

Upton Close.

May 10, 1937.

GOOD EVENING, ALL:

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A great air triumph comes today -- to take some of the sting from an air disaster! Dick Merrill and Jack Lamby landed in England -- chalking up a record of twenty hours and two minutes from Floyd Bennett Field, New York -- and through nasty weather, too! If they had hit Croydon, without touching the Essex Airdrome, <sup>Merrill</sup> ~~he~~ would have been the first pilot to make a successful non-stop flight from New York to London. Really, that's a bit of a technicality. North Weald is just as close to the heart of London as Croydon, but the latter is the official port of arrival for planes from abroad.

They didn't land first at Croydon ~~because~~ because their radio wasn't working properly. So Merrill was unable to contact the Croydon Airdrome and overshot his mark. Instead of landing at his actual destination, which is directly south of London, he came down northeast of the city at a place called North Weald. ~~in Essex, where there is~~ <sup>an</sup> an airdrome of the royal air force.

There they got their bearings, repaired their radio, and took off again immediately ~~and reached the Croydon Airport.~~

They had to fly blind all the way.

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Until about two o'clock this afternoon, there seemed to be real reason to fear that another trans-Atlantic flight had ended in tragedy. For hours nothing was heard of Merrill and Lamby. Weather reports from mid-Atlantic were ominous. Actually, they had had going most of the way over ~~the ocean,~~ rain, storms, no visibility. To make things worse, there was so much static that their two-way radio was of little service to them.

At one o'clock the word went around New York that they were overdue. It looked as though they were lost. But hardly



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had that rumor gained real currency, when the news came from Croydon that they had landed. ~~As it was,~~ they narrowly missed ~~cracking a record.~~

They got a big reception in London. The first thing that sturdy Dick Merrill ran into was ~~running~~ a gauntlet of kisses from a group of enthusiastic feminine aviation fans. In fact ~~it~~ ~~is said that~~ it took him a couple of minutes <sup>to</sup> ~~wiping~~ the lipstick off his mouth before he could begin broadcasting.

Merrill and Lamby will start back on Thursday with pictures of the Coronation, ~~quite~~ a stunt, the first of its kind if I'm not mistaken. When they land back in New York, they will have flown some six thousand miles just to get a bunch of photographic plates and film cans.



PROFESSOR LA BASTILLE

Suppose you had been, by mere chance, at the Lakehurst landing field when the Von Hindenburg exploded, and suppose an American naval officer had drafted you to check off the injured passengers and crew as they were taken to hospitals, and then to interview them and get their statements? That would have been adventure of the first order, wouldn't it?

Well, it is my privilege to introduce to you right now the man who had that adventure, Mr. Ferdinand Meyer LaBastille, Professor of International Trade at New York University. You can imagine that a man who speaks foreign languages, especially German, was needed at that moment. Professor Labastille qualified, for he speaks six languages. Professor Labastille, let me first ask you, in view of government inquiry which started today, did you hear anything from the survivors which might shed light on the cause of the accident?

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PROF. LABASTILLE: Upton Close, most men were silent and seemed dazed, and were not anxious to talk. But in the field hospital one of the less injured mechanics was shaking his head as if arguing with himself. I asked him if he could think

of any cause for the accident. He could only repeat: "The motors were perfect -- everything was perfect -- I can think only of sabotage."

UPTON CLOSE: Well, that seems to jibe, Professor, with the testimony of United States Naval Commander Rosendahl at the investigation today. He said, you noted, that the ground lines would have carried off static electricity at least four minutes before the explosion. And everything seemed perfect about the motors and the navigation, -- Professor Labastille, would you tell us just how the accident looked to you?

