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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(The opening session of Congress today) gives us the story with a minimum of action that means anything, but with a maximum of signs and portents; ~~muttered~~ ^{ed intim} ~~inclinations~~ of a political tempest. (Both Houses went into session at noon) in an atmosphere of gala festivity - chatting and laughing crowds, visitors' galleries packed, ~~members~~ ^{legislators} swarming on to the floor with greeting, handshaking, backslapping.

The usual formalities for ^{the} opening ^{of} Congress were enacted; -announcements, perfunctory motions, gavel thumping.

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~~Just so much~~ Pageantry.

But (there were ^{vivid indications of what's to} ~~meaningful intimations~~ - like the ^{come - like the} presence of ^{the} anti-administration Democrats who beat the New Deal purge, Democrats renominated in opposition to the President.

And there were significant new faces - new Republicans who won out.

in the November election,) a telltale sign of the popular reaction —
added Republican strength **to** the Republican opposition. (And
everywhere the talk was — a combination of the purge victors and the
increased contingent of Republicans;) **a** flame of battle against the
New Deal, a rousing opposition. (The administration has the majority,
But the minority is in fighting mood.) So today's humdrum opening
~~session~~ vibrated with the symptoms of legislative battles to come.

The lower House chose its Speaker — reelected
Representative Bankhead of Alabama. The vote, two hundred and fifty
to a hundred and sixty-seven — an indication of the administration
Democratic majority. In the Senate, the Republicans reelected
McNarry of Oregon as their leader. ^{And —} The Oregonian promptly made the
announcement: "We will cooperate with any group to decrease government
expenditures."

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In the House, the Democrats and Republicans got together
and decided the important question of committees. The Republicans
have an increased number of Congressmen and therefore are entitled to
increased representation on the committees. In the last session, they

on the committees.
had about twenty per cent. Today by agreement this was increased
to forty. Last year the Ways and Means Committee consisted of
eighteen Democrats and seven Republicans. For this session there
will be fifteen Democrats and ten Republicans. And the same sort
of thing applies to all the other committees except those on
appropriations and rules.

The session in the Senate lasted only half an hour. *Then*
an adjournment was called out of respect for the late Senator
Copeland of New York. But not before the Senate broke a
tradition. That was the nearest thing to the new and unusual in
all of today's congressional proceedings. It has been the custom
for many years to send a formal notice to the White House that
a new Congress is in session. In the days of yore, a committee
used to drive to the White House in a horse carriage, and -
wait upon the President, as the phrase goes. In more recent years,
the committee made the journey in an automobile. But today there was
no journey to the White House at all. A committee was appointed as
usual - to wait upon the President, and Senator Barkley was chosen
as its leader. And **B**arkley phoned the White House - did it that
quick, convenient way. With the Chairman on one end of the wire,
the committee waited on the President by telephone.

FOLLOW CONGRESS

Tomorrow the two Houses will gather in joint session to hear the regular presidential message on the state of the nation. ^H Early next week, they'll hear a special message from the White House. This was announced by the President ^{late} today - a special message on national defense, suggestions for a program to arm the nation.

The Congress today got some suggestions in advance - from a high ranking admiralty-board. The naval experts sent along to the lawmakers an elaborate report on the state of national defense and measures necessary for improving it. Prominent among the recommendations is a plan to fortify Guam. The admirals say that right now that American island far out in the Pacific would be defenseless against attack by a first class fleet. They say it should be transformed into an impregnable sea fortress, ~~because~~ ^{For} that would make an attack on the Philippines a very dangerous undertaking - a Philippine attack in the face of a sea fortress at Guam.

MAYOR

At New Bedford, Massachusetts, they inaugurated a mayor under rather ^{singular} ~~spectacular~~ circumstances. In less than twenty-four hours after he was inducted into office, Mayor Leo Carney was put on trial, charged with trying to get twenty-five thousand dollars ^{in connection with the} ~~in the business of~~ handing out a city contract. The whole thing is a bit complicated, if not paradoxical. A mayor indicted on charges of corruption, triumphantly reelected for another term, ~~by the voters,~~ formally inaugurated as mayor - and then immediately put on trial!

MANEUVRES

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Seven warships steamed out of New York harbor today, led by the Navy's new destroyer - the WARDINGTON. The flotilla is on its way to manœuvres. At Hampton Roads, Virginia, it will join up with other battlecraft from ^{the} Philadelphia and Norfolk navy yards; then on to the Caribbean, where the squadron will meet the Pacific Fleet - for the first ^{Atlantic} manœuvres in ^{years.} ~~the Atlantic~~ ^{in years.}

ITALY

Today in Rome American Ambassador Phillips delivered a message to Premier Mussolini. A personal message from President Roosevelt, we are told. What has the President to say to the Duce? This is answered by three cryptic words -- "certain concrete proposals." Ambassador Phillips delivered *to* Mussolini "certain concrete proposals" from President Roosevelt -- that's all the information made public. What the proposals may concern, we don't know. The latest affairs discussed between the United States and Italy *had to do with* ~~concern briefly~~ the treatment of American Jews under *Italian* ~~the~~ anti-Semitic laws. Maybe that's what the certain concrete proposals are about -- although they may deal with something else. It's all rather mysterious.

ROME

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(In Italy an important anti-Semitic measure took effect today, ~~and~~ It's not only an example of action taken against the Jewish people, but also an illustration of the high position the Jews occupied in Italy -- until the recent anti-Semitic drive. (It is announced that in accordance with a decree eliminating Jews from ^{high} ~~Army~~ positions -- seventeen high officers have been retired from the Italian Navy. Among them are Vice-Admiral Ascoli who was formerly Commander at Rhodes and Vice-Admiral Maroni who until recently held the command at Majorca.) Of course, Majorca is a Spanish island and so this Jewish Vice-Admiral was an important Fascist command ^{or} in Spanish civil war affairs.

SPAIN

Late today! ^{have just} The Spanish nationalists announce the capture of Artesa. The name doesn't mean anything much, unless we've been following the map. But Artesa is an important highway center and in these times of mobile warfare, highways are ^{of} ~~at an~~ all important strategy. Artesa controls a great road running from Barcelona to France, a road on which Barcelona has depended for much of its supplies. So the town ^{was} ~~is~~ heavily fortified, desperately defended. The Franco forces ~~have~~ battled for days to surround it, and now they report they've done it - ~~and~~ captured Artesa.

They also say they're within five miles of Borjas Blancas and that also means highways. And within five miles of Falset.-

Highways again. And moreover, Falset is perilously near the seaport of Tarragona. If ~~the~~ Franco ~~drives~~ can drