

L.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, April 29, 1943. 2

President Roosevelt is back at his desk in the White House; back from a seventeen day trip that took him through twenty states, and as far west as Colorado -- and for a total of six thousand, seven hundred and fifty-two miles; and including his visit to Mexico.

In those seventeen days he visited no fewer than twelve army posts, one marine training base, one naval air station and four war plants. In addition to this, he discussed the war effort with many officials of American industry and with the Governors of no fewer than twelve states.

The gist of his report on what he saw is that everything is going much better, much better than last fall, when he took a tour of inspection from coast to coast. He saw enough to convince him that the war effort of the United States has improved a great deal. And he added that not until he returned to Washington did he find reason for disquiet. The war spirit of the

nation's capital appeared tame to the President in comparison with the country-atlarge.

Elsewhere, he said, he found that people have a sense of proportion, which many of those in Washington do not have. Also, around the country folks have a sense of perspective. And that, all in all, the attitude of Americans in general is more intelligent than the general attitude in Washington.

How does he explain this? Mr. Roosevelt attributes it first to the training of men and women in the armed services; second, to the training programs in industry. All of which makes him feel we should keep part of this after the war is over. The President evidently has joined those who believe that one year of service for the country in peacetime would be good for all of us. To keep us healthy in mind as well as in body. The President says that one result of all this present training is to make the American people mentally ^{more} alert. He says he has no definite plan; just

an idea that he hopes will develop.

One thing the President noticed is that all over the country more and more women are working in war plants. Last year he found that in the aviation plants, thirty percent of the workers were women. Today they total fifty percent. In one factory, the President said he found more women than men.

I myself have just been talking to Tom Morgan, head of the Sperry Company, which has some fifty ~~thous~~ thousand employees. And he tells me that one third of their people are now women -- doing a first-class job.

COAL

The first thing the President did ^{upon his} ~~after his~~ returned ~~from his trip~~ ^{was, of course to give his attention to} was to take a hand in the ~~the~~ ^{ominous} coal crisis. ^{One thing he did was} ~~to~~ send a strong telegram to John L. Lewis, ~~he~~ ^{ing} warned the head of the United Mine Workers that if the men are not back at work in the mines by ten o'clock Saturday morning, he ^{will} ~~would~~ use all the powers vested in him as President and as Commander-in-Chief to prevent this interference with the war effort. He pointed out that if the strikes continued and spread, ^{that} ~~it~~ would be equivalent to a crippling defeat in the field.

^{The President} ~~Mr. Roosevelt~~ then put forward a personal plea to the men in the mines. He was sure, he said, that those whose brothers and sons are in the armed forces could not wish to hamper the war effort. Hitherto, they have contributed ^{most} ~~so~~ loyally, he added. ^{And he} ~~he~~ went on to use these words: "Not as President - not as

Commander-in-Chief - but as the friend of the men who work in the coal mines, I appeal to them to resume work immediately." And, he urged them to trust their case to the National War Labor Board. *He also said: -*

"I have confidence in the patriotism of the miners," ~~he added.~~

The President then traced the progress of the coal story ~~of~~ the last few days ~~and~~ ^{and} reminded the United Mine Workers that their officials were invited to recommend a person to be appointed to the panel to investigate the facts. "They ignored the invitation," said the President. And, he ~~said.~~ ^{continues: -} "The Board then appointed David B. Robertson of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen to represent the employees, Mr. Walter White to represent the operators, and Morris L. Cooke to represent the public." The Personnel of this panel, said the President, assures

an impartial investigation. Then he repeated: "The officials of the United Mine Workers of America have ignored the request of the Board that they present their case to the National War Labor Board Panel. They likewise have ignored the request of the Board urging the strikers to return to their work."

Mr. Roosevelt ^{Further} ~~then~~ referred to the telegrams he had received from some of the miners, ^{complaints} ~~complaining~~ that O.P.A. price regulations have been disregarded and that the cost of living had gone up disproportionately in the mining areas. "For that reason, said the President, "I have directed O.P.A. to make an immediate investigation of the facts and wherever a violation of the law is disclosed, to see that the violators are prosecuted."

He ^{said that} ~~then said~~ the strikes and stoppages in the coal industry that have occurred and are threatened

are in clear violation of the no-strike pledges.

"They are not strikes against employers," Mr. Roosevelt added, "they are strikes against the United States Government itself, and ~~the~~^a direct interference with the prosecution of the war."

While President Roosevelt was taking this action, alarming news came from the minefields. In the middlewest, the east and the south, actually more than seventy-three thousand soft coal miners ~~were~~^{are already} idle. And the threat still holds of a general mine strike to begin Friday midnight, a strike that would take out no fewer than four hundred and fifty thousand bituminous miners.

