

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(The recall of Ambassador Hugh Wilson from Berlin is explained tonight, explained by the President. Has the ambassador been summoned home because of the savage treatment of the Jews in Germany?) We can answer that question in the President's own words: It has been a long time since any head of the government of the United States has spoken about affairs in a foreign country in such strongly expressed, forthright fashion.

It's against White House custom, to quote the President word for word. Ordinarily, correspondents are permitted to do no more than give a digest of what he says -- no direct quotation. That needs a special permission, and the permission was given today. So now we can have that strongly expressed and forthright statement verbatim.

("The news of the past few days from Germany," declared the President, "has deeply shocked public opinion in the United States.

Such news from any part of the world," he added, "would inevitably produce a similar profound reaction on American people in every part of the nation."

Then the President gave his own personal reaction. Quote I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a Twentieth Century civilization. enquote.

As for the recall of the American Ambassador he explained that in these words: Quote With a view to gaining a first hand picture of the situation in Germany, I asked the Secretary of State to order our Ambassador in Berlin to return at once for report and consultation. End quote.

Is this to be a permanent withdrawal? The President refused to elaborate his statement, but Secretary of State Hull let it be known today that Ambassador Wilson might remain in this country for some time to come.

(Tonight the attitude of the American government is exceedingly clear - outright indignation toward Nazi Germany for the persecution of Jews.) In Germany there's a counter-flare of anger against the United States, with Hitler newspapers defying the rest of the world.

the U.S.A. or anybody else to do anything about it; the Jewish situation in Germany.

What can be done about it? Today governments were considering plans whereby the oppressed minority in Germany, especially the Jews, could be evacuated and sent to homes elsewhere - in South America, in Africa. It is revealed that the Committee on Refugees was placing the question before the German government, when the Jewish assassination of the German diplomat in Paris touched off the new outbreak of persecuting violence. The large question at issue was -- Whether the German Jews would be allowed to take money with them, some possessions with which to begin life over again? The new anti-Semitic outbreak, with its fine of a billion marks imposed on the Jews, seems to give an answer. The Nazis will allow the Jewish people to take mighty little with them.

The American attitude so forcibly revealed by the recall of the Ambassador and the President's statement today, makes it mighty difficult for Prime Minister Chamberlain of Great Britain to go ahead with his British German peace negotiations. Especially, with British opinion thoroughly aroused. American action may have far reaching consequences.

UN*AMERICAN

The theme of religious and racial hatred flared today in the proceedings of the committee investigating Un-American activities. A witness testified that a United States Naval intelligence officer was an organizer for the Silver Shirts -- described as an American Fascist outfit that promotes religious and racial prejudice.

The witness, James Matcalf, swore that Lieutenant Charles Bruce Swift went to Prominent Chicago businessmen, introduced himself with his naval intelligence card, and persuaded them to attend a meeting staged by the Silver Shirts. There they were treated to a harangue by the Silver Shirt Leader -- Denunciations of religion and race.

This was promptly denied by Lieutenant Swift, who is a naval reserve officer. "I absolutely deny being an organizer for the Silver Shirt movement or for any kind of movement," he declares, and he characterizes today's testimony as "imagination run riot."

This, by the way, reminds me that I have received a denial from a man mentioned in previous testimony before the Committee on Un-Americanism.

There was a mention of a Ben Wolfe in connection with the National Labor Relations Board and communism. And Ben Wolfe was

identified with Benedict Wolfe, former secretary of the N.L.R.B.

This brings a protest from Benedict Wolfe, who denies that he is the person named, and refutes any charge connecting him with Communism.

The latest sensation about Un-Americanism comes today in the demand that the Dies Committee investigate the LaFollette Senate committee on Civil Liberties. Representative Mosier, an Ohio Democrat, charges that the La Follette inquiry was cooked up at a meeting in which assorted radicals participated -- all the way from liberals to Communists. So the Congressman demands that the Congressional Committee investigating Un-American activities shall investigate the senate committee investigating Civil Liberties -- on the score of un-American activities.

