

L.T. SUNOCO - July 17, 1945

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

The headline of the day -- the Big Three Conference -- gets underway. The Stalin-Churchill-Truman Conference formally opened. President Truman presiding -- by invitation of his colleagues. That's the headline. There isn't much else -- except some festive details.

Before the Big Three went into session, President Truman had a personal session with Stalin; and then he entertained the Soviet Generalissimo for lunch. The news dispatches tell how President Truman as host sat at the head of the table, with Stalin at his right.

We are given the menu in long detail, all except the drinks. The list of beverages was suppressed. The <sup>news dispatch</sup> ~~news dispatch~~ says: "Presumably on the ground of security."

## CENSORSHIP

The meeting of the Big Three brings about the usual row and uproar because of those old familiar sources of disturbance - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ censorship, ~~secrecy~~, the cutting off of news. In Berlin the American newsmen are ~~raising a raucous holler~~, protesting to the skies, beating their typewriter<sup>s</sup> angrily, and sending home wrathful dispatches. Those foreign correspondents have a traditional nose for news, but if they stick that nose into the Potsdam conference area, they are likely to get the end of it snipped off.

The outcry is all the more agonizing because of the fair prospect that had been held out to the newsmen, a bright and glowing promise made by President Truman himself. On the voyage over, aboard the cruiser AUGUSTA, the President told the White House correspondents that everything possible would be done to bring the news of the meeting of the Big Three to the waiting world.

That sounded very different from the way things <sup>had been at</sup> ~~were in~~  
~~the~~ previous meetings of the Big Three, those in which  
President Roosevelt participated. <sup>Then the</sup> ~~The~~ newsmen were not  
allowed to go along at all - to Teheran and Yalta. But  
now it <sup>was to</sup> ~~would~~ be different, and the Washington  
correspondents saw visions of hot conference headlines  
popping all the time, big-time interviews with the  
statesmen, bulletins crackling on the wire - the reporters  
scurrying about in mad haste trying to beat each other  
with cables of stories their editors were panting for.  
Such was the journalistic picture evoked by President  
Truman's promise.

But what has happened? The newsmen groan to  
tell of it. They are not allowed even to approach the  
conference area at Potsdam, <sup>which</sup> ~~the~~ is guarded as closely  
as the harem of an oriental sultan. Cordons of military  
guards and lines of bristling bayonets <sup>protect</sup> ~~guard~~ the secrecy

and security - ~~as protection~~ against possible Nazi terrorists, assassins, werewolves, and newspaper reporters.

Not only are the boys not allowed in, but one regulation provides that if any newsman attempts ~~to even to~~ approach the conference area, he'll have his privileges suspended for seventy-two hours - privileges meaning facilities for sending out stories, if any.

One plan had been for President Truman's press secretary to meet the newsmen at intervals and give them summaries of how things were going. Secretary Charlie Ross himself a newspaperman, was to have given the reporters what the Army and Navy call - briefings about how Messrs. Stalin, Churchill and Truman were getting on. But that was cancelled - nothing doing. And today's dispatch from Berlin states: "Conference authorities decided that Ross could not leave the compound, and that the correspondents <sup>All of which</sup> could not enter it." <sup>It</sup> evokes a picture of Charlie inside,

and the reporters outside, yearning to meet - something like the beauty who ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> locked up in <sup>the</sup> house by her parents, while her sighing swain hangs around mournfully, ~~down there on~~ <sup>at</sup> the corner.

In addition to newsmen who have gone over from the United States, the journalistic contingent includes hard bitten correspondents who have covered the war. They're used to censorship of military secrecy, ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> today they were roaring that the censorship and secrecy surrounding the meeting of the Big Three is much worse than anything they had to contend with when the battles were raging. Peace is worse than war, from their journalistic point of view.

~~For example,~~ <sup>News</sup>men were permitted yesterday to <sup>go along with</sup> ~~attend~~ Prime Minister Churchill on a trip through ruined Berlin. Churchill, at the Berlin Chancellery, made some remarks. He is always quotable, and the newsmen thought they had something - a few dramatic Churchillian lines

declaimed at the Chancellery where Hitler used to hold forth in all his villainy and power. They filed their stories, and <sup>then howled</sup> ~~screamed~~ with anguish when they discovered that the censor had deleted all the Churchill quotations. ~~The word was that~~ The ruling was ~~passed out~~ that the Prime Minister could not be quoted directly.

The abysmal depth was reached today, with an official declaration that there will be no change; <sup>a</sup> ~~The~~ formal announcement ~~was passed out~~ that the newsmen will not be allowed to cover the conference.

