

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(There was a conspicuous difference between President Roosevelt's message today and those that went before. Hitherto, his emphasis were always on the American scene. So it struck sharply upon the ears of listeners that his opening sentence today read: "As this Seventy-Sixth Congress opens, there is need for further warning for putting our house in order in the face of storm signals from across the seas.")

It was a particularly brilliant scene in the House, the Chamber of Representatives today. With all the members of both Houses present, there was room

for only seven hundred spectators. ~~And it is safe to say that there was not room left ~~for~~ over even for a mouse.~~ Every seat was not only filled, [^] In one case more than filled. Little Diana Hopkins, daughter of the new Secretary of Commerce, sat on the lap of Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. ~~herself~~ The presidential family was amply represented. In addition to the First Lady, Mr. Roosevelt was ~~also~~ accompanied by his Mother, Mrs. Sara Roosevelt; ~~In the party were~~ also his uncle, Frederick Delano, his daughter-in-law, Mrs. James Roosevelt, and her daughter, Miss Sara Roosevelt.

~~Of course all eyes were on the lookout for one thing.~~

⁷ Everybody asked, "Is the German embassy represented?" It was.

⁷ Dr. Hans Thomsen, ranking member of the embassy staff, was there with a flower in his buttonhole, and arrived forty-five minutes earlier than he needed to. ~~He not only was there, but he didn't care who knew it. Curiously enough, he sat directly in front of Dr. Ferdinand de los Rios, Ambassador from the government of Spain.~~

The President's references to affairs over ~~the~~ sea ^S met _^ with a quick response from his audience, frequent applause. Among other sentiments, he said: "It has become increasingly clear that

peace is not assured." ~~He also said:~~ "All about us rage undeclared wars, military and economic. All about us grow more deadly armaments, military and economic. All about us are threats of new aggression, military and economic."

Then he said gravely: "Storms from abroad directly challenge three institutions indispensable to Americans, now as always. The first is religion. It is the source of the other two -- democracy and international good faith."

Then he continued: "Where freedom of religion has been attacked, the attack has come from sources opposed to democracy. Where democracy has been overthrown, the spirit of free worship has disappeared. And where religion and democracy have vanished, good ~~fi~~ faith and reason in international affairs have given way to strident ambition and brute force."

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He also ^{stated:} ~~said:~~ "We know ~~■~~ what might happen to us of the United States if the new philosophies of force were to encompass the other continents and invade our own. We, no more than other nations, can afford to be surrounded by the enemies of our faith and our humanity. ~~Fortunate it is, therefore, that in this~~

~~Western Hemisphere we have, under a common ideal of democratic government, a rich diversity of resources and of peoples functioning together in mutual respect and peace."~~

Then followed the words which struck the ears of the world with particular force: "We have learned that God-fearing democracies ~~of the world~~ which observe the sanctity of treaties and good faith in their dealings with other nations cannot safely be indifferent to international lawlessness, anywhere. The mere fact that we rightly decline to intervene with arms to prevent acts of aggression does not mean that we must act as if there were no aggression at all. Words may be futile," ^{said he,} "but war is not the only means of commanding a decent respect for the opinions of mankind. There are many methods short of war, but stronger and more effective than mere words, of bringing home to aggressor governments the aggregate sentiments of our own people."

(These were the words which are interpreted as foreshadowing a sharp change in the foreign policy of the United States.) Mr.

Roosevelt also expressed criticism of the neutrality laws. And that

is of course a prelude to a move for revising ~~that~~^{the} neutrality Act. In fact, some people read into his words a threat of economic sanctions against aggressor nations, though he did not mention either Germany, Italy or Japan.

~~of course~~ His speech was ~~not~~^{not} confined entirely to foreign policy. Of that part of it which dealt with home affairs, the most important was his announcement that the spending policy of the new Deal was unchanged. Prime the pump, continues to be the order of the day. ~~of course he also~~^{He} had a kind word for economy, ~~which~~^{which} was greeted with loud Republican cheers. But his polite bow to economy was only a prelude to the warning that it was impossible to balance the budget now, ~~that to do so would be to invite disaster.~~

AMERICAN REACTION

As for the reaction of Americans to the President's message? That depended entirely upon which side of the fence the reaction comes from of course. For instance, Democratic Representative Mary Norton of New Jersey said it was one of the best, "if not the best message the President ever presented to Congress," said Mary. But in the ears of Senator McNary of Oregon, Republican Leader, "it sounded like a nomination speech for a third term," said he. Cagney Jack Garner commented sagely as follows:- "The statement itself was sufficient."

