

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The name of Charles A. Lindbergh is replaced in the headlines tonight by that of Hugh S. Johnson. Yes, Old Iron Pants, former Brigadier-General of the regular army, head of the draft in the last war, former chief of the N.R.A. Now he's no longer a General. President Roosevelt refused to renew his commission although the War Department had approved it. The White House makes a point of saying emphatically that this action by the President has nothing to do with personalities. That Mr. Roosevelt did not refuse to renew the commission of Brigadier-General Johnson because the General, once an important member of the administration, became one of its most caustic critics. No personalities.

Hugh Johnson had a brilliant career in the army, which culminated in his administration of the draft in the last war. The Conscription Bill passed by Congress in 1917 and signed by

President Wilson, was practically as Johnson drew it up. And everybody acknowledged that he did a fine job as administrator. He retired from active service in Nineteen Nineteen, and became a Brigadier-General in the Reserves for three successive terms. The last term expired April Tenth.

President Roosevelt's action toward Johnson, as we have observed, overruled the recommendation of the War Department. *It seems* ~~in fact,~~ the War Department three times wrote to ^{Gen.} Johnson asking him to report in connection with the renewal of his commission. It was not until the fourth request that he responded.

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It was announced at the White House that the President had refused the renewal because he considered that only men who are going to be called to active duty should be reappointed as general officers. General Johnson, it was pointed out, had not undergone a physical examination but the War Department dispensed with that. ^{Gen.} Johnson had written a letter to the President, which Mr. Roosevelt did not answer himself but instructed his military aide and secretary, Major General Watson, to write the reply. In that reply to Ex-Brigadier-General Johnson, Major General Watson wrote, among

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other things: "The President has asked me to say that personalities had no place in his decision not to reappoint you to a reserve commission." Then he continued: "The President feels very strongly that in the present emergency, reappointment of general officers should be restricted to those whose employment in such service is anticipated and that only after the physical fitness of the officer has been investigated." General Watson continues with these words:- "The War Department does not plan to place you on active duty and in view of this fact, your ~~re~~ reappointment would be to no purpose."

Secretary Steve Early also answered questions about this Johnson business. He said that the President's refusal to reappoint ^{the general} Johnson has no analogy to the resignation of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh. ^{And that} Neither case can be construed as an attempt to curtail free speech. In future, said Early, both Johnson and Lindbergh ^{will now} would be able to express themselves with greater liberty than would be possible if they were in active service. Early said further that when he was a newspaperman covering the War and Navy Departments, he observed several instances in which reserve

officers who had criticized the government were called back to active service and sent away to posts in very remote places,

where they were effectually gagged. *Meaning, that nothing of that sort had been done in the present instance.*

DISNEY

Labor unions are now squabbling over Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. The dispute is up before the National Labor Relations Board. Both Mickey and Donald were unionized some time ago. The men and women who draw the cartoons for Walt Disney were organized by the Independent Federation of Screen Cartoonists. But now another union comes along, the Screen Cartoonists Guild of the American Federation of Labor. It wants to grab Mickey and Donald away from that independent federation, ^{which it says is} ~~says its its~~ company dominated.

CANADA

The^{2x} steel strike at Hamilton, Ontario, didn't last long.

It was called on Sunday, and the men went back to work today.

The government took over the plant saying that the strike was a show-down between the war effort and the interests of one man.

Thereupon, the plant of the National Steel Car Corporation was put under the complete authority of a federal controller, who flew to Hamilton from Montreal, and the strikers went back to work.

COAL

More good news in the coal situation! It's an announcement from John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers and L.T. Putnam, Chairman of the Southern operators.

Most of the mines in the South will reopen tomorrow. Some of the men in the North went back to work today and coal trains will begin tomorrow moving soft coal to factories and power plants.

The agreement between the Union and the Southern Operators is temporary, but it sounds probable that the differences between them will be ironed out.

