

LT. SUNOCO. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1938.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(First reports describe today's American note to the Italian government as downright and forceful, yet couched in careful and most diplomatic language.) When the text of the protest came through, -- the protest hinted at last night -- it was to be seen that the description was perfectly correct. Here is the text:-

"Italians who have been properly admitted into the United States," says the note, "may reside wherever they like therein, and are accorded the full protection of our laws with respect to their person and property. They enjoy religious freedom and there is no discrimination either on account of race or creed."

That's the hint. And goes on like this - spoken by our Ambassador to Rome: "My government, says the Ambassador, "believes therefore that upon further consideration, the Italian government will decide that American citizens lawfully residing in

Italy will not be discriminated against on account of race or creed."

In less careful and diplomatic language (We treat your people okey, and we believe that this reminder will persuade you to treat our people okay.)

That's the American answer to yesterday's decree by the Fascist Grand Council - imposing heavy discrimination against Jews in Italy.)

And there's still another answer to that same decree, a comment by the Vatican. This, printed in the official newspaper, is likewise couched in careful, diplomatic language.

"Some preoccupation ~~exists~~ on our part cannot be excluded," says the Vatican ^{paper,} ~~organ,~~ "especially regarding the principles and rules of the Church on matrimony." And that's aimed at the main point, as far as the Catholic Church is concerned - the section of (the Fascist Grand Council decree ~~which~~ forbids marriage between Italians and Jews, a Jew being defined as one whose parents or even one of whose parents, were Jewish. Vatican circles were saying today that this is against all

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Catholic ideas, the Church insisting on the right of marrying any two people of its communion, no matter what their nationality or race may be.) And people are saying in Rome tonight that the anti-Semitic decree is likely to cause another conflict between the Church and the Fascist government.

BRITISH PLANES

In England, air defense is much in the people's minds - especially today, with ~~the~~ news attention focused on one of the worst of days for the Royal Air Force. Until nightfall this evening, there was a widespread search of the waters off the southeast coast of England. Fifty airplanes and a dozen ships scouted over the sea- and found nothing. Found no trace of a giant bomber, which disappeared ~~the~~ without sign or clue. Lost, plunged into the sea - no doubt. Similarly, a second bomber crashed in the hills of Wales.

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A third went plunging to the earth when it was struck by lightning. And it is the same story with a fourth - two bombers hit by flashing bolts from the sky, in one electrical storm. The crews of both of these lightning blasted-warplanes escaped safely by ^{the} parachute ~~drop~~ route.

A bad day for the Royal Air Force, while Britain busily builds fighting planes for sky defense.

HUNGARY

On this coming Sunday, a new conference will begin.

Czechoslovakia has agreed to consider the demand that Hungarian sections be turned over to Hungary. Negotiations are scheduled to begin Sunday at the town of Komoron - more partitioning of ~~Czechoslovakia~~ *the small nation.*

A report from Paris says it was made official today -- that Czechoslovakia shall retain the giant Skoda munitions works. That's the third largest gun-making plant on earth, ^{and} it was widely rumoured that Germany wanted it. Prague has been negotiating with Berlin about it, and as a result of these negotiations, -Czechoslovakia keeps Skoda. But there's a catch -- the Germans demand that they shall exercise supervision over all exports of armament from Czechoslovakia. That would give them a control over business that Skoda does. The ~~report~~ report is from Paris, with French ~~financiers~~ financiers given as the authority. That's significant, because French finance controls the Skoda munitions works.

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CZECH

The Czechs and the Germans are going to release prisoners within twenty-four hours - at any rate that's the decision made by the International Commission today. There are a number of Czechs in Germany who are prisoners, and many Sudetens are under arrest in Czechoslovakia. So now the International Commission that's supervising the partitioning of Czechoslovakia, has said - release prisoners on both sides.

HITLER

To get hit by roses might seem to be a sweet and fragrant blow, but roses have thorns, and thorns can scratch. So, to be hit in the face by a big bouquet of roses plus thorns, can be a bit lacerating.

