

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Today was a day of wild rumors from the Balkans. Rumors from Belgrade, rumors from Bucharest, rumors from Ankara, and, rumors from Sofia. Out of that welter of "it is reported; and it is said"; the truth is not too easy to discern, except two facts: Bulgaria is now a part of the Nazi system, virtually a part of Hitler's Reich; also, Nazi troops are at the borders of Greece. Hitler's bombers tonight are within easy flying distance, just sixty-five miles from Salonika, and only sixty-eight miles from the Turkish fortifications in Thrace. That much is definitely true.

Another fact that seems to be fairly definite concerns Moscow. The Soviet Union disapproves the anschluss of Bulgaria to the Reich and has said so. We can't say this is indisputable,

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for the report comes in a round-about fashion. It purports to be a radio broadcast from Moscow overheard in London. And, On the other hand, we don't hear any report of Stalin's having expressed his disapproval to Hitler.

Moscow broadcast
According to that ~~Moscow radio report~~, overheard in London, it was at the Bulgarian government that the Soviet Union shook its finger. The Deputy Commissar for Foreign Relations told the Bulgarian Minister to Moscow that, first - the Soviet government cannot share the opinion of the Bulgarian government that the presence of German troops in Bulgaria will facilitate the preservation of peace. The Russians point out that events will not now be within the authority of the Bulgarian government, and this will lead to the widening of the theatre of war and its penetration into the Balkans. *Second,* ~~And the Moscow Foreign Office said further that~~ the Soviet Union therefore is unable to render support to the Bulgarian government, especially since the Bulgarian newspapers lately have been distorting the truth regarding the attitude of the Soviet.

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Of course even if it is true, this disapproval by Stalin may not mean much. He has plainly shown that he does not want any fight with the Nazi army. If the troops of the Soviet move at all, it will be somewhere where they won't meet with much any resistance, ~~to speak of.~~

As for more
~~Now for some~~ of those rumors. One of them comes from Ankara. ~~The~~ Travelers arriving from Bulgaria ~~have~~ reported the appearance of Hitler's motorized forces on the borders of ^{European} Turkey, -- ~~in Europe.~~ *Thrace.* That report goes as far circumstantially as to mention the place in Thrace where a detachment of Nazi motorcycle troops and tanks had arrived, ~~It's a place called~~ Svi Lengrad, only twenty miles from Adrianople, the headquarters of the Turkish army in Thrace, and only a hundred miles from the Dardanelles. Ankara reports that the Turks have somewhere between three hundred thousand and five hundred thousand soldiers entrenched along the Thracian border.

There was also a bit of excitement at Ankara today when the German embassy announced that a special messenger from Berlin had arrived at Istanbul and would be in Ankara tomorrow

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morning. It was rumored for a while that the special messenger was no less than Hitler's Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop.

But the German embassy denied that, said it was just a courier, not any Nazi big-shot.

Now here's a report from Bulgaria's capital. ^{That} Hitler's generals have a large and powerful force amassed on the frontier between Bulgaria and Greece. This isn't official, just a guess. But the grey uniformed ^{hordes} ~~columns~~ were rolling across Bulgaria in such massive columns that the observers estimated there were between twelve and fifteen divisions, from a hundred and eighty thousand to two hundred and twenty-five thousand men. Whatever the truth, we may be sure that Hitler has a strong and sizeable army on the Greek border tonight.

Ironically enough, this was the day on which the Bulgarian people celebrated the Sixty-Third Anniversary of their liberation from the Turks.

There's also a rumor that the British have disembarked and entrenched a large army at Salonika. That isn't official either,

~~it isn't even~~ ^{not} doesn't ^{it} even come from ^{the} any British center. It was

published by Virginio Gayda, the editorial mouthpiece of ^{Assistant} Fuehrer
Mussolini. ~~It seems to be more appropriate to call him "Fuehrer"~~
~~Mussolini now than "Duce" since he is being described as the~~
~~"Quizzling of Italy."~~

~~And here's a rumor from the capital of Jugoslavia.~~

Belgrade today was one of the principal centers of rumors. And that was inevitable because of the obvious activity of Nazi emissaries and diplomats in the Jugoslav capital. The culmination of all those rumors is that Hitler has offered the Jugoslav government a bargain. If they all join the Axis, the Jugoslavs will get Salonika. Not only Salonika, which means an outlet into the Aegean Sea, but also a guarantee from Hitler for the integrity of all the territory that is now Jugoslav.

