

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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If this broadcast this evening sounds a little melodramatic, we can blame it on the news. If it seems inclined to blood and thunder, that's because three of the most striking stories today echo the cracking of shots and gun-play.

Take the Far East, where the big headline relates - that once again Japanese war planes have machine-gunned British diplomats. And it happened on the same road out side of Shanghai where some weeks ago the British Ambassador to China was shot and gravely wounded by ^{the} machine gun of a Japanese aviator.

The latest is - that ~~one of~~ the cars carried ~~no~~ ^{no} American flag. ^{although} ~~That~~ had been reported earlier; the Stars and Stripes under fire. ^{late} ~~But~~ here's a dispatch which tells how the United States press correspondent inspected the automobiles that were shot up and found that they did not display the American flag. But they did display the British flag. One was flying from the

side, and another was brightly painted on the top of the automobile.

It was sheer modern melodrama -- three cars speeding along the road, when a military plane appeared, swooped and opened fire. The occupants of the automobiles ducked fast, got out and scattered off the road, while a plane spouted bullets at them. When it disappeared they returned, and found their diplomatic autos perforated by shots. It's reported that one of the diplomats was hit in the foot.

They were British diplomats, and the story is, that they went out to pick up a Russian consular official, whose car had broken down. The Soviet comrade was with them. And so was an Italian diplomatic official, says the late news. It just about makes the party complete -- British, Communists, Fascist. And its believed that an Italian protest will be added to British and Russian complainst about today's machine-gunning - though Italy is giving Tokyo friendly support.

might expect important Chinese officials on the road.

Other Far Eastern news brings mention of a familiar name, General Ma - that same Chinese general who was so much in the thick of it during the Japanese seizure of Manchuria. He was an heroic patriot defending his country against Japan, and then after a while we heard he was fighting on the other side, fighting for the Japanese. Then there were rumors he had changed sides once more - it got to be bewildering, trying to follow the shifting allegiances of General Ma. Today we hear that he has joined this present war. On which side? Why, against Japan. He is said to have joined forces with the Chinese Communists in giving battle to the regiments of Nippon.

And here's another case of a name, changing of a name, ^{And} regarded as of high political significance. The Japanese in the north are said to have ^{altered} ~~changed~~ the name of Peiping back to Peking, the way it used to be called - for centuries. Peking means "northern capital," the ~~city~~ seat of government when the emperors sat on the dragon throne. When China became a republic, the name was changed to Peiping, meaning - "northern peace."

Now the Japanese are making it ~~be~~ "Pekin" once more, and that's taken as a sign - that they intend to restore the emperor ~~of the~~ and the dragon throne. It is taken as a confirmation of what we've been hearing - that Tokyo plans to move the Emperor Kang-Teh from ~~Manchuria~~ ^{- Peking -} to Peiping, and have him rule there, as his ancestors did for centuries.

(Word just in - Nanking bombed again.)

SPAIN

The news about Spain tonight is bewildering. From Paris comes a report that Great Britain is urging France to open the frontier of the Pyrenees and let war materials go to the Spanish Left Wingers. Further -- that London is advising Paris to mobilize a couple of military classes -- as a gesture against Italy and Germany in the Spanish crisis.

Hitherto, we've been hearing again and again that it was London going easy, playing soft, holding France back from drastic action. Now, it's just the reverse, London saying to Paris -- go ahead. France cautious, hanging back, saying to London: "We'll go ahead only if you give us an absolute solemn guarantee of support in case of trouble.

The French government is said to feel that if France shoves war supplies across the frontier to the Spanish Left Wingers, then Italy will ship new strength to Franco-- and France and Italy will be engaged in a private war in Spain.

BEIRUT

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The indications from the State Department are that there will be no international complications because of the murder of the American Consul-General at Beirut, in Syria. It appears that in the shooting of J. Theodore Marriner, no blame can be laid upon the government of Syria, which is ^{still} controlled by a French mandate. The last similar case was ^{that} the killing of an American Vice-Consul in Persia ^{some} ~~several~~ years ago ^{when he} ~~he~~ was photographing a mosque, ^{and} ~~when~~ ~~he~~ was set upon by a mob of fanatics, and murdered. Then - Washington demanded full satisfaction from ~~the~~ the government of Persia. But now, in this Syrian tragedy - it appears that the deed was the individual act of a crazed assassin. Late this afternoon, the French Foreign Office cabled its regrets to Washington.