FINLAND

~~There's a good deal of excitement about tonight's news~~
News about ~~concerning~~ Finland. ~~The news~~ ^{it} comes from Moscow ^{and has to be heard with doubts.} Twelve thousand

Nazi German troops with tanks and artillery, were landed at the Finnish port of Turku on the southwest coast of Finland. They were promptly sent by train to a place called Pampere, more commonly known as Tammerfors, ninety miles to the north of Turku.

[#] The Russian paper PRAVDA alleges that the news comes from ~~quite~~ reliable sources. A query in Berlin brought ~~forth the~~ ^a reply from an authorized spokesman that nothing is known ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the German capital about the landing of those twelve thousand troops in Finland.

^{TP} It looks as though the Soviets were ~~quite~~ concerned about that news. Of course it's difficult to judge anything that is done or said in Russia, but the magazine which is the organ of the Soviet Army, admits that the international situation is extraordinarily complicated and fraught with surprise.

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Late this afternoon, a categorical denial was made by the Finnish Minister to Washington. He also published an explanation of ~~that~~ ^a report emanating from Russia. There was an agreement made last fall between Finland ~~in~~ and the Nazi government. According to

that, the Nazis have the right to send troops unarmed through Finland to or from Norway. The Nazis have a similar agreement with Sweden. The total of German troops now in Turku, on their way to the north of Norway, is less than thirteen hundred, says the Finnish Minister.

CHURCHILL

~~Not much fighting intelligence tonight, but there's a~~
~~minor consolation.~~ Forty-five thousand Imperial soldiers of the
British Army ^{have been} ~~were~~ safely evacuated from Greece. Those are the
actual figures given out by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

He told the House of Commons that forty-five thousand was well
within the actual figures. Outside observers are prophesying
that the total number will be closer to fifty thousand when the
full story is told. ~~Here's a part of Churchill's words:~~

Churchill,
"Up to the time when the evacuation became inevitable," *said*
"we had landed about sixty thousand men in Greece, including one
division from New Zealand and one from Australia." ~~Then he~~
continued: "Through the superiority of the enemy air force, *he went*
on, our own air force was compelled to leave the fields from which
alone they could effectively cover the retreat of the troops.
Hence only a small portion of the British planes could be used
to cover the ports of debarkation. So the saving of forty-five
thousand men must be considered remarkable," *So* says Winston
Churchill. ~~And then he said:~~ "The conduct of the troops,
especially the rear guards, in fighting their way so many miles

headed,
to the sea," merits the highest praise." ~~He said further:-~~ "It is the first instance where air bombing, prolonged day after day, failed to break the discipline and order of marching columns. Besides being thus assailed from the air, they were pursued by no less than three German armored divisions as well as the whole strength of the German mechanized forces which could be brought to bear."

Churchill added that in the actual fighting the British had lost only three thousand killed and wounded, which, he remarked, was ~~xxxxxxx~~ but a very small part of the losses inflicted on the Germans. The Nazis on several occasions, and sometimes for two days at a time, were brought to a standstill by forces one-fifth their number.

A member asked Churchill whether it was possible that more than forty-five thousand had been rescued, and the Prime Minister replied: "At least forty-five thousand." Then he observed: ~~xxx~~ "supposing that anything else were going forward, I would naturally not refer to it."

Then came a statement from Foreign ^{Secretary}~~Minister~~ Anthony Eden.

He informed the House that the Greek Government had suggested the withdrawal of the British forces as early as April Twenty-First, to which he observed: "From this document you will see that the decision to evacuate was taken with full agreement and in conformity with the wishes of the Greek Government."

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A Laborite member arose in his place and asked Eden to convey to the Greek Prime Minister the deep gratitude of the British Parliament for the magnificent courage and endurance of the Greek army has shown and for their loyalty to the Allies." To which Eden replied:- "We are sure the whole House feels no tribute is too high for what they achieved."


All of which aroused loud cheers in the British Parliament.

GERMANY FOLLOW CHURCHILL

The Nazi motorized forces claim to have stormed their way to the southernmost tip of Greece. Capturing five thousand British troops and one general they say. They also took many Yugoslav soldiers prisoners including four generals and three hundred officers.

Cairo however announces that the debarkation of the British is continuing satisfactorily, supported by airplanes based on Africa.

