

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Today in London's great matrimonial and political crisis, there was spoken a word that made Englishmen gasp and stare. It was one of those expressions characteristic of the educated <sup>Briton,</sup> ~~English~~ a long word, and somewhat learned. The word - irrevocable.

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It was spoken in the course of proceedings in the House of Commons today. <sup>As predicted</sup> Members of Parliament questioned the Prime Minister about the perilous clash between the Cabinet and the Crown in the celebrated case of King Edward <sup>the VIII<sup>th</sup></sup> and Mrs. Simpson. Clement Atlee, leader of the Labor Party, asked Prime Minister Baldwin to give the M.Ps. some enlightenment. ~~on how things were going~~

To this Baldwin replied in stately parliamentary fashion: "The situation", said he, "is of such a nature as to make it inexpedient that I should be questioned about it at present."

( Then up spoke the Right Honorable Winston Churchill, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and stormy petrel of British politics. He demanded from the Prime Minister an assurance -- an assurance that no irrevocable step had been taken. Baldwin gave the assurance -- there had been nothing irrevocable.

That word gave Englishmen the jitters -- it could only refer to abdication.) The mere fact that the abdication of Edward the Eighth could be inferred and hinted at in the House of Commons, that in itself was desperately alarming.

In the background of this parliamentary drama of a word, those syllables - i r r e v o c a b l e -- has served notice on the King that he must make up his mind about Mrs. Simpson -- by seven o'clock tomorrow night. Yesterday they say he gave him forty-eight hours. Tonight - twenty-four hours remain. Seven P.M. tomorrow, the deadline: -- And then, may be something irrevocable.

After today's session of the Commons, the Prime Minister hastened to Buckingham Palace. There King Edward

was waiting for him. They sat in secret conference. Later, the Prime Minister is schedule to hold a Cabinet meeting for another discussion. They may agree to make a full explanation to Parliament. And -- the King may be staging a meeting of his own tonight. There are reports that he will discuss the crisis with his Privy Council.

( Edward the Eighth had a busy day today, which some think may be one of his last on the throne. He saw his Mother, Queen Mary -- she said to be heart broken. He conferred with his brother and sister-in-law, The Duke and Dutchess of York -- next in line to the succession. The Duke and Dutchess had dinner with Queen Mary this evening -- the King did not accompany them. There also are rumors that the monarch saw Mrs. Simpson again this afternoon.)

About her there are sll sorts of confusing reports. One that she is ill with influenza. Another -- that the illness story is a mere excuse for exclusion -- that she is packing her bags, ready to flee from England, aghast at the turmoil she has created. One bit of gossip says she is returning to her native America. Another that

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she'll go to France. And there's that other whisper -- that the king will go with her.

( Edward the Eighth himself is described as un-  
changing in his determination to wed Wally of Baltimore )-  
still standing on his reply to Stanley Baldwin. When the  
Prime Minister spoke to him in opposition to the proposed  
marriage, the Monarch is quoted in this terse retort: "I am  
the King." He'll have his way -- or he'll abdicate.

The lines of struggle were drawn more tensely  
today. The British press blazed to an astonished nation  
the story of the political crisis in the King's romance.  
The bulk of England's newspapers powerfully support the  
Ministers, the House of Commons, the upper class, and the  
Church of England in their adamant opposition to the  
marriage of the King to the one-time debutante of Baltimore.

In addition to talk of Cabinet resignation and  
royal abdication, they say the Ministers may go so far as to  
push a law through Parliament forbidding a King of England to

marry without the consent of the Privy Council. Another tale relates that there may be an attempt to attack the divorce of Mrs. Simpson from Earnest A. Simpson and have it declared invalid.

Today's latest news tells us of a public reaction in favor of the King. Some of the liberal and Labor newspapers have come out with declarations that the monarch should marry to suit himself. The powerful press of Lord Rothemere, who owns the EVENING NEWS and the DAILY MAIL, the largest circulation in Great Britain, comes to the King's side. And when Lord Rothemere speaks it commands attention.

