

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, SEPT. 27, 1938.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Shortly after Prime Minister Chamberlain's radio address this afternoon, the British Cabinet was called in session - a hasty summons, such as befits the anxious emergency of the hour. *and*

So they gathered at Number Ten Downing Street, the government of Great Britain - a momentous session to conclude this day, the fourth day before October First. *being* ~~and that~~ the deadline, ~~day~~ the zero hour, on Saturday. The *London* ~~British~~ Cabinet session may or may not mean much in determining whether Hitler will *or will not* invade Czechoslovakia on October First, the deadline he has named - the world war to begin on Saturday, the zero hour he has chosen.

Our own President *also* held a cabinet meeting today, after listening to the British Prime Minister on the radio. The session in Washington was dedicated mostly to the job of getting Americans out of war threatened parts of Europe. Americans have been instructed to leave, facilities arranged for them to depart, warships ordered to aid in taking them away.

CHAMBERLAIN

(Prime Minister Chamberlain's address today to the British Empire and the world was as important in tone as it was in substance. The aged chief of the British government spoke in a voice of pent up feeling, emotion he sometimes could scarcely contain.) Now and then he halted between sentences as if overcome by the thought of war and its horrible destruction. He talked like a patient man finally forced to the end of human patience, like one who shrinks in horror from all that war today will mean - yet must face the nearness of that war, almost at hand.

(He said in outright fashion that however much Britain might sympathize with ^{little} Czechoslovakia threatened by big Germany, that alone ^{would} ~~will~~ not persuade his government to plunge the world into war. There must be something ^{something of} more momentous, ^{more embracing} importance than that - the menace of a nation determined to overcome the world by the fear of its power.)

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And indeed, nothing more to the point could have been said in a more restrained way by the British statesman in his great age. (Chamberlain declared that Great Britain and France conceded the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia to Germany as they promised.)

He offers ^a British and French guarantee that Hitler shall have it. Hitler, on his part, said yesterday that all he wants is what was promised - that same Sudeten area. All certainly seem to be agreed on the main point, as Chamberlain pointed out today. It's mostly a case of when, how soon. (The British Prime Minister said that when in his second meeting with Hitler he was confronted with the time limit ultimatum - he was astonished, thought it unreasonable.)

So will Europe be plunged into a general war merely because of this time element, a question of mere delay? That seems too frivolous, too wanton. All of which brings us to the Chamberlain point made today - the idea of a nation resolved to dominate by the fear of its power. Or, more crudely, is Hitler determined to have a war for conquest? Is it his determination to strike now for the military domination of Europe? And Mussolini with him? This was the darkest implication raised in the Chamberlain address today.

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Yet he said there was still hope for peace, said he would strive in that hope for peace until the last moment.

He spoke of England and its feverish preparation for war, calling the men to arms, calling the citizens to instant

air raid precautions. Preparations for air raids and gas attacks, the thought of which made the Prime Minister sick at heart as he spoke. All so serious that (King George this morning declared -

a state of emergency, which is a sinister thing, usually ^{a prelude} ~~pertaining~~

to war. ^{And the last word:- the British admiralty has just} ~~But Chamberlain pointed out that these were only~~ ^{ordered the mobilization of the British Fleet. But} ~~precautions, and~~ said there was still hope of averting war.)

Chamberlain

Having spoken thus, he proceeded to call ^{the} ~~a~~ meeting of

the British Cabinet in hasty emergency session. There's no doubt

but what they were summoned to consider - the latest message from

Hitler; ~~that was~~ transmitted by Chamberlain's own personal

representative, who was trying last minute negotiations in Berlin.

We're not told what this Hitler's message contains, but there are

rumors of some sort of proposal whereby disputed Sudeten areas

will be taken over by the British legion. That's the British

equivalent of our own American Legion, the association of war

veterans. We are told that the head of the British Legion conferred

with Hitler in Germany on this very subject, offering the services

of the British Legion for international action in turning

Sudetenland over to the Germans.

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From Paris comes a desperate expression of hope. With France preparing for war to the hilt, troop movements, anti-aircraft guns, distribution of gas masks, and everything that looks like sure, swift war - with all this, the Paris government stated today that there was still hope of an agreement.

And Berlin likewise is saying that the possibility of a settlement still exists - although Germany today rumbled with military trucks carrying troops and motorized cannon - streaming through the ~~st~~ principal ~~streets~~ German cities and along the roads. Heavy troop concentrations on the Czechoslovak border, where skirmishing is going on - with German charges that there are sporadic Czech attacks on German soldiers, attacks which they claim are designed to be provocative and start something.

