

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Seventy-seventh Congress of the United States is now officially with us. And it made its bow in spectacular fashion. The first thing it had to do was of itself unique: in joint session the Senators and Representatives had to canvass the electoral votes and officially declare Franklin Delano Roosevelt President of the United States for the Third Term in succession, the first Third Term President. Of course, all that was mere formality; nevertheless there was a fateful aspect to that ceremony in Washington today.

And then, as most of you know, the president and Mrs. Roosevelt, accompanied by the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway, drove up to the Capitol in state, cheered to the echo as they proceeded. And at four minutes past two the president addressed the joint houses of congress. And thirty-eight minutes later he had finished his delivery of four thousand words; among the most momentous words ever spoken by an American President.

What Mr. Roosevelt said had, of course, been foreshadowed weeks in advance. Nevertheless the world was waiting for today's official utterance. As well it might be, For his crisp paragraphs concern most intimately and directly the future of the entire world.

That much is made clear by the comment from the other side of the globe where three of those paragraphs drew the keenest attention. They followed a sentence in which Mr. Roosevelt said:- "Our national policy in foreign affairs has been based on the decent respect for the rights and dignity of all nations, large and small." To which he added, "The justice of morality must and will win in the end." Then came those crucial paragraphs. "Our national policy," said the president, "is this:- First by an impressive expression of the public will and without regard to partisanship, we are committed to an all inclusive national defense."

The second point was: "By an impressive expression of the public will and without regard to partisanship, we are committed to full support of all those resolute peoples everywhere who are resisting aggression and who are thereby keeping war away from our

hemisphere." And for a third point, he said, "By an expression of the public will and without regard to partisanship, we are committed to the proposition that principles of morality and considerations for our own security will never permit us to acquiesce in a peace dictated by aggressors and sponsored by a appeasers." A direct slap at the advocates of appeasement.

Then he explained those words: "by an impressive expression of the public will."

For he pointed out quote:- "In the recent national election there was no substantial difference between the two big parties in respect to ~~that~~ that national policy. Therefore," he added, "the immediate need is a swift and driving increase in our armament production."

In one part of his message Mr. Roosevelt gave an indirect answer to some of his critics. They had uttered the plea, "Please, Mr. President, let's have no false optimism." His answer was "I am sorry to say that in some very important cases we are all concerned by the slowness of the accomplishment of our plans." In a way that was one of the most important features of the message, for later he added these words: "I am not satisfied with

the progress thus far made," And he said further: "The men in charge of the program are the best in training, ability and patriotism, and they are not satisfied with the progress thus far made." Whereupon he gave two illustrations: "We are behind schedule," he said, "in turning out finished airplanes, but we are working day and night to solve the innumerable problems and catch up. On the other hand," he declared, "we are ahead of schedule in building warships, but we are working to get even further ahead."

In his historic speech today the President asked for greatly increased appropriations to meet new needs for our own safety. To which he added the protentious words: "I also ask this Congress for authority and for funds enough to manufacture additional munitions and war supplies of many kinds, to be turned over to those nations which are now in actual war with aggressor nations." Then he repeated what he had proclaimed in his latest fireside chat: "Our most useful and immediate role is to act as an arsenal for them, as well as for ourselves." And in explanation he said, "We cannot and will not tell them they must surrender because of present inability to pay for the weapons which we know

they must have. I do not recommend that we make them a loan of dollars. I recommend," he urged, "that we make it possible for those nations to continue to obtain war material in the United States, fitting their orders into our program." ^{all} Nearly of their materielle," he then declared, "would be useful for our own defense."

As for the terms of payment, Mr. Roosevelt stated: "For what we send abroad we shall be repaid within a reasonable time following the close of hostilities, in similar materials or at our option, in other goods of many kinds which they can produce and which we need."

Then he added this plea: "Let us declare to the Democracies quote:- "We Americans are vitally concerned in your defense of freedom. We shall send you in ever increasing numbers ships, planes, tanks, guns."

The President next threw down the gauntlet of defiance to the Axis powers when he declaimed, "In fulfillment of this purpose we will not be intimidated by the threats of Dictators. Such aid," he said, "is not an act of war even if a Dictator should unilaterally proclaim it to be so. When the Dictators are ready to make war upon

us they will not wait for an act of war upon our part. They did not wait for Belgium, or Norway, or The Netherlands to commit an act of war."

So much for foreign affairs, and the dramatic highlights of today's historic messages. Turning his eyes inland Mr. Roosevelt told the Congress that many subjects in our social economy call for immediate improvement; such as old-age pensions and unemployment insurance, also better opportunities for adequate medical care for everybody, and a better system to provide jobs for all who need work.

MIDDLE EAST

Meanwhile the news from Afric continues to be exciting. There is going on now what the military experts in London call a race between the British and Hitler. Having captured Bardia the next goal of the Australian divisions is Tobruk, another Lybian Port some sixty miles West of Bardia. Tobruk was being intensively bombed by the Royal Air Force today.

The British believe that Hitler will be obliged to do something spectacular to offset the capture of Bardia. So the Army of the Nile is pushing toward Tobruk before the Nazis can come to the rescue.

The clean-up at Bardia seems to be pretty complete. The calculations tonight are that Britain's army of the Nile has captured some seventy thousand Italian prisoners; thirty-eight thousand taken at Sidi Barrani, and some thirty-odd thousand at Bardia.

And, at Bardia the Aussies captured tremendous booty; tanks, guns, equipment of all kinds and abundant stores.

In Italy Mussolini's people haven't yet been told the news about the fall of Bardia. All they could learn from the Rome radio broadcast was that the defense of that

Libyan stronghold was an epic sacrifice and a ^{sure}~~short~~ token of eventual victory.