When the President sent his telegram ^{to} John L. Lewis, ^{Lewis} was in New York, ^{and he} ~~he~~ refused to make any comment whatsoever. ~~He more or less snubbed~~ ^{He more or less snubbed} ~~Mr. Roosevelt's press~~ ^{just} the newspaper men, ^{as} as he snubbed the War Labor Board.

The President's action ^{today} had immediate consequences in Congress. Senator ~~Tom~~ Connally of Texas put in a bill empowering the government to seize any plant, any factory, any mine, any other industrial project necessary to the war ^{that is closed by} ~~in the case of~~ a strike. ^{also} Connally ^{also} spoke up on the floor of the Senate, urging his colleagues to consider the bill immediately. He said the time had come for the government to apply a firm hand. ~~to that situation~~ and he added that the people of the United States have long since decided there must be no strike to paralyze war industries and war production. The Senate took a voice vote at once and agreed to start debating the bill next Monday.

~~However, that was not unanimous.~~ ^{TP} Senator Taft ~~was among those who does not approve,~~ of Ohio ~~did not approve.~~ He suggested that if the ~~President seizes the mines, he would be playing into~~ ~~the President would be playing right into~~ John L. Lewis's hands. ^{Which} is just what Lewis wants the President to do, said ^{sen.} Taft.

RATIONING

The Office of Price Administration believes it is winning the war against the black market. ~~it~~

~~least~~ So says an official of the O.P.A. ^{who adds} ~~the~~

~~that~~ there are a lot of wild tales ~~with~~

~~going~~ ^{and} around about rationing ~~of~~ prices. For instance,

~~many~~ ^{he says some} people believe the ~~story~~ ^{yearn about} the old prohibition

gangs ~~have come~~ ^{coming} to life, muscling into the food

administration and running black markets on a huge scale. Those tales, according to the O.P.A., are greatly exaggerated.

However, the same spokesman admitted today that there is quite a black market in poultry. Also, O.P.A. is having its troubles getting people to respect ~~the~~ ^{the} rules ~~of~~ ^{concerning} potatoes and other vegetables.

The business of automobile tires is not worrying the Price Administration at present, but gasoline is.

And there will be no more attempt to rely upon the honor system, which has proved a complete failure.

AFRICA

The latest from the Battle of Tunisia.

And the best report this time comes from the American front. Uncle Sam's men have ~~pushed ahead~~ ^{advanced} seven miles beyond Sidi Nsir. Hard fighting is going on right now, and the Americans are pushing ahead.

The Germans, we hear, have stepped up their counter-attacks all along the line. Particularly where they face the British First Army. After a series of charges, they forced the British off the hill they had seized overlooking the Tunisian plain.

It became more and more evident today that the Nazis are going to fight to the bitter end in Africa, the same kind of a fight the Russians put up at

Sevastopol. They seem to have given up trying to reinforce von Arnim and Rommel with large ships, but reconnaissance planes say that large numbers of small vessels are running supplies over the Straits from Sicily. British and American fliers hit twelve of them yesterday, destroyed six, and left five others blazing.

But the report indicates these twelve were only a few ~~sixty~~ out of many.

The French are forging ahead south of Pont-du-Fahs and have pushed the Germans back for four more miles.

A later dispatch this afternoon reports that some of our American units are now within ten miles of Mateur, the strongest of the outlying defenses that the Germans have put up around Bizerte. American artillery is now shelling the place, with the fire-power directed on the network of roads around Mateur.

STIMSON

Secretary of War Stimson gave out an encouraging report today of Allied prowess in the air over Tunisia. British and American planes are scoring four to every one scored by the enemy. The Secretary declared that no enemy can carry on indefinitely with such a ^{large} ~~definite~~ proportion of losses.

From March Twenty-Ninth to April Twenty-Fourth, Allied airmen destroyed eight hundred and fifty-nine Nazi and Italian combat planes and two hundred and five transports; ~~that is~~ a total of one thousand, sixty-four Axis aircraft shot down in less than a month. *In the same period* ~~against that~~, the Allies lost two hundred and seventy planes.

Stimson also had something interesting to say about the results of the American daylight raids over Germany. Surveys are being completed and assembled and as far as they have gone, they show that the

damage was even greater, much greater than first reports indicated.

