

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(Tonight's flood news is almost one unbroken story of tragedy and terror, disaster and danger to come. So far as the human eye can see, there's no end to the flood menace. The waters of the Ohio and its tributaries are still rising, growling, tearing at their banks. And we have the amazing and appalling spectacle of the entire populations of rich, prosperous, modern American cities being driven from their homes by the swelling waters.

For instance, special trains are now leaving Evansville, Indiana, every hour. Already they have removed fifty-five thousand more who will be evacuated tonight.

The plight of Louisville, Kentucky, is even more ominous. The Governor has just declared martial law and calls for U. S. troops to take charge. Two hundred and thirty thousand people are homeless in Louisville.) Mayor Miller has urged them to leave but there's no way for them to do it. The city tonight is

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practically isolated. Its people are without water, without power, without railroads. Nearly all communication is now by radio.

They have martial law in several towns of Indiana. The people of Jerrersonville, Lawrenceville and Aurora have been ordered out of their homes. Back in Kentucky, Paducah, is in danger. The entire population of Eddyville, sixteen hundred souls, have left the town and are now fleeing from the raging Cumberland River.

Cairo, Illinois, has been saved only because Army engineers dynamited the levee on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River. This in spite of desperate efforts of farmers armed with shotguns and pistols who were trying to save their lands. The Army engineers may be forced to take similar measures to help Memphis, Tennessee.

The usual ironic situation attends this flood. With all that excess water, Cincinnati and its three-quarter of a million people are threatened with a water famine. While the city's firemen have been having the job of fighting the flames almost

up to their necks in water. Thirty-two buildings went up in flames almost in one crack.

What is more terrifying still, the worst may still be to come. Engineers estimate that the crest of the flood on the Ohio will not reach the Mississippi for ten days or two weeks. And that may precipitate still more disasters. The government experts tell us that these floods may last for a month, and liable to bring a train of famine and disease.

President Roosevelt has announced that every department of the United States government will stand by on an emergency war time basis for the next twenty-four hours. Army, Navy,

Coast Guard, W.P.A., C.C.C., Resettlement Administration, Inland Waterways Corporation, every agency of Uncle Sam's that is in any position to render assistance is being mobilized. And Congress got ready to pass a Deficiency Relief Bill in a hurry. This will appropriate seven hundred and ninety million dollars. ~~The bill will provide that if necessary~~ though the money is ostensibly for general relief, the bill will provide that if necessary the entire seven hundred and ninety millions may be used for the flood. Already sixty thousand W.P.A. workers are on the job. Coast Guard vessels from New York and Detroit are being shipped over land to do their bit.

From the devastated areas, particularly isolated Louisville, ^{over the air} come the most pathetic appeals for help, ~~by radio~~ Food is needed and clothing, to say nothing of shelter. The Red Cross is on the job with all its available man-power and resources. Early this morning Admiral Carey Grayson, Chairman of the Red Cross, was understood to say that two million dollars would be instantly necessary for immediate ~~urgency relief~~ emergency relief. Many important people pointed out that this sum seemed quite inadequate

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in view of the ~~pre~~^{magnitude}~~mendousness~~ of the disaster. Tonight Admiral

Grayson indicated that five millions would be necessary, and that

immediately, ~~and in addition to the~~
~~appropriation to be made by Congress.~~

The Surplus Commodities Corporation is shipping

seventy-two thousand eggs and sixty thousand pounds of canned beef

to the middlewest for ~~the~~^{flood} relief, ~~of sufferers.~~ Whenever these

disasters recur, everybody asks: "Why doesn't the government do

something to prevent this happening again?" As a matter of fact,

only the other day ~~the~~^{the} President ~~Roosevelt~~ asked Congress for

fifty-two and a half million dollars to be added to the sum

appropriated last year. And, actually the engineers of the

United States Army have spent nearly three hundred and twenty-five

million dollars since Nineteen Twenty-Seven for flood control on

the Mississippi River alone. Colonel Graves, ~~is the chief~~^{chief} of the ~~office~~^{office}

Engineers Office of the Army estimates that it will cost eight

billion dollars, eight cold billions, to make America safe from

floods. To ~~prevent this~~ bring this about will take ten years.