The American Diplomatic Corps loses what Secretary of State Hull today called - "a particularly valuable member of the service." "His death," said Secretary Hull, "is a serious loss to the government." ^{And in a late dispatch the President adds his regrets.} That's an indication of the brilliance and ^{age of 45 year old} ~~prominence of~~ Theodore Marriner, who was soon to have been raised from the rank of a Consul-General to that of a Minister. He tried

to join the army in the World War, but was rejected because of a weak heart - was considered not good enough for the dangers of war. So he went into the safety of diplomacy instead, the safety that ^{today} brought him to the doom of bullets in an oriental street.

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The story is one of fantastic melodrama. To the American Consulate in Beirut ^{several weeks ago} came an Armenian, asking for a passport to

the United States. He had relatives there, and wanted to join ^{them} ~~them~~. ^{Q late dispatch says he was} ~~It seems that he may have been~~ an American citizen. ^{But} ~~his~~

application was rejected, passport refused. In the family of this Armenian were several cases of insanity, and that may have been the cause for the denial of the passport. The Armenian came day after day, pleading. But the answer was always - "No."

He never saw the Consul-General, ~~of America~~, or any of the other ^{top} officials, for that matter. His ~~xx~~ case was mere routine, of a minor sort.

Thereafter, day ^{by} ~~after~~ day, the Armenian was seen keeping a vigil outside the American Consulate, ^Q ~~The~~ vigil he broke off only to buy a pack of cigarettes twice every day.

He smoked cigarettes incessantly. At times when the Vice-Consul and another of the officials came out, he would follow them. They thought he was a beggar, and they'd turn and give him money - Bakshish. And the Armenian would fling the coins back at them. They thought he was crazy, perhaps he was - but in a way they did not surmise.

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Meanwhile, the Armenian was closely watching the movements of the Consul-General. He planned with care and cunning. He lay in wait in the street where the consular automobile would pass, a narrow street, where the crowded closeness of an oriental town would slow the car down. That was his ambuscade, the American Consul-General, a target hardly to be missed.

Today came the tragic climax, the consular car slowing down through the narrow street, the assassin with a pistol in his hand, a pistol ^{springing} ~~springing~~ fire. And so died J. Theodore Marriner, United States Consul-General, a casualty not of war, but of diplomacy.

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ROOSEVELT

Today at the White House a proclamation was issued. It's mandate reads this way, in formal proclaiming language:- "I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the Capitol, in the City of Washington, on the Fifteenth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Thirty-Seven, at Twelve o'clock noon."

The President had nothing to say today about the legislation he intends to present to the special session that convenes on November Fifteenth, but the program is likely to include wages and hours, power and flood control, and government reorganization.

— and crop control. We'll hear from the President tonight — a fire side chat.

REPUBLICANS

The idea of a National Republican Convention between elections is gaining headway. John Hamilton, Chairman of the National Republican Committee told today of the result of inquiries he has made among party leaders, and the result is -- strongly in favor of a mid-term convention to map out policies for the G.O.P. and put new life into the elephant. The proposal is sponsored by ex-President Hoover. National Chairman Hamilton, has not expressed his own approval or disapproval. He merely states that from all sections of the country have come the verdict -- yes let's have that National Convention between elections.

END BREVITIES

Let me not hear of Supreme Court Justice Black, who was appointed to the High Tribunal and then was found to ^{have} been a member of the Ku Klux Klan. At Scranton, Pennsylvania, the Women's Christian Temperance Union backed a candidate for Mayor, and he was elected. Today the painful revelation is made -- that the W.C.T.U. candidate was a brewer, once ran a brewery. Looks like the ladies made a slight error!

And -- at Kansas City Raymond Thompson made an error. Ray while driving along in his car, hit an automobile occupied by the following gentlemen:- Dan Fennell, President of the National Safety Council, Lt. J. W. Johnson, Inspector of Police Accident investigations; and George Fiske, of the National Safety Congress, which is staging a big safety meeting at Kansas City. And that was bumping into the wrong bunch.

To err is human, and it was also exceedingly human to fine Ray twenty-five dollars! He got off easy.

