

CHURCHILL

L. J. - Sunoco - Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1942

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In London today Prime Minister Churchill certainly did try to put his foot down on the Second Front controversy. In his most measured tones he urged people to stop demanding an immediate invasion of Nazi-controlled Europe.

The Churchill statement was made in the midst of a lively Parliamentary debate. He was asked the question about Second Front possibilities. To this he replied with that familiar Churchill sententiousness, "I welcome this opportunity" ^{said he} "of again emphasizing the inadvisability of public statement or speculation as to the time or place." ^{TP} And this brought a swift retort:- "Will that be conveyed to Mr. Willkie?" shouted an M.P. ^{TP} And that ^{put} ~~was~~ the dramatic focus on the ^{British} ~~English~~ reaction to the statement made by our Republican candidate for Nineteen Forty, who is now President Roosevelt's envoy abroad. Willkie, after talking with Stalin in

Moscow, echoed Soviet sentiments about a Second Front. And he intimated that the military leaders might need what he called -- "prodding."

In London today Second Front comment concentrated on the Willkie remark. The stately and conservative London Times came out today with a demand for an invasion blow against the Nazis, and made the following declaration: "Willkie has given the general argument for a Second Front the weight and point of disinterested testimony at first hand." After which the London Times qualified a bit with this caution: "Yet the passionate desire to help," it argued, "must be guided by the soundest military plan."

The Communist London paper, the Daily Worker, displays no caution ~~ix~~ at all -- of course not. Its issue today takes an ~~ax~~ angry fling at British Deputy Prime Minister Attlee, who made a statement throwing a

bit of cold water on the Willkie declaration.

Attlee mentioned -- irresponsible people. ~~But~~ To which
the London Daily Worker today demanded^S -- "Who are the
irresponsibles -- those who call urgently for a Second
Front like Willkie, Stalin?" And it mentions some
others. Then the Communist newspaper throws scorn on
those who are content to delay.

The London Daily Express today stated that in
New York the betting odds were two to one against an
immediate second front, an 'invasion of Nazi Europe this
Fall. I, myself, hadn't heard about these betting
odds in New York, but apparently the British have.

RUSSIA

The battle for Stalingrad was in two phases today -- the Nazis driving deeper into the ruined city and the Red Army smashing forward in a flanking counter attack. In Stalingrad itself fresh German ~~xxx~~ forces plowed ahead and penetrated into an area of streets and buildings -- a section of workers' homes. They used a hundred and fifty tanks to make a relatively small amount of progress.

And here's the latest. Moscow flashes that this

is advance has been stopped.

The Soviet counter attack is to the north of Stalingrad, where the Red Army drive is grinding away -- with the intention of cutting ~~xxx~~ in behind the Nazis in the city. If the counter offensive should achieve any large success, it will leave the Stalingrad Nazis in a disastrous position. *But it's* ~~it is~~ too early to tell whether Marshal Timoshenko has the striking force for an effective flanking operation.

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INTERNEED AMERICANS

Secretary of State Cordell Hull today denounced the seizure of Americans by the Nazis in Occupied France. The Secretary stated that the internment of these citizens of our country was not justified. He used the words -- "absolutely no justifiable ground."

This follows word ^{that fourteen} ~~thirteen~~ hundred additional Americans have been taken into custody. Three hundred and eighty were previously arrested, bringing the total up to Seventeen Hundred and Eighty.

The newest Fourteen Hundred consist of One Thousand men and Four Hundred women. It is understood that the men are to be interned at the town of Compaigne, while the women will be sent to a resort town where British women have been kept in a hotel for almost two years.

CARRIERS

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Today in Washington a strenuous defense ~~of~~ was made of aircraft carriers. There has been a good deal of agitation to the effect that land-based bombers are the thing; ~~for~~ huge long distance airforces based on flying fields -- and that the aircraft carrier had proved to be a weak ^{sister,} ~~system,~~ too vulnerable, too easy to sink. This opinion was blasted today by Lieutenant Commander John Smith Thach, who led a squadron of fighters based on a carrier and saw action in every ^{big} ~~major~~ sea and air battle against Japan.

"Every major victory in the Pacific, either by the Japanese or by us," said he, "has been won by the use of carriers." He contended that carrier based planes have out-performed land based planes. To prove this he sighted a Jap raid on February Twentieth, when the enemy ^{sent} ~~sent~~ ^{had} ~~had~~ twenty land-based bombers against the carrier on which Lieutenant Commander Thach was serving. Eighteen of the Jap planes

were shot down -- and the carrier was unscathed. X

He insisted that in the Battle of Midway the knockout blow to the Japs was administered by carrier based aircraft -- dive bombers and torpedo planes. ~~And he told of~~ ^{TP} Three Jap carriers, ^{he said,} ~~that~~ were bombed by land based Flying Fortresses. The next day his own squadron flew against the Jap carriers. "They were undamaged when we came in," ~~he~~ ^{he, TP} said. He was asked: "You mean the part played by the Flying Fortresses was insignificant?" ^{TP} "You heard my story," he retorted.