Senator Bridges of New Hampshire took the attitude that the President was using the foreign situation to cover up New Deal legislation. And so on.

FOREIGN REACTIONS

~~In Europe this message of President Roosevelt's~~
~~seems to have been rated as the most important since the days~~
In Europe —
~~of Wilson.~~ Foreign newspapers were speculating about it, even
uttering threats before the speech ~~had ever been~~ ^{was} delivered.

In Germany, not only editors but officials were ~~getting~~ all
excited ~~about it~~ before they had a chance to hear it. In Berlin,
Nazi officials intimated that if the American President made
hostile remarks ~~about Germany to Congress,~~ Hitler might break
off relations. At the same ^{official} time the Nazi spokesman said:

"We will not break relations unless the United States forces us."

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After the speech, ^{today,} ~~had been delivered,~~ the Germans
spoke more cautiously. They didn't like what President Roosevelt
said, considered it unfriendly. Editors declared they would have
to study the message carefully before replying. ~~but~~ This evening
the word from Berlin is that there will be no definite rupture
of relations. As ^{AP} Mr. Roosevelt did not specifically mention
Germany, there's no cause for an open breach. ~~There will probably~~
~~be no official retort at all, that is, no pronouncement from~~

In Italy, the official and unofficial policy was to put on ear-muffs and pretend the message just wasn't delivered at all. There was no direct re-broadcast in Italy. But, several Fascist officials and editors, heard enough to be annoyed. It was predicted in Rome tonight that there'll be some sharp criticism in Italian newspapers tomorrow.

In Britain President Roosevelt's message was received with polite and apparently enthusiastic cheers. His speech was carried all over the British Isles on a re-broadcast, and London newspapers featured it in the most prominent fashion possible. Official quarters were particularly intrigued by his proposal to revise our neutrality law. For if that idea is carried out, it might upset the Spanish non-intervention agreement in Europe.

Yes, and there was some substance behind British approval of the Roosevelt message. For it was echoed in concrete form in financial quarters; caused a lively sale on the curb market for American stocks and bonds.

BILLS

The Seventy-Sixth Congress of the United States is just one day old. But already there are more than a thousand new measures proposed by its members. When a senator or representative has a new act of Congress or resolution to propose, he chucks it into a large hopper. The Representatives evidently arrived in Washington ^(loaded down with laws.) ~~already~~ ~~equipped~~. By the end of the day they had dropped one thousand and eleven papers into the House hopper.

That means, roughly speaking, two and a half new statutes or resolutions to each member. (In the upper House, the procedure was delayed for a day, but today senators started pouring in their proposals.)

Of course this sounds alarming. If it were to be kept up at this rate, the ^{shower of} ~~tower of~~ new measures by the end of the season would ^{swamp the capital.} ~~be like a mississippi flood~~. Fortunately for the nation, only ^a ~~comparatively~~ few ~~of these things~~ ever see the light of day; though as it is, people complain that there are several thousand too many laws in the United States. My friend Bruce Barton was elected to Congress from New York on the ~~promise~~ promise that he would repeal an act a day. ~~To be accurate, there~~

~~is no desire to be catty.~~ But he has still to repeal his

first measure. Fortunately, ^His constituents didn't hold that

against him, for they reelected him last November.

ROPER

When Uncle Dan Roper was Secretary of Commerce, ~~precious~~ little news came out of his office. In fact, Washington reporters found that office so lacking in interest that they didn't pay much attention to it. But since his resignation and succession by Harry Hopkins, a real live story ^{breaks right away.} ~~has come out of that department.~~

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An officer of the Department ~~is~~ suspended, ~~and~~ under charges. He's Captain Coad, formerly in command of the Department of Commerce vessel EALA. Captain Coad now is United States Shipping Commissioner at Philadelphia. The charges against him are that while he commanded the EALA, Secretary Roper held private parties aboard that ship and Uncle Sam paid the bill. What's more, it is charged that the cost of those parties was put down on the expense accounts as "paints and supplies."

Of course it sounds like another ^{in a} tempest teapot, but it has its amusing features. And it's only fair to give Captain ~~Essex~~ Coad's side of the story. Said he in Philadelphia today: ~~Everything~~ "Everything I did was under orders." And he added: "I've done nothing I'm ashamed of. The responsibility for any irregularities

belongs to the person who gave those orders, not to ^{the} ~~be~~ one who
^
obeyed them."

In Washington it was remarked today that Secretary Roper
did nothing that had ~~not~~ not been done under previous administrations.
Department of Commerce officials said that even during the Hoover
^{Commerce}
administration of the Department, the use of the Department's
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vessels for private parties was nothing out of the ordinary.

