

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The war might have been stopped in Nineteen Thirty-Six. There's one of those "might-have-been" phrases which clutter the pages of history. Yes, might have been headed off in Nineteen Thirty-Six if, in that year, if both Italy and Germany had been headed off by the League of Nations. A good many people have ventured that bit of armchair hindsight; The thought was exhoed again today by Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer of the League. The League's first important muff of an easy drop fly, said Jacklin, happened when Mussolini invaded Ethiopia. Strict enforcement of sanctions against the Fascists would have meant the shutting off of Italy's oil supply, as everybody said at the time, and that would have ended the Ethiopian campaign.

And a few months ~~a~~ater the Parliament of Geneva booted the ball again when Hitler marched into the Rhine-Land and nothing was done about it.

However, ~~h~~ere's apparently no end to the devotion of the belivers in that Lewis Carrollesque assembly. Treasurer Seymour Jacklin ~~s~~ays it isn't dead, and will be revived when the war is over. In fact, he's in America to urge measures to that end, here consulting with officials of the League in the United States and Canada.

For the framework of the League remains, but all the trained officials have been sent home.

His confidence in the future of the League, Jacklin bases on a sure British victory. But even if Hitler should be the conqueror, some sort of International organization would be necessary. So he says; at the same time, he declares, the triumph of the Nazi idea would mean that every nation, great or small, would become a vassal of Germany.

In France the British Royal Air Force went on a *today against* rampage ~~over~~ the Channel ports. Bombers, protected by strong escorts of fighter planes, blasted away at the harbors where Hitler has been amassing transports and supplies for the

invasion of Britain. This was a new departure for the R.A.F.,

a bold daylight attack, *taking* ~~grabbing~~ the initiative in the air from ~~Marshal~~ Goering's aerial fleets. ~~The R.A.F. made direct hits on Nazi bases in France.~~

During the night
~~The night before, the~~ British pilots executed, what are described as devastating raids all the way from Dusseldorf in Germany to Bordeaux in France. Berlin claims that seventeen British planes were shot down. And the Germans retaliated by hit and run raids over England, particularly *over* ~~the London area.~~

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Mussolin's armies in retreat on every front. So we gather from communiques just in from Cairo, from the Red Sea, from the colony of Kenya, and from Albania. And there's no denial from Rome.

From Cairo the official utterance is that the tempo of the Italian withdrawal is increasing, particularly in Libya. There, the army of the Nile is pushing ahead at the rate of twenty to thirty miles a day, and that's fast in any clime or on any soil. The Fascist legions, so the British believe, will make a stand somewhere east of Benghazi, the capital of Libya.

A hundred and fifty miles to the south of Bardia, there's an Italian post called Jarabub. For quite a while a Fascist column has been surrounded there, beleaguered in the ~~mix~~ midst of the desert. The Italian newspapers are playing up the siege of Jarabub as another heroic epic in Italian history.

Over near the Red Sea, the Italians in Eritrea are falling back ~~even faster~~ ^{and faster} ~~than before~~. The last we heard of them, they had abandoned a place called Barentu, ~~in good order~~. But the later report is that ~~they~~ ^{and} are now showing signs of complete disorganization.

And from ^{NAIROBI} ~~Nairobi~~ comes the word that the British South African army, operating out of Kenya, has captured an Italian post forty-five miles inside the frontiers of Italian Somaliland.

Somewhat ^{are in tonight from} similar reports ~~if come from the campaign in~~ Albania. Budapest overheard a broadcast from the radio station at Athens, claiming that the Greek forces have taken still more important enemy positions ~~from the Fascists~~. And rumors from Yugoslavia have it that the Hellene army has marched into Gorzia, ^{a strongly} ~~that's a~~ fortified place eighteen miles to the south of Valona on the main road from Valona to Tepelini.

FRANCE

the duel seems to be on between
In France ~~it's a duel between the chief of state,~~ old
Hitler's friend.
Marshal Petain, and Pierre Laval, ~~the Nazi's pet.~~ Laval, backed
up by German influence, wants a place in the government which
would give him virtually complete power, leaving Petain more or
less ~~as~~ *as well,* a figurehead. Petain today sent Admiral Darlan back
to Paris with an offer of a compromise. By that compromise, Petain
would keep his office as chief of state; Admiral Darlan would be
Premier, with Laval Vice-Premier once more and Minister of the
Interior. As Minister of the Interior, the swarthy little
banker-politician would have direct control over the police and
the prefects of all the departments.

