

"Stoopenaple"

substituting

for LT.

Mar. 27,

1939.

6
GOOD EVENING ^{ANY} ~~EVERYBODY~~:-

I know Lowell says "everybody", but as long as I'm taking his place tonight, I ~~will try to make the broadcast a little~~ ^{thought I'd say "Anybody", just} ~~to vary it a little~~ ^{different}. With Lowell Thomas up in North Conway, New Hampshire, skiing with his son, and with ^{me} ~~me~~ right here in Radio City, we sort of felt it would be easier for me to do the broadcast sitting comfortably here than for Lowell to do it sitting down in a snow-drift, or perhaps I shouldn't tell on him. He really skis beautifully. I've watched him with my own eyes go whirling down the steep slopes at Lake Placid and never have I seen such a exhibition of daring and gracefulness. Sometimes he stands up, too. But enough of Lowell and his Scandinavian slat-sliding and on to the news, which I shall endeavor to give you in as serious a manner as is at my command. If I slip into the Stoopnagle vernacular once in awhile, you'll understand.

7

Today's news shows a picture of a new-fangled traffic sign they have in Cleveland. Apparently Clevelanders haven't been paying enough attention lately to the prosaic signs which say "Stop, Look and Listen" or "Cross on the green light only". So the Police Department has decided to "swing" its printed instructions. This sign I saw read "Jeepers Creepers, use your peepers", which is a truly modern way of saying "F~~o~~r goodness sakes, use your eyes." I couldn't help thinking of the great possibilities such a campaign offers for jitterbugs who are traffic-conscious. They might inaugurate a prize contest for other signs, ^{to be adopted from popular songs.} For example ^{from} the current hit, "Hold Tight", ~~has lyrics that probably the writers themselves can't understand.~~ Just listen to this beautiful logic: "Choo choo to Broadway foo Cincinnati. Don't get icky with a 1,2,3. Life is just so fine, on the solid side of the line, so -- Hold tight, hold tight, hold tight, hold tight, foo-ra-de-ack-a-saki. Want some seafood, Mama." Now my translation of some of these words for use of the Cleveland Police -- Choo choo to Broadway, foo Cincinnati. That means:-- Here's the train for Broadway and the dickens with Cincinnati.

8 traffic

Just a sly way of advertising the New York World's Fair. Then the words: "Life is just so fine on the solid side of the line", means that when you are driving your car and stay on the side of the white line which is solid, your chances of getting where you're going are better. And of course the four "Hold tights" caution rumble-seat riders to hang on around curves. The foo-ra-de-rack-a-saki is what a traffic officer says when his whistle is out of order and "want some seafood, mama" simply means that if she wants to ^{live to} eat, mama had better obey the traffic rules.

49 And if the good citizens of Cleveland want my sage advice, why not go still further with two more signs: One might say: "Across through the red light don't you dast roam, if you want to spend tonight in your old Kentucky home." The other, paraphrasing a currently popular hit -- "Hooray for Spinach -- proceed in-ach by in-ach."

MUSSO.

The big question in Europe today was, "What about ~~that~~ speech ~~of~~ Mussolini's?" The comment in Rome was that it means Italy won't do anything toward the establishment of a steady peace until she's got what she wants in the Mediterranean.

In France, Foreign Minister Bonnet said: "We are ready to discuss any proposals that Italy's diplomats might make." There's one thing that has the French puzzled, though, they want to be sure that he doesn't want anything besides the points he mentioned yesterday, Djibouti, Tunis and the Suez Canal. At the same time, the Council of Ministers ordered an increase in the French fleet.

50
An interesting report on this topic comes from Roy Howard, head of the Scripps Howard newspapers and the United Press. He has been in Europe doing some reporting on his own. In a cable to the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM, Roy says: "Many ~~pe~~ believe that Mussolini's demands may be within the range of what France is willing to concede." And he adds: "Much depends on the manner in which these things are presented in detail." And he says further: "The British Foreign Office is known to believe that guarantees ~~is~~ for the permanent security of Italy's Mediterranean position can be insured without hurting either British or French interests."