The idea of a compromise is advanced, whereby the King might marry Mrs. Simpson without making her Queen. He to wed as Duke of Cornwall, she to become Dutchess of Cornwall.

Yes, the masses of the people are reported to be veering in favor of the most popular monarch England ever had. Those masses of everyday folk who for the first time today actually learned that there was such a person as Mrs. Simpson.

Such is the drama of state and romance enacted in London today, and behind it all -- a flash of irony. The sudden publicity that flared all provoked by that sermon preached in the North England by the Bishop of Bradford. But today the bewildered Bishop speaks in a tone of astonishment. His remarks from the pulpit were interpreted as meaning Mrs. Simpson, but he says he didn't mean any such thing. He declares he wasn't referring to the King's private life, didn't know a thing about it - had never heard of Mrs. Simpson. All that he had in mind was the King's practice of religion. He was merely expressing his hope that Edward the Eighth would be more attentive as a churchman and churchgoer. Such was the significance of the Bishop's reference to the King's need of God's grace. To which he added: "Some of us wish he gave more positive signs of his awareness." The Bishop of Bradford in a daze. His statement today certainly gives the whole affair an ironic turn. For long weeks there has been a studied silence in

England about the King and the lady from Baltimore. The newspapers said nothing, kept all reference to the subject out of their pages. It's easy to see how a clamped lid like that would inevitably lead to a sudden blow-up. You can't suppress news so important as that, without having it break with a wild flash, when it does break. For underneath the unofficial censorship, word was creeping around about the Simpson affair -- circulation of gossip, the huge publicity given to the royal romance by the newspapers in the United States, publicity abroad that could not be eternally kept out of England.

So everything was primed for an explosion - when the Bishop of Bradford spoke up. His pulpit declaration was inevitably interpreted as the first public pronouncement of the Simpson subject by a prelate of the Church of England. It seemed an official warrant to lift the lid, and it was lifted. The newspapers in the North of England picked up the cue, and printed the story yesterday. And today every British newspaper carried the full story about the King's friend, the girl who grew up in Baltimore and today stands a central figure in one of the greatest crisis in British history!

FOLLOW KING

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Here's a tip for anyone who is suddenly buttonholed with the question, "Now why can't the King marry Mrs. Simpson?" That's a favorite query of the hour. So here's a way of answering it - by referring to that most dignified volume which made its appearance today, British "Who's Who", London's aristocratic catalogue of everybody that counts. As I took a look today through the new British "Who's Who", I couldn't miss His Majesty, the King. As is always the case, the front pages are studded with pictures of the royal family; the one that leads off is a handsome portrait of His Majesty, King <sup>Edward</sup>~~George~~ the Eighth.

I did as anyone else would do, I went thumbing through the S's, S-i, S-i-m. Sure enough, Simpson. Plenty of them. But which ones? British "Who's Who" lists six pages of assorted Simpsons, all famous in one way or another. But among them was no mention of Mr . Ernest A. or Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson. They are not among those present.

So you can imagine the raising of London eyebrows and the exclamation of blank astonishment - "How can His Majesty marry a person who is not even in 'Who's Who'?" That would seem



to settle the matter for fashionable Mayfair. The trouble being, that it doesn't settle anything at all for King Edward.

Skimming through <sup>the</sup> British "Who's Who", I found various other disharmonies and disproportions that seem a little astonishing. Let's run down the R's. R-o-o. Yes, there are a few Roosevelts. <sup>The present</sup> Colonel Theodore Roosevelt gets forty-eight lines of biographical mention. Kermit is dignified with twenty-three lines. The other Roosevelt, Franklin Delano, gets only eighteen lines, running third. But then Stalin, the Red Dictator, gets only eighteen words, Hitler five lines, and Mussolini's biography is printed in Italian. To complete the picture, Haile Selassie is <sup>still</sup> listed as "Emperor of Ethiopia."

CHINA

From Spain, the same <sup>tragic</sup> ~~old~~ story. Just another version of what we've been hearing before. The Rebels ~~are~~ hammering at Madrid from three different quarters on land and also from aloft.

