

## Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

LONDON (By Wireless)—I always thought that a member of the peerage gave off a constant white light, like an incendiary bomb, and that if you got caught in this light you became weak all over, your tongue froze and you were sort of hypnotized.

Honestly, it had never occurred to me that an English lord, when you actually met one, would be a human being. But now I've met one, and I'm still shocked to realize that he spoke real words to me and that I spoke words back to him.

The great man in question is Lord Beaverbrook, the big newspaper owner. But right now he is much more than a newspaper owner—he's the man who is rolling out the planes with which Britain intends eventually to win this war.

Lord Beaverbrook is Minister of Aircraft Production. There wasn't any such ministry until last May. Airplanes weren't coming off the line fast enough to catch up with Germany. Everybody was trying, but everybody apparently was trying in all directions at once. So Mr. Churchill put his finger on Lord Beaverbrook and said "You're it."

## Contempt for Tradition

I doubt if Lord Beaverbrook knew any more about aircraft production at that moment than I did, but he did know how to get things done. He has the American sense for ignoring tradition, and an almost inspired zeal for accomplishment. He stepped into his new job with a bang and said, "No, we won't cut red tape, we'll just ignore it."

What he did, and how he did it, must still remain in the secret files, but you can draw your own conclusions—Britain has been getting very bold in the air of late. Daylight raids across the Channel have become a steady occurrence, and British planes control the skies of Africa and Greece.

People close to Lord Beaverbrook have a tenacious affection and respect for him, but as a public figure he has collected his share of dead cats. The English public considers him a robber baron. The aristocracy regards him as a man in the trade. Plenty of bricks are hurled at his present success.

People say, "Yes, he succeeded, but he did it by ruthlessly robbing other ministries."

I don't know that Lord Beaverbrook ever answers these jibes, but if he wanted to he could say, "Well,

I damned well resented that, being an old Montana cowboy myself. But then I remembered I was in Whitehall and not on Powder River. So like the British I pulled myself together and carried on."

More about Lord Beaverbrook tomorrow.

## Inside Indianapolis (And "Our Town")

**THE STORY OF A GERMAN invasion of Great Britain in which 10,000 troops were killed was told privately here recently to national executives of the American Legion by Louis Johnson, former Assistant Secretary of War. According to Mr. Johnson, the Nazis made their attempt on Dec. 15.**

**Thousands of specially trained invasion troops put from the French coast, headed for two British ports.**

**The British, however, were ready, said Mr. Johnson. Four of the largest oil tankers available had been requisitioned by the Admiralty and loaded with oil and in each was placed a huge charge of T. N. T. Manned by suicide crews, the tankers were swung out into the neck of each harbor, blocking the entrance. Mr. Johnson went on to say that when the invaders pulled up within sight of the tankers, they began preparations to clear them from the harbor. The suicide crews set off the T. N. T. and flaming oil shot hundreds of feet into the air. The casualties were given by Mr. Johnson at 10,000 Nazi troops killed, 50,000 wounded.**

**The British, he said censored the story for two reasons:**

**1. To prevent overconfidence by the defenders.**

**2. To keep the Nazi high command from learning**

**it was done.**

## Around the Town

**THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE sent invitations to all the 150 members of the Legislature for the**

## Washington

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The Council for Democracy in New York is undertaking a novel stunt which in itself looks all to the good, but which apparently is preparatory to a move that isn't so democratic. Many Americans are sending propaganda by mail from Germany. I get it sometimes addressed to my office, sometimes to my house. This mail is to escape British censorship and comes into this country as second-class mail—delivered incidentally at a loss to the Government, as all second-class mail is. The propaganda is mainly devoted to items about how wonderful life is at the democracies. Sometimes I take a look at it, sometimes it goes into the wastebasket unopened. The Council for Democracy is trying out the same method on residents of Germany, Italy and Russia. It is addressing direct to residents of these countries a letter telling about life under our democracy. It's a good letter, and might well be sent to our own people.**

## One-Way Agreement

**The letter describes our recent free election and how after Mr. Willkie was defeated he remained free to say what he thought about the policies of our Government. Our defense program is described. Our living standards are described. Churches of every faith are open, the letter says, and several millions of Jewish faith worship in their synagogues without fear of hindrance. The free press, free radio, forums of debate are mentioned, and the letter concludes: "If there is any additional information you would like to have about how democracy works in the United States, please write to us."**

**The committee doesn't expect to receive any replies. It doesn't expect that the letters will even be delivered. The Governments of Germany, Italy and Russia are not in the habit of allowing such propaganda to reach their citizens. The theory of those governments is that the people should know only what the government is willing they should know. It will hold information and all outside propaganda from**

## My Day

**NEW YORK CITY, Monday.—It was sad indeed to see my daughter and her husband leave yesterday afternoon, but we had had a delightful time together. I can look forward to a real visit with them again in the spring in Seattle, when I shall see the children as well. Perhaps the nicest things come to us only occasionally to keep us from becoming spoiled!**

**I returned to a very pleasant few minutes at tea with Mrs. Leigh-White. She is on her way to South America to further the work of the Girl Scouts. I think this is a very important tour and Mrs. Leigh-White, who is an Englishwoman and has been interested for many years in the international aspects of the Girl Scout movement, is doing the whole organization a great service by undertaking it. Mrs. William Brown Meloney also arrived at tea time to stay a few days and it is wonderful to have her well enough for a visit. In the evening, the President and I, with quite a large party, attended the benefit performance for the infantile paralysis fund given by Miss Jane Cowl and her company in their play: "Old Acquaintance."**

