a few days ago. He rejoiced when he was sold down the river to Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Prosecutor says his interest is not that of a Brooklyn fan; but, as District Attorney he is bound to find out whether or not a crime was committed.

8 1/2

Of course, MacPhail has a reason for being incensed. Only last week he paid a huge sum for the slugging Ducky Medwick, reported to be somewhere around a hundred and fifty thousand dollars. A Hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as they say, is not hay, even in a banking deal. Any man would feel aggrieved at seeing a hundred and fifty thousand dollars smacked to earth with a bean ball. ~~Apparently the only man who is not excited is~~ Pitcher Bowman, the man accused of having thrown it intentionally, ~~He~~ was at Ford Frick's office this afternoon, ~~and they say he was~~ quite calm and unperturbed.

9

If you want to commit <sup>(suicide)</sup> ~~suicide~~, walk down a Brooklyn street carrying a placard saying you're a St. Louis baseball player. <sup>Yes,</sup> That ought to be an interesting show at Ebbett's Field this evening when the Dodgers and the Cardinals play a night game.

59 1/4

Wish I could be there! And e-l-u-tomorrow.