

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(Hitler delivered his reply to Chamberlain today, handed it to the British Ambassador in Berlin.)

What's in the message nobody knows. Rumors are exceedingly vague, and also contradictory. London sources express pessimism over today's Hitler pronouncement, while Nazi officials in Berlin express what is called "a cautious optimism." This combination of vagueness and contradiction characterizes the whole situation -- as has been the case right along.

Prime Minister Chamberlain's address today to the House of Commons was another stiff reaffirmation of British determination to back Poland, and he told in detail of British readiness for war. ~~He told of the reply his Cabinet made yesterday to Hitler. He said the reply reemphasized Britain's treaty obligations to defend Poland. "We made it plain that our obligations would be carried out," declared Chamberlain.~~

Yet in his firm statement to the Commons, Chamberlain left open the way to an agreement, not a very clear way, rather broad and ambiguous. Vague, everything is vague in this desperate state of affairs. Here's the way Chamberlain phrased the peace possibility, ^{and it's} rather irritating in its portentous parliamentary language, ^{by its} circumlocution. "His Majesty's government," said he, "would hope that if an equitable settlement of the Polish-German differences could be reached by free negotiation, this might in turn lead to a wider agreement which would accrue to the lasting benefits of Europe and the world at large." That's the door left open in the prime-ministerial address to the Commons today.

47 { (Of the negotiations between Berlin and London, about the

only hopeful thing to say is - they're still negotiating, still at it. If they can keep talking long enough, they may talk themselves out of war. Anyway, they can't fight while talking.

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The military meaning of the Slovakian situation is obvious - threat of a German drive against Poland from the south. ... it has been that the Hitler general staff would launch a drive from the west - into the industrial regions of Polish Silesia. And of course an attack would be expected from West Prussia from the north. The German military occupation of Slovakia is still another menace to Poland - giving the prospect of a three-way attack.

Poland's protest today transcends the mere military

SLOVAKIA

The most serious development of the day, something that's really clear and definite - is the case of Slovakia. That protectorate which Germany seized has been theoretically free. Tonight, it's under German military occupation, with huge masses of Hitler troops at the frontier of Slovakia and Poland. What makes the matter serious is the attitude of Poland. Here's a late official communication from Warsaw. It declares that the German military occupation of Slovakia is an act of aggression against the vital interests of Poland. Warsaw definitely considers it a threat to Polish security.

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angle. If Warsaw considers the concentration of German troops in Slovakia as an act of aggression against Poland - that is of the utmost meaning in the light of the British-Polish alliance, Britain absolutely committed to fight if there's any aggression against Poland. ^{So-tonights'} ~~That~~ Slovakian angle might develop in ^{an} ~~a most~~ ominous way. Suppose Warsaw should formally present it to London as - an act of Hitler aggression.

The Polish government tonight announces the Slovakian threat is so serious that Poland ~~is~~ is compelled to take urgent military measures - new large mobilizations of troops.

Poland has had a frightful bomb outrage - eighteen persons killed by an infernal machine. Immediately this was attributed to German agents, and the latest from Warsaw declares that the perpetrators of the crime have been arrested - three Germans. They're accused of having left hand bags containing bombs in a cloak room of a crowded railroad station - bombs that blew up.

MEDIATION

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(There may be possibilities of peace in the mediation offer made by King Leopold of Belgium and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.) Those two kingdoms are hardly impressive in point of strength, ^{so} not much interest flared when they today offered their monarchs as mediators - did so in notes addressed to France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and Poland. Interest perks up a little with the word that (France has promptly replied - accepted.) Immediately upon receipt of the Belgian-Dutch ~~communication~~ Paris communication, Paris said - Yes, we're willing to have King Leopold and Queen Wilhelmina mediate. And (Paris reports that London is making the same reply - accepting. Word is still awaited from Berlin, Rome and Warsaw.)

RUSSIA

Last night's news that the Soviets have put off the formal and final ratification of the non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany gets a bit of interpretation today. In London, Soviet spokesmen said the delay means that Moscow may cancel the treaty, cancel it if Hitler attacks Poland. They put it this way:- The pact is not legally in force until it's okayed by the Supreme Soviet, the Communist Parliament. If Hitler should start the war, the Supreme Soviet will have a chance to turn down the treaty which binds the Soviets to neutrality. By delaying, Moscow gets ^{time} ~~a chance~~ to see if Hitler ~~is~~ really will attack.