**We all enjoyed the play. It was well cast, both Miss Cowl and Miss Wood play their parts so that you almost forget you are not actually living through the scenes. The lines are delightful and it is gay in spite**

**of the acceptance of the fact that one can't get away from suffering. I have never been much of a believer in dramatic self-sacrifice, so I could not help enjoying Kit's remark to Deidre: "And what good will it do?" They all came back to supper and we had a very pleasant time together.**

**Because the weather looked threatening and I had to start for New Haven, Conn., at 2 o'clock, I decided to take the train up to New York City last night.**

**Here I spent a quiet morning and am now off on a busy afternoon and evening and another night train back to Washington.**

**I wonder if any of my readers are familiar with the research program which has been carried on during the last six years by Clinton F. Reid of the College of the City of New York. He has been publishing a bibliography of the territories and colonies possessed of the United States of America. This project has a bearing on national defense for it secures information which is of strategic and military value to the national program.**

**These bibliographies should really be in every public library, school and college in the country. A greater knowledge of the Panama Canal and our outlying possessions will enable our citizens to understand better the problems of national defense. The editor has done this monumental work as a labor of love, and I hope that librarians and teachers are going to be interested in the project because of its educational value.**

**By Ernie Pyle**

**Defense Heads Have One Goal, Production**

**(This is the last in a series of articles on William S. Knudsen and Sidney Hillman, co-directors of the nation's defense program.)**

## 'Bill' and 'Sidney' Pull Together as a Team

## Defense Heads Have One Goal, Production

**(This is the last in a series of articles on William S. Knudsen and Sidney Hillman, co-directors of the nation's defense program.)**

**By Tom Wolf**

**Times Special Writer**

**ONE** of the unexpected things about defense director William S. Knudsen is that since arriving in Washington he has conceived a warm liking and a good deal of admiration for Franklin Roosevelt.

**He is as far away from F. D. R.'s political philosophy as ever, but he has become fond of the man personally. Also, he likes the way Roosevelt operates—says that he is forthright and "doesn't put on any audacity of the R. A. F."**

**Lord Beaverbrook was born in Canada, the son of a Presbyterian clergyman. Before he was 30 he had made a million dollars. Then he came to England to make his mark.**

**He was elected to Parliament long ago, in 1910. During the World War he was Minister of Information. He is the best-known newspaper figure in Britain. He has taken a big hand in politics, and now again he is doing a vital war job for England. And yet he still sort of considers himself a foreigner.**

**When he sat down, across the desk from him, was the R. A. F.**

**"I'm a foreigner here, you know," he said, "so I can see them as they can't see themselves."**

**"They're the greatest race on earth. Nobody else could have done it in Canada."**

**"Could we Americans have done it?" I asked.**

**"Well, yes," he said. "At least in the East they could have."**

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**More about Lord Beaverbrook tomorrow.**



Mr. Knudsen . . . Hillman calls him Bill.



Mr. Hillman . . . Knudsen calls him Sidney.

**T**HIS illustrates the difference in philosophy between the Director General of the Office of Production Management and his Associate Director General, Sidney Hillman. For Hillman has spent a great part of his life as a champion of the 33.

**Knudsen is, in general philosophy, a laissez faire man. He believes centralization, through government regulation of business, hurts production.**

**Hillman once remarked of laissez faire: "Laissez faire is the policy of every man for himself and the devil takes the hindmost. But I have noticed that the devil not only takes the hindmost, but everything else as well."**

**Cursing the "plague of planlessness," Hillman plowed hard in the early 1930s for a National Economic Council. It would have consisted of men from each major industry who would determine what per cent of capital reserves should go into expansion and what per cent should go into increased buying power through higher wages. Although this plan was**

**never adopted, parts of it greatly influenced the establishment of the NRA, of which Hillman was labor's administrator.**

**What Knudsen thought of the NRA is a matter of record. He called it "a crazy voluntary legislation movement," and said that "of course the whole thing blew up."**

**HILLMAN has been behind many other New Deal labor laws, including the Wagner Act and the Wage-Hour Bill. His testimony before a Congressional committee investigating wages and hours played a large role in the bill's final passage and President Roosevelt sent him the pen with which the bill was signed into law.**

**Both these acts are foreign to Knudsen's philosophy. He sees in both a decrease in production.**

**"There are two schools of thought in dealing with the unemployment problem," he once said. "The first is advanced by our labor leaders, who advocate splitting the work up so that more men share the same job. This is**

**not exactly making two blades of grass grow where one grew before because we end up with one blade of grass not any bigger or better but costing somewhat more."**

**The whole philosophy which the New Deal stands for is dear to Sidney Hillman, who broke with John L. Lewis to re-invoke President Roosevelt for a third term. The New Deal philosophy is an idea of having everybody get poor nobody can get rich is not going to work," he once said. "Any way it never has except in ancient Sparta, and Sparta isn't with us any more."**

**Surprisingly enough, the basic aim of both Hillman and Knudsen is much the same. Both want increased production, no matter how they may differ on the way to attain and distribute it properly. Hillman would be the first to admit that only through increased production can labor have a decent standard of living.**

**In their present, monumental task, there is little conflict in aim. Both want production. Hillman wants to attain it through the production of wholesome and sane people, quite unaffected by the crazy ideas that seem to sweep the rest of the world."**

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