(PROF. LABASTILLE: My heart was leaping with joy when I saw the huge ship obey the helm with such ease. She was at a height of about 200 feet. Suddenly I was startled by a detonation at the stern of the ship. It was not very loud -- a muffled sound. In a few seconds immense flames were enveloping the entire ship, and she sank very rapidly to the ground. The ground crew were madly running for safety)-- away

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from the ship. Several stumbled. The first casualty to meet me was a man with a broken arm, whom I rushed in my car to the nearby field hospital. Within a few minutes we were back along the starboard side, and here (we saw the first members of the crew and passengers frantically crawling from the burning wreckage.) Chief Engineer Sauter was running alongside the ship, his head bleeding profusely. He was shouting out names of his crew -- apparently concerned over their fate. We pushed him into a truck in which there were several horribly burned men -- clothes almost torn off. The field hospital was soon full, but streams of ambulances began coming from nearby towns. I began to <sup>move</sup>~~move~~ among the stretchers talking to the injured, asking for names.

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UPTON CLOSE:- Some of them gave you their last messages, did they not, Professor? What spirit did you find among these persons, as well as the less injured?

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PROF. LABASTILLE:- Some, no doubt, were feeling death



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approaching. They mentioned names of their dear ones in Germany to whom they wanted me to cable or write. But no one complained. They looked as if they were trying to shake off a nightmare. I came to a stretcher in which I saw the face of a man completely burned -- covered with vaseline. I hardly expected this man to reply to my questions. But suddenly, out of his almost formless face, came a reply in the most military <sup>style:</sup> ~~style:~~ "Wilhelm Speck -- unfunk offizier:--" This was Willy Speck, radio officer who died yesterday. Commander Lehman was too badly burned to talk. I was particularly impressed with Mrs. Mather, who is now with relatives at Princeton. She was the most composed of any of the passengers I saw. She told me she had presence of mind enough to cover her face with her coat so that only the back of her long hair was singed. Then I saw in a corner the huddled figures of little Walter and Werner Doehmer with their mother, Mrs. Matilda Doehmer, of Mexico City. The two youngsters were trembling so badly that they could not utter a word. The brave mother, who had saved their lives by throwing them out of the gondola window could only

shake her head, but she bore a composed look. At her side her young daughter Irene was dying.

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OPTON CLOSE:- Professor Labastille, we thank you for this graphic and useful account of the tragedy. We hope you will never again have to witness such a sight.



La Bastille.

May 10, 1937.



BANKERS

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President Roosevelt received a pat on the back today from an unexpected source. The bankers are with him heart and soul in one of his policies. That is, the proposal to bring down the cost of heavy goods. That meets the hearty approval of conservative bankers. That's the report from Galveston, where Mr. Roosevelt will ~~will~~ land tomorrow after the last day's fishing occasion. He has announced that he will be in Washington Friday and will confer with congressional leaders.

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PRINCE

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There's a strike over in Europe that's gaining ground all the time. It isn't exactly what you'd call a strike of working men. It's a walkout of royalty. To be sure, some royal personages have to work pretty hard at rather tiresome jobs. At any rate, an increasing number of them have become fed up with it.

The latest is ~~a Swedish prince~~ <sup>The young Swedish</sup> He's young Prince Carl, son of the younger brother of King Gustaf. His reason? He wants to marry, and, like three of his cousins, he wants to marry a commoner. So he renounces for himself and his heirs all his possible rights to the throne. Like his cousins, he becomes plain Mr. Bernadotte. The lady of his choice is the Countess Elsa von Rosen, seven years older than the groom.



SUN YAT SEN

Probably the one Chinese name that all Americans know is Sun Yat Sen. One reason is that this doctor-dreamer who talked up, in his soft voice, the movement which overthrew the world's oldest monarchy, spent much time in America -- could be an American in manners when he chose.

Now America is to have a statue of the founder of the Chinese Republic, who has become almost a God to Chinese Nationalists. It will be erected in San Francisco. As Sun Yat Sen boasted of being one of the world's moderns, it is fitting that his statue should be executed by a modernist sculptor. Sun threw a spell -- almost hypnotic - over those who were near him. I experienced it as a young man in China. He could be licked to a frazzle but you wouldn't believe it any more than he did as long as you stayed near him.

The statue will be of stainless steel with polished granite hands and feet. It is to rival Busamo's statue of St. Francis. Busamo says it will surpass his sensational statue of St. Francis, which caused a furor in art circles.

