

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

6  
The European news has never been more puzzling than ~~it is~~ tonight. First of all, here's something from Rome. ~~Duce~~

Mussolini <sup>has</sup> issued a call for more men; <sup>he has</sup> summoned three hundred and thirty thousand of his reserves to the colors. That makes nine hundred thousand soldiers he has under arms, not counting those in <sup>Africa</sup>

~~Libya, Italian Somaliland or Ethiopia.~~

Here's another ~~bit~~ <sup>Italian</sup> from Rome. The <sup>government</sup> had invited twenty foreign newspaper correspondents to go to Albania and look the situation over for themselves. Today the invitation was - not exactly cancelled, but postponed.

Again a bulletin from Rome. Fascist officials profess to be much exercised over dispatches that have come from Tunis. These dispatches accuse the French of having mistreated Italian residents in Tunis. The interpretation of <sup>which</sup> ~~this~~ is that the Duce is going to let loose another press campaign against France.

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So far the Fascist press has done nothing but print those dispatches from Tunis which are described as having been obviously inspired. One of them makes the charge that Jews in Tunisia were persecuting Italians.

Another move by Mussolini was the sending of reinforcements to the Italian garrisons in Libya and the islands of the Dodecanese, those islands which Mussolini fortified, much to the displeasure of Turkey, and ~~incidentally not pleasing~~ England, ~~any too much~~. They lie within striking distance of both the Suez Canal and the Dardanelles.

The gravest information in today's news comes from Paris. There it's rumored that France and Great Britain have agreed and determined to fight Mussolini if he spreads out any further. In fact it is even said openly that Downing Street and the Quai d'Orsay have sent a note to Mussolini through Lord Perth, the British Ambassador, warning him that any further expansion threatening <sup>en</sup> the status quo in the Mediterranean would be met by the full armed force of the two democratic countries. On top of this come reports of extraordinary movements by the Allied fleets in the Mediterranean.



~~The latest from Albania is that Mussolini's troops are advancing clear across the little country to the Jugoslav frontier in the north and to the Greek border in the south.~~

48  
London is taking the Italian business even more seriously. All the officers of the navy and the air force on leave have been called back. British warships have been ordered out of Italian ports. A special meeting of Parliament has been summoned for Thursday. There was an emergency meeting of the Chamberlain Cabinet at Downing Street this morning. ~~It is most~~

*It did not*  
~~important decision was not to~~ denounce the treaty made with Mussolini last year, *as some had expected.*  
~~that it, not yet~~

And it is announced at the British War Office that ~~the territorial army~~ nine units of the territorial army, that is, the National Guard, have already been recruited up to full war time strength.

The sensational rumor about threatening movements of Hitler's troops is without any official confirmation, whatever. The gist of the rumors was that large German armies were being concentrated on the western frontier. Of course this hinted at a

The big puzzle in all this European news is this:-

Why are the French and British governments so excited because Mussolini has taken over little Albania? They gave up Czechoslovakia to Hitler without a murmur, and Czechoslovakia <sup>was</sup> ~~had been~~ a real military stronghold on Hitler's eastern flank. The italians have

had actual control over Albania for more than ten years. So why now

<sup>are</sup> ~~do~~ the powers <sup>so aggitated?</sup> ~~get up on their ear because Musselini has taken~~

~~possession of what he has paid for?~~ <sup>HP</sup> The most plausible answer seems

to be that they are afraid the Duce has his army aimed at the

Dardanelles. He has possession of Durazzo, <sup>^</sup> which in ancient Roman

times used to be Dyrrhachium, a most important seaport and

strategic starting point for all campaigns east of the Adriatic.

It was at Dyrrhachium that Julius Caesar landed to defeat Pompey

<sup>F</sup> at Pharsālia. It was at Dyrrhachium that Mark Anthony landed to

defeat Brutus and Casius at Philippi. The old Roman road to

Byzantium started at Dyrrhachium.