## FOLLOW CENSORSHIP

In London, ~~British~~ newspapers today opened a ferocious attack on the news blackout, with British newspapers giving some scathing comment. ~~The news given out is,~~ <sup>calls it all,</sup> in the words of ~~The~~ LONDON STAR, "a blaze of trivialities." And <sup>then</sup> ~~the London daily~~ goes on to add that practically the only news from Potsdam ~~that has been handed out~~ is about lawn mowers, alarm clocks, and refrigerators that were flown to the conference of the Big Three. "Who cares, in the face of hunger in Europe?" demands the newspaper, "about the appearance of French perfume and Belgian jewelry in Berlin for delegates to buy?"

The LONDON NEWS CHRONICLE puts it this way:

"Long lists of wines and luxuries of all kinds, prepared for the delegates, are no substitute for that message of hope for which a distraught and hungry world is waiting."

To these British objurgations we can add a passage from a United Press dispatch, filed at Potsdam today:

"Luxury is the keynote," says the story. "Ten ton mobile refrigerators are packed with choice cuts of meat. Tables are covered with rich linens, Old World silver, and fine glassware. Meals are eaten from special China brought from Bavaria. An ice plant in Berlin," the dispatch continues, "is operating for the sole purpose of icing drinks at the conference."

And here's the final touch: "Special dieticians supervise the calories and starches fed to the conferees."

No wonder the newsmen are squawking, when they have to cable history-making bulletins like that.



## PEACE TALK

In the absence of any real information about what ~~the~~ Generalissimo, <sup>Joe, Winnie from London and</sup> ~~the Prime Minister and the~~ <sup>Harry from Missouri</sup> ~~President~~ are doing, London gives us an outbreak of rumors. These were circulated on the London Stock Exchange today, and tell us that the Japs have made a peace offer to Stalin, a peace offer for the Generalissimo to submit to the Big Three at Potsdam.

Simultaneously, from Washington we have a story that American peace terms to Japan have already been worked out. That is, the conditions of unconditional surrender. These are said to be pretty much the same as the conditions imposed on defeated Germany - including an Allied occupation of Japan in force for an indefinite period.

In the London talk about peace, British opinion is debating the question of whether the Japanese leaders, if they should decide to give up, will be able to bring about a general surrender of the Japanese armed forces.

This applies, of course, to the huge Japanese army in Manchuria- and also to the many pockets of enemy forces scattered throughout the Asiatic-Pacific area. Will these isolated Japs agree to a mass surrender? They have, it is pointed out, repeatedly displayed their determination to fight on, and their ability to put up some kind of battle under incredibly difficult conditions.

This London line of reasoning, by the way, is borne out by news from Burma - which tells of British setbacks. The Japs have lost northern Burma completely and are isolated in parts of southern Burma. Yet today's bulletin from Admiral Lord <sup>Louie</sup> Mountbatten indicates that the Japs are firmly holding ground which they recently captured. They seized one place after a furious attack that routed British-Indian troops, the Gurkhas. And they have established new strong points. - ~~fighting under the almost~~  
~~incredible conditions of the drenching Monsoon rains,~~

## JAPAN

The tremendous airplane and warship assault against Japan continued today - with new <sup>waves</sup> ~~waves~~ of American and British aircraft smashing at Tokyo. Fifteen hundred planes ~~were~~ in the attack - the fourth great strike by carrier <sup>s</sup> ~~planes~~ against Japan in seven days. And, together with the planes <sup>from</sup> ~~and~~ the ships, five hundred B-29s blasted four Japanese war centers today.

<sup>Also</sup> ~~And~~ the naval gun bombardment of the Japanese coast continues, a dispatch from Admiral Nimitz telling how once again American warships have lined up along the shore of Japan and cut loose with a deluge of shellfire. This latest <sup>naval</sup> ~~bombardment~~, the third against the Japanese homeland in four days, hit the industrial sector of Hitachi - on the east coast of Honshu, the main island of Japan. ~~The~~ Battleships hurled their salvos, and Admiral Nimitz identifies the giant ~~IX~~ IOWA as one of them.

One wonders - when the fleet, in addition to

massed air power, steams up and starts blasting away on

an enemy coast, <sup>well that</sup> ~~it~~ begins to sound like ~~possible~~ invasion, <sup>doesn't it?</sup>

Naval bombardments have a way of being a prelude to

landings.

