

Tues. Jan. 11, 1944.  
Late Broadcast.

LEAD ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt explained to the nation tonight the call he made in his message to Congress today -- the call for a national service bill, which would draft each and every American civilian for war work. That is, with certain exemptions.

Meanwhile, there had been prompt action in Congress, when Senator Austin of Vermont reintroduced his own national service bill, which has been on the shelf for a long time. The Republican senator says he believes his proposal is close enough to the White House program to be supported by the President. However, that proposal, called the Austin-Wadsworth Bill, was immediately attacked by labor leaders -- because it provides that war workers conscripted would be allowed to decide for themselves on whether or not to join a union.

The President, in his message to Congress and in his radio address tonight, ties a national service bill with several other measures. He makes it clear that he wants a law to mobilize

*every man and woman in the country.*  
(Continue from there on)

The President's call today for a national service bill brought a prompt bit of action in the newly reassembled Congress. Senator Austin of Vermont promptly reintroduced his own National Service bill, which has been on the shelf for a long time.

The republican Senator says he believes his proposal is close enough to the White House program to be supported by the President - though, of course, the idea as outlined in today's message to Congress, ties a national service bill with several ~~other measures. The President makes it clear that he wants a law to mobilize every man and woman in the country for war, only if the price of living is kept down and inflation is prevented. Also, if taxes are raised to eliminate what the President calls "all unreasonable profits both individual and corporate." The President does not believe that the tax law advocated by Congress will do not high enough.~~

Meanwhile, the White House call for a national service act mobilizing everybody for war work, is meeting with a mixed reception among the rank and file of legislators. Some, ~~say only~~, like

Republican Congressman Andrews of New York, <sup>remarks: "Why</sup> "I've been for <sup>that all</sup> the time", ~~says he~~ Which is echoed by House democratic leader Congressman McCormick of Massachusetts, ~~who says, "it was a fighting message from a fighting President."~~

On the other side of the fence ~~are~~, for example, <sup>are</sup> Republican Congressman ~~Short~~ Short of Missouri, <sup>who says</sup> ~~He declares that~~ the Presidential national service demand is what he calls: "Hitlerism-- and would take away the last vestige of freedom and liberty for which our boys are fighting." And a Democrat in opposition is Congressman May of Kentucky who states that he has, in his own words "never been hot for national service and ~~was~~ not hot for it now," Says he.

~~There is little need of talking about the contents of the Presidential message, which was read to Congress by a clerk today, because the President himself will give it to the public later on this evening. He'll tell it on the radio.~~



~~(Kill the last paragraph of Roosevelt and substitute the following)~~

From the world of labor comes a prompt expression of strong dissent, President R. J. Thomas of the United Automobile Workers, C.I.O. denounces the national service law proposed by the President and states that -- it "smacks of slave labor."

And, the President's demand for heavy taxes gets a hostile reception -- from Congressional leaders who have been dealing with the question of taxes. They stand by their former opinion that the tax payers of the nation cannot stand for the kind of increased burden that the Administration wants. Congress has passed a bill to raise two billion, and two hundred and seventy-five million dollars; and today the President indicated that this was not nearly enough. -- The Treasury Department has been asking for new taxes to raise ten billion. This evening senator George of Georgia stated that in spite of the president's demand today, there was little likelihood that Congress will boost the figure in the present tax bill. And Congressman Knutson of Minnesota declared that



**President cannot expect additional taxes until he reduces government spending.**

## BOMBING

~~Kill previous story and substitute the following:~~

The greatest air battle of all time was fought today. This becomes more and more clear as dispatches flash from Europe tonight. The first word of the tremendous engagement of the skies was given by the Germans who told of an all-out defense against an all-out attack. Later - dispatches from Britain described an immense fleet of American heavy bombers escorted by fighters, the greatest American air-mada that ever struck at Naziland -- the bombers escorted by new long range fighters, which escorted them all the way deep into Germany.

A whole series of flashes from London tells of the heavy damage done and the equally heavy resistance encountered. Targets in Germany were shattered by the bombs from the record breaking sky fleet, in spite of the fact that the Nazis sent up every type of plane they could muster great flights of fighters, many of them rocket planes. <sup>Also</sup> New types of anti-aircraft shells were encountered.

By the American bombers, anti-aircraft shells described as "rocket flak", which sounds like something new.

All over the sky the battle raged, and Berlin makes large claims - stating that one hundred and twenty-three American planes were shot down, most of them heavy bombers. That sounds fantastic and this impression is heightened when we hear the figure the Germans give for their own losses - two, only two Nazi planes shot down, say they.



ADD BOMBING

However, our losses may have been heavy. One returning flyer said it was -- "another Schweinfurt." Which of course referred to the big raid in which we lost sixty planes.