ROOSEVELT

president Roosevelt today made two other important announcements -- resignations. Attorney-General Cummings is resigning. The president said he would quit his cabinet post in January. The Attorney-General took the job in 1933 expecting to hold it no more than two years. He was persuaded to remain. Last July he wanted to quit, but agreed to remain until October. Now he has persuaded the president to let him go soon after the first of the year. This is the first voluntary resignation from the cabinet since the beginning of the New Deal. The first New Deal secretary of the Treasury retired because of grave illness -- he died soon after. And Secretary of War Dern died in office.

The second resignation, that of the president's son, James Jimmy Roosevelt is leaving his post as presidential secretary. His father explains that it is because of Jimmy's recent severe illness. The doctors have ordered him to rest up through the spring. When he has fully recuperated he may return to the White House secretariat -- said the President today.

SUPREME COURT

There was quite a clash of opinion in the Supreme Court today, and the subject was low dams. Arguing a T.V.A. case, a government attorney stated that for purposes of flood control, high dams were needed, low dams not so good. To this Associate Justice Pierce Butler dissented, saying that along the upper Mississippi River there are several hundred miles of low dams.

"I know there are," quoth Mr. Justice Pierce Butler, "Because I've seen them while riding by on trains. And to say that these structures have no value for flood control is foolish."

"All I can say," responded the government lawyer, "is that present day engineering opinion is that low dams have no value for flood control." And then he snapped: "It's undisputed -- except in Your Honor's mind."

And so they wrangled, and all that could be heard was --
low dams.

TAX

Here's a way to sink the United States Navy -- not that we want to do it. This is merely a vivid illustration on the subject of taxes. The figure sharks of the American Petroleum Institute calculate it this way: Take all the taxes imposed on motorists, gasoline tax, licenses, and so on. You know how much we Blue Sunoco users have to pay. Turn the total amount of taxes into pennies. I saw it done here at the Hotel Congress where an American Petroleum Convention is on. A hundred and forty-six pennies weigh a pound. The average motorist pays fifty-three dollars a year in automobile taxes. There are thirty million motor vehicles in the United States. The total of taxes they pay each year comes to five hundred and forty thousand tons of pennies. The total displacement of American warships is four hundred and seventy-four thousand tons. So you see the motor fuel tax in pennies would sink the fleet to the bottom of the ocean. Just think how it sinks the automobile driving tax-payer!

CHICAGO

Out here in Chicago they are having a milk scandal, with indictments handed down today. The charge is -- monopoly, a conspiracy to fix the price of milk. Chief among the accused is Dr. Herman Bundesen, President of the Chicago Board of Health. He has been prominent in Chicago health affairs for many a long year. Today he asked Mayor Kelly for a leave of absence, so that he can prepare a defense to the charges. He pointed out that during the sixteen years of his regime, infant mortality has been cut from eighty-five per thousand to thirty-five.

Another of the officials under charges tried to resign today. Police Captain Dan Gilbert. But ~~in~~ the District Attorney refused to accept the resignation, said he had full confidence in the captain.

FIRE

A fire that broke out on Ward's Island in the East River, New York, today wrote a new chapter in television history when the R.C.A. - N.B.C. mobile television unit covered the event on the spot.

The N.B.C. unit was picking up experimental television scenes from the new Astoria swimming pool when engineers noticed the fire. The pool scenes were hastily abandoned and they swung around to televise the fire scene.

As viewed on R.C.A. experimental receivers at the N.B.C., in Rockefeller Center at television headquarters, smoke could be seen rising from among the buildings on the island against a background of the Tri-Borough Bridge.

SCOTTSBORO

It's hardly news to report that a plea by the Scottsboro Negroes has been turned down -- similar pleas have been denied so often. Today without comment Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama refused the latest appeal for freedom by the five Negroes convicted in the Scottsboro assault case.