What's more, they claim that Secretary Roper paid out of his own
pocket for all food ~~that was~~ consumed aboard the EALA while it was
being used for parties.

~~It is found that
Hopkins attacking his predecessor.~~

The latest, Sec. Hopkins
defends Roper.

CAPONE

Uncle Sam received a little check today, a check for thirty seven thousand six hundred and ninety-two dollars. The signature on it was the name ~~Al~~ Al Capone. Through his Chicago lawyer the scar-faced prisoner at Alcatraz paid his fine. In addition to his jail sentence the judge had pasted him for ten thousand dollars ~~of~~ ^{on} each of three felony ~~charges~~ charges. That made thirty thousand. In addition to that he was sentenced to pay court ~~in~~ costs of seven thousand six hundred and ninety-two dollars. ^π But, this payment alone won't set the one time Chicago bootleg king free. He was also fined ten thousand dollars on each of two ~~misdemeanor~~ ~~and~~ misdemeanor charges, failing to file income tax returns.

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In a couple of weeks from now Scar-Faced Al will have served his minimum term in Alcatraz. But, that won't finish his imprisonment. He still has one year on the misdemeanor charges to serve, a year in the county jail. However, it has been rumored that since he is considered one of the most dangerous of United States prisoners he will have to serve the next twelve months as well on the island fortress at the Golden Gate.

JAPAN

The new Prime Minister of Japan is the man whom everybody expected. The successor to Prince Kenoye is Baron Kiranuma. ~~But~~ an ominous appointment. Kiranuma is not only President of the Privy Council of Japan and a strong nationalist, he's the man who founded an organization called "Kokuhonsha", a group of extreme hot head nationalists. It represents the fire-eating, swashbuckling element among the younger officers of both the army and navy. *as well as a Kokuhonsha.* Kiranuma, in a word, is a pronounced Fascist. His succession to the premiership means that on the continent of Asia, the war against China will be prosecuted with even greater ferocity. Within Japan itself, it is taken to mean an even more totalitarian government, ~~than that which rules Japan now.~~ *Japan in the hands of the Kokuhonsha.*

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COCK FIGHT

There was an interesting climax to a cock fight in Peru. South of the Rio Grande, this ancient sport flourishes openly. (To some of us in this country that sounds shocking. Our cock fights are held on the quiet.)

In the district of Santiago, south of Lima, a large crowd was assembled around a cockpit. The handlers were preparing

their ^{birds} ~~cocks~~ for the fray, a process which consists principally

of getting ^{em} ~~the birds~~ so mad ~~that~~ they ~~will~~ hop into the ring ^{rainin'} ~~full~~ ^{to go.} ~~of ginger and anger.~~ One of the handlers found out this worked

too well. He was pulling out the cock's feathers and otherwise annoying it. The ^{rooster} ~~cock~~ got mad too soon, jumped at his handler,

and drove the blade attached to his left spur into the handler's

body. He aimed so well that the spur ^{of the fighting} ~~on the leg of that~~ cock ^{— killed him.} ~~wounded him mortally.~~

ROYALTY

British and Canadian officials have about completed their plans for the visit of King George ^{the} Sixth and Queen Elizabeth, this coming summer. Their Majesties will land at the beautiful city of Quebec at 9:30 on the morning of May 15th. Before the next thirty days are completed ^d they will have visited ^{nearly} ~~every~~ every province of the Dominion and most of the large cities to say nothing of part of the United States. They'll leave the Heights of Abraham on May 16th and proceed West through Three Rivers, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Regina, Medicine Hat, ~~at~~ Calgary, Banff, and Vancouver.

58 1/2 They will come back by way of Edmonton, Saskatoon, and so forth. On June 8 they will enter the United States at Niagara Falls and spend four days in the land of the free and the home of the brave. On June 15 they sail ~~home~~ from Halifax, ~~Nova Scotia~~ *back to England.*

I haven't mentioned all the names of the ~~villages~~ Canadian cities and towns their Majesties will visit but the full list would seem numerous enough to satisfy every

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~~loyal Canadian.~~ However, there is already ~~criticism~~ criticism of the plans made for the King and Queen. ~~It~~ comes from no less a celebrity than Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe of Dionne Quintuplet fame. ~~The visit of~~ King George and Queen Elizabeth will not visit Calendar, Ontario, will not see the famous home of the famous five, and that says Dr. Dafoe is lack of courtesy to the French Canadians. Says he "the Quints are the pride of the French Canadian race and the government is not showing much courtesy to the French in this schedule."

That's interesting!

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