

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am broadcasting from Lake Placid again tonight, this time from the auditorium of the Lake Placid Club. Sitting around me, and in front of me are hundreds, perhaps a thousand skiers, bob sledders, skaters and, a some who just sit on sleds and are hauled around by dog teams. And some who just sit inside and sit and sit, and look through the windows at the mountains and the snow.

The singing which you may have heard when we went on the air was mainly being done by a lot of students and old grads. They seem to be in the majority.

On the platform with me are some famous men in the world of winter sports. I will mention them later. Now for the news that has been coming in over my Western Union wire.

HITLER

Adolf Hitler spoke today, but he didn't mention either Uncle Sam or President Roosevelt. The expected reply to the President's broadcast from the Fuehrer did not come off. Only by indirection did he refer to us with the usual Nazi slurs at democracies.

The Fuehrer issued a New Year's proclamation to his party, in which he gave assurance, as he put it, "in bloody earnestness." for that every bomb dropped on a Germany a hundred will be dropped in return. Then he proclaimed the modest purpose of, as he phrased it, "establishing the Nazi party as a court of justice, wherein Europe again can find internal peace."

In a radio broadcast to the armed forces of Germany, Hitler declared that the war must be continued as a result of the will of democratic warmongers and Jewish capitalists.

He denounced as an infamous lie the charge that either the German Reich or Fascist Italy plan to conquer the world.

It was a characteristic Hitler tirade, brimming with vituperation against the rest of the world, plus eulogies of the brave and virtuous Nazis. He talked scornfully of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's babbling, and of what he called the lies and swindles of the Allies. He also shouted that on the Western Front

the British divisions were the first to give up the battle of France.

One thing noticeable in both Nazi and Fascist statements today was a repetition of their claims to be the champions of the proletariat. Hitler once more haraanged about capitalistic war profiteers.

Not only Hitler, but all the other Nazi leaders, including the commander-in-chief of the army today again claimed to have God on their side. This had a rather strange sound in the mouth of the Feuhrer, particularly when he said that God up to now has placed the stamp of approval on the Nazi battle, and that he will not forsake them in the future.

Althought Hitler did not mention President Roosevelt, Propaganda Minister Goebbels ~~h~~ heaped epithets upon our chief executive in his newspaper, the Berlin radio put out an attack, obviously also written in the propaganda ministry accusing Mr. Roosevelt of bad conscience, nervousness, false interpretation of Hitler's remarks, and so forth and so on.

ITALY

The entire Fascist press joined the Nazi newspapers in a chorus of denunciation of President Roosevelt's. And by the way, President Roosevelt and King Victor Emanuel exchanged New Year's Eve telegrams of congratulations and good wishes.

One of the Fascist papers declares that the United States must now be considered the enemy of Germany and Italy. Therefore, it continues, the proletarian nations, meaning the Axis and Japan, must create a Front to destroy their common enemy. Another paper says that if Mr. Roosevelt's aid to England passes tolerable limits, the United States will automatically be at war, first with Japan, and then with Germany and Italy.

One of the White House Correspondents read extracts from these Nazi comments -- read them to the president. Mr. Roosevelt threw his head back and roared. Especially at the remark which declared that his broadcast was filled with notorious untruths and spitefulness. Aside from that, the president refused to say anything about the German reactions.

But the most important news out of the White House today concerned his proposal to loan or lease war materials to Britain, Greece and China; generally called the Loan-Lease Plan.

His latest addition to the plan is that Uncle Sam can be repaid with raw materials that we need, and do not produce -- such as rubber and tin. Such a replacement policy, said the president, could easily be agreed upon and operated by two friendly nations. For instance, we could turn over airplanes to the British and take rubber and tin, at some future date, in payment.

However, he declared emphatically, that no such plan could be put into effect until congress acts. Meanwhile, said Mr. Roosevelt, he wished somebody could tell him how a law covering such a plan could be written. If anybody could put the legislative details into English, he would be exceedingly grateful.

Mr. Roosevelt was asked about that statement by Verne Marshall of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa Gazette, and founder of the No Foreign War Committee. I mean Marshall's announcement that oil man, W.R. Davis had brought a peace proposal to Washington, which had been okayed by Goering, and which the State Department had pigeonholed. The president declined to make any comment on it aside from what the State Department had already said, which was that no feasible plan had been laid before it by anybody.

One of the comments on Senator Wheeler's peace broadcast last night came from Mrs. Roosevelt. She did not volunteer it, but one of the Washington reporters asked her about it at her press conference today. The First Lady declared she had read the Montana senator's words with great interest. She added that they seemed to offer a good opening for negotiations; and then she asked the question:-

"What assurance has the Senator that Fuehrer Hitler would agree to those terms which he suggests?"

She said further that there is no assurance that when peace is made it will have to be made with Hitler.

The reaction in London to Senator Wheeler's proposal was that the Senator blandly ignored the fact that no trust could be placed in any of Hitler's promises. Senator Wheeler -- said the British spokesman, -- showed a complete disregard of the Hitler regime's inherent ability to abide by its commitments. However, say the British, if a civilized administration should displace the Nazis in Germany, several of Wheeler's points might be taken as a sound starting point for negotiations.

Nazi submarines in the South Atlantic. This comes to us by way of an intercepted radio message. The steamer, Algic, owned by the United States Maritime Commission, reports that she saw a suspicious looking vessel in southern waters yesterday. That suspicious craft was large, painted white, and built like a tanker. And surrounding her were four small craft, apparently submarines.