Like ~~all these~~ other marvelous highways built by the

Romans, it is still in <sup>well - as in the days when</sup> ~~almost as good condition as it was the day~~

the first Roman legion marched over it. ~~We have observed that~~



<sup>TF</sup> Mussolini's troops are <sup>now at</sup> ~~approaching~~ the Greek frontier. <sup>And</sup> From there  
it's a comparatively brief dash to Saloniki, Adrianople, and  
finally Constantinople. <sup>that would mean</sup> ~~and the~~ control of the Dardanelles. It is  
quite natural for any European power, even Germany as a matter of  
fact, to object to seeing those most vital Straits, the  
Dardanelles, in the hands of Mussolini.

GREECE

50  
Great Britain has still further increased the "Stop Hitler"  
circle. The Chamberlain government has taken Greece into the fold,  
promised<sup>ing</sup> to defend the independence of the Helenes against any  
aggression. This isn't official, it comes from the LONDON EVENING  
STANDARD. At the same time we learn that a special session of  
Parliament has been summoned for Thursday. And the STANDARD  
predicts that Chamberlain will then inform the House officially  
about this Grecian <sup>guarantee.</sup> ~~business~~



METAXAS

An official announcement from Athens seems to corroborate the scoop of the LONDON EVENING STANDARD. Premier John Metaxas declared officially that "the independence and integrity of Greece is absolutely assured."

This official communication was issued by Premier Metaxas while Mussolini's troops were on the march to the Albanian-Greek frontier. Metaxas said he made that announcement "in order to expel all anxiety on the part of the public." Then he added: "The people can go about their occupations peaceably in the certain knowledge that the government is ceaselessly on the watch to preserve their security and honor."

One ~~excessively~~ vital fact about this <sup>may possibly be that</sup> ~~is that it means~~  
Greek harbors and airports <sup>will be</sup> at the disposal of <sup>British</sup> ~~English~~ men-o-war  
and <sup>British Squadrons of the skies,</sup> ~~fighting planes.~~

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Here's a later bulletin from Athens. It reports that a considerable fleet of warships, both French and British, are <sup>now</sup> ~~reported~~ <sup>historic</sup> cruising around the <sup>island</sup> of Corfu.

~~SOFIA FOLLOW CORFU~~

And here's news from Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The Chamberlain government is making a desperate effort to get the Bulgarians on their side. It's a trifle late; and, diplomats say it's too late. The way the cards lie now, if the lid blows off the kettle in the Balkans, Bulgaria, situated as she is, will have to choose Italy and Germany.



MALTA

52  
The news from Europe today was full of short dispatches from different places, unimportant in themselves. But added together they seem ~~to be quite~~ significant. For instance, here's one from Malta. The anti-aircraft batteries on the Maltese coast ~~were~~ manned and got ready for <sup>instant action.</sup> ~~immediate use~~. The government announced that this was a precautionary exercise. However, it's curious that this precautionary exercise should have been ordered on this particular date.

And here's one from Nice. The British battleship MALAYA had been anchored off Mentone. She weighed anchor today and left suddenly for some destination that hasn't been revealed. ~~by~~ ~~authority.~~ But ~~it's~~ believed ~~that~~ she has gone to join the <sup>British</sup> ~~Naval~~ ~~squadron~~ <sup>ion</sup> concentrated ~~ed~~ off the coast of Greece.

Berlin  
METEORS

In Berlin ~~these~~<sup>ce</sup> rumors about German armies concentrating on the western frontier were dismissed as baseless. What's more, travelers returning to Belgium from Germany reported that they had seen nothing of the sort. At the same time, the government of Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands rushed into sudden precautions. Mines were laid, outside the principal harbors, military airplanes are held in readiness at all the army airfields, and so forth.

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The feeling in Berlin seems to be that the Nazis are holding everything, waiting for the celebration of Hitler's birthday on April Twenty-First. It is going to be celebrated on a gigantic scale. By contrast with the action of the English military authorities, thousands of German soldiers and officers were sent home on Easter leave.



