

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

76
(A debate which started quietly in the Senate today developed into an angry and momentous fight.) It turned into a line-up between supporters of President Roosevelt and those in opposition, which included ~~several~~ ^{have occasionally} Senators who supported Mr. Roosevelt in the past. (The issue was peace. The opposition presently came out with a flat charge that the President was preparing to shove us into another European war.

It all began with a discussion of the six hundred airplanes that the French government is proposing to buy in America. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge inferred broadly that the two billion dollar stabilization fund was being used to establish French credit to enable France to buy those planes here. Senators then were rebelling at the secrecy imposed on the Military Affairs Committee, preventing them from telling what occurred at that White House

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conference. Secrecy or no secrecy, (it was openly said that Mr. Roosevelt had told ~~the~~ Senators he would support the democracies in any fight against aggressor governments, meaning the totalitarian states.) Among those present at the White House were Senators Lodge of Massachusetts, Nye of North Dakota, and Bennett Clark of Missouri. They ~~said openly they~~ ^{angrily} resented the secrecy imposed upon them by the President.

Senator Lodge's resolution was immediately supported by Republican Senator Austin of Vermont. Said he: "The American people are entitled to know what's going on."

Senator Nye of North Dakota declared that for his part he would not attend any more secret meetings of the Military Affairs Committee.

Senator Clark of Missouri gave notice that he would offer a motion before the Committee to make the Committee's record public.

(An impassioned outburst came from Senator Hiram Johnson of California, frequently a Roosevelt supporter. He broke out with the blunt question: "Are we on the road to war?") Johnson raised his fist over his head and shook it as he shouted that if it hadn't

48
been for the crash of that Douglas bomber in Los Angeles, the American people wouldn't have known about the help the government is giving to the French aircraft mission.

Practically the only outspoken defender of the President was the Majority Leader, Senator Barkley of Kentucky. Barkley declared that those purchases of fighting airplanes by France would not prevent the government from acquiring planes, it would help. To that Senator Johnson barked: "Don't tell us bedtime stories." And up spoke Senator Clark of Missouri: "Either the Senator from Kentucky has confidential information or he's talking through his hat." Then he added: "If only the record of the Military Affairs Committee could be made public, I would explode the statement the Senator has made."

Barkley got red in the face and shouted: "I'm not talking through my hat." And then he explained: "This is not involving our country in any war. On the other hand, it is facilitating our defense by placing private airplane factories in a position for mass production."

Then Senator Johnson, with the full volume of his voice,

9
roared out the question: "Why the secrecy?" Then he continued:
"Good God, sir, don't you think the American people have the
right to know if they're on the road to war or if their rulers
are leading them to the brink of war?" He answered his own
question with the words: "I do. The people are our masters.
They're the only masters I know."

It's a safe prediction that we are
going to hear many another angry
debate on this matter.

ROBERTS

President Roosevelt got a sharp rebuff in the Senate today.

It was over his nomination of Floyd H. Roberts to be a United States District Judge in Virginia. Roberts was objectionable to both the Virginia senators, Carter Glass and Harry Byrd. Today the Judiciary Committee of the Senate overwhelmingly turned down the nomination of Roberts.

REORGANIZATION

50

The fight to reorganize Uncle Sam's government machinery looms again. But this time it isn't the President who is starting it. Congress will undertake the job, will take into its own hands the decision as to which government agencies should be consolidated and which should be abolished.

The fight was started by ~~xx~~Democratic Representative Cochran of ~~Missouri~~ Missouri. He offered a resolution that a committee be created to draft this bill. That was the signal for heavy fireworks. The Republicans jumped into the fray, tried to stop the resolution. They lost but at any rate they were able to muster ^a substantial vote. ^{for reorganization} The resolution [^] was adopted -- one hundred and fifty three Democrats against one hundred and two Republicans.

CURRENCY

There was another symptom today of the growing spirit of independence in Congress, independence of White House control. A movement was started today to take back some of the extraordinary powers given to President Roosevelt. ~~One of these~~ ^{There that} was authority to issue more currency, up to three billion dollars. ^{well a} resolution was introduced into the Senate today to revoke that authority. It was introduced ~~intexttheSenateintext~~ by four Republican Senators, young Robert Taft of Ohio, Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, Tobey of New Hampshire and Danaher of Connecticut. The President, to be sure, is not going to exercise that power, but the resolution says that if he did "smaller savers and investors, holders of life insurance policies, wage earners and people with fixed incomes, would all be in danger."

