

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Perhaps the least enviable man in the world tonight is Manuel Tsourderos. Formerly governor of the Bank of Greece and Minister of Finance, today he took the oath as Prime Minister of Greece, took that oath while already more than a third of the soil of his country was in the hands of the enemy. Nevertheless, he delivered a speech over the radio, a speech sandwiched in between air raids, in which he called upon his countrymen to fight on and on and on. Greeks, he said, do not want to become slaves and intend to fight to a victorious end. He made no reference to the fact that the enemy were approaching closer and closer to the Gulf of Cornith. He spoke of the gratitude of the Greeks for the help given by the British, and added that they know that Behind Britain is the United States. Then he used these words:- "We are passing through a black midnight but dawn is not far away, and you may be sure that our struggle for great Greece will end with glory."

Hitler's troops are paying a staggering toll for their onrush toward the Gulf of Corinth. The Nazi casualties are reported as tremendous. New Zealanders returning to Athens, wounded, say the absolute disregard of the Germans for their own losses, is astounding. No matter how they were mowed down by machine guns and hand grenade fire, they kept on coming. One stream for which the Nazis were fighting was teeming with half-sunken boats and splashing, drowning men. The slaughter became so appalling the British actually got sick of killing Germans.

That's just one point in today's report from the British. The Greeks have a similar story to tell. But the Nazis are hurling more and more divisions into the fray. With Jugoslavia conquered, they have another army to throw at the Allies.

Hitler's generals are using their entire resources in men, tanks, guns and aircraft to force a quick decision. The Nazis announce that in their swift advance across the Plains of Thessaly, they have captured British, Australian and New Zealand troops.

But the British and Greeks report that they are established in their third line of defense. In the Othrys Mountains, south of Larissa, about a hundred and ten miles north of Athens, not far

from the historic pass of Thermopylae, where Leonidas and his three hundred Spartans gave up their lives holding up the advance of the Persians, twenty-four centuries ago. The Allies high command say it's a shorter line than their others, consequently easier to defend; still there's no denying the fact that the Nazi machine pounds ever further and further south.

In London it is virtually acknowledged that the evacuation of Sir Archibald Wavell's army will be only a matter of time -- that in short, the game is up in Greece. And what the English, Australians and New Zealanders have been fighting was just a delaying action.

The report of the Nazis is more sensational. They claim to have the British and Greeks on the run, and say the Greek troops in Albania are apt to be cut off at any moment. They say that dive bombers and fighter planes are making a terrific slaughter of the crowded British and Greek columns moving south along the narrow highways. However, even the Nazis admit that Britons and Greeks are fighting a stiff delaying action and that the main forces of the Allies are not being engaged. The Nazis come out once more with their charge that the British are already quitting Greece.

German bombers, q they report, have destroyed part of the transports on which British troops were being carried to Crete.

The most interesting news from Africa is that the Nazis and Italians are getting along none too well. These tales were discounted at first when they came as reports from the British, stories told by captured Italian officers. But all these tales were corroborated today when it became known that German tanks had fired on a detachment of a thousand Italian soldiers who were retreating before a withering blast of British artillery fire. Of course this may have been a mistake; the Italians in the confusion of their retreat may have got into the line of fire of the German tanks. However, both German and Italian prisoners tell their captors that the liason work between the men of the two races is poor and misunderstandings frequent.

The Nazis and Fascists are still besieging Tobruk for the eighth day, and the Axis columns have failed to get beyond Sollum where the British are holding them up.

In East Africa, evidently the report that the Duke of Aosta had surrendered was premature. The Italians are still holding out in Ethiopia, but they've been driven back to their last line of defense.

Tonight the wonder is, where will Hitler strike next? One guess is that he'll make for the Suez Canal, another that he'll bring off the long threatened attack on Gibraltar. Still a third conjecture, which is quite plausible, is that he will now try to realize the abortive dream of Ex-Kaiser Wilhelm -- Berlin to Baghdad. Meaning an attack on Turkey.

