

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Before I get on with the day's news I guess I had better explain where I am. The reason I had better explain is that at any moment during this fifteen ~~mm~~ minutes period I may be interrupted. You may suddenly hear the rumble of a train, and the whistle and clanging bell of a locomotive. I am broadcasting from the railway station at St. Agathe, in the Laurentians, and my hosts, Stationmaster Herminagiles Touchette and his colleague Paul Gignac, tell me the night train from Montreal is due now in exactly one minute. But when it passed through St. Marguerite, and St. Adele just down the line, it was about twelve minutes late. So I may get blasted off the air before I finish with my Sunoco news broadcast. Or the train may come clanging in after the crowd of skiers sitting around me has started back to the Laurentide Inn to the banquet we are all going to attend.

Among those sitting around me in this little French Canadian

station -- I shouldn't say that because St. Agathe is the metropolis of the Laurentian -- sitting with me are Monsignor Bazinet, the extremely popular spiritual leader of this part of Quebec Province, Mayor Georges Liboiron, Ken Harrison of Laurentide, Tom Wheeler of Greyrocks, Explorer Brad Washburn who is also the director of the New England Museum of Natural History in Boston, Louis Therrien who runs the little restaurant here in the station, Gaston Gibeault, head of the Laurentian Resort Association and Madame Gibeault. Oh yes, and I ought to mention sixteen young fellows who have their skis stacked outside, and who are sitting here on the floor. They are all in white uniforms, because they belong to the local ski patrol. Are you all here tonight, boys?"

"Oui, oui, M. Thoma!"

And they are led by Phil Benoit who in the last World War was the youngest Canadian soldier. Benoit joined up when he was only fourteen, and survived of course, although he was wounded a number of times, gassed, and buried alive for eighteen hours.

And now from the latest news concerning this Second World War.

YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslavia remains a mystery tonight. There is not indication of what policy the new government will pursue, what it will do about the treaty putting the kingdom into the Nazi-Fascist Japanese Alliance. The only certainties are these: the new premier, Dusan-Simovich today declared that Yugoslavia will try to remain at peace with all of its neighbors, Dusan-Simovich proclaimed what he called -- a policy of full independence. We may presume that the treaty which the preceding government made with Hitler did not constitute full independence.

Today the Yugoslav army was under full mobilization, orders streaming to the frontiers of the kingdom -- ready to repel any attack.

A dispatch from Berlin tells us that Germany has just delivered a warning to Yugoslavia about alleged outrages against Germans in the country. All day the Nazi press has been fuming because of injuries which they claim were inflicted on Germans in the Yugoslav uprising. Today's representations also contain the Nazi charge that the coup d'etat by the Yugoslav army was linked with doings of the British and the Americans.

The Germans are still waiting for a reply to the enquiry sent

yesterday. Reported to have been virtually an ultimatum whether or not the new Belgrade government intends to adhere to the treaty with the Axis.

From Belgrade itself comes a report that Dusen-Simovich has informed Berlin of what he intends to do. He is supposed to have replied -- "events speak for themselves." Adding that certain points in the much-debated treaty are not likely to be accepted by the Yugoslav people. We are not told what these certain points may be, but from Turkey comes a hint.

Istanbul gives us a story telling us why the previous Yugoslav Government was over-thrown yesterday. "Because in the treaty with Hitler a secret agreement was included, hidden ~~in~~ ^{not} provisions made public. Turkish sources believe that the deposed ministers signed, a secret clause which provided for the de-mobilization of the Yugoslav army. This was contrary to a promise they had made to the army leaders before they went to Vienna to sign.

Turkish political sources give us the opinion of what the new Yugo government is likely to do. They won't denounce the treaty with Hitler -- that's what the Turk is thinking. They won't abrogate it formally, and they won't join up with the British and Greeks.

They'll try to stay at peace with Nazi Germany, try to observe neutrality.