Now for Athens. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, has been in intensive conference with the heads of the Greek government, and the report is that tonight they reached an agreement on all the important questions involved. That's vague enough and comprehensive enough, but evidently means that the Greeks aren't going to surrender no matter how many troops Hitler has on the Bulgarian frontier.

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In Berlin, the Nazis were jubilating that the presence of German troops in Bulgaria has completely changed the position of Greece. Officially, it is announced that the general staff has reached all its objectives in Bulgaria, according to plan, but that Hitler has not yet served any formal ultimatum on the Greek Government.

/ And here's the reaction in Washington. The Secretary of the Treasury will issue an order tomorrow, freezing Bulgarian credits. Secretary Morgenthau said it would be some sort of freezing order. Reporters asked him whether it would apply only to Bulgarian credits or to all foreign credits. That he refused to answer.

BRITISH AID

Senator Carter Glass of Virginia today came out ~~flat-footed~~ in favor of putting a ^{check} muzzle on his colleagues in the British Aid debate. The talk, he said, has gone on too long and he would favor the cloture, which means an iron bound limit on further speeches. He did not say this in the Senate, but to reporters. Only a few times in the history of Congress has the Senate ventured to enforce the cloture. It takes a two-thirds majority to put it over.

The proposal came to the ears of Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri who bridled at the suggestion and remarked that the administration had not got the votes to enforce a cloture. Senator Barkley of Kentucky admitted that he was ^{himself} considering such a move. But the administration leaders were worrying ^{principally} about the Ellender Amendment which would embody a proviso that nothing in the bill would authorize the President to use the Army or Navy outside the Western Hemisphere or any of Uncle Sam's possessions.

ADD BRITISH AID

Republican Senator Bridges of New Hampshire was one of the speakers in favor of the bill today. He made the point that this ^{war} ~~struggle~~ is not merely a struggle between armies, not one of the never-ending wars that have plagued Europe through history. "On the contrary," said ^{Sen,} Bridges, "it is a struggle between philosophies of government." If Britain is not successful, he said further, the world will be dominated by Germany, and that will bring us immediately into economic war and - either immediately or eventually - into a military war. Bridges remarked that Hitler and his legions were at the Greek border and the Senate still was talking.

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Later this afternoon, the administration forces and the opposition came to grips over that cloture business. It was ^{Sen,} George of Georgia who opened the fight asking for a limitation of ~~the~~ debate by unanimous consent. The challenge was taken up quickly by Missouri's ^{Sen,} ~~Bennett Champ~~ Clark, who objected. And that ^{'s about} ~~was that~~ ^{all} for the time being.

WALSH

Uncle Sam's Navy could easily take care of itself in American waters, against any fleet. It could, for instance, defeat the navy of Japan, provided the Japanese navy were ~~kind~~ enough and rash enough to venture all the way across the Pacific.

But, if our navy tried to invade Japanese waters, ^{it would be} ~~the attempt~~ ^{the other way round.} ~~would be suicidal.~~ So said Senator Walsh of Massachusetts today,

Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, ~~He made that~~ ~~statement~~ in the course of a speech against the British Aid Bill.

As Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, the gentleman from Massachusetts may be presumed to have some knowledge on the subject. In fact he declared that he was quoting naval experts. Any naval expedition in far away waters, he declared, would be an uphill battle and hazardous.

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Senator George of Georgia, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, then took issue with Senator Walsh. He quoted Walsh against Walsh, producing a report that Senator Walsh had written last year. In that report the Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee had emphasized the weakness of American defenses and the need for strengthening them. And Senator George

WALSH

claimed that Senator Walsh was contradicting himself. Nothing of the kind, retorted Walsh, that report of a year ago was one in which he urged the further expansion of our navy. Since that time, he added, we have developed sufficient size and strength to prevent any invasion.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt was obliged to take it easy today, --
~~didn't see any~~ ^{no} visitors. This is the fourth day he has been
suffering from a cold in the head, so Rear Admiral McIntire, who
is Mr. Roosevelt's personal physician as well as ~~being~~ Surgeon
General of the Navy, ordered him to rest and cut down on his work.
Consequently, the President cancelled all the engagements ~~that~~
~~had been made for him today,~~ ^{including his usual} ~~didn't even hold his regular~~ Monday
morning conference with the leaders of Congress to receive reports
on the progress of the British Aid Bill in the Senate. But
Secretary ~~Steve~~ Early said Mr. Roosevelt ^{did} ~~had~~ talked to them over
the telephone.