Iraq, one time kingdom of King Feisal, a kingdom rich in oil, is most necessary to the Nazis. And of course once planted in Iraq, they would have their clutches on the lifeline of the British Empire. One report from Istanbul, capital of Turkey in Europe, may be significant. Thousands of the residents of Istanbul have applied to be evacuated to Anatolia, and the Turkish authorities today were distributing tickets among them. The first parties will leave by boat and train Thursday and Friday. Many people and firms are selling out, getting ready to leave the city built by the Emperor Constantine.

SPAIN

Ominous rumors about Spain are cropping up in the news again.

Although they ^{are all} ~~are~~ unfavorable to the British cause, they emanate
from London. ^{That} ~~It's the~~ same old rumor; ~~really~~ Hitler ~~is~~ bringing
pressure upon ~~Francesco~~ Franco to throw in with the Axis. And it's
rumored that the Franco Cabinet has been holding several ~~grave~~
~~secret~~ conferences to consider the Nazi offers.

It's no secret that Franco's Foreign Minister, Ramon
Serrano Suner, wants to ^{hand} ~~throw~~ his country ^{over to the Axis,} ~~into Hitler's arms.~~
~~And~~ One thing British diplomats fear is that the Spaniards may make
a serious attempt to bring Portugal, ⁱⁿ ~~in also,~~ in spite of the long
historic alliance between the Portuguese and the British. The
Portuguese government has been sending strong reenforcements to its
garrison in the Azores.

ADD SPAIN

52
A still stronger rumor came across the seas a few minutes ago. It's reported in Vichy that Hitler has sent a messenger on the way to Spain demanding that Franco join the Axis and allow from ~~xxx~~ six to ten divisions to move across the peninsula for an attack on Gibraltar. In fact, Hitler is reported to have sent ~~none other than~~ Rudolph Hess, one of his right hand men, Deputy Leader of the Nazi Party.

The report is so circumstantial that it even quotes the details of Hitler's offer. One is that he promised to protect Spain against any British attack, promised to guarantee the security of Tangiers on the African side of the Straits and to provide the Spaniards with enough food so that they wouldn't suffer from the British blockade.

So tonight the belief in Europe is that Hitler is about to spring a double attack, one at each end of the Mediterranean.

FRANCE

Over in France an unpleasant topic is once more thrust
^{on} at the much harrassed Vichy Government. That topic is

Ex-Premier Pierre Laval. Hitler seems to want Laval in the
Petain Government at any cost. Ever since Laval was kicked out

of the Cabinet, the relations between France and Germany have
not so good, from the Nazi viewpoint.
been reported as ~~practically at a standstill~~. Hitler offers to
end that condition if Petain will take Laval back into the fold.

And the Nazis will make other concessions.

Otto A. Abetz returned to Paris from Berlin today
with new conditions in his pocket.

Nazi Ambassador

PRISONERS

Six German prisoners are still roaming the countryside, somewhere in Canada, just six out of some five times that number; war captives who escaped from an internment camp in northern Ontario last Saturday. Two of them, air pilots, were killed when they were surrounded in the wild country around Heron Bay. They tried to dodge through the line of soldiers, police and volunteers who were out to retake them. That country still is blocked by deep snow. Twenty of the twenty-eight are now back in the internment camp, recaptured, alive.

LABOR

54
Sidney Hillman, Associate Director of the Office of Production Management, spoke up for labor before a Committee of Senators today. The labor unions, he says, realize that they have so much at stake in the defense program that if anything goes wrong they will suffer more than anybody else in the country. What they are suffering from in the labor movement as well as throughout the country, he continues, is that most people ^{do not} ~~don't~~ appreciate the urgency of the situation, ^{do not} ~~They don't~~ appreciate the need for speedy action.

Then he complained that the public gets an exaggerated picture of labor troubles. Actually, he claims, they involve less than one per cent of all defense production.

Hillman said that eventually labor and management will be able to work out a stabilization agreement such as has already been accomplished in the shipbuilding industry on the Pacific coast.