That's what Hitler found out today, when an over-enthusiastic Sudeten admirer socked him right in the vicinity of the Charlie Chaplin mustache with a big bouquet, most fragrant and thorny. The Fuehrer may have enjoyed the perfume of the roses momentarily, until he felt the scratches from the thorns. No damage beyond some minor scrāpy streaks left on that well known countenance.

The immediate result is an official decree - no more heaving flowers at the Fuehrer! Complimentary, but it might be dangerous. Yes, that's what the explanation says - dangerous.

And it is pointed out that Hitler, in his triumphant procession,^S looks straight at the crowd with wide open eyes. And if he got a bombardment of thorns in the eyes, it might blind him. Then

he might not know Goering from Goebbels, or Goebbels from Benes, and ~~he~~ ^{maybe} couldn't tell the difference between Mussolini and Stalin.

~~And that~~ ^{Which} would complicate world affairs considerably. So therefore all good Nazis will hereafter keep their bouquets in their hands, or maybe leave the roses on the rose bushes.

SPIES

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The melodramatic subject of spies is magnified in importance tonight by an announcement from the President. Spies are a national problem, says he. Our present system for running down foreign secret agents is not compact enough, not unified, not coordinated. Right now, the spy ~~case~~ detective work is done by the G-men, Army Intelligence, Naval Intelligence, Treasury Department, and State Department. All of these agencies have a hand in the sleuthing.

The President ~~Roosevelt~~ declares that a special government secret service should be created to direct all the spy hunting activities - a sort of national bureau for counter-espionage.

The moment this news was released, there was quick comment in our Army circles in Washington. And the words used were, "absolutely right." The President was completely correct, said high army officers, when he declared that foreign espionage had become a national problem. They said that this was because of war-scare conditions abroad, which boomed the ~~spies~~ trade everywhere. Also - because of the feverish world armament race, with nations eager to know what new weapons other nations have - eager for the military secrets.

Army men put their okay on -- G-two. That's the letter and number for the army intelligence section. G-two does the best it can but is handicapped by insufficient facilities -- especially that most important facility - money. In peace-time there is no special fund allotted to counter-espionage work.

Some opinions were expressed, however, that the President's idea of a centralized federal counter-espionage bureau would not be the best answer. The wisest course would be to strengthen the army and naval intelligence services, give them more facilities, especially the supreme facility - money.

FRANKFURTER

The press conference chat at Hyde Park turned to a theme of presidential weekend guests. Among those to be entertained at the Roosevelt home are Dr. and Mrs. Felix Frankfurter - and of course that provoked speculation. Professor Frankfurter of the Harvard Law School is close to the New Deal, and ~~he is being~~ mentioned as a likely possibility for the Supreme Court. It has been rumored that the President will appoint the renowned professor to the court-place left vacant by the death of Justice Cardozo. Today, the President had all this in mind, but turned away from the subject by telling the newspaper men not to indulge in any speculations concerning the Frankfurter weekend visit.

ROOSEVELT

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The President's press conference today got around to the subject of relief. ~~that~~ ^{his} favorite presidential topic, but in this case relief is combined with hurricane and football. Meaning - a big football game to be played for the relief of New England hurricane sufferers. Where? Why down south, away down south in Dixie. President Roosevelt said that he gave all the encouragement in the world to Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama, ^{in his} ~~with an~~ idea of staging a spectacular southern football game - the purpose being for the south to repay the help that New England gave it in times of past disaster.

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After that big news here's a smaller but similar item. High officials of the State of Conn. asked the 9 Old Men to play a final game for the New Eng. hurricane sufferers, ~~opponents~~ ^{opponents} swiftness, governors, senators and so on, at the ball park in Hartford on Sunday. ~~So~~ As a game, it won't be a hurricane of speed.

A.F. of L.