LEAD RUSSIA

The latest from Russia <sup>is</sup> ~~in~~ a Moscow bulletin stating that the Red forces have captured railroad stations both north and south of the town of Sarny, which, they say assures the Soviet capture of that railroad junction in Poland. This Russian news follows a German report stating that the Red Army has now driven sixty-two miles into what was formerly Poland, and the Germans admitted that the Russians were assaulting the railway junction at Sarny. That place is of the utmost importance because the capture of Sarny by the Russians, would cut the German armies in Poland in two -- by severing the line of railroad communication on which they must depend for military unity.

~~Continue in the Ukraine etc.~~

## RUSSIA

From Russia there is gloomy news for the Nazis and the worst of it was given out by the Nazis themselves today. The Germans report that the Red Army has now driven sixty-two miles in to what formerly was Poland. They are threatening to encircle the important city of Rovno, and are assaulting the railway junction of Sarny. This latter place has the gloomiest sound of all for the Germans, because the word is that the capture of Sarny by the Russians would cut the German armies in Poland in two -- by ~~severing~~ severing the line of railroad communication on which they must depend for military unity.

In the Ukraine where the Germans in the bend of the Dnieper are threatened with encirclement, the Russians are pounding on. Soviet forces are reported to be only five miles from the Bug River and are approaching the frontier of Roumania.

Meanwhile there is more word about Soviet terms for a Russian-Polish agreement. Dispatches from Moscow indicate that the



Soviet regime will not deal with the present Polish government in exile, which Moscow considers to be anti-Soviet. That's part of Soviet conditions -- which, among other things, insist on the Russian possession of most of the territory that the Red Army seized from the Poles but which offer to give to Poland such places as have a majority of Polish inhabitants.

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The story was ended today for Count Ciano, former Foreign Minister of Fascist Italy and son-in-law of Mussolini. He was executed by a firing squad this morning. The announcement is official -- given out by D N B, the Nazi news agency. And Ciano was accompanied to his doom by four other one-time chiefs of the Fascist regime, including General Di Bon<sup>o</sup>, an original companion of Mussolini and commander of the Italian army that invaded Ethiopia.

Their trials were held in the ancient and historic City of Verona and today's dispatch identifies the precise place as a medieval castle dating back to the fourteenth century. They faced the court in a castle hall and then the firing squad in the court yard of the ancient citadel.

The execution of Count Ciano ends one of the singular careers of our time. I met him and talked with him in Rome during the days of his glory, when, as Mussolini's son-in-law and Foreign Minister, he cut a great figure in international affairs. I scrutinized the much talked of Foreign Minister with much interest, and could easily understand the number one factor that had brought him so high -- his

marriage to the daughter of the Fascist Duce. Ciano was tall, debonnaire, swaggering -- with a good deal of the looks and mannerisms of an Italian opera tenor. It was not difficult to understand how the young aristocrat had been able to captivate the daughter of the coarse and peasant-like Mussolini, son of a blacksmith. More-over, Ciano's father had been one of Mussolini's powerful supporters in the Fascist rise to power.

As for profound ability, I ~~failed to discern this in Ciano~~ <sup>couldn't tell much</sup>

<sup>about it.</sup> He was intelligent, with a nimbleness of mind, that one easily thought to be rather shallow. His manners were excellent, and he seemed admirably fitted to play an ornamental part in diplomatic affairs -- but one wondered whether it could be any more than ornamental.

However all that may be, Count Ciano came to a crisis where mere decoration hardly figured. <sup>Ciano</sup> He was reputed to be a pro-Nazi, an advocate of the Nazi Fascists alliance and of Italy's plunge into war -- which brought such disaster upon that nation. Yet, when



the moment of decision came and the Fascist Grand Council voted to overthrow Mussolini, Ciano <sup>being</sup> ~~was~~ one of the majority that turned against his father-in-law. It was for this act that he has now been condemned and executed by the puppet fascists regime, of ~~which Mussolini is named as the head - the number one Nazi stage.~~

The question still persists with much dramatic point -- what part had the erstwhile Duce in the proceedings that doomed his son-in-law?

~~We've had previous word that Mussolini was not there, that he is confined by illness to his north Italian villa. And in this, one might find the implication that Mussolini is too far gone to be playing any part in dramas of revenge.~~

There are rumors that the real instigator <sup>of all this was</sup> ~~in the case is~~ the mad-dog Fascist Farinacci, who was always a plug-ugly extremist among the Black Shirts and who is said to have been a long-time personal enemy of Ciano, From which the surmise is made that today's

execution of the Mussolini son-in-law was a triumph of vengeance

for Farinacci.-- vendetta! *Here's later news on that: Farinacci was the chief witness for the prosecution!*

It still remains to be disclosed what Ciano's real

motives may have been, when in the Fascist Grand Council he cast his vote to oust Mussolini -- the ouster which eventually brought Italy from the Nazi fight to the Allied side, a startling switch-over. One of the Grand Council members who lead in the overthrow of Mussolini was the Duce's oldtime pal -- Grandi. But it was said all along that Grandi was pro-British and opposed to Hitler and the war.

