

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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The United States of America today celebrated the First Anniversary of the European War with ~~an announcement that~~ ^{what} may turn out to be one of the ~~most~~ ^{events} important in American history. President Roosevelt, indeed, compared ~~the event announced with~~ ^{it with} the Louisiana Purchase. At the same time, this new transaction instantly arouses a storm of controversy, and the hottest kind of debate is in prospect.

First, let's look at the mere facts - and most imposing facts they are. ^{The} President ~~Roosevelt~~ today proclaimed a trade which the United States has made with Great Britain, an exchange of something for something - a swap. ~~The United States, as has been reported previously, is to get naval and air bases in British possessions in this hemisphere. The President today named the precise places. Great Britain is to give us naval~~ ^{and air}

base ^srights at Newfoundland, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Antigua, and British Guiana. ~~It is repeated by the British, that~~ no change of sovereignty is involved.

These places stay under the British flag, with the United States getting leases for naval and air bases. The leases are for ninety-nine years.

An old story from London mentions other possible time limits. Twenty-five year leases were considered too short to be effective. There was also mention of leases of nine hundred and ninety-nine years. Meaning - indefinitely. But that was ruled out, because as between nations, ^a nine hundred and ninety-nine year lease would, in effect, be a change of sovereignty - would virtually make the places leased American possessions.

~~The naval and air bases are granted in two different~~

concessions
way. The United States gets the [^]leases [^] at Newfoundland and Bermuda gratis, for nothing. This - in the interest of British and American security in the western hemisphere. In the case of the other localities, which are pertinent to the defense of the Panama Canal - the United States gives something in return. What? Those fifty

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destroyers - which have been talked about so much. For weeks there has been agitation to turn over to Great Britain fifty over-age American destroyers, which were decommissioned under the naval treaties and have now been put in service again. There have been rumors and denials. Today, all is revealed. It's a swap of destroyers for naval air bases, ~~and that had been rumored too.~~

There is still one more consideration in the transaction. The London Government solemnly guarantees that the British fleet will never be turned over to Nazi Germany or scuttled by the British themselves. If the Isle of Britain should be defeated by the Nazis, the British fleet would be sent overseas for the defense of the empire in general. This is guaranteed personally by Prime Minister Churchill, who remarks - that it's more likely that Germany will be defeated. The logic of the guarantee is obvious. There has been all kinds of alarmist talk in the United States about what would happen if Hitler were to get the British fleet. This would be all the more alarming if the Nazis were also to acquire the fifty destroyers that we are turning over. ~~The purpose of the London~~

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~~pledge was to cancel that argument.~~

This ^e huge international trade is ^{stirring a} ~~certain to stir a~~

storm of opposition among the isolationists in Congress. There is universal approval of ~~course at~~ the United States getting the naval bases, and there's no complaint about the London pledge never to turn the British fleet over to Germany. It's the handing over of the fifty destroyers that stirs the tempest. ~~This in the rumor stage has been heavily attacked.~~ And today Senator Clark of Idaho put his opposition in these words:- "It's too bad that the transfer of the bases was not negotiated in such a manner so that they could be applied against the British war debt."

The transfer of the destroyers is attacked on two grounds. First - that it's another step toward war. Second - that the President has no legal right to do it. Both of these objections are answered by President Roosevelt in the report that he sent today to Congress. He describes the transaction in these words:- "not inconsistent in any sense with our status of peace." And he adds: ~~these words~~ "still less is it a threat against any nation." Of course, it's hardly ~~likely~~ likely that Nazi Germany

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will regard the transfer of the destroyers as constituting no threat against any nation. The Nazis will ^{of course} probably say it's a threat against ~~ourselves~~ ^{them — which it is.} London's comment is that the acquisition of these American warships will greatly aid the British fleet in its war with Germany. Britain is badly in need of destroyers for convoy work - protecting its supply ships against submarine and air attack.

The President in his message goes on to make a further defense of his action, by citing a precedent - a German precedent. He points out that in the Russo-Japanese War, the German Imperial Government of the Kaiser sold various auxiliary war craft to the Russian Government of the Czar.

Well, is today's trade made by the United States and Great Britain likely to be a step leading us closer to war? The isolationists in Congress vehemently answer - Yes. Republican Senator Worth Clark of Idaho described the deal in these words:-
"Almost the final step along the road to war."