Laval also demanded control of propaganda, but that
question is left in abeyance.

This political crisis has caused great anxiety to the
Roman-Catholic prelates in France. With Pierre Laval imitating
in power and
high pressure-men
the Nazi ~~gauleiters~~ *they* fear getting the same treatment *would be*
meted out to Catholics in France as ~~they've had~~ in Nazi Germany. At Lyons
today, there was a meeting of French Roman Catholic prelates, with

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the Archbishop of Lyons in the chair, just back from the Vatican.

The Nazi attack on Marshal Petain was taken up today by a Fascist newspaper. A newspaper at Cremona, owned by Farinacci former Secretary of the Fascist Party. It calls Marshal Petain conceited and imprudent, and warns the French that if they don't give in to Laval, the armistice can be annulled within an hour and France once again subject to devastation by Nazi and Fascist troops.

FOOD

to the U.S.A.
A dispatch from London reads [^] somewhat as the cables from the United States to England used to read ten or fifteen years ago. ^{It's} ~~For it talks~~ about hijackers and bootleggers, about "hot" shipments. However, these terms in Britain do not ^{today} ~~refer~~ refer to liquor. The bootleggers are dealing in illegal food, and the gangs of hijackers are stealing trucks of eatables, not ^{are looted,} drinkables. Lorries full of eggs, [^] beans, biscuits, bacon, butter, meat -- all the provisions that are being rationed. But, though solid foods instead of liquids are concerned, Scotland Yard is up against the same problems as ^{were} our own ^{Federal} ~~city~~ police and ~~Department of Justice~~ agents in the days of Al Capone.

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At Liverpool, for instance, in one police district ^{have just been} alone, no fewer than six hundred ~~men were~~ [^] arrested. Some of this hijacking is done by organized gangs, some of it by lone ^{who have been} individuals [^] ~~looting~~ ^{that have been} premises, damaged by Hitler's bombs.

WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie, ~~is~~ on his way home, ~~He~~ arrived at Lisbon ^{by plane.}
~~by airplane~~ from England today. And just as that plane came to
rest on the waters of Lisbon harbor, a German plane landed
beside it.

^{England,}
Before he left, Willkie issued a message to the German
people. It was included in tonight's German language broadcast
by the British Broadcasting Corporation. In it Willkie said
that he was proud of his German blood but hates aggression
and tyranny. Then he added the words:- "We German-Americans
reject the hate, aggression and lust for power of the present
German government."

SIAM

The Japanese again on the move, pushing further South. Warships from Nippon anchored today off the mouth of the Menam, the principal river of Siam. Bangkok, the capital, is on an estuary of the Menam.

54 { The interpretation of the appearance of those Japanese men-o-war is obvious. The Mikado wants something -- for helping Siam in the just-ended war with crippled French Indo-China. What Japan demands is a naval base in the Gulf of Siam, a naval base right next door to British Singapore, the Gibraltar of the Far East.

CONGRESS

Here at home - in Washington

^ The debate in the House today was made lively by a masked woman. She was not only masked but dressed in black.

But she doesn't appear to be any ^{KIN} ~~kind~~ to the woman in black who ^{is always a mysterious} ~~has been such a big~~ figure at practically every front page criminal trial.

Congressman Young of Ohio was arguing in favor of the bill to aid Britain, when he was interrupted. In one of the spectators' galleries, this woman, shrouded in black and wearing a mask, with a skull painted on it, jumped to her feet and screamed. The words that she yelled were, "My Novena, my Novena!" That was as far as she got when a couple of capitol policemen had her by the shoulders and were giving her ^{the frog} ~~a frog~~ march to the exit.