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~~Then~~ ^{Then} X He propounded the theory that the most effective air weapon in sea battle are dive bombers and torpedo planes -- both types based on carriers -- and not ~~by~~ land based war planes that bomb horizontally from high altitude. "Not one ^{major} ship in this war," he asserted categorically, "has been sunk by horizontal bombing;" ^{from high in the air.}

He was asked: "What about the Haruna?"

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~~And that~~ applied to the Jap battleship bombed ~~by~~
from a Flying Fortress flown by Captain Colin Kelly --
the first American hero to be acclaimed in this war.

Lieutenant Commander Thach repeated: "Not
one major ship in this war has been sunk by horizontal
bombing."

The Lieutenant Commander summarized his whole
argument with the following possible picture of the
course of the war. "Give'us," said he, "a couple
of dozen aircraft carriers, a properly balanced task
force, sufficient marines to make landings and we
can cut a path across the Pacific to Japan itself."

INFLATION

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Congress is going to pass an anti-inflation bill tonight. -- ~~That~~ ^{is} ~~has been~~ the determination of Senator Barkley from Kentucky, leader of the Administration forces. He stated there would be no adjournment of the Senate until definite action had been taken ~~on~~ ^{on} the President's demand for authority to restrict farm prices. So the lawmakers will stay there all night if necessary. ~~Senator~~

Barkley said the country was, in his words, "impatient for action." The people want the farm price ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ controversy to be decided.)

The Farm Bloc, though opposing the Administra^{tion.} seems to agree with the necessity for speed. We hear that word was passed among the Farm Senators ~~XXXXX~~ either to limit their speeches or not to speak at all -- so that there ~~will~~ ^{can} be a vote tonight.

The schedule ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{of action} seems to be this:

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Here's the latest: the Farm

bloc has won a preliminary victory.

First, the Thomas amendment will be adopted. It

considered -- the measure that provides for a recomputation of Farm price parity -- Farm labor cost to be included in the ~~xxxxxx~~ calculation.

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This the Administration opposes. After the Senators vote on the Thomas amendment, ^{Next} up will come the

~~xxxxxx~~ compromise amendment, which is sponsored by the Presidential forces. The compromise would give the farmer assurance that his labor/costs will be considered in restricting the prices of his product.

The President, in putting a ceiling on farm prices, will take farm labor into account. The Senators will next vote on that.

At the present moment the debate is going on hot and heavy. (For example, Senator Capper of Kansas arguing that to adopt the Administration Amendment would be, in his words, "Passing the buck to the farmer." And Senator Maybank of South

SMALL BUSINESS

Today there was a call for the Government to establish a Federal agency to help small business during the war. Wayne C. Taylor, Under-Secretary of Commerce, testified before the ~~xxxx~~ Small Business Committee of the Senate, and estimated that three hundred thousand retail stores are facing failure. He said that many small concerns will go to the wall by the end of Nineteen Forty-three because of ~~Yx~~ Government restrictions, shortage of materials, and the draft -- the draft producing a manpower shortage.

"The figures are startling," said he, and added that small business will lose one million ~~and~~ four hundred thousand of its employees between July Nineteen Forty-two and December Nineteen Forty-three.

To this was added a statement that the American Retail Trade is sinking back to depression levels. ~~And~~

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pk → ~~the~~ ~~xxxx~~ ^{The} amount of business they ^{are} ~~re-~~ able to do is

declining to the low figures of the deepest part of the depression. Hence the proposal made by the Senate Committee -> that a Government agency be established to keep small business from being wiped out by war conditions.

FUEL OIL

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We hear today about the plans for the rationing of fuel oil in thirty states. The Office of Price Administration has devised what it calls -- a budget system. That is -- the rationed fuel oil will be ~~xxxxxxx~~ budgeted in such fashion as to allow oil-heated homes to maintain a temperature of sixty-five degrees in the daytime. No matter how cold the weather may be. ^{TR} They have divided the winter into five periods -- five heating periods. The length of these is not based on any mere number of days, but on the degree of cold, the amount of fuel needed. ~~For example, one~~ of these heating periods will be as long as it will take a certain amount of oil to keep ^a ~~the~~ room heated to the daytime temperature of sixty-five. But the colder the weather the shorter the period would be in point of time and days.