Just before the A.F. of L. convention called a recess today at Houston, Texas, a row was started by that supposedly harmonious word - peace. Until then, the convention was in serene harmony with the slogan - war. It is true, that the A.F. of L. proceedings began with a message from President Roosevelt, suggesting that peace be made between the labor factions - A.F. of L. and C.I.O. But the presidential admonition was quietly disregarded and with the utmost tranquility the A.F. of L. chieftains adopted measures for continued and relentless war with the C.I.O. For example, they appropriated a lot of money as a war chest for the factional battle. And so everything remained most peaceably warlike, until today.

Just before recess, Daniel J. Tobin, head of the powerful National Teamsters Union, took the floor and started a rumpus by saying in effect - peace be unto you. "I say to you," he thundered, "that if ~~the~~ you leave this convention adjourn without instructing your executive council that it must keep the door open for peace, the responsibility will be yours^Eself." And then his pacifism continued with this bit of belligerence: "Personal

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feelings," he shouted, "publicity and the love of continued publicity, individual hopes and ambition, all must be put aside and trampled on, if necessary."

He referred to the presidential call for labor harmony.

~~"The President of the United States," said he, "in the first message of its kind ever sent to our federation urged you to reach a peace. He warns you that the workers will be hurt if strife continues."~~ That gave added pertinence to a significant proposal he made - that the two labor factions should come to an agreement by the aid of ~~an~~ some sort of unprejudiced mediation outside ~~of the~~ labor ranks.

What sort of unprejudiced mediation? We find a bit of possible illumination in a revelation made today that last spring a high A.F. of L. official approached ^{the} President Roosevelt with the suggestion that he intervene in the struggle between the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O., and undertake to bring about mediation. At that time, the President refused the role of peace-maker. Since then his attitude seems to have changed somewhat, because he did send his peace message to the convention now on at Houston.

AUTO

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The Auto Union made a formal demand on the Chrysler Company today - a demand for a thirty-two hour week, at once. Union officials follow this up with the statement that the walkout in the company plants today was not a strike. The men are merely enforcing the thirty-two hour week by taking the day off. That's the union attitude.

GAS TAX

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The sovereign state of Georgia is shelling out one dollar and ninety-four cents - in an affair of international consequence. It is likewise a matter of keen American interest, since it concerns our old and unloved acquaintance - gasoline tax. Dr. Bilmanis, the Latvian Minister to Washington made an automobile tour through the eastern and southern states, and ~~he~~ was astonished when he had to pay all those multifarious taxes that are piled up on gasoline. When that happens to us, all we can do is growl. But ~~next~~ we're not ~~f~~ diplomats, and Minister Bilmanis of Latvia is. It so happens that there's a treaty between the United States and Latvia which provides that neither republic shall tax the diplomatic representatives of the other. So Minister Bilmanis kept an account of all the gas taxes he had to pay, and said to the United States government - treaty violation.

The State Department swallowed hard, but what could the State Department do? Secretary Hull informed eight separate states that they'd have to kick back the gas tax to Minister Balmanis of Latvia.

So it began with Georgia today. The State Revenue
Commissioner ^{there} ~~is~~ going through the technicalities of refunding
a dollar and ninety four cents. ~~M~~ In Mississippi the amount
is fifty cents. There seems to be some complications about ^{that}
^{because} ~~and~~ legal proceedings are on.

BUS

8/12
Today's bus crash in Montana brings us the statement -
that the passengers were badly shaken up. That familiar
descriptive phrase must be a hundred per cent correct this time -
passengers ~~were~~ shaken up, bounced head over heels, churned
around in a veritable swirl of passengers.

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A big crowded bus on the Intermountain Line, ran off the
road near Helena, Montana, and plunged down a seventy foot
embankment, rolling over and over. The passengers, a bit dazed
after being so thoroughly shaken up, say the bus turned over at
least three times - bounding and somersaulting down the seventy
foot slope. Only one was found to be seriously injured, when
the mixed-up mass of passengers untangled ^{themselves} and took a look around
to see where they were. And s-l-u - Monday.

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