In other words, Yugoslavia will attempt a policy of letting the treaty stand -- more as a formality than anything else.

The United Press dispatch from Istanbul uses these words:

"The Yugoslav government, it was reported, will merely acknowledge the Axis pact without either denouncing or ratifying it. Then they'll see what Hitler will do."

The latest report tells of communist demonstrations in Belgrade -- red parades through the streets, with heavy forces of Police and soldiers on guard. The communist marchers shout against the new government -- which they declare intends to get into the war on the side of Britain. "Imperialist Britain", say the Reds. The Yugoslav Bolsheviks demand another kind of policy -- a treaty with Soviet Russia.

AIR WAR

The British Government today published its official version of the Great German air attacks of last fall -- the air battle of Britain. The opinion is general that in failing to knock out the Royal Air Force in a series of tremendous blows last fall. Hitler sustained a major- set-back, the first real Nazi defeat. Some think that air battle of Britain may turn out to have been the turning point of the war. So now let's see what the London Government has to say about it.

The booklet got out today states that there were four phases of the mighty sky campaign. These were dictated by the nature of the problem and the sequence of events. The Nazi sky assault was launched as an intended prelude to invasion. The German command knew that before a successful landing could be made, it would be necessary to keep the British Navy out of the theatre of action, and to ~~give~~ drive the Royal Air Force out of the sky. So the first phase for about ten days, was launched against the shipping ports from which British Naval units would have to operate. The Germans found that the resistance put up by the British fighting squadrons was greater than they had expected. That brought on the second phase, which was directed against the R.A.F. airdromes. This lasted for

over two weeks. The campaign against the R.A.F. establishment on the ground failed to cripple the resistance put up by the Spitfires and Hurricanes, Whereupon the Germans switched to the third phase, They hit at industrial targets -- and concentrated more and more on London. That continues for nearly a month.

These first three phases were daylight attacks. The German losses were so heavy that they thereupon switched to the fourth phase -- attacks under the cover of clouds, and above all, night raiding. The waves of night bombing began.

The German losses were vastly heavier than the British. The R.A.F. casualties were three hundred and seventy-five pilots killed and three hundred and fifty-eight wounded. The Germans, during the daylight attacks, lost two thousand three hundred and seventy-five planes. In what spirit did the Nazis take such heavy losses?

The London account uses these words: "Let it be said for German morale that it never faltered, even when the Luftwaffe was losing seventy to a hundred and fifty air craft during each period of daylight. Certainly," London continues, "German pilots showed qualities of courage and tenacity." The story adds that these qualities were met and matched by superior qualities of the British war flyers.

LABOR

The Defense Mediation Board took its first action today, action in the first four strikes submitted for its consideration. The procedure was as follows. The Mediation Board consists of eleven members, and from among these panels were the appointed sub-committees. Four panels, each to deal with one of the four labor disputes. Simultaneously the Board sent telegrams to companies and unions, asking them to resume production at once, and then send representatives to negotiate for settlement.

One of the four strikes is at the plant of the Condenser Corporation of America, at Plainfield, New Jersey. Union leaders there immediately announced that they would cooperate fully with the efforts of the Mediation Board to end the walkout.

Another is the walkout at the Universal Cyclops Steel plant in Pittsburgh. There today an agreement was made. The company and the union representatives came to terms -- which are still to be ratified by the strikers.

The most important of the four strikes is the International Harvester dispute. A panel of five mediation board members have been appointed to deal with the company and the union. Included in the five are Chairman Dykstra and C.I.O. President Philip Murray.

They are to meet in Washington Monday with the representatives of Management and Labor. At the scene of the Harvester strike in Richmond, Indiana, things were quiet today. The union called off its pickets. The order was issued by C.I.O. leaders in jail. They said it was no use continuing the violence. These union leaders ~~ga~~ face charges made in court today. Affidavits were filed with the allegations of riot, and, conspiracy to commit a felony. Eighty-two C.I.O men are involved, including pickets and sympathizers.