Another thing that Howard reports is exceedingly interesting. Six months ago, he said the ~~Rome~~ Rome-Berlin Axis appeared to be a thing of steel. Today, in spite of Mussolini's protestations yesterday, there's a considerable opinion that the Rome-Berlin Axis may be made only of cast iron, easy to crack. Among the majority of Italians, it isn't popular. And the anti-Semitic campaign has been unpopular in Italy because it ^{is considered} ~~has been taken~~ to prove that Mussolini is taking orders from Hitler.

GOEBBELS

51 A short cable from Berlin doesn't say much but it implies a good deal. It concerns Dr. Goebbels, Hitler's Propaganda Minister. He left Berlin and is on his way to Budapest and Athens. ~~What makes it sound important is that no explanation is made of his visit.~~ His ~~visit~~ office gave no reason for the trip. He will be gone several days. Humm. ~~Went~~

CLIPPER

We're now one stage nearer to being able to go to Europe and back by air. It took the YANKEE CLIPPER only seventeen and a half hours to fly from Baltimore to the Azores. Seventeen and a half hours with twenty-one aboard. There was room for seventy-four passengers in the YANKEE CLIPPER. The twenty-one who went to the Azores were all technicians of one sort or another, experts who made that test flight for a purpose. Also representatives of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard.

Captain Gray, who is in command, is going to stick around Horta for a few days inspecting, and taking observations. Then the next stop will be Lisbon. The CLIPPER made an average speed of a hundred and sixty-five knots.

SUPREME COURT

52 The United States Supreme Court furnished another mild sensation today. That is, it's mild to us, but it will make the eyes of lawyers pop open. It upsets legal precedents which had been considered sacred for more than a hundred years.

Furthermore, it will be bad news to job-holders of both the federal and state governments. They'll probably have to pay taxes from now on.

This blow to office-holders comes in the shape of not one, but two decisions. They were written by Justices Harlan Stone and Hugo Black, with ~~Mac~~Reynolds and Pierce Butler dissenting. Incidentally, it'll make unnecessary a new law which President Roosevelt suggested.

GARNER

(The presidential boom for Vice-President Jack Garner got under way today. It started in the Senate of Cactus Jack's home state. A resolution boosting his name went through the upper House of the Texas Legislature without a single vote against it) and was promptly sent to the House of Representatives. There's one prophet who is not without honor in his own country.

MISSING

The police of Boston, Massachusetts, today were asked to look for a Mrs. Oulette Huston, formerly of Jersey City. Mrs. Huston hasn't done anything wrong, she has fallen heir to three thousand dollars. But for some reason or other she has got to claim it before Wednesday. That's why her sister in Jersey City requested the police to try ~~and~~ find her, ~~in~~ ^{Boston} ~~Boston~~ ^{to} ~~where~~ ^{Some 18 years ago} she ~~went~~ ^{left home to} ~~become~~ a nurse in one of the state institutions of Massachusetts.

53

MOSQUITO

A new danger is threatening this country, an enemy on its way to our shores. Though it isn't a human enemy, it might turn out to be almost as bad. It's a mosquito. Its name is Anopheles Gambiae and its home is in the Jaguaribe Valley of Brazil. There this insect buzzed its wicked way so viciously that it killed ten per cent of the population.

The information, by the way, comes from Raymond B. Fosdick, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, which has been investigating. And it is Mr. Fosdick who says that this plague may eventually reach North America. What it actually does is to spread malaria. It not only killed ten per cent of the inhabitants of certain districts but upset the life of entire communities so that practically every person in those districts will be on government relief this year.