To a still greater degree, the protest in Congress is focused on the legality of the affair. The opposition contends that

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the President has no right to transfer American warships to another nation without the consent of Congress. Some months ago, there was a move in the Navy Department to transfer some torpedo speed boats to Great Britain, but this was stopped - because it was pronounced illegal without the okay of Congress. But now President Roosevelt has gone ahead and made the destroyer deal. His message ^{speaks of} ~~spoke of~~ the transaction, not as something to be done - ~~he~~ but as an accomplished fact. Congress quickly had rumors that some of the destroyers have already been turned over to the British. Later in the day, the President himself said that some may have been delivered and are on their way to Great Britain. The President appears to have been none too clear about this, because the Assistant Secretary of the Navy announced that the first batch of ~~destroyers~~, eight in number, will be given over to British crews at Boston - probably on Friday. They'll be handed over complete with guns and ammunition, ^{and} will go to Canadian ports - thence to Britain.

The President, in his message, ^S ~~defended~~ his legal right to make the deal without consulting Congress. He cited ^S a

legal opinion by Attorney General Jackson, ~~to the effect that the administration had the right to dispose of destroyers as it saw fit, Congress or no Congress.~~ It was ~~Attorney General Jackson~~

who some months back ^{said} ~~gave the legal opinion~~ that the transfer of the speed boats of war to Great Britain would be illegal, against

the law - without a congressional okay. ^{So how about the destroyers?} ~~But today,~~ Attorney General

^{says they are} ~~Jackson said it was~~ different, ~~with the destroyers.~~ His opinion

is based on a clause in the Espionage Act of Nineteen Seventeen.

This same clause is invoked by the opposition, to show that the affair is illegal. Both sides base their contentions on the same law, giving it different interpretations. This matter is so

important that it's well to take a look at the enactment in

question. It reads this way: ^{And observe the use of the word "intent"}

"During a war in which the United States is a neutral nation, it shall be unlawful to send out of the jurisdiction of the United States any vessel built, armed or equipped as a vessel of war.....with any intent or under any agreement or contract that such vessel shall be delivered to a belligerent nation... or with reasonable cause to believe that said vessel shall be or will be employed in the service of any such belligerent nation."

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The Attorney General holds this to apply to United States warships built, armed or equipped with the intent that they should enter the service of a belligerent. In the case of the torpedo speed boats, they were being constructed. So, if they were turned over to Great Britain, their construction would be with the ^tintent. The destroyers, however, were all built years ago and were later recommissioned and rearmed - all without any intent. ~~This could mean anything.~~

The opposition, however, ~~holds that the law is clear.~~ ^{er} They argue [^] that the intent in the matter concerns the sending and not the building. They say the law was drawn to prevent the government from transferring any of our warships to a nation at war.

I've talked about this at some length, trying to put the many details into some sort of picture - because today's transaction may turn out to be one of the memorable events of our history.

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AMENDMENT

The House of Representatives is to get a substitute for the much disputed conscription of industry - an amendment put by the Senate into the Conscription Bill. This Overton-Russell Amendment, voted by the upper House, would give the President the power to seize any industrial plant which fails to cooperate with the defense program. That proposal has been violently attacked - especially by Republican Candidate Wendell Willkie, on the grounds that the government right to take over industrial organizations would be on the road to dictatorship.

The House of Representatives has been considering the merits of the argument, and now comes forward with a different kind of idea. Today the House Military Affairs Committee decided to sponsor an amendment which would compel industry to accept government armament orders. It is suggested by Representative J. Joseph Smith of Connecticut. It's to be known as the Smith Amendment and would go this way:- If ~~xxxxxxx~~ any company should refuse to turn out military supplies for the government at a price which the Army and Navy considers reasonable and fair, it would be subject to penalties. One form of the penalty would be a possible

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three years in prison and a fine of fifty thousand dollars. The other form of ~~the~~ penalty would give the President the right to take possession of the manufacturing plants of the recalcitrant company. Taking possession of the plants in the House bill sounds a good deal like the presidential seizure of plants proposed in the Senate bill. There's a difference, however. The Senate Overton-Russell Amendment would have such plants taken over by condemnation proceedings, and the government would become the owner. The Smith Amendment in the lower House would make it a case of temporary possession, and the company would be paid compensation, some form of rental, while its plants were being used by the government to make armament. The importance of this difference, of course, lies along the line of danger of government acquisition of industry - which does sound totalitarian, Nazi-Fascist or even Communist.