It will mean constructing no fewer than two hundred and seventy

flood control units in thirty-one different states.

In such a tale of disaster, it would be improper, ~~perhaps even gruesome,~~ to look for a lighter note. But of the thousands of contributions received at Red Cross headquarters, one was particularly touching. It came from a Mr. Kenjiro Sugimoto, who wrote: "I am a Japanese of the domestic labor working at the home of Orange, New Jersey. As I read about the victims floods, on newspapers, ^{continue Kenjiro Sugimoto} how surprise of it and imagine how much I would be, and deeply I am very sympathy for those who have suffered in this calamity and lost house their wives, children fathers, and most of things in the cold weather. I decided to help those sufferers as much as I can and now I send ten dollars a part of the rescue fund. ^{concludes Kenjiro} This sum," ~~and~~ Sugimoto, "is not big but this is the money a poor worker has spared for."

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STRIKE

Here's something new in the automobile strike. Both sides are invited to another conference, and the Union leaders have accepted. Just what there is new about that has to be explained. When ^{President} ~~Alfred P.~~ Sloan, ~~head~~ of General Motors, withdrew from the last meeting, he announced that he was through talking and would not return to Washington except at a personal invitation from the President. Madam Perkins, Secretary of Labor, then dug up an ancient statute which empowered her to call a meeting. It was an Act of Congress passed in Nineteen Thirteen. So she sent a letter to both sides, saying: "Acting under the power conferred upon me by Congress in that Act, I am requesting you to attend without condition or prejudice a conference at my office at eleven A.M., January Twenty-Seventh."

Her letter said further: "This conference is for the purpose of finding plans and methods of resuming the negotiations which have been agreed upon at Lansing. I am requesting officers of the General Motors Corporation and of the United Automobile Workers of America to attend this conference and have invited ~~Mr.~~ John ~~W.~~ Lewis, who is the principal advisor

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There's something a trifle puzzling about Madam Perkins' communication. She says she is acting under power given her by Congress in Nineteen Thirteen. It was on March Fourth, Nineteen Thirteen, that Congress passed the Newlands Act, which established the Department of Labor, allotting to it the job of conciliation in labor disputes. Somebody tells me that the Railway Labor Act, passed in Nineteen Twenty-Six, repealed the mediation and arbitration provisions of the Newlands Act of Nineteen Thirteen. Evidently, the interpretation of the Department of Labor is that the repeal applied only to railway labor disputes.

Up to late this afternoon, no reply to Miss Perkins' invitation had been received from the General Motors chiefs. On the contrary, it was announced that they are planning to reopen several of their plants that have been closed down and put back to work those of their employees who do not want to strike. The reply to that from John L. Lewis was an order to picket all such plants.

RUSSIA

A strange note of Americanism is injected into the latest of those bewildering Russian trials -- a reminiscence of the Woolworth 5 & 10. The OGPU, the dreaded secret police of the Soviets, have arrested one of the Mdivani brothers. His first name is Budu. The Russian dispatch claims that he is one of the family of Georgian princes so well known to us through their marriages with rich American ladies -- like the heiress of the Five and Ten. He is accused of complicity with Karl Radek, formerly the editor of the Soviet daily, IZVESTIA. In fact the Soviet authorities say it was upon Radek's testimony that Mdivani was arrested.

This Mdivani, according to a supposed statement by Radek and one of the other alleged conspirators, was heart and soul in the Trotzkyite plot to overthrow the Stalin government with the help of Germany and Japan. Mdivani's own particular part in the conspiracy was to upset the Soviet government in Georgia, was the birthplace of Stalin, and set up a separatist and independent government.

It will be somewhat of a surprise to many newspaper readers to learn that the famous Mdivanis have a brother who was a Bolshevik leader. As a matter of fact, the only surviving Prince Mdivani in

America denies that he has a brother named Budu. It now turns out that this Red Mdivani, was a Bolshevik from way back, even before the World War. He was one of the gang who first organized the Soviet government in Georgia in Nineteen Twenty-One. In Nineteen Twenty-Eight, however, he lost favor with the ruling powers in Moscow by becoming a follower of Trotz ky. Now he is under arrest in Tifilis.