But a new center of trouble <sup>has</sup> developed in the Far East. Here again the story is rather a repetition of what we have heard before: Japan lands <sup>troops</sup> troops on Chinese soil. The only thing new about it is geographic, the location of the trouble.

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Tsingtao the thriving seaport of the Province of Shantung is the place. Before the Great War it belonged ~~to~~ for a while to Germany. This latest Japanese aggression is quite typical. The excuse for the landing of Japanese marines was a strike. Chinese workers in textile mills owned by Japanese, thirty-six thousand of them, demanded more wages. The result, was not strictly speaking a strike, but a lock-out. That was followed up by the landing of the eight hundred Japanese marines. The reason given out by Tokyo is that: "Chinese officials and police are too incompetent to preserve law and order." Therefore the war lords landed their marines as they put it to protect Japanese lives and property.

Shantung is a juicy morsel of China on which the Mikado's war lords have been casting a lustful eye for many years. One of the richest provinces of China, a center of the silk industry, it lies facing the Japanese island of ~~the~~ Formosa. The odds are heavy that this is the prelude to the seizure of Shantung by the Mikado's fighting boys.

TOWNSEND

It sounds like an election echo - to mention Dr. Townsend and his Old Age Revolving Pension Plan. Actually, it's an echo of a thing that happened a few months before election - ~~an~~ *the* investigation which Congress staged, inquiring into the workings and financings of the Townsend Plan. At that time, the Doctor was annoyed by the questions the Congressional investigators were ~~x~~ asking him, so he just ups and walks out, ~~he~~ quit the <sup>investigating</sup> party flat, and refused to return - much to the indignation of the Congressional inquisitors. <sup>It</sup> It's against the law to refuse to abide by the summons of a legislative investigating committee.

So the ~~an~~ Doctor's walk-out came under the heading of high treason,   
— *at least high dudgeon.*   
or high something or other. There was talk of punishing him, of summoning him for contempt. Of talk there was much, but of action there was nothing at all. Congress, with the campaign coming on, did not dare ~~to~~ fool around with a carload of political dynamite, which the Townsend Plan was supposed to be. They were too cautious to do anything drastic about the Doctor and his O.A.R.P. with its legions of members.

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<sup>that</sup>  
Now the election has passed, ~~and~~ courage has returned.

After what happened on November Third, there isn't so much terror in the Townsend Plan any more. So what do we hear today? An indictment. Dr. Townsend ~~is~~ summoned to be tried for the way he walked out on the Congressional investigation. The indictment names not only Townsend himself, but also Dr. Clinton Wunder of New York and John Keifer of Chicago, both of whom were original directors in the Pension Organization. They <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ also involved in the flouting of the investigating committee. The Assistant United States Attorney in Washington announced today that he will try to get the Doctor to come to the trial of his own free will, without the necessity of issuing warrants and having him arrested.

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ROOSEVELT

Tonight we can ring down the curtain on the presidential episode of the big Pan-American Peace fiesta. The last scene shows us tonight a long rakish cruiser steaming north at top speed, cutting the sea with swathes of foam. The speedy INDIANAPOLIS steering north, and she won't stop till she gets to Mobile, Alabama.

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(Today President Roosevelt was in Montevideo,) and was received with an embrace. The INDIANAPOLIS, leaving Buenos Aires, was escorted during the night by the entire fleet of the Argentine Republic, and at Montevideo was received by the entire fleet of the Republic of Uruguay, consisting of one warship, a cruiser. President ~~Ex~~ Terra was at the dock to receive President Roosevelt. Our own chief executive was coming down the gangplank. President Terra rushed to meet him, and that's when the embrace took place. The President of Uruguay threw his arms around Mr. Roosevelt with Latin enthusiasm.

(The stay at Montevideo was for the scheduled six hours, amid vast popular enthusiasm and a downpour of rain.) The rain dampened everything except the welcome. President Roosevelt

had lunch with President Terra, and received guests at a formal reception. And then with another embrace (he boarded the INDIANAPOLIS, bound for Charleston, South Carolina.) And now may I embrace all of you -- and say s-l-u-t-m.