There the workers and the employers have agreed ^{on} ~~about~~ basic hours and wages, and ^{have} provided for adjusting all disputes without any stoppage of work. Before long, Hillman went on, that agreement

will cover the whole country. After it has been worked out in shipbuilding, there'll be time to talk about it in other industries. Hillman added that the government should step in to operate factories shut down by strikes only as a last resort.

While Hillman was testifying before the Senators, the dispute between the coal miners and operators was in the same condition - deadlocked. Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia sent a telegram to Secretary of Labor Miss Perkins, the gist of which was that she should pass that coal dispute over to the National Defense Mediation Board at once, or tell the reason why.

HOSPITAL

Four hundred and thirty patients in a hospital at Pittsburgh are terrified because of a strike. The C.I.O. Union of County and Municipal Workers called a strike at the West Penn Hospital. The nurses are not involved, but the workers in the kitchens, janitors, charwomen, orderlies, and so forth.

Wives of doctors in Pittsburgh and also ~~the women~~ organizations of women took over their ~~jobs~~ hospital jobs of scrubbing ~~fix~~ the floors, getting the meals, and other such tasks. The hospital is asking the courts for an injunction. The Superintendent of the hospital testified that that C.I.O. strike was having a most demoralizing effect on the patients.

American editors and publishers received a few suggestions today from Secretary of Commerce Jesse H. Jones. He spoke at the Associated Press Waldorf luncheon not only as a Cabinet Minister and a Texas banker, but as one who himself is publisher of the HOUSTON TEXAS CHRONICLE. Secretary of Commerce Jones was humorously introduced by Publisher McLean of Philadelphia., as a man among billions!

He reassured his fellow publishers about censorship. As a government official, he declared, he had never seen any indication that anyone in the government wanted to do any censoring unless it was information which might aid those who are not America's friends.

One of the suggestions that Jesse Jones offered was that editors should check and double-check the most sensational angles of stories which involve relations between this nation and other countries. In case of doubt, choose the cool and unsensational approach. That, he said, may help government officers who are wrestling with our foreign relations.

Jesse Jones also threw out the same warning President Roosevelt and other members of his government have been uttering lately, that if we want to make a good job of defending ourselves,

we must give up some of the things that we have been used to .

He also said we must build ship for ship, plane for plane, and
gun for gun.

FIRES

Six eastern states are worried about this dry spell.

B Officials of the Forest Service tell us that so long as it continues, danger from forest and brush fires will grow. New York, Massachusetts, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey are all having fires -- especially New Jersey.

Fresh fires broke out there today, and, as yesterday, they were fanned by a wind blowing at the rate of twenty-some miles an hour. No sooner did the fire fighters get the flames controlled in one spot ~~ix~~ than a hurry call came by telephone from somewhere else in the state. This meant trucks rushing from one county to another carrying fire companies.

58 So far fifty-thousand acres of prime woodland have been destroyed in New Jersey. 'The worst disaster of this kind in the history of the state.

According to the last reports that came in from New Jersey, six communities in that state were threatened by the flames this afternoon. Large bodies of men are fighting the flames, including regular firemen, civilian volunteers and soldiers. They've tried every device known to fire fighters, including

back-firing and dynamiting. But the flames have jumped highways, backfires and even dynamited stretches.

58 1/2
Officials in West Virginia counted no fewer than a hundred-and-fifty separate fires.

I should have said seven states. Acting-Governor Sheppard of Connecticut today ordered that all forests in the Nutmeg State should be closed at midnight tonight because of fires. There will be no hunting and no fishing until there has been rainfall. Three hundred fires have broken out in Connecticut in the last twenty days -- with hardly a drop of rain since March Fifteenth.

ADD FIRES

Here's a late report from New Jersey, ^{which we} ~~and let's~~ hope ^{it} ~~isn't~~ ^{not} true. A message was received at Fort Dix that a hundred men of the Hundred and Fifty-Sixth Field Artillery Regiment had been trapped by the flames while fighting those forest fires. This report is not confirmed, and a spokesman at the Fort declared that the officers of the Hundred and Fifty-Sixth Field Artillery are investigating, checking up.

And now Hugh.

1/4