So what about Ciano? Had he also been hostile to the Nazis in reality? Or had he become rather suddenly aware of the disaster that the Mussolini policy of joining Hitler and the war had brought upon his country? Or was it all a part of some oblique scheme? We don't know the motives that persuaded Count Ciano, motives that took him finally, today, to the fatal courtyard of that medieval castle at Verona.

Here's still later word  
that has just come in: - a dispatch,

~~Insert following in Ciano story after the phrase "dramas~~

~~of revenge.~~

~~stating~~  
A late dispatch ~~states~~

that Ciano at his trial was asked

*Grand Council*

why he had not informed Mussolini of the <sup>^</sup>move to overthrow him -- to

which Ciano is said to have replied that he had been out of contact

with his father-in-law for some time -- never saw him. And <sup>TR</sup> another

turn of the drama is this: - Ciano stated at his trial that his

wife, Mussolini's daughter, refused to have anything to do with *him* -

*Ciano* -

<sup>^</sup>~~there~~ and was in Austria, protected by the Nazis.



## SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC

In the southwestern Pacific sea power has joined air power in battering Jap island strongholds. A dispatch from a U.S. Task Force tells how cruisers and destroyers hurled salvo after salvo against the Shortland Islands, in the vicinity of Bougainville. The Task Force poured more than two hundred tons of hot steel into the Jap fortifications.

And we struck a naval blow at the Japs in the New Guinea-New Britain area. The craft in this assault were small and speedy. Motor torpedo boats assailed enemy transports bringing up reinforcements. Planes joined the P.T. boats, and twenty-two barges were sunk. A number of these were loaded with Japanese troops.

Word about the Southwestern Pacific was spoken in Washington today by -- Admiral Halsey, our naval commander out there. "Give 'em hell" Halsey gave the urgent advice that nobody must think of peace until our forces are in Tokyo.

He said "there is one definite place that has got to be taken -- that's Tokyo! and, don't let them stop until we get it."

The Admiral was asked about the quality of Japanese war planes. He said they were as good as ever, perhaps a little better. But he added that the quality of Jap pilots has been declining. "They are not willing to come out and fight as they did in the first place", said he.

## REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

The Republican National Committee took unanimous action today -- and no wonder. The Committee decided without a dissenting ballot to hold the next Republican National Convention at Chicago. -- And what other city could they have picked? Chicago was the only place that made a bid, the only city that put money on the line. ~~and~~ So Chicago it was -- after which the Committee adjourned.

At the two day session various resolutions were adopted, including one on foreign policy. The Committee put its official okay on the principles of international cooperation adopted by the Republican Policy Committee at Mackinaw some months ago. ~~It had been supposed that the Willkieites might present a resolution of their own -- going beyond the Mackinaw declaration in the direction of still more international cooperation, as advocated by Wendell Willkie. But nothing of the sort happened, and the committee proceedings went along without hitch or debate.~~



LUCE

The death today of the daughter of congresswoman Clare Booth Luce was one of those tragic turns of fatality. Nineteen year old Anne Brokaw was killed in an automobile accident at Palo Alto, California -- an accident which, but for a twist of fate, might have been nothing disastrous. The girl, who was attending Stanford University, was riding in a car with another girl student, when they were hit at a cross section.

The car that struck them was driven by A Professor of German in the Stanford Army training program. The impact was such that the automobile in which the two girls were riding spun around. The front door flew open, and Anne Brokaw was hurled out. She struck a tree, against which she was pinned by the whirling car.

Her mother Congresswoman, Clare Booth Luce, is on the Pacific Coast. She was scheduled to speak tonight at the San

Francisco Press club. ~~Her~~ <sup>Her husband Henry</sup> Luce has been with her for a short holiday at Palm Springs, California.

At Glendale, California today a tragic and pitiful sight was witnessed. Mrs Ella Berry, an eighty-three year old woman was hit by a truck and dragged for thirty feet. Patrolman Cliff Brown who saw the accident hurried to her aid, and picked her up -- to hurry her to the hospital. Whereupon Mrs Ella Berry gave him the dickens.

"Let me go" she scolded. "I've got to do my shopping and get home and cook dinner."

And away trudged the eighty-three year old woman, who after being knocked down and dragged for thirty feet by a truck ~~she~~ went right on to do her shopping and then cook dinner.

And now let's switch from the distant valley where I am high in the Rockies tonight, to Denver. ~~Let's hear the~~

And a-l-u-t-morrow.