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This interpretation, advanced by Soviet sources in London is not taken very seriously - obviously designed ~~London, is of a sort~~ to provide some little balm for the souls of the democracies. Soviet explainers have been trying ingeniously to apply the balm, ever since the non-aggression bombshell exploded, ^{trying} ~~acted~~ without too much success, ~~however~~ - ~~Most people have been saying, they're barmy enough.~~

ITALY

Italy has been a paradox in the war peril. For days the news from Rome has been emphasizing that Mussolini's realm has been making no vast war preparations, ~~little mobilization, not much apparent concern about the whole desperate affair, Mussolini and a contrast to the other nations which have been so feverishly and bitterly preparing for the horror of battle.~~ It looked as if Italy didn't expect any war, ^{or might desert Hitler.} ~~Some have been surmising that Mussolini wouldn't plunge in if war broke, would not fight beside his ally, Hitler.~~

Today, however, comes an ~~ominous~~ flash. The Rome radio station tonight ^{told} ~~broadcast an urgent message, telling~~ people to get out of large cities and go to small towns, less likely to be bombed there. ~~Britain and France have been working to evacuate Paris and London, so as not to have huge masses of populations~~ ^{marks} ~~for air raids. Now Rome does the same.~~ And tonight's radio message ~~xx~~ gives some dates, which may turn out to be significant. The large cities of Italy should be evacuated before September Third, says the Rome radio - because after that date private automobiles will not be allowed to circulate, ~~xx~~ ^{ing} save gasoline.

Why September third, this coming weekend? Another date is given - August Thirty-First, ^{day after tomorrow} ~~this coming Thursday~~. After that date, Italian newspapers will be limited to six pages - to save paper. This wartime measure was employed during the conquest of ~~E~~ Ethiopia.

~~Tonight's radio warning flashed in Rome, is Italy's expression of the immediate peril of war.~~

And the (Pope is taking air-raid precautions to safe-guard St. Peters and the Vatican.)

ITALIAN SPECIALS

Here's some more foreign news, and I give it as rather a relief. It ^{is} so different - ^a contrast. Nearly every day the United Press dispatches issue a series of what are entitled - "Italian Specials," ~~They are of a sort that made me curious, and today I called up the U.P. and asked the why and wherefore. They explained that they sell their service to the~~ ^{for an} Italian language newspaper at Buffalo, and that paper requests a special line of news from Italy. Hence the "Italian Specials."

Today, with the war crisis nearing the breaking point, the list of items was just about the same as ever. They go like this:-

Rome: The royal Bulgarian Symphonic Orchestra, scheduled for a series of concerts here, arrived today.

Pisa: King Victor Emanuel and members of the royal family arrived today at the royal estate to spend their autumn vacation.

^{in Dalmatia:-}
Zara: Italian longshoremen won a series of boat races against representatives of Germany and Jugoslavia today. The Italians captured first and second places.

It all sounds refreshing, not a hint of the peril of war in those Italian Specials, ~~which seem~~ something like items ⁱⁿ ~~from~~ country newspapers; — and such a relief ^{that} I pass them along to you.

BREMEN

The New York Port Authorities today held up the sailing of the German liner BREMEN, searched the great ship, and one melodramatic word was uttered - privateering. Remember the privateers of old whom our history books tell us about? In time of war, a private owner would fit out a ship and be licensed by a government at war to sail forth and capture enemy merchantmen. Profitable business it was - especially for Yankee ship owners and skippers in the War of Eighteen Twelve.

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The German liner BREMEN arrived in New York, and got orders to sail home suddenly, ahead of schedule, without passengers. That provoked the search by the New York authorities, there was a hunt all over the big ship for a possible stock of weapons, munitions, armament - forbidden materials of war. And the Assistant Collector of the Port made a cryptic statement:- "You've heard of privateering, haven't you?" The inevitable surmise was that the BREMEN might be planning to steam forth as a sea raider, like those German sea raiders of the World War, attacking Allied shipping, capturing and sinking.

Just to make things a bit neutral, the French liner

NORMANDIE was also searched. The NORMANDIE steamed across to New York under warlike conditions, and, like the BREMEN, had orders to return suddenly to France. Was the NORMANDIE also suspected of intentions of privateering? Hardly - there wouldn't be any German shipping on the high seas to privateer on.

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The drama of ships and searching was a bit enigmatic, until some elucidation came from Washington. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gibbons explained that the orders for sudden sailing were decidedly unusual and the port authorities were quite right in searching vessels in unusual circumstances. He said there was no law to forbid either the BREMEN or the NORMANDIE to carry materials of war. That would be forbidden under our Neutrality Law, if war had actually broken out. However, regulations do require that shipments of armament be licensed. ~~hence the reason for~~

~~the search. Also, the port authorities should make sure that~~
Also the carrying of *explosives*
~~explosives are not carried~~ aboard passenger ships, which is against
Moreover -
the navigation laws. ~~xxx~~ there are questions of crews getting
into the United States illegally and the smuggling of narcotics.

(the New York official's remark about)
As for privateering, the Assistant Secretary of the

Treasury explained it this way:- "If we hinted to the reporters that there had been any privateering, he probably was just using vigorous language." The latest is, the Captain of the Bremen, roaring with indignation.

On the heels of all this President Roosevelt announces that searching ships will be a regular thing -- ships of nations at war. The President says this will be done so that merchant vessels won't sail out of American ports as sea raiders. And that has meaning only to the vessels of dictatorship nations.