But how can they anticipate the probable amount

of frosty cold that we will have in any one of these ~~xx~~ periods? The figuring is based on weather observations in the past. When these don't work out, allowances will be made. For example, if any period this winter turns out to be unusually cold -- you will be allowed to use more oil in your home.

For each of the five periods of winter, a ration book will be issued to each person using fuel oil.

And the rationing system will begin on October First --

(although all the books of coupons will not be ready until October Fifteenth. For oil purchase^s during the intervening two weeks, dealers will later deduct coupons^{oo} from ration books.)

SCRAP

In New York the city authorities are making a large donation in the scrap metal campaign -- and it is also a donation with a grim and somber history behind it. They are turning in for junk the steel bars of the Tombs -- that forbidding old prison, with its legends of crime and punishment.

The Tombs is being abandoned -- a new prison ^{to} ~~is~~ ^{is} serving in its place. And in ^{el} ~~that~~ ^{el} formidable old bastille, ^{there's} an endless lot of steel-barred windows and doors. The steel is of unusually high quality -- ~~the~~ jail bars made ~~that way~~, to keep the prisoners from sawing their way out. So the metal from the Tombs is better than average for the scrap campaign.

And what about prison keys? There is a drive called "Keys for Victory," -- with people asked to hand over their needless door openers as metal for the Navy. You know how easy it is to have old keys laying around.

And prison keys are the biggest of all -- the ponderous
clanking kind traditional ^{to}~~in~~ jails.

All of which is highly appropriate -- old prison
junk made into armament with which to defeat the
enemy and imprison the evil forces of aggression.

SHOES

In this greatest of all wars the news brings many an account of the ordeals that men endure for their country -- heroism and hardship. And today we have the story of Tex Harlan of Houston. Tex was in a bomber crash up in the Aleutians. One arm was broken but the tough thing was -- he lost his shoes.

Tex Harlan is six feet six and he wears a size Thirteen-D. As dogs his feet are Great Danes. An aviation machinist, he was on a bomber fight against the Japs in those northern waters, and just at the wrong moment he took off his shoes. Even size 13-D can pinch Tex a bit. So for comfort, he had his shoes off -- and just then the bomber crashed into the sea. Tex had one arm broken, but he grabbed his shoes and hung onto them. He had to swim, and the northern sea was cold and rough. Finally, he was too exhausted. He had to let go of the shoes, and down ^{those gunboats} they went to the bottom of ^{Bering Sea.} ~~the Arctic Ocean~~

Tex was rescued presently, though he rather wished he hadn't been when he tried to get another pair of shoes. There were not any 13-D's in all the Alaskan area. So Tex was left shoeless -- had to go on soldiering in his socks.

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Finally his commander summoned him: "The chief called me to his office," Tex related today, "and told me 'Look here, Harlan you are due for a leave, so go back to Texas where I know you can get some shoes to fit ^{those} ~~your~~ feet.'"

So still ~~travelling~~ in his socks Tex started out from the Aleutian Islands bound for Texas -- five thousand miles. He was without shoes for two months -- until today, when he arrived in Houston. His father, having been informed by telegram, met him at the station with a pair of size 13-D's.

WAR SONGS

The Government, which has a lot of coordinators is now trying to coordinate two things that just simply can't get together. These two things are -- the Army and Tin Pan Alley. The military authorities want a war song for the soldiers to sing -- something like a second World War "OVER THERE". But there isn't any such thing -- thus far.

The soldiers are singing all right, but the ballads they prefer have nothing to do with this mightiest of all conflicts. Their present favorite is "Jingle Jangle Jingle." Which has to do with that other kind of warfare -- marriage. The singer, in fact, congratulates^{ing} himself on keeping out of the battle of wedlock.

Tin Pan Alley has turned out war songs by the hundred. But the troops won't sing them. So the news today tells us that the Army authorities have ordered ^{the} Tin Pan ^{of the} Alley to get busy and do better.

The latest response is a lyric called "Praise

The Lord -- and Pass the Ammunition." The song already has run into some obstacles -- though not of a soldierly kind. Some radio stations have put a ban on "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition." They say it is sacr^ereligious.

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That is all the more peculiar because the ^{original} remark emanated from a clergyman, Father William MacGuire, Navy Chaplain of Pearl Harbor. When the Japanese planes roared over, delivering the sneak punch, Father MacGuire grabbed a machine gun and shot one down. While doing so he was heard to roar: "Praise God -- and pass the ammunition." The song has been based on that.

~~And now, Hugh, what are your remarks based on?~~

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And now, Praise Hugh,
and pass the Blue Sunoco.