NOLI

Here's a curious ~~and interesting~~ prophecy about Hitler.

He is to be crowned on Christmas Day in Rome <sup>— crowned</sup> as Emperor of a new Holy Roman Empire! That sounds like quite a large order.

The man who <sup>ventures</sup> ~~sticks his neck out for~~ this prediction is a bishop,

Bishop Fan ~~Styllas~~ Noli, <sup>one of</sup> ~~who was~~ the first ruler<sup>s</sup> of independent

<sup>— before Zog.</sup> Albania. He's now spiritual head of thirty thousand Orthodox

Albanians in this country and Canada. <sup>Fan Noli</sup> ~~he~~ was educated at Harvard

and lives in Boston. There had been rumors that Italy would

invite him to become head of the new protectorate that Mussolini

is going to erect in Albania. But Bishop Noli said: "Such

reports cannot be based on fact."

SPAIN

~~A bit of~~ <sup>Some</sup> news from Spain comes by way of Paris, ~~which~~ <sup>and its</sup>

~~is mighty~~ serious if true. A French woman political writer

declares that Franco's agreeent with the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo

Axis goes much further than an anti-Communist pact. ~~This~~

~~woman correspondent~~ <sup>She</sup> declares that it's going to be an actual

defensive and offensive military alliance and that the

totalitarian states have been promised naval bases and airports

south of the Pyrenees.

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ISLANDS

There's a story from South America that Patagonia was not the only land that the German Nazis are after. It is now reported that there's a scheme on foot to seize the Galapagos Islands, that group in the Pacific Ocean five hundred miles west of Ecuador and belonging to Ecuador. There have been Germans living there for some time and the rumor is that they're going to petition Adolf Hitler to annex them. This report comes from Quito, the capital of Ecuador.

There has been a bill pending in <sup>our own</sup> ~~the~~ House of ~~Representatives~~ Representatives <sup>for</sup> several weeks concerning those islands. <sup>A bill</sup> ~~is~~ offered by a California Representative who <sup>seems to</sup> want Uncle Sam to buy the Galapagos group from Ecaudor <sup>if he can</sup> and use <sup>the</sup> islands as a naval base.

BERGDOLL

55  
Grover Cleveland Bergdoll evidently thought the prospect of living in Germany through another war was too much. For years both his eighty year old Mother in America and his German wife have urged him to come home, face the music and start again with a clean slate. For twenty-one years he has been obdurate, declined <sup>ing</sup> to come back and stand trial. Said <sup>his German wife:</sup> ~~Mrs. Bergdoll~~

"Grover wanted me and the children to be permanent residents before he came in. He decided to give himself up as soon as that had been arranged."

~~This is announced today~~

It is announced today that several weeks ago the draft dodger began to make preparations for coming <sup>home,</sup> ~~back~~ Mrs. Bergdoll, ~~landed in New York today with four of her five children. The fifth, born in America, is already in Philadelphia.~~



ROOSEVELT

The first official with whom President Roosevelt talked in Washington today was Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Both Hull and Secretary Morgenthau met him at the station, ~~and he immediately went into a huddle with the Secretary of State.~~

The President ~~for once~~ makes no secret of his anxiety over the European drama. <sup>H</sup> It is believed in Washington, ~~and~~ in official circles, ~~too~~, that a showdown in that European turmoil is due, ~~immediately~~, maybe ~~even~~ this week.

The First Lady of the Land had something to say on ~~world problems today~~. Mrs. Roosevelt ~~this subject today~~. ~~As we all know~~, she sees a great deal of the country on her <sup>various</sup> ~~lecture~~ tours. And one conclusion she <sup>has</sup> arrived at is that there is far less isolationist sentiment in the United States than there used to be. Her words were: "There are still people who think that we can cut ourselves off from the rest of the world. But <sup>and more</sup> more people are less secure in that belief. There is a growing anxiety as to whether it is possible. It seems to be ~~still~~ <sup>says she,</sup> a hope," but not a probability."