DIES

The Dies Committee interrupted its proceedings in Washington today to flash a request to the New York authorities, a request for - "extraordinary precautions." All in the case of Fritz Kuhn, the Fuehrer of the German-American Bund. The Committee declared it had reasons to believe that Fuehrer Kuhn might flee the country aboard one of the German ships that are leaving. ~~Hence the demand for extraordinary precautions.~~ Kuhn is still under subpoena to testify before the Committee; ~~but the Committee brought its request to include all witnesses that have been called before it; it don't let them leave the country.~~ ^{and} ^{broader} ~~but the Committee brought~~

The newspaper men promptly looked up Fuehrer Kuhn in New York, ~~and told him about the extraordinary precautions.~~ ^{who} ~~Kuhn~~ let out a big Nazi laugh and took a fling at ^{Texas} Chairman Dies and the Committee. "I'm not leaving and I don't intend to," ^{leave}, he roared mirthfully. "Dies shouldn't worry about me that way. I worry more about him. I'm afraid he'll go to Texas."

~~Fuehrer Kuhn, while laughing at the Chairman about his native state, should reflect that he might make some Texans sore, and that might be no laughing matter.~~

BOXING

Belligerent action was taken by the New York Boxing Commission today - all concerning that much disputed fight in which ~~Hercules~~ ^{Herbener} Lou Ambers won the lightweight championship from dusky Henry Armstrong. The Commission suspended the licenses of the managers of both boxers. All the hostilities didn't go on in the ring. Both managers, rooting for their respective pugilists, raised a row - the old "We wuz robbed" theme. The charge, as stated formally by the Boxing Commission, sounds somewhat paradoxical. Here's the way it's worded:- "For conduct tended to create a disturbance during a fight." A disturbance during a fight - to a man from Mars that might seem something like starting a fight during a battle. But then a man from Mars wouldn't know about the earthly prize ring.

Armstrong's manager, Eddie Mead, ~~has been proclaiming loudly that the decision against his man was crooked, a frame-up -~~ ⁵⁷ ~~"we wuz robbed."~~ And today ~~he~~ demanded that the Boxing Commission reverse the decision of Referee Arthur Donovan, who called the foul punches against Armstrong. He accused ^{Donovan} ~~Armstrong~~ of being prejudiced in favor of Ambers, and shouted, "Revoke his license!" The Boxing Commission refused, with the implied rebuke - "You wuz

not robbed!"

The Commission, while handing down suspensions, passed one along to the voluable Joe Jacobs, often called Yussel; ~~he's~~ the vociferous manager who invented the slogan, "We wuz robbed." Yussel presides over the brawling destinies of the battling beer keg, Tony Galento. ~~But~~ Today Yussel was suspended for what he did as manager of ~~former~~ Nazi Max Schmeling. ~~The accusation~~ ^{It} goes [^] ~~way~~ back to the bout in which ~~the dusky bomber~~, Joe Louis, knocked Schemling out in one round. Yussel, in his "We wuz robbed" outcry ~~that time~~, yelled that Champion Louis had something in his boxing glove. ^{Yussel} ~~Jacobs~~ called it a gimmick, an elegant Broadway locution. The gimmick, shrieked Jacobs, was a small metal ~~ham~~ dumb-bell which Louis had in his ~~boxing~~ glove when he socked Schmeling. He afterward took it ~~all~~ back, but today the ~~Boxing~~ Commission suspended him for having said it in the first place. No gimmick, Yussel, no gimmick.

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END

I'm afraid this broadcast, so full of ugly talk of war, has to end on a warlike note. At Pittsburgh today, voices were belligerent. The question was - "Would the Civil War veterans march?" The Grand Army of the Republic is to have its Seventy-Third Encampment Parade on Wednesday, with many organizations on the march. ~~But how about the veterans of the~~

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~~Grand Army~~ ^{But} there are only about a hundred of them left to attend the encampment, and their ages are between ninety and a hundred.

The proposal was made that they should ride in the parade in ~~automobiles~~ ^{--- and} that's what made the old boys so warlike today.

"We marched to war, and we'll march in that parade", ~~they~~ declared one embattled veteran, whose age is a good deal past ninety. (And the others supported him. They marched in Eighteen Sixty-One, so why shouldn't they march in Nineteen Thirty-Nine? - it's only seventy-eight years later.)

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The Civil War veterans were so pugnacious about it that the parade organizers, forty or fifty years younger, had to give in. So the warriors of old will march if they want to, boldly and bravely. However, along the line, ~~of march,~~ nurses will

be stationed to take care of them, if the exertion and the excitement should be too much - nurses and ambulances, ready for the belligerent old boys.

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ELEANOR

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You've heard of people who are more royalist than the King himself. ^{Well,} The authorities in Nova Scotia are more respectful to the family of our President than many of the President's own countrymen. In Halifax, Nova Scotia, a marionette show has been going on. One of the characters in that show was a puppet representing Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. As everybody knows, the First Lady, along with a lot of compliments, has also been the subject of considerable lampooning in her own land. And she has taken it all with either good humor or indifference.

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But the Nova Scotia authorities felt that there was something unseemly of ^{a puppet of} Mrs. Roosevelt which appeared in a comic sketch along with puppets of Sonja Heine and ^{W.C.} ~~W.C.~~ Fields. So the President of the Halifax Exhibition Association ordered the puppet of Eleanor Roosevelt eliminated. And if it hadn't been for that order, probably Mrs. Roosevelt would never have heard of the thing. *And s-l-u-t-m.*

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