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When they took ^(off) her mask ~~off~~ they found she was quite a good-looking young person, said her name was "Andra", nothing else, and added that she was not a Communist. Later on, she described herself as a pamphleteer and said ~~that~~ she wanted to tell the House in ~~that~~ dramatic fashion that the only victor in the war would not be Germany, not England, but Death. ~~That~~,

~~"That," she declared, "is what I wanted to impress on the House."~~

The doorkeepers declared that she must have slipped on her shroud and her mask after she was seated, otherwise she never would have got ^{ten in.} ~~in.~~ She turned out to be a young lady from Vassar, which sounds like ^{the} ~~a~~ first line of a limerick -- which

anybody is at liberty to finish ^{who can think of three easy rhymes for Vassar.} ~~While this was going on,~~ ^{melodramatic bit was being enacted} in the House, the Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations was hearing a serious protest against the bill from the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, ^{who} ~~he~~ declared that the directors of the Chamber were unanimously against the bill, because they believed it would not contribute to the defense of the United States. ^{That}

54 ~~And~~ they objected particularly to the provision which would enable the President, regardless of other laws, to seize the private property of any individual, ~~firm or corporation, regardless of the wishes and welfare of the owner,~~ regardless of the knowledge of Congress.

U.S. of Commerce
He made it clear that the Chamber is definitely

not opposed to giving aid to the British. It would favor a law

empowering the President to lease or give military material,
credit or cash to the British Empire and other democracies,
^{all} but ^{even a} subject to the approval of Congress or ~~any~~ bi-partisan
[^] committee of Congress. Provided also that in so doing no
recognized act of war be committed, and that the flag of the
United States should not be sent into the war zone except with
the prior express approval of Congress.

In answer to the President of the Chamber of Commerce,
the cudgels ~~in favor of the bill~~ were taken up by Senator
Tom Connally of Texas, ^{who} ~~He~~ advised the Chamber to get some new
lawyers if it thought the administration bill would empower the
government to seize private property without compensation.

DEBT LIMIT

57 ✓

Sixty billion dollars is plenty for the new debt limit of the United States. That's the attitude of the Republican Congressmen in the House. The Administration, as ^{we}~~you~~ know, wants the ~~debt~~ limit raised to sixty-five billions. But the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee have put in a minority report, urging that any ^{ceiling}~~limit~~ beyond sixty billions is unnecessary and dangerous. — a difference of a mere 5 billions. Five, even in billions, sounds small in these days of figures astronomical!

CADETS

One of the problems of our Navy is to get more flyers. The Department right now is in the throes of a methodical and concerted campaign to procure naval aviation cadets. And one consequence is that it's much easier to join than it was. Formerly, you had to be well up in math before you could be accepted even as a candidate for instruction in navy flying. You had to have taken college algebra, plain geometry, solid geometry, plain trigonometry and physics. But now, the U.S. Naval Reserve announces, those requirements have been discarded. Consequently, a great many young men who used to be ineligible are now not only eligible but wanted.

CUBA

In Cuba, all is serene, the trouble apparently over. President Batista, the ex-sergeant, announced today that Constitutional guarantees have been restored. They were suspended for a short period indeed when we consider the previous history of such upheavals.

Today soldiers were removing sandbags from the presidential ~~xx~~ palace at Havana. And the military sentries protecting the President were being replaced by the usual guard of policemen. Only one of the rebellious chiefs remained in Cuba; Colonel Gonzalez, former head of the Navy; and he's under arrest. His colleagues, the now-ex-head of the army and the ex-Chief of Police, with their families, are in exile -- in Florida.

WAITER

In the federal building at Philadelphia today, a prisoner was about to be arraigned before the United States Commissioner when the prisoner landed a haymaker to the chin of the deputy marshal who had him in tow. Then he made a break for the door. Just as he got there, another deputy grabbed him, and there was a tussle until they finally made him cry "uncle".

The prisoner is a singing waiter. That isn't what he's under arrest for, though that is an idea. He's accused of having sent a blackmailing letter to Betty Grable, ex-wife of Jackie Coogan. The letter he addressed to Miss Grable called her "Dear Girlie", and asked for eighty-five hundred dollars. He warned her not to go to the cops and added, that Betty is too beautiful to mess up.

The United States Commissioner set his bail at eighty-five hundred dollars, what he had demanded from Betty.

And from Betty Grable let's switch to Hugh James.