Soon after Churchill had told his news to Parliament, a report was published by the British Press Association, which usually speaks with authority. This contained the prophecy that Hitler's drive against Suez will start within the next six or ten days. The British Press Association is often considered to be the mouthpiece of the British Foreign Office. It is expected that



Hitler will use every weapon of modern warfare, including parachute troops. ~~It will be~~ a pincers campaign, ~~they say~~, with the principal drive coming down upon Egypt through French Syria and Palestine.

The indications are that they will pass around Turkey, as the Nazis have already spread their forces over ^{some of} the islands in the eastern Mediterranean near the coast of Asia Minor.

Another statement was read in the House of Commons today, this one concerned Africa. It was a warning to the French Government that German troops are filtering in through French territory in Africa. Many of them are entering Tunisia in the guise of civilians and technicians. The German Armistice Commission in Tunisia has been increased enormously. The British intimate that the German columns operating against Egypt were brought into Africa by way of Tunisia. The British Government intended that statement as a warning to the Vichy Government. The report in London tonight is that Hitler plans ~~to~~ the conquest of all Africa.

In Berlin, the Nazis published a warning to us.

It was intended as a retort to President Roosevelt's announcement

that American warships were free to patrol the war zones. A Nazi spokesman in Berlin said that German forces will fire on any of our men-o-war, whether alone or convoying merchant vessels, that enter the German blockade zone.

FIRES

Forest fires again, principally in New York State this time. The second stage of the long spring drought threatens to be more serious than the first. The New York Conservation Department asked Governor Lehman to close the entire forest preserves of the state, *and the Governor has done so,* ~~and that's a considerable lot of forest,~~ Thousands of acres of good timber have been ravaged by fire in the eastern Adirondacks and over the state as a whole no fewer than sixty fires have been reported. The smoke of that big fire could be seen in Vermont all the way across Lake Champlain.

In Massachusetts, flames swept across ~~the timber~~ a timber tract ^{of} a hundred square miles. The Conservation Commission has posted ~~the timber~~ a thousand men around the district to keep watch. In New Hampshire, the people of Marlowe, Washington and Stoddard are waiting with all their belongings packed, ready to get out at a moment's notice in case the conflagration gets worse in that region. Vermont and Maine also report forest fires. In fact, the hot spring following a mild winter is threatening more damage in all the North Atlantic states.

RESTAURANT

A subject that deeply moves the august Senators of this mighty nation today is bean soup. It's on the luncheon menu in the restaurant of the Senate ^{every day} and some of the Senators want to know why. In fact, they've asked the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia to investigate and find out.

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— in Washington —
The Senate restaurant [^] has peculiar privileges. It

pays no rent and few taxes. Nevertheless, for many years it has cost more to run than it brought in. The explanation has been that some of the Senators are epicures and demand certain dishes year in and year out, ~~ex~~ whether they're in season or not. For instance, one of our solons [^] *— and I don't blame him —* is particularly fond of sweet potato pie. When he's in town that will be on the luncheon menu. When he isn't, it's not.

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The restaurant is run by a committee, the Rules Committee. Recently, it made an investigation of its restaurant and as a result suspended the manager and the auditor. Then it gave up the job and turned it over to the United States Attorney. A gastronomical

upheaval in the capital. *TP Hugh pass me the* ~~There's a~~ ^{bean soup and} sweet potato pie. ~~There's a~~ ~~***** in the capital~~ ~~topic for a statesman-essayist.~~

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SAFETY

For several years in succession, the job of making highway travel safer was getting along oh, fairly well. Thanks in part to the campaign made by my sponsor the Sun Oil Company, But at present it's not so good. In the first three months of this year, eight thousand, one hundred and ten people were killed on the public roads. That's the report of the National Safety Council. This bad news means that the total number of highway deaths in the whole year will go up to forty thousand, unless the millions of drivers the country over suddenly become safety conscious and drive more carefully.

A tragic increase over Nineteen Forty. Sixteen per cent. The Safety Council explains that this is partially caused by the National Defense program which has given rise to a thirteen per cent increase intravel.