J. Edgar Hoover told me on the telephone this afternoon that since then his department has had complete cooperation from Indiana. When he got the bandit tip he notified the Indiana police and their representatives were in the shooting fray today. Likewise -- the local police of Bangor.

The trap was waiting, had been waiting for a week, when today an automobile with three men drove up in front of the sporting goods store. G-men were hidden inside. G-men were planted in nearby windows and doorways. The three bandits got out of the car. Two waited, while the third stalked inside to buy ammunition. He was instantly seized. The other two outside saw it, and immediately opened fire. They blazed away through the plate glass window. And amid shattering glass -- one of the G-men inside was shot through the chest -- Walter Walsh, former champion pistol shot of the United States, and once in charge of the training of G-men in pistol shooting. He's in the hospital tonight, seriously wounded.

But that pistol champ got in his own shots, and so did the other G-men in the store. And so did the G-men ambushed

BANDITS

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Today on ^{the} long distance telephone I heard these grim words - "He said he would make Dillinger look like a piker, but we got him in about the same way we got Dillinger." The speaker was J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the G-men. The man of whom he spoke was Al Brady, leader of a mid-western bandit mob, which was called the "second Dillinger gang."

The scene of today's drama of gunmen and G-men was the quiet New England City of Bangor, Maine, with its broad tree-lined residential streets. In the business district on Central Street is Dakin's sporting goods store. There, during the past week, a day-by-day vigil was kept - a constant watch by the G-men and other officers. They were waiting for someone to appear, waiting to spring a trap.

It was all because Shep Hurd, the ^{manager of} ~~man~~ the store, had made a sale - a rather large sale. Three men had come in and bought ammunition, a ^{big} ~~large~~ bill of deadly goods. They said they'd return in a week to make another purchase of the same. ^{the down-east storekeeper,} Shep Hurd, [^] was suspicious. He immediately communicated with the authorities and gave ~~a~~ descriptions of the men, ~~the~~ descriptions

that tallied with three chief members of the Al Brady gang in the middle west. So a G-Man trap was set for the three -- when they'd return for more ammunition, in a week.

They were wanted for a whole series of robberies, and at least four murders, including the killing of two policemen. The state authorities had hunted them far and wide, but they always got away. Things got hot for them when they held up a jewelry store at Lima, Ohio, killed a clerk, made off with thirty-five thousand dollars, and then killed a policeman in the getaway. They took their loot out of the state, and that put the G-Men on their trail; because a federal law was violated, taking stolen goods across a state line.

In Indiana the manhunt brought on something of a political crisis. The federal agents charged that the chase of the bandits was being impeded by the superintendent of the Indiana State Police. The accusation was made -- that this high police official was obstructing the manhunt out of jealousy of the G-Men. After loud controversy, the superintendent of the State Police was dismissed from his post.

outside. Innocent bystanders ducked to escape the fusillade. They went under everything. The two bandits, as they blazed away, were riddled by bullets,--9 killed, both of them:- Al Brady, who boasted he would out-Dillinger, and his chief lieutenant, Lee Shaffer.

In the gangster car was found an arsenal of machine guns, rifles, pistols and cartridges. Also, a diagram drawn in pencil of the interior of the Merrill Trust Company of Bangor, which is only a few blocks away from the scene of the shooting. Obviously, that bank was marked for hold-up and robbery -- next on the gangster list.

No wonder J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the G-Men, said to me in a grim voice this afternoon:- "Brady said he'd make Dillinger look like a piker, but we got him about the same way we got Dillinger!"

WINDSOR

The last minute news brings a line of dialogue. The Duke of Windsor in Germany, where he responded to Nazi hospitality with the Nazi salute. He was inspecting an electric factory, and the Nazi leader was giving him reams of information about it.

They came to a balcony. The Duke ^{walked out on a} ~~looked out on the~~ balcony overlooking the River Spree, and ~~the Duke,~~ amid all the technical

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facts about electrical production ^{he} ~~gazed~~ along the stream and remarked: "This reminds me of spots along the Thames at Windsor."

Wistful reminiscences of an exiled monarch, remembering the day when he was Edward the Eighth, and England was his kingdom, and Windsor was a home and not a dukedom for him. ^{And s-l-u-t-m.}

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