And the latest? A rumor from London that Hitler will order German mobilization - fuel mobilization - tomorrow
From Rome, no -- there's no expression of hope from Rome.

There's nothing official at all; ~~but there's~~ ^{only} a report that

Mussolini today held counsel with his principal army commanders.

And he is said to have told them that war is inevitable, war cannot be avoided - and Italy will fight with Germany! That's the report, which is accompanied by the rather paradoxical word that there is

still no sign of mobilizing anything in Italy, no massing of troops and cannon - as the other nations involved are doing so strenuously. All we have is a late bulletin saying that Mussolini may soon order some sort of mobilization.

(The Czechs have turned down completely the Hitler ultimatum demanding Sudeten possession by October the First.)

And Hitler once more has reiterated that there shall be no delay. He said this in his note to Washington, replying to President Roosevelt's plea for peace. Delay is impossible, declared the German Dictator, thereby pointing to October First, the deadline.

All of which puts dark and heavy emphasis on the march of days, ~~today~~ until the zero hour, ~~on~~ Saturday.

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But here's something still later - a rumor entirely unconfined - that Hitler has decided to march into Czechoslovakia at once - unless there's a peaceful settlement tomorrow. - by 2 P.M. German time. 8 tomorrow our time. - 8:00 A.M.

TELEGRAM

W. G. Sweeney of Rockville Center, New York wires me:-

"Why spend thirteen minutes of a national broadcast on European trouble, when the ordinary individual is interested in purely American news items?"

Does Critic Sweeney of Rockville Center think an outbreak of a general war in Europe won't affect us? Let's remember Nineteen Fourteen, and then Nineteen Seventeen -- still affecting us after twenty years.

Nevertheless, let's heed Mr. Sweeney's chiding, and have as much American news as we can today -- as much as we can find. First of all, we find -- deadline set for October First, the zero hour on Saturday, the fateful day beginning just four days from midnight tonight. And if some agreement isn't made by then, the lid will blowoff.

No, I haven't got around to that European crisis again. I'm talking about something strictly American -- the threat of a nationwide railroad strike. Set for Saturday -- unless something was done. Well, railroad news differs from European news, in this -- that something was done today, something that has put off the outbreak.

~~The~~ National Mediation Board has been trying to patch up an agreement between railroad ownership and railroad labor, but it hasn't been getting anywhere. Yesterday, the railroad unions announced that their members had voted to strike rather than take the fifteen per cent wage cut the Companies want them to accept, ^{and} the strike ^{was} called for Saturday. Today, the ^{National} Mediation Board wrote to the President and placed the crisis before him - saying that the wage deadlock and scheduled strike ^{threatened} ~~threatened~~ to interrupt interstate commerce and ~~to~~ deprive the nation of essential transportation service. ~~That's the way it's phrased - tersely describing the evil and calamity that a nationwide railroad strike would be.~~

The peril called for presidential action, and presidential action it got. Mr. Roosevelt immediately named an emergency board; a Special Fact Finding Board - it is called. ~~It will make an emergency study of the railroad labor situation - and that will take time, can't be done by Saturday.~~ ^{And} So the result of it all is to delay the strike for at least sixty days, ~~two months more before the strike can be called.~~

So we find that in our own railroad labor world, the October First deadline, ^{the} ~~and~~ Saturday zero hour has been put off, postponed.

TRUCK STRIKE

There was a municipal mobilization of trucks in New York today - ~~and that was~~ ^{all} because of a strike. The walkout in the trucking industry is threatening the food supply of the metropolis, which same metropolis consumes a lot of food. Transports tied up, with only perishable foodstuffs moving - and Mayor LaGuardia is determined to keep them moving. So today he had a mobilization of city trucks, twelve hundred of them, ready to go rumbling through the streets to keep the city's food line open. ~~(They'll be driven by city drivers with union strikers aboard as helpers. It isn't made quite clear as to who will get paid by whom or how much.)~~

The Mayor announced today that the city truck system will go into operation right away, unless employers ^{and} strikers accepted his peace plan. ~~The truck drivers demand a forty-hour week at the same wages they're now getting for forty-seven hours. The Mayor's compromise calls for a forty-four-hour week at the same pay the drivers have been getting for forty-seven hours.~~

~~This proposition~~ ^{This} was considered today at a gathering of truck company employers, and they turned it down with loud emphasis, calling the LaGuardia compromise - "a piece of political skullduggery."

TRUCK STRIKE

Later, the plan, ^{was} put to a union vote, ~~was~~ ^{and} adopted -
though with a good deal of protest. However, when one side turns
a thing down and then the other side accepts it - that's no peace
agreement.

Klingler.

Sept. 27,
1938.