And the resolution continues: "The power to issue unsecured greenbacks in any amount up to three billion dollars, disregards both the simplest monetary lessons of the world, and the welfare of the people of this country."

51

HOPKINS

Here's a statement made in Washington today. "It is essential to insure fair and reasonable profits to business men if the national income is to be increased."

So spoke
~~Who do you suppose said that?~~ The new Secretary of Commerce, Harry ~~H~~ Hopkins; and he added that he would do everything in his power to bring about an increase in national income.

52
Newspaper men were asking him whether he agreed with the members of the Business Advisory Council with whom he had a conference last week. Said Hopkins: "I found them a highly objective group of men who seemed to me to be tremendously interested in what happens to this country and interested in working out a reasonable relationship between government and industry. ~~and with a realistic understanding of the changes that have happened in the economic world and anxious to work out something which in the last analysis means a greater national income, a fair distribution of that income.~~"

W.P.A.

A federal grand jury in New York has been hearing evidence about the W.P.A. After three months of investigation, that grand jury has sent a scorching presentment to the Attorney General. The tenor of it is that a special prosecutor should be appointed to look into frauds and laxity in the Works Progress Administration of the Southern District of New York.

~~That~~

~~When this was told to Works Progress Administrator Harrington, he replied: "That presentment is just a lot of wind."~~

The presentment said in part: "Testimony before this grand jury forcefully called its attention to many instances of supplies sold to the government through the agency of 'contacts'; many instances of equipment rental maneuvered by payment of gratuities; many instances where certification of vouchers depend upon the whim of a 'fixed' employee."

The ^{grand} jurors ^{say} ~~added~~ that the malefactions they ^{have} ~~had~~ found

quote:-
"do not constitute a general indictment of the W.P.A., but they do, however, indicate the presence of that common factor in all public affairs - graft and the condonation of graft."

DEFENSE

53
A Republican Representative, Maas of Minnesota, has come upon a startling bit of news. He broke it to the Naval Affairs Committee of the House today. The Nazis, he says, are building an air base in the ~~widde of the~~ Pacific Ocean. This is being done with the consent and connivance of Japan, says Representative Maas. It's located on one of the Caroline Islands which the Japanese hold ~~extensively~~ under mandate from the League of Nations, from which Japan of course has resigned. This German air base will be quite close to our own Island of Guam, where some of the admirals want us to construct a mid-Pacific Gibraltar.

Maas says his information came from a confidential source and he's going to turn the details and proof over to the proper authorities. ~~He said also that Japan is proposing to forbid any United States vessels in the Caroline Islands area.~~

LONDON

There was a meeting of the British Cabinet in London today, and the tone of it seems to be somewhat sinister. The news given out was that Chamberlain and his colleagues were talking armament and a sterner resistance to the continental dictators. The diplomatic phrasing for it is: "A more vigorous stand by Great Britain in international affairs."

All this is a reaction to Chancellor Hitler's speech to his Reichstag last Monday. ~~One thing added to another in British~~
Wood in British
government circles appears to indicate that John Bull is far more prepared in a military way than he was a year ago and that he feels in a position to go slow on Chamberlain's appeasement policy. There's an obvious feeling of confidence and jubilation in England over the secret conference that President Roosevelt had with the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate.

GERMANY FOLLOW LONDON

in the White House
That same conference [^]provoked a furor in Germany.

One of the Nazi newspapers comes out with a blistering attack on President Roosevelt. One of the things it says is: "The world now has to decide whether it is for peace or war; whether it is ready with Germany and Italy to support the equality of peoples and thus serve peace or whether it wants to participate in an attack on Germany and Italy in the interests of the Jews."

And here's the attack on the President: "Mr. Roosevelt," says the Nazi editor, "commissioned by Jewry, wants to arm against us and make France and Britain into a battlefield because we will not bow to the economic dictation of the Jews." *The German article was headed: "America's frontier on the Rhine."*

ADD GERMANY

Here's a later dispatch from Berlin. Spokesmen
of the Nazi government tonight are pouring fresh oil on the
anti-Roosevelt fire. They talk of him as a "war-monger".
And they declare that he is trying to destroy the effect
of the peaceable words spoken by Chancellor Hitler on Monday.

151

RUSSIA

No more purges in Russia, no more slaughtering of people en masse for political offenses. That's the program announced today in Moscow. The Communist Party will hold its Eighteenth Congress in March and this program is being prepared accordingly.