WAR.

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Great Britain and Germany observed the First Anniversary of the war with the usual day of air battles. Berlin claims that all day long and tonight too, Nazi bombers have been smashing at southern England - particularly the area north of London. The attack, says Berlin, was concentrated on aviation objectives, airplane factories, airdromes. The Germans make their usual large claim of British plane losses - the same as is always contradicted by London. Fifty-four British planes shot down, with a Nazi loss of twelve - so say the Germans. On their part, the British continue their aerial blows against Germany - hitting at industrial centers.

FRENCH COLONIES

London reports that still another French colony has broken with the government of Marshal Petain. This time it's -- Tahiti, that haunt of polynesian romance. The ~~story~~ story is that the Governor of Tahiti upheld Marshal Petain and the armistice with Germany, but the French population were in opposition to this so they put him out of office, and now give the adhesion of Tahiti to the Committee in London headed by General de Gaulle.

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Meanwhile, Marshal Petain today delivered a radio ^{appeal} ~~address~~ to the French colonies in which he ~~called~~ proclaimed the continuing unity of the French Empire.

RUMANIA

There's trouble in Transylvania, and the latest news tonight gives us something of a paradox. What will Hungary do? What will Nazi Germany do? The answers that we get constitute something of a dilemma. ^RThe Hungarian army is moving slowly into that part of the province of Transylvania which Rumania has yielded, but it's faced with grave probabilities of trouble. The Rumanians in the ceded area are plazing with anger at the agreement of turning them over to Hungary. There are stories of clashes and fighting. Hundreds are reported killed. And units of King Carol's army are said to be deserting to join the struggle.

What does Hungary say about this? Tonight Budapest announces that Hungary will not take any chance of a war with Rumania. If the Hungarian army moving in should encounter serious resistance, it won't use force. It will halt and Budapest will appeal to Germany and Italy -- the powers that guaranteed the Transylvanian settlement. What do we hear from the German side? The Nazi information is that German troops will no^t go into Transylvania unless war breaks out between Hungary and Rumania. ~~Then German units will intervene to stop the trouble.~~

So there's the dilemma: The Hungarians say they won't have

war but will appeal to Germany to intervene, ^{while} ~~but~~ the Nazis say
they won't intervene unless Hungary has war. Something of an
international paradox.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

An extraordinary stunt was performed ~~today~~ by a New York fireman. It was done to solve one of those puzzles of a person threatening to jump out of a high window.

In New York ~~Stanley Logan~~ ^a ~~Logan~~ ^{chap}, twenty years old, was driven to distraction by the death of his wife in a fire last Thursday.

~~Today was the funeral,~~ and the bereaved young man, in a daze, made his way to the fatal apartment house in which the fire had ~~occurred~~ ^{raged.}

It was boarded up, but he broke his way in, and went up to the ~~fatal~~ ^{tragedy had occurred.} apartment in which the ~~fire had raged~~. It was on the fourth floor.

He climbed out of a front window and sat on the ledge, with all the signs of intending to jump. People saw him, and gave the alarm.

The man on the ledge shouted if anybody tried to get into the apartment, he would ~~jump~~ ^{take the plunge.}

The Fire Department appeared and spread a net to catch him - suicide net. Whereupon the distracted ~~Logan~~ ^{man} climbed back into the apartment, and promptly appeared in a window on the other side - the rear. There once more he perched on the window ledge. The firemen hurried around and spread a net on that side. There was perplexity, anxiety, horror, suspense.

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It all ended, with the astonishing exploit performed by Fireman Charles Sandero. With some other firemen, Sandero got onto the roof of the apartment house. They had a rope, and measured off a length that would reach down to the window in which ^{the} ~~would-be suicide~~ Logan was sitting - with his legs dangling outside. Sandero tied one end of the rope securely around him ^{self.} The other end was made fast - just above the window. Then, calculating carefully, Sandero took a long leap out into space. He jumped outward in such fashion that the rope would check him and would cause him to swing back into the window where ~~Logan was,~~ ^{the man on the sill was,} ~~perched precariously.~~ It worked out with perfect success. Suddenly, unexpectedly, the man on the window sill, was hit by the impact of the swinging fireman and knocked back into the room. Then Sandero ~~xxx~~ himself climbed in, and the sorrow-crazed ^{fellow} ~~Logan,~~ was taken to a hospital.

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An amazing exploit on which to say nothing until tomorrow.