FILM STRIKE

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When the Screen Actors' Guild voted to strike, it looked as though the fight in Hollywood was over. Obviously, the producers could not go on making pictures without actors as well as without the make-up men, painters, and the other union technicians. At first the labor unions were jubilant when they heard what the actors were proposing to do. But now it turns out they've been badly sold. The actors were acting merely for themselves. In all three of the major studios, their demands were promptly met. So they're continuing to work.

And the crafts unions are abundantly sore. "We've been sold out," they cry. Charles Lessing, their leader, declares he's going to put the heat on the actors as well as on the producers. "I'll break every star who passes through a picket line," he declares. And he added scornfully, "Whoever depended on an actor, anyway?"

As for the producers, Lessing vows he'll boycott and picket every moving picture theatre in the country.



ECONOMY

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Now that the President's return is only four days off, Congress is buckling down in earnest. The lawmakers in Washington are pressing hard on the job of cutting down Uncle Sam's expense account. But one of the ways they propose to do it isn't going to meet with the presidential okay. ~~The growing number~~ A growing number of them are strong for the idea advanced by Senator King of Utah. Cut down relief and turn the care of the unemployed back to the states. Mr. Roosevelt said he would need one billion and a half to take care of the jobless. And some of the Democrats want to cut this down by one third. In fact, some of them would like to do away with the W.P.A. altogether. After that they talk of appropriating eight hundred and fifty million dollars to be turned over to the state governments.

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When the history of the little world war is written, the defense of Bilbao will stand out as one of its high spots. Time and again we've heard that the Rebels had practically captured the Basque city. And now once again we are told that its defenders have again hurled back the advance guards of General Mola's army. They've recaptured three hills around the beleaguered city, important key points. At the same time, the insurgents subjected them to another ferocious bombardment from the air, and forced the ~~in~~ government troops back at one sector of the line. This prolonged battle for Bilbao is as fierce and deadly as any part of the siege of Madrid.

In the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM this afternoon, there's an amazing photograph. It's a picture of the ruins of

Guernica, the sacred city of the Basques.

Senator Borah

~~And it shows that the~~

recently called  
in history

~~The destruction of that city the greatest crime  
news reports of that bombardment were in no way exaggerated.~~

The section of Guernica that one sees in this photograph is just one mass of shattered walls and debris. All that is left of the buildings in it is a row of crumbling walls and house-fronts.

## CORONATION

From London comes news of an eleventh hour wave of enthusiasm for Wednesday's big show. Last week we heard that public interest was flagging. Speculators who had been holding on to tickets for a big profit were offering them for a fraction of cost.

But over the weekend, multitudes of people poured into London, jamming up the city's great terminals and contributed to filling the streets. Some of the crowds outside of Westminster got an unexpected thrill today when King George and Queen Elizabeth drove to Westminster Abbey for another dress rehearsal.

The buses weren't running, but Londoners were so enthusiastic that they walked without complaint, when they couldn't get cabs. The bus strike is no nearer being settled than it was a week ago.

I'm sure that you, along with me, are looking forward to Wednesday night to hear the eyewitness story of the Coronation direct from Lowell Thomas.

*(Wpton Close Signed off)*



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UPTON CLOSE . - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1937.

all.  
GOOD EVENING ~~EVERYBODY~~:

Several strange tales come to us from Europe today. And the strangest of all concerns America. There's a billionaire, or at least a man worth almost a billion, willing and anxious to finance a Fascist revolution in these United States. That comes to us by way of Berlin. Our authority for it is no less a tycoon than William E. Dodd, American Ambassador to Germany. But he didn't send it to an official of the State Department. He wrote it in a letter to Democratic Senator Bulkley of Ohio, Senator Glass of Virginia, and others. Today he told the Berlin correspondents about it.

Now, who's that billionaire? Ambassador Dodd knows, but he wouldn't say. He learned it confidentially from personal friends. But he took the report seriously enough to write ~~it~~ in