It is definitely stated that the membership of the Communist Party was literally cut in two by Dictator Stalin's mass purges. Once upon a time there were four million registered Communist Party members. Now there are only two million.

MANTON

arouse the indignation of
The case of Judge Martin T. Manton ~~got the goat of~~
doesn't think
Senator Norris of Nebraska. Uncle George ~~is furious~~ that Manton's
Said the Senator today: —
resignation should save him from impeachment proceedings. ~~He said:~~
to
"Assuming there is substance ~~for~~ the accusations it is abhorrent to
think
~~that~~ a high official, next to the Supreme Court, can avert
investigation simply by resigning. ~~But~~ And the Senator added:
"He ought to be impeached, tried, and convicted if guilty, the same
as anyone else."

~~There's one thing about which many Congressmen are~~
~~unanimous.~~ *the* For instance ~~Senator~~ *for* Nebraska said:
"No United States judge should be a director or serve in any
capacity in a business concern."

56

WEATHER

Flood warnings in Indiana! Rain on top of snow has fallen with prodigious volume over the middlewest. And already the White River and the Wabash are teetering above flood stage.

~~You may recall that it was from there that came the first alarming reports of the great floods of Nineteen Thirty-Seven.~~

More rain is prophecied for Indiana today, hence the warning issued by Uncle Sam's weather man at Indianapolis.

Last Monday's blizzard covered a large part of ^{the country} ~~Uncle Sam's domains~~ with a snow blanket and now Nebraska, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the upper Great Lakes are getting more. All the Rocky Mountain states are covered with one of the heaviest snowfalls in years. ~~Eighteen inches of it at Logan, Utah.~~

Forty-eight miles northeast of Albuquerque, New Mexico, the pilot of an airplane saw large letters cut in the snow which spelled the word "HELP". The state police organized an expedition headed by a snow plow to cut their way through. A small community in that part of the world is completely isolated.

DIVORCE

27
If you want to give your wife provocation for divorce action, it's no good just slapping her. At least it will do you no good in the court of Judge Philip J. Finnegan of Chicago.

A good looking young blonde came before Finnegan, and asked a decree from her husband who is a drummer in a dance orchestra. The Judge asked: "What grounds have you got?" Said the lady: "He slapped me twice, slapped me so hard it left red marks on my face. He's cruel," she added.

Judge Finnegan said: "That's not cruelty within the meaning of the law." And he explained: "A man has a right to slap his wife as hard as he wants if he doesn't kill her." And he added: "If more of them did so, there would be fewer divorces." ~~And he concluded: "I won't grant a divorce on the evidence I've heard in this case."~~

~~I am informed that according to an English statute, it is unlawful for a husband to thrash his wife with a cane any thicker than his thumb. That might be tough if the husband had hands as big as Prime Carvers.~~ Apparently Judge Finnegan believes

in the old English couplet:

"A spaniel, a woman, a walnut tree,
The more you beat them, the better they be."

QUADRUPLETS

The fertile State of Texas can now boast of two sets of quadruplets. At Beaumont, there are four nine-year-old boys, healthy and vigorous. And at Galveston, the wife of W. E. Badgett, this morning produced four healthy girls. ~~Not ~~the~~ large ones,~~ to be sure, the heaviest is four pounds, nine and a half ounces. But all four of them weighed sixteen pounds, two and a half ounces.

When the astonished father heard the news, he said:

58
"Gosh, this never happened to me before." One of the nurses caustically remarked that it didn't happen to him, it happened to his wife. ~~"At any rate," says Badgett, "this puts me one up on Eddie Cantor. I already have two daughters; this makes it six. Eddie Cantor has only five."~~

EVA

There's going to be a grand birthday party in Cambridge, Massachusetts, this evening. The guest of honor will be Mrs.

E. J. McDonald of Belmont, Massachusetts. ~~It's~~ her ninety-first birthday. ~~This is news because~~ ^E eighty-seven years ago Mrs. ~~E. J.~~

^{created the part of}
McDonald ~~became known all over the country as~~ "Little Eva".

~~It was eighty-seven years ago,~~ ^A At the old Museum, a theatre in

8 1/2
Troy, New York, ~~that~~ four year old Cordelia Howard made her first appearance on the stage in the original production of one of the

most widely acted plays in the world, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," - ^{the} original "Little Eva" who was carried across those phoney cables of ice by "fiza" to the baying of bloodhounds.

59
F A - L - U - T - M.