The Secretary also appeared to be feeling more confident about the southwest Pacific. He told newspapermen that there is no longer such keen tension in that part of the globe. He pointed out that the Japanese have not tried to repeat the heavy raids they made recently, probably because ~~it may~~ ^{of the} cost ~~them too~~ ⁱⁿ ~~many~~ ^{that} planes. Furthermore, the number of enemy aircraft and surface vessels in that region has dropped in the last two weeks, ~~although~~ ^{although} ~~according to what the observers say~~ ^{the Japs may launch} ~~but~~ there still is a chance ~~of a Japanese attack~~ ^{an attack.}

AIR RAID

A United Press correspondent last week enjoyed the unusual opportunity of eye-witnessing raids on two Jap islands in the Pacific. One of them was at Nauru, a coral atol rich in phosphate, seven hundred and fifty miles northeast of Guadalcanal. American four-motored Liberators flew over during the noon hour on April Twenty-First, and blasted the daylights out of the phosphate works and airdromes on Nauru. It was a daylight raid such as had never been seen in the central Pacific before. ~~The~~ coral atol ^{actually} ~~shuddered~~ shuddered under the shocks of the heavy bombs.

FF Thirty-six hours later, another force of Liberators flew over the northern Gilbert islands, just before dawn, and left havoc ~~behind them~~ at the Jap airdrome instalations at Tirawa, four hundred and fifty miles northeast of Nauru.

The U.P. correspondent was riding in the

same bomber as Brigadier-General Truman A. Landon,
Commander of Bombing Operations in the Central Pacific.

TP ^{says he} The newspaper man saw a mass of smoke, like a volcano,
spout from the first of those islands [^] for a distance of
two miles along the beach. Uncle Sam's Liberators
bombarded them for half an hour, dropping more than
fifty thousand pounds of high explosives and hundreds
of fragmentation bombs. A couple of Jap Zero fighters
took off and tried to intercept the Liberators, but
they were quickly shot down and eleven other enemy
planes were either destroyed or badly damaged on the
ground. ~~The Zeros failed to bag a single one of our~~
~~machines.~~

In between the two raids, ten twin-motored
Jap bombers came roaring over the new American base at
Funa Futi in the Elice Islands, east of the Solomons.
They came under cover of darkness and did but little

damage, ^{while our fliers} ~~What we did to the enemy is a nice contrast.~~

~~We~~ left the Jap phosphate plants in flames and ruins.

Phosphate is most important to the enemy both for

fertilizer and munitions. It will take several months

to repair the ^{plants} ~~them~~ so they can be used again. On both

islands, ~~we destroyed~~ ^{and} fuel, munitions storage, supply

installations, workshops and barracks ~~were demolished.~~

RUSSIA

The Russian battlefront has come to life again.

First
The news ~~of this~~ *arrived* from Germany. The Soviet generals have begun a ~~strong drive~~ long expected drive to clear the last remaining Germans out of the Caucasus.

Today
They are battering heavily at the German lines along

the Kuban River. From the northwest they have ~~thrown~~ *launched*

~~a strong~~ *an* attack ~~on~~ Novorossisk, the great Black Sea

naval base, ~~and~~ last stronghold of the Nazis on that coast.

The Germans claim that the Nazis have thrown back these Red army attacks. But the Russians are in a dominating position at Novorossisk. Their heavy guns control the harbor so that it is of really no use to the Nazis. ~~And the Germans admit that they have been unable to prevent the landing of reinforcements and supplies for the Soviet army.~~

ALEUTIANS

On the sea our people also
~~One of Uncle Sam's fleets~~ paid a visit ~~last~~

~~week~~ to one of the Aleutian Islands occupied by the
Jap^{S.}~~nese~~. "A task force", is what the Navy calls it, ~~to~~
~~its communique~~, Hitherto, our attacks on the Japanese
installations on those islands have been mostly by

army bombers. This time, the enemy received the attention

of ~~our~~ naval guns, *which.* ~~They~~ started ~~several~~ fires at Holtz

Bay and, *at* Chicago Harbor, *at* Attu, *Island —* ~~that is~~ the westernmost
of the Aleutians. ~~It~~ ~~point occupied by the Japs.~~ This was the second raid

by a Navy task force this year. The Japs *apparently* made no attempt

to defend themselves. If they had heavy guns on ~~the~~

Attu ~~island~~, they *Failed* ~~did not attempt~~ to use them.

The Navy also reports an attack on Jap
positions in the Gilbert Islands. A force of Army
bombers raided Tarawa and caused extensive damage.
Our planes met with heavy flak and also warm opposition
from Jap fighter planes. Nevertheless, all our men and
aircraft returned safely.

RECORD

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A new and astounding record has been established for trans-Atlantic flying. A United States Liberator bomber, with four motors, flew across in six hours and twenty minutes. To be sure, it was considerably helped by a strong tail wind of a velocity sometimes as high as one hundred knots. Nevertheless, this opens up a great vista for air transport across the ocean when the war is over. The record was established by Captain William S. May of Winnipeg, flying for the Royal Air Force Transport Command.

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Six hours and twenty minutes! ~~Twenty years ago~~ *That's*
terrific, Hugh
~~we thought four days and a half was an amazingly~~
~~swift crossing.~~