TEXTILE UNION

There was a Union switch today from the C.I.O. to the A.F. of L. An organization of six thousand Rhode Island textile workers changed its affiliation. This is said to be the first time that a large labor group has pulled out of the C.I.O and joined the A.F. of L. The union chiefs in Providence received their Federation charter today.

CIO

Today the announcement is -- The C.I.O. changing its name. Not much of a change, merely an alteration of one last letter. And, since the John L. Lewis organization is best known by its initials, the change of a last letter still leaves it -- the C.I.O. The former name has been -- Committee on Industrial Organization, the last word of which they are now changing to a plural. Making it -- Committee on Industrial Organizations. Change of name, but not of initials.

And no change in policy. The C.I.O. Convention, notwithstanding a presidential appeal for labor peace, restates and reemphasizes its vertical union ideas -- those same ideas which caused the original split with the A.F. of L.

And right now the C.I.O. convention in Pittsburgh has before it a new constitution designed to establish it as a permanent and independent organization -- thus perpetuating the split with the A. F. of L. The new constitution was submitted to the convention today for quick action.

HUNGARY

Resignation in Budapest -- the Hungarian cabinet has resigned. No startling political change -- the cabinet couldn't agree on various sorts of reforms. And Regent Admiral Horthy is expected to ask resigning Premier Imrady to line up another set of ministers for a new Cabinet.

GALENTO

Two-Ton Tony Galento is in the news again. Having recovered from a siege of pneumonia, that heaviest of heavyweights is hitting the sports headlines again -- and two-ton Tony sure can hit.

Today the athletic commission in Philadelphia revoked the boxing license of Harry Thomas, a boxer from Minnesota. Harry had a prizefight with the great Galento last night, and the boxing authorities don't think Harry did his best -- didn't wage one of those desperate last stand, last ditch battles to the last ounce of strength. In fact, Harry didn't last long at all -- he went out in the third round. Two-ton Tony was fatter than ever, with enough blubber on him to arouse the envy of a whale. He just toddled along ponderously, flailing with a left hook -- what they call the Galento Night-stick. Harry was down and up, time after time, and finally down. The athletic commissioner thinks he took what the sporting world so elegantly calls -- a dive. So today -- license suspended.

Also simultaneously the National Boxing Association at Washington handed Two-ton Tony ten thousand dollars -- gave it back to him. It was money the boxing behemoth had posted for a bout with Champion Joe Louis, five thousand dollars of it to go as a side bet

that the larruping Leviathan would knock the Brown Bomber out.

The National Boxing Association finds that under its charter it has no right to hold stakes in any such fashion, so today the ten thousand was returned to Two-Ton-Tony.

BOMBER

Out in Honolulu Private Ben Fleigelman of the United States Army is doing nicely. The doctors say he is in no danger whatever, after his aeroplane crash. That's encouraging news about Private Fleigelman, and I suppose all that remains is for the General to assemble the court-martial. Today the flying officers are speaking of Fleigelman's exploit as something of a miracle. No doubt there will be equal wonderment when the court martial gets busy.

Private Fleigelman is a mere aviation field mechanic who developed a longing to fly one of those giant bombers. So last night when all was dark and deserted on Luke Field at Honolulu, he climbed into one and took off. That was the miracle. Flying field mechanics have been known to swipe rides in smaller types of planes, with simple controls. But those vast army bombers have a control system so intricate that it takes a highly trained flyer a long time to learn how to handle them. But Fleigelman took off and flew. He piloted the thundering bomber around and around in circles -- on one of the greatest joy rides in the history of aviation. He forgot only one thing -- to gain some elevation. He neglected to remember that there were some hills near the flying field. In the darkness

the roaring plane headed for a hill and didn't climb. The hill didn't duck, and the result was inevitable. The expensive war giant hit a grove of pineapple trees and went crackety-crash to the ground. The damage to the plane is in the tens of thousands of dollars. The damage to Fleigelman is a great deal less. And now, General, let the Court-Martial assemble. And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.