ANDERSON

8 1/2

~~Miss~~ Marian Anderson, the negro contralto, should send a handsome bouquet of flowers to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Before the D.A.R. refused her the use of Constitution Hall, <sup>Marian</sup> ~~Miss~~ Anderson was an eminent singer. Since the episode, she has become unquestionably the most ~~celebrated, the most~~ highly publicized vocalist in the United States, ~~if not the world,~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~as most people know,~~ a multitude of seventy-five thousand assembled at the Lincoln Memorial <sup>yesterday</sup> ~~last night~~ to hear Marian Anderson's song recital in the open air. And today we learn that in June she is to be invited to sing at the White House for the King and Queen of England.

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9 1/4

Aside from that, the episode has undoubtedly added to the gaiety of the nation. And there's more to come. In April the D.A.R. will hold their annual convention in Washington and there'll be a reception at the White House April Twenty-First. But the First Lady of the Land will not be present. The Daughters, by the way, have made no comment on Mrs. Roosevelt's resignation.

TAXES

The day is past when government employees are immune from income taxes. In the future, Uncle Sam can tax state employees, and states can tax those who work for the federal government.

The bill got its final okay from the House today and was sent to

the White House for signature. <sup>What</sup> ~~It won't make a terrific~~ difference

*will it make to*

*is* Uncle Sam's income? Something like seventeen millions a year.



AMLIE

Former Congressman Amlie of Wisconsin will not be an Interstate Commerce Commissioner. He made that decision himself. <sup>But</sup> ~~of course it~~ was hardly a voluntary affair; For some time it has been evident that the Senate would throw out his nomination. There was an overwhelming majority against him in the Upper House because of charges that he in the first place is a radical, and in the second place has no qualifications for the job. So <sup>he has</sup> ~~asked~~ <sup>asked</sup> the President ~~and asked him~~ to withdraw his nomination. ~~The White House has not made Amlie's letter of withdrawal public~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~nor Mr. Roosevelt's reply. Whether that is published is up to~~ ~~Amlie himself.~~

There's going to be a most solemn and elaborate state funeral for the late Ham Lewis, he of the famous pink whiskers and the magnificent fancy waistcoats. Some time before he died the colorful Senator expressed the wish that he might be buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.



TORRIO

<sup>Q</sup>  
~~There was a genuine~~ surprise today at the trial of  
Johnny Torrio, erstwhile bootleg king of Chicago. <sup>The trial</sup> ~~It~~ has been  
going on for two weeks, <sup>coming up,</sup> ~~and the third week was just about to begin.~~  
The government attorneys were all set for the hard legal fight to  
continue when all of a sudden his counsel, Max Steuer, arose in  
court to make an announcement. He's also counsel, by the way,  
for the other two defendants, Torrio's brother-in-law, William  
Sockblower and James LaPenna. Said Steuer: "My clients wish to  
plead to the charges against them." So the Clerk of the Court said:  
"How do you plead?" Each defendant replied: "Guilty!"

8 1/2  
Torrio, in short, admits that he chiseled Uncle Sam  
out of eighty-six thousand dollars. ~~in income taxes for the years~~  
~~Nineteen Thirty-Three, Nineteen Thirty-Four and Nineteen Thirty-Five.~~  
The judge then announced that he'll pass sentence on them the day  
after tomorrow. He can, if he chooses, give them each ten years  
and a whopping ~~big~~ fine. ~~into the bargain~~

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~~In one way, this plea of guilty is a disappointment.~~

Uncle Sam's attorneys had up their sleeves a lengthy statement  
dictated at Alcatraz ~~Prison~~ by none other than Al Capone, who was  
Johnny Torrio's star pupil and succeeded him on the throne of the  
Chicago bootlegging gangster world. *A dead letter now. And s.l.*