The most important of the strikes not brought before the Mediation Board are the Bethlehem Steel Walkout and the Allis-Chalmers dispute. The Bethlehem Steel affair at the parent plant, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was settled today. The employees in a mass meeting ratified the terms agreed upon by the union leaders. They ratified jubilantly, then staged a victory parade. The strike leader stated: "This is our greatest victory, and it has been one of our hardest fights." The company declared that the settlement leaves the situation just about where it was when the strike began. Immediately after the settlement at Bethlehem a strike began at another one of the company plants -- Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the great Cambria plant. There the complaint was the same as the one that

started the Bethlehem troubles -- the employees representation plan, which the C.I.O. calls a company union. At the Cambria plant ballot boxes were placed today for voting under the employees representation plan, Whereupon the union called a strike, and the men walked out, Union leaders describe the shut-down as one hundred percent effective.

At Allis-Chalmers, some employees returned to work today. About a fourth. They were unmolested, though threatened, At a union mass meeting strike leaders demanded that the walkout be continues -- still rejecting the ultimatum or rquest -- issued by defense Director Knudsen and Secretary of the Navy Knox.

VALTIN

The Department of Justice has taken into custody a man named Krebs. That doesn't seem to mean much, until we hear that Krebs is the right name of the author who signs himself "Jan Valtin." the man who wrote the book, "Out of the Night", a current best-seller. He was arrested today on a warrant that begins deportation proceedings against him.

There's much talk about the truth or falseness of the lurid disclosures made in the book "Out of the Night". Tales of the underground communist organization, sinister, world-wide. Stories of fantastic intrigue and plotting by the Reds. Jan Valtin represents himself as having been ~~an~~ a German Communist who became a number one figure in the secret Red Network of International Intrigue. He was caught by the Nazis and put in a Hitler concentration camp and on that subject he tells a tale of horrors. There's such a piling on of villainies of the Reds and the Nazis, that the question has been raised -- "Can all that have happened to one man?" Is it fact, or is there fiction in it?.

These questions make it interesting to take a look at the warrant on which Jan Valtin was arrested today. It recites a series of accusations, and these confirm some of the things told in

the book. The warrant charges Valtin with having committed assault with a deadly weapon some fifteen years ago in California. For the crime he served three years in prison. This bears out the story the author tells "how the secret organization ordered him to carry out an assassination, and he bungled the job." The warrant states that he was deported back to Germany in Nineteen Twenty Nine, and that he was a member of the American Communist Party. These formal charges all fit in with Valtin's nightmare narrations of Communist and Nazi doings -- though, of course, they confirm only a very few points.

Now he's arrested for deportation -- but where they'll deport him to is hard to figure out. According to his own story, he procured his release from a Nazi concentration camp by duping and tricking the Gestapo. So to deport him back to his native Germany would be the hardest kind of hard luck, especially for an author who is getting the fattest kind of royalties from a best-seller book.

COLLISION

At Jamestown, New York, they say that Julius Trank, sixty-two years old, will probably recover. Julius, driving his automobile was hit not by one railroad train - but by two. And that would seem to be overdoing things. There are two tracks at the grade crossing where the accident occurred. Julius was driving across the first, when he was hit by train number one. The impact knocked his automobile over onto the second track. A train going in the opposite direction hit the car, and slammed it back onto the first track. By that time the first track was clear -- no more railroad train, or the automobile might have been smacked a third time. As it was the sixty-two year old man was injured, but the doctors say his condition is satisfactory and he'll probably get well.

This week-end by all means get out your car, fill it with Nu Blue Sunoco, drive to Virginia or on south where Spring flowers are bursting into bloom or come up here where Spring skiing is at its best, here at St. Agathe, at the Laurentide Inn, or on up at Mount Tremblant.

But whatever you do don't get hit by two trains or even by one train. What do you say, Hugh?