To foreign eyes, especially to ours, this latest performance in that strange series of Russian trial melodramas is bewildering.

(Radek, the foremost of the sixteen so-called conspirators now facing death, is described by American correspondents as the most brilliant newspaper man in all Europe.) Many of them, from time to time, have written saying not only how unusually well informed he was, but also how helpful. And his fellow defendant Vladimir Romm, gained the admiration and friendship of everybody when he was the

Washington correspondent of IZVESTIA. Newspaper men ~~in the~~ ^{over here} ~~capital~~ who knew Romm well, are completely flappergasted about the news of his arrest and ~~supposed~~ confession. Though he admitted ~~to~~ ^S all the charges ~~against him,~~ ^{and} ~~vowed that he had been~~ ^{S he was} acting secretly for Trotzky ~~while,~~ ^{Washington} ~~he was~~ correspondent of IZVESTIA, those who knew him ~~in Washington~~ ^{over here} find it difficult to believe.

They cannot see how a man who seemed to be so obviously heart and soul for Stalin, who worked so hard and so effectively for the Stalinist regime, could have been ~~all the time~~ ^{plotting with} Trotzky ~~etc.~~

But that to our mind is not the least bewildering part of this whole spectacle. It's not entirely unusual to see a man confessing ~~to~~ a crime. But ⁽ we don't expect, to see him get on the witness stand in a court room and admit with bravado and enthusiasm, not only what was charged against him but a great deal more. Take for instance the question put by the prosecutor to Karl Radel: "Did you do all this conspiring deliberately?" To which the answer came: "Never in my life did I do anything undeliberately. I always think things out." ⁾ To which the prosecutor commented: "But sometimes you think them out wrong?"

In Radek's voice there was actually a triumphant note as he admitted: "Sometimes, like this ^{time}~~time~~ I think them out wrong."

At any rate, the thing so difficult for us to imagine is a man so eagerly putting his head on the executioner's block.

Not only his own, but those of all his friends. For this we have two explanations. Walter Duranty of the NEW YORK TIMES says:

It puzzles us because we don't know Russians and that in order to understand this weird melodrama we ought to read Dostoevsky. ^{of}

Eugene Lyons, formerly Moscow correspondent of the United Press, ^sgave a different explanation in an article in ~~last~~ ^{the} ~~months~~ AMERICAN MERCURY. All these treason trials, says Gene Lyons, are framed, the most gigantically framed trials ever perpetrated in courts of law. The confessions, he says, are extracted by the Ogpu, not so much by torture as by fear. And that doesn't mean the fear of the victims on their own behalf, but on behalf of their families. Gene Lyons says furthermore, that in all probability the defendants in these trials, though sentenced to death, are never executed. Nobody, he points out, has ever seen the bodies of the men ^{condemned} ~~sentenced~~ in that other trial three months ago. ~~You can~~ take which explanation you prefer.

RADIO

Whenever travelers get together, you may expect to hear ironic stories about armchair explorers, people like the famous Sir John Mandeville who wrote descriptions of far away places without ever leaving his study. But today it is actually possible to conduct exploration sitting in your arm chair. by the mere throwing of a switch. Exploration by radio is now an accomplished fact. What's more, it is possible to explore a field at present inaccessible in any other way. An apparatus has been devised which enables scientists to investigate the highest reaches of the atmosphere that surround the earth.

I saw a model of that apparatus, which was built by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. It's the center of attraction these days for a lot of curious visitors to the Museum of Science and Industry in the R.C.A. Building, Rockefeller Center. In effect, it's a radio broadcasting apparatus, a receiving apparatus and a device to measure the lapse of time between the sending of the wave and the receiving. By this means the scientists are able to learn things about the outer atmosphere of the earth previously unknown:- problems concerning the magnetism of the earth, if you're interested in the magnetism of the earth; also problems concerning radio transmission. And my problem of radio transmission for this evening seems to be ended, and in a moment more word direct from the flood area will be on. And SO LONG UTIL TOMORROW.