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DEFENSE LABOR

In spite of optimistic reports our national defense program *has*
already
~~has~~ been considerably hampered by strikes. The authority for *this*

~~that~~ statement is Robert Patterson, Under-Secretary of War. He *has*

just
~~^~~ told the Judiciary Committee of the House that in the last week of
February alone one hundred and twenty man-days of labor were lost.

~~I assume that means~~ *Or* the equivalent of the work of one hundred and
Under-Sec.
twenty thousand men for one day. ~~^~~ Patterson suggested that Congress

should establish once more the same system of labor mediation that
was in force during the World War.

Another *got under way today*
~~Incidentally a strike was begun today~~ on one of the Army's
~~jobs in anti-aircraft firing range~~ at Camp Davis, North Carolina.

Some four thousand members of the American Federation of Labor
Building Trades walked out demanding a preferential shop which
means preference given to union members.

KINGSLEY

Sidney Kingsley, the playwright, the Putlitzer prize winner was whistling an old familiar ditty today. It's the song which hints that "You'll never get rich because you're in the army now."

Playwright Kingsley was today mustered into the service and left his New Jersey mountain home ~~for~~ for Fort Dix. He proved to be a model draftee because he said he was glad to go, and added that he thought the whole country ought to be drafted.

WEATHER

Old Mother Nature was playing weird pranks all over the country today; meteorological pranks. She offered almost fifty-seven varieties of weather. Floods in California, a dust storm in the southwest, snow in the inter-mountain region, the worst blizzard of the winter on the Continental Divide and spring, for the Atlantic coast states.

Heavy rains in California were followed by a savage gale off the Pacific Ocean and the Sacramento River burst through its levy. The dust storm, the second in a week, raged all the way from New Mexico to Kansas, and one airplane pilot reported he had encountered clouds of dust as high up as eleven thousand five hundred feet. A fifty mile gale in the Rockies marooned the crew of a freight train ten thousand feet high on the Cumbress Pass in Colorado - where I can recall that freight trains often got marooned in the snow.

There was just as great a variety in temperatures: ranging all the way from zero over the northern plains to fifty degrees above over Lake Michigan. Storm warnings were posted over parts of the Great Lakes. On the eastern seaboard, that weekend blizzard was followed by spring temperatures.

SUPREME COURT

ah,
Just for once, here's news from the Supreme Court, ^{news}
of direct and personal interest to the ladies. It's about hats.
Strange as it may sound, the little woman's headgear finally
caused such a hubbub that even the austere justices of the highest
bench had to settle it.

It's all on account of ~~the~~ style piracy. As you may
have heard, the designers who strung together eighty-seven cents'
worth of material, which they sold to the ladies for fifty dollars
on the ^{assumption} ~~supposition~~ that it was a hat, were sorely vexed by pirates.
No sooner had they started the big income ladies to paying fancy
prices, ~~for those gadgets,~~ than certain low fellows would come along,
~~swipe the design,~~ make the same thing and sell it for three dollars,
^{and} still showing a profit. ~~of over three hundred per cent.~~

So the ~~nobby~~ manufacturers and retailers got together,
^{They} ~~and~~ organized a guild, the idea being not to have anything to do
with anybody who had anything to do with pirated hats. Whereupon
the Federal Trade Commission ^{barked loudly,} ~~jumped on them,~~ declared that the guild
was an illegal boycott in restraint of trade. The hat guild

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appealed and the Circuit Court of Appeals declared that the
F.T.C. had been quite right. And now the Supreme Court of the
United States echoes the sentiment. ~~Mr. Justice Hugo Black~~
~~writes the opinion~~ ^{is} ~~which was~~ unanimous. ~~Incidentally, it~~ also
applies to a similar guild organized to prevent the piracy of
designs for dresses.

DOGS

In future, all dogs must wear a tag. Maybe that doesn't sound likenews. Come to think of it, I didn't finish the sentence: I should have said hot dogs. Yes, the harmless, necessary wienie is going to be against the law if he isn't properly identified. He must wear a label telling you exactly what he's made of. The Department of Agriculture today issued an official order six thousand words long; and it's all about hot dogs, sausages, and all sorts of processed meats. No hot dog may be offered for sale without a government license -- not even in a ball park, Hugh.