But there ~~was~~ considerable significance in a communication which described the ~~heroism~~ heroism of an Italian General whose name is Bergonzoli. He's a veteran of the Spanish Civil War and was in command of the Fascist Division at Guadalajara. The Australian Tommies rebaptized him with the picturesque name of General Electric Whiskers because of the ^{blue-black} luxuriant ~~vs~~ foliage on his chin. Whatever name you prefer to give him, General Electric Whiskers Bergonzoli is being hailed by his countrymen tonight because he refused to escape by airplane

from Bardia and took his chances along with the plain soldiers.

And that sounds like Italian acknowledgement of the capture of Bardia.
praises
~~And~~ The British are also singing the ~~praises~~ of

a General whose name was unknown on this side of the ocean until today. His full title is Major General Iven Gifford MacKay. Eight months ago he was a schoolmaster near Sydney. Now he is distinguished as the General Officer commanding the Australians who captured Bardia. But even as a schoolmaster he's no novice as a fighting man. He was in the last war, fought at Gallipoli and

gained many honors. In fact it was in the last war that he earned the nickname of "Iven the **T**errible" -- before he went back to being a schoolmaster -- and before he became the idol of this new Australian Army of the Nile.

BULGARIA

History seems to have something up her sleeve in the Balkans. We can't yet tell what it is. Though reports are definite, that contradict each other. But it seems pretty sure that Hitler is about to bring off another major coup in southeastern Europe. And that right soon. He's getting ready to pull something out of the bag to offset the ^{British} smashing victories in Africa and what the amazing Greeks have done in Albania.

First we hear that the Fuehrer is about to march into Bulgaria. The United Press says it has private information that the Nazis delivered an ultimatum to Bulgaria on Saturday, that the Bulgarian government gave in, and that the German hordes will march across the Bulgarian frontier shortly; probably Wednesday, since tomorrow is Christmas Day in the Orthodox Greek Church calendar.

The story goes that Bogdan Filoff, the Bulgarian premier, was at Vienna over the weekend and that he received his ultimatum from Von Ribbentrop. Corroborating the story is the report that Hitler's generals now have had a million troops including mechanized Panzer divisions in Rumania, from where it would be an easy step over the border into Bulgaria.

The Soviets, like the Czarist Government of Russia, have always declared that Moscow could not be indifferent to any important change in the complexion of the Balkans. But some believe that Hitler and Stalin have made a deal whereby the Russians get a free hand in Finland on condition that the Fuehrer can do as he pleases in southeastern Europe.

But that U.P. report is denied from three different directions. First, Berlin. Nazi officials ridicule the notion of an ultimatum having been received by Bulgarian Premier Filoff. Also denial from Sofia, capital of Bulgaria. But Balkan diplomats on duty in London declare that there are not five hundred thousand German troops in Rumania -- only fifth thousand. They point out that only last month a member of the Bulgarian Parliament proposed that they should line up with Hitler and Mussolini, and the Bulgar Foreign Affairs Committee turned it down.

One interpretation of all this is:- A.- that Hitler is either preparing to march through Bulgaria on Salonika, thus coming to the help of Mussolini; or, B- that all these motions in the Balkans are feints just strategy to distract the attention of the British while he's really making another desperate attempt

for the invasion of Britain.

It may or may not be significant that the report of the coming occupation of Bulgaria is fully believed in Belgrade, capital of Jugoslavia.

ALBANIA

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Another report of German reinforcement to the
Italians in Albania. This ~~xxx~~ is more circumstantial than
the others which were denied. For it states that a Greek
contingent was badly beaten, twenty-four miles to the south of
Tirana. And the force that beat it was a strong Italian
detachment supported by German tanks. The significant thing about
this report is that it comes from Yugoslavia. Hitherto all the
stories from Yugoslavia have been favorable to the Greeks.

Many of them have been premature though the facts overtook the
rumour later. This engagement south of Tirana was not a big one,

the forces engaged were not ^{numerous.)} ~~new ones~~ ^{most} The important feature of

it is the apparently definite presence of those German tanks.

In other words, Hitler seems to be on the
march to ^{try and} rescue his Fascist comrade,

Here's a still later bulletin from Budapest, hot off the wire. The Hungarian Nazis are giving out further details about the latest agreement between Stalin and Hitler. The Soviet Tsar gets not only a free hand in Finland but also more land in Rumania, the entire province of Moldavia. In exchange Hitler has a free hand in Bulgaria. ~~Altogether it does not sound~~

~~implausible.~~ That's the latest dope on that boiling Balkan cauldron and its new witches brew,

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There'll be quite a red-letter sporting event at Madison Square Garden in New York tonight. Alice Marble, the unquestioned lady champion tennis ace of the world becomes a professional. ^{8 1/2} *Beauteous, glamorous Alice* ~~she~~ will make her first appearance as a pro, playing against Mary Hardwick, the English champion. Later in the evening Alice, with Big Bill Tilden, the old master, as her partner, will play Miss Hardwick and Don Budge. ^{TP} It is interesting to learn that the twenty-five thousand dollars which Alice Marble

will get for a year of professional tennis will be spent taking *So Gene Sarazen, ²⁰⁰ buddy of the Duke of* singing lessons. ⁹ If she succeeds in her ambition, she'll be the

first girl ^{to} ~~first~~ jumped to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera

House by way of Madison Square Garden. *Some jump*

Hugh, even if Alice were powered with that high-powered Mr Blue.

^{9 1/4} Or are you talking about some-thing else tonight?

indoor, tells me! ~~that~~ well,