HITLER

~~We have~~ Some London comment on the story that Hitler

and his sweetheart Eva Braun may be in Argentina. There

have been rumors that the former Nazi Fuehrer was taken

to the South American Republic by ~~the~~ U-boat <sup>No. 530</sup> ~~Five Hundred and Thirty~~

~~Five Hundred and Thirty~~, which recently surrendered to the

Argentina<sup>e</sup> authorities. ~~The Argentine government has stated~~

~~that there were no political passengers aboard the~~

~~U-Five Hundred and Thirty, and months ago Argentina~~

~~promised not to give shelter to war criminals. Today's~~

~~London reports indicate that the British Foreign Office~~

~~expects the Argentine pledge to be honored, and that~~

~~Britain is unlikely to do anything about the Hitler~~

~~rumors unless they get some kind of confirmation.~~

The reports reaching London tell ~~stories that might~~

~~harmonize in an official way with the statements of the~~

~~Argentina government. One rumor tells~~ about a thing that

is said to have been observed before the ~~U-XXXXXX~~

U-Five Hundred and Thirty surrendered. At a point several hundred miles down the coast <sup>from</sup> ~~at~~ the place of surrender, a rubber boat is said to have been seen leaving the submarine and proceeding to shore. In it were several persons, including Hitler and Eva Braun. So states the rumor, which adds that Hitler has taken refuge ~~at~~ an immense German-owned estate in Patagonia, ~~that~~ <sup>est, most</sup> wild ~~and~~ remote section of southern Argentina. ~~There, the story goes on, he might be concealed by Nazi Germans, without anybody knowing about it for a long time.~~

## IRELAND

Here's a formal <sup>declaration</sup> ~~statement~~ from Prime Minister deValera about the status of Ireland. Some days ago, deValera, in a passing phrase, called his country a "republic." The question was instantly asked - was Ireland out of the British Empire entirely? What did deValera mean by republic?

Today he answered. He stated that Ireland is an independent republic, and has had that status since Nineteen Thirty-Seven, when the new constitution went into operation. But, added deValera, Ireland is associated with the British Commonwealth in what he called "matters of external policy." This association exists through the medium of the British King, deValera explaining that the Irish recognize the King as acting for them in certain aspects of international relations.

YINSON

The Senate has just confirmed the nomination of Fred ~~N~~ Vinson as Secretary of the Treasury, succeeding Henry Morgenthau. The Senate action was unanimous, not a dissenting vote - thereby continuing strong Senate support of the Truman cabinet appointments.



STRIKE

The New York newspaper strike ended today, after tying up fourteen dailies for seventeen days. This morning the striking delivery men voted to call off their walkout, and immediately afterward they were in their trucks delivering normal newspaper supplies to New York. —  
*to the vast relief of millions,*

## STEAMER

A terrifying drama of a flaming passenger ship was enacted today in the St. Clair River, a section of the waterway that leads from Lake Huron to Lake Erie.

Thousands of people lining the Canadian and American sides of the river gazed with breathless intensity as a steamer, crowded with three hundred and fifty passengers, was devoured by fire, and burned to the waterline.

All the elements of a ghastly tragedy were there. The lake steamer, a boat thirty years old, had left Detroit jammed with people, and tied up to a pier at Port Edward, Ontario. Fire broke out in nearby freight yards, and swept along the dock - flames racing with such speed they couldn't get the ship away in time. The blaze swept upon the vessel, and the old boat burned like a mass of kindling wood, as it drifted out into the stream - its crowded passengers in a wild panic.

People on shore saw the flames leap high above the pilot house. The whistle of the steamer shrieked

with a call for help - a continuing blast. Above the shrilling of the whistle, people on shore could hear the cries and screams of the passengers; ~~They were~~ milling around on the deck in a frenzy; ~~and~~ many were leaping into the water. It looked like a frightful holocaust, with a ghastly loss of life, people burned<sup>ing</sup>, people drowning.

But here's what happened:- From the Ontario and the Michigan sides of the St. Clair River, boats of every sort put out, motor boats, rowboats, canoes. Everything that would float went ~~out~~ to the blazing passenger vessel.

(The rescuers, ~~were~~ people of every sort, many of them old-time rivermen, full of skill and knowledge. There were coast guard boats, the disciplined officers and crews of which took charge of the rescue of the flotilla, and did a skillful job.)

A fleet of boats swarmed around the blazing ship. Some, in spite of the shooting flames, came alongside and

took off boatloads of passengers, many of whom were women with babies. Others pulled people out of the water - some two hundred rescued from the river.

One veteran riverman, Harry Simpson, carried four boatloads ashore. "That old river," he says, "was alive ~~with~~ with swarming people and we just kept hauling them out and making for shore. Then I'd turn around, go back, and haul some more. I just can't understand," he adds, "how so many people could get into such a jam - without somebody getting burned to death or drowned." <sup>H</sup> That was the miracle of the ship on fire today - not a life lost. Of the three hundred and fifty persons aboard, all were saved.

~~Many were injured, but none seriously.~~

And now, here's Hugh.