INTRO. TO MR. K.

L.T.: What news could be more American than automobile news.

Today I ran into one of the heads of General Motors, and invited H. J. Klinger, President of Pontiac, to come along to the studio.

This is the season when the ~~big~~ auto companies tell us about their plans by which so many of the inhabitants of this continent are directly or indirectly affected. Well, all of us are affected.

So, Mr. Klinger, just what is the outlook? In addition to Pontiac and all of General Motors, how about the entire industry?

MR. K. & L.T.

Mr. K.:- All of the leaders with whom I have talked predict an increase of twenty-five to thirty percent this year. The building of that many more cars than during Nineteen Thirty-eight. So, that ought to mean good news to millions of people.

--O--

L.T.:- How do you account for ^{your} ~~that~~ prophecy? Are times getting better?

--O--

MR. K.:- Perhaps. But, the increase is more than just a reflection of better conditions. It's because the leading motor-car manufacturers have deliberately set out to produce new models. And, by new I mean important changes, much more important than for a number of years. These improvements -- and I am talking about the makers of all cars -- will affect appearance, performance, comfort, economy.

--O--

L.T.:- And just what effect will ^{all} that have?

--O--

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MR. K.:- In the past, whenever the public has been offered better cars at lower cost, the public has responded with increased buying. We expect that to happen this Autumn and Winter. And, that will affect the prosperity of the entire nation.

--o--

L.T.:- Many thanks, Mr. Klinger. We will all be on the lookout for ~~Pontiac and~~ the ~~other~~ new cars, to see what these important changes are. ~~At any rate, what you have said does sound like good news.~~

GREENBERG

Hank Greenberg hit a homer today and then he hit another.

How near is he to Babe Ruth's immortal record which it was thought could never be exceeded? Ruth's stupendous exploit was to hit sixty homers in one season. And the numbers tagged to the two Greenberg hit today are 57 and 58. So ~~th~~ Detroit's big Jewish first baseman needs only two to tie and one to beat the Babe's mark.

BOYS

Two reported victims of last week's hurricane were found today - alive and unharmed, save for weary legs, tattered clothes and dirty faces.

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The boys school at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, closed in the wild blast of the hurricane, and thereafter nothing was seen of Robert Cuddihy and Robert Combs, ^{thirteen and} ~~fifteen, and thirteen~~. So there was the sad and tragic surmise - that both Bobbies perished in the wild calamity of the tropical ~~is~~ storm.

57
However, it turns out that they merely knew how to make the best of a hurricane. School closing, they thought they might as well go on a tour ^{of} ~~in~~ the hurricane areas. This they did with such enthusiasm, and tireless leg work, that the police today found them, weary and bedraggled, at the Merrick, Long Island, railroad station. Tonight they're on their way back to school, where they'll have to stay until the next hurricane.

PAINTINGS

News from the world of art. Today in a New York gallery of painting and sculpture, an exhibit was opened - an exhibit of eight paintings by a famous artist. And are they dumb! The artist certainly is famous, though not exactly for art -- famous for dumbness. But you never can tell where you'll find brains and genius. Do you expect to discover a mighty brain and a lofty genius in Gracie Allen? No, you don't - and you're probably right. At least - judging from the description of Gracie's paintings.

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Anyway, she's an artist, and she has put eight of her paintings on exhibition at a prominent New York gallery. They're said to be highly futuristic, of the surrealist school. Meaning - ~~there's~~ a lot of paint on the canvas but you can't ~~quite~~ tell what it's all about. The titles too are futuristic and surrealist.

{ Gracie says the paintings represent ideas that just popped in her mind ^{when her mind was empty.} And as you may have made a guess or two about Gracie's mind, you can imagine the kind of ideas that would pop into ^{that vacuum.} ~~it~~

58/2
One Gracie Allenish water color is named - "Gravity gets body scissors on virtue as night falls upside down." ^{And} That's either inspired or ^{dumb!} ~~drawn~~ it's hard to tell which.

Another fantastic mix-up with the hues of the rainbow ~~is~~ ^{has}
this Gracie Allenism for a title: "Eyes adrift as sardines wrench
at your heart strings." What happened to the can, Gracie - maybe
she gave it to some midgets for a love nest.

A third Michelangelo masterpiece, which looks as goofy
as it sounds, has this for a title: "Behind the before yet under
the vast above the world is in tears and tomorrow is Tuesday."

I'm afraid Gracie Allen isn't as dumb as she seems,
for the meaning ^{appears} ~~seems~~ to be quite intelligent; - that the
surrealists are as dumb as Gracie Allen.

9/14 And now body-scissors on a
sardine behind and before and e-l-u-t-am.