RAIN-MAKER

54
Down in Frostproof, Florida, I understand, they've been having a frightful drought. It has been so bad that the citrus growers are threatened with the ruin of their crops. So they sent all the way to Oxford, Mississippi, for a rain-maker. The rain-maker, Miss Lillie Stoate, sixty-seven years old, has been on the job sitting on the bank of Lake Reedy ever since Saturday. Unlike other rain-makers, Miss Stoate simply sits and *And sometimes, she just prophecys.* prophecys rain. ~~in twenty-four hours~~ She explained her amazing gift in these terms: "All I have to do is stay for eight or ten hours on the bank of a body of water and it will cloud up and rain in twenty-four hours right there or close about." Whether it was her charms that worked or not, rain did fall yesterday for about forty-five minutes in the neighborhood of Frostproof, Florida, and this afternoon again, a million dollars' worth of it. Now if Miss Stoate will just go up to South Norwalk, -- sit on my porch and coax the daffodils out of their lethargy, I'll be much obliged. But for free.

85
Here's a coincidence that ought to be interesting to people who buy motor fuel. On March 22nd, the newspaper "Oildom" reported that gasoline tax rates averaged for the entire country 5.44 ^{cents} per gallon. The very next day the annual report of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, published in the WALL STREET JOURNAL, said the average wholesale price of gasoline in leading markets was 5.44 cents. That is, the retail tax exactly equals the wholesale price. For a long time, falling prices and rising taxes have been edging toward this balance. Now it's here: one hundred percent sales tax. The Tax Collector has caught up. He exactly doubles the price of your gallon of gas at the moment it leaves the wholesaler.

CHAMBERLAIN

Neville Chamberlain isn't having any more Munich conferences, at any rate not this month. In the House of Commons today somebody asked the Prime Minister whether he was thinking of meeting Fuehrer Hitler and talking things over. Chamberlain replied: "I do not think it will serve any useful purpose to make

56 a personal contact with Herr Hitler at the moment."

And thereupon folded his tent and silently stole away.

Another member of the House asked the question whether the Chamberlain government was considering an economic boycott of the Nazis. The Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs said, "No, the Cabinet is considering no such method." *Enlightening, to say the least.*

At the same time (Chamberlain spoke soothing words about that trade treaty between Germany and Roumania. Said he: "We've been assured by the Roumanian government that the agreement contains no political clause. And we are also informed that Roumania has not signed away her economic independence.) Furthermore, that the treaty is not aimed at any third party."

DOUGLAS

The nomination of Bill Douglas to the Supreme Court is going through Congress on greased wheels. The judiciary committee of the Senate okayed it today without a single voice against it. And everybody in Washington expects that it will go through the whole Senate tomorrow in short order.

POLAND

57

(It began to look today ^{as if} ~~that~~ Adolf Hitler is sharpening his ~~little~~ hatchet to lop off the Polish Corridor. His campaign is starting in the usual way, in his controlled newspapers. They're full of atrocity reports, charging that Poles have been attacking German women and children.) These reports are denied in Warsaw. While the Hitler papers were attacking, the Nazi officials said positively that Germany has no plans to move in on the Corridor or on Danzig.

SPAIN

In Spain there's talk that Madrid is on the verge of surrender. In fact, deserters have run over to the Nationalist lines and say that many civilians in the besieged capital have already hoisted white flags. And they're having street battles with Republican troops who want to continue the war against Franco.

Mi-a-lá

General Miaja, the head of the Republican defense council, left Madrid and arrived at Valencia today. ~~That~~ With him were three

other high military and political officials. It was Miaja who headed

the negotiations for the surrender of Madrid. *The latest from Madrid is that Miaja ran away.*

And Burgos announces that Franco's army have broken

through the Republican lines around Toledo.

58

~~ST. MACHE - ACHE~~ ST. MACHE - ACHE

8/2
In Newark, a gentleman named McQuire complained of a stomach-ache. He thought it was from shrimps ~~but~~ he had eaten. The doctor put him under the Xrays and this is what he found in Mr. ~~Max~~ McQuire's alimentary canal:- one pocket knife, one key ring, one three-inch nail, one needle, one safety razor blade, and various assortment of small hardware. ~~xxxxx~~ He has been

allowing ^{stuff} ~~doing that~~, he says, ever since he was a boy but never had a stomach-ache until he ate those shrimps. *Shucks, if Wh.*

9
McQuire really wants a stomach-ache, he should taste some of my....but I guess I'd better get on. I think she may be listening.

9/4
And whatever it is Lowell Thomas always says - until tomorrow.