## PLANES

The British Royal Air Force has made a New Year check-up of the enemy planes shot down in Nineteen Forty. The total British, bag, they say, is over three thousand, five hundred. Of these three thousand and five hundred, ninety had been shot down by fighters of the Royal Air Force. The rest had been accounted for by Anti-Aircraft guns, balloon barrage, and other methods.

The Royal Air Force made another interesting point. They expect American warplanes to play a big part in helping the British to victory in Nineteen Forty-One. Contrary to the report brought over by Ralph Ingersoll, editor of PM, a high official of the R.A.F. spoke words of warm praise for American planes.

## WAR PLANE

The United States could build a warplane, a new type far in advance of all others. That statement was made today to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, by Professor Hunsaker of M.I.T. The Professor said that aeronautical science had made a spectacular step forward in Nineteen Forty, with the development of two air-cooled airplane engines, with more than two thousand horsepower each. The most powerful in use anywhere else in the world, he explained, do not exceed one thousand two hundred and fifty horsepower.

The M.I.T. authority declared that we will be able to make obsolete both our own and all current European types of airplane motors.

## STUDENTS

It became obvious today that the student bodies of the United States are not as radically inclined as some expressions and events in the past made some folks think. At New Brunswick, New Jersey, there was a meeting of the National Student Federation of America, representing the student councils of more than a hundred colleges. And by an overwhelming vote the National Student Federation repudiated the American Youth Congress, and withdrew from the A.Y.C. Moreover, the National Student Federation said it was getting out because of the Red leanings of the American Youth Congress

The National Student Federation also refused to have anything to do with the International Student Service, a body in which Mrs. Roosevelt has been interested.

## FIRE ARMS

The Department of Justice is going to ask Congress to pass a law compelling everybody to register all firearms. Police chiefs have been asking for such a law, for years, and years. They've said it was ~~n~~ necessary for the protection of all peaceful folk. But it isn't on those grounds that the Department of Justice is going to ask for this law. It will be urged as a defense measure, a protection against fifth columnists, to prevent them from piling up secret arsenals.

A federal court at New York saw the climax of an amazing drama today. Almost as amazing as the one that ended when Samuel Insull was dragged back to Chicago after a chase all over Europe. The prisoner at the bar today couldn't help but remind us of the umbrageous Insull. Not only because he was a tycoon of public utilities, but also because from a shoestring he raised himself to the top as a ruler of a gas and electric empire, a one billion dollar affair as vast as Insull's. That prisoner at the bar was Howard C. Hopson, once head of Associated Gas and Electric. The climax came when the jury filed into the courtroom at one o'clock this afternoon, and announced to the court.

"We find the defendant guilty, on seventeen counts, of using the mails to defraud."

What the verdict meant was that Hopson had been convicted of swindling his own company of nearly twenty million dollars.

It would <sup>be</sup> utterly impossible for me to explain the details of the stupendous fraud in which Hopson was engaged.

It took eight weeks to try the case, and twenty-five hours for the jurors to arrive at their verdict. The conviction was a

feather in the cap of John Cahill, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, since it required wading through a literal maze of tortuous facts and figures.

As a matter of fact, it didn't take the jury so long to find Hopson guilty of the mail fraud. But, there was also a charge of conspiracy against him, and two co-defendants. It was that which stumped the jury, caused them to deliberate many hours, and finally say "Not Guilty" on the conspiracy charges.

Associated Gas and Electric, as I mentioned, was a billion dollar concern. Back in Nineteen-Twenty-Two Hopson and a partner named John I. Manze got control of this billion dollar system, using less than three hundred thousand dollars in cash to do it.

There were seven hundred thousand stockholders in Associated Gas and Electric, and Hopson swindled them of over nineteen million dollars. The concern embraced properties ranging all the way from Canada to Florida, from New York to Missouri, with one even in the Philippine Islands.

The manouvres of Hopson attracted the eye of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The S.E.C. investigated, and early this

year forced Associated Gas and Electric into bankruptcy. Then the activities of this energetic, dynamic man began to come to light.

When the law started after him, his counsel tried to make out that he wasn't sane. But the courts denied the claim, although during every night of these proceedings Hopson slept and had his living quarters at the neurological institute. Throughout the trial he displayed the utmost indifference to the proceedings, some times even falling asleep and snoring in the court. But the verdict this afternoon shook him out of his indifference, whether it was real or assumed.

He groaned loudly as well he might, since it would be within the power of the court to sentence Hopson to imprisonment for not less than eighty five years, plus fines of seventeen thousand dollars. He will hear his sentence on January Ninth.

The ~~xx~~ jury acquitted the two lawyers, who were put on trial with Hopson.

ENDING

At the beginning of the broadcast I mentioned that a thousand skiers and other winter sports enthusiasts were here in the room with me. On the platform beside me are Otto Schniebs and Bruce Fenn, local ski pooh-bahs (APPLAUSE) Bob Kelley and Harry Cross friendly rivals who represent the New York Times and New York Herald Tribune (APPLAUSE ) Captain Paul Townsedn Head of the University of New Hampshire Ski Team which came out on top here in the intercollegiate meet and Allison Merrill star jumper of that University of New Hampshire team. Their team won the jump yesterday and the cross country race today and here is Jacques Charmoz, formerly of the French Olympic Ski Team, one of the best known skiers in the world and also a distinguished artist, and now associated with Pan American Airways. And, the Marquis D'Albizzi, distinguished soldier, former leader of Alpini ski troupes and who along with Erling Strom and Rolf Monsen and others gave early impetus to the popularity of skiing in North America. Here also sit Torger and Kyrre Tokkle Norwegians and two of the greatest ski jumpers in the world. And just by way of contrast here is Ted Shane, humorist and writer who was never on skis until today. And now Hugh how about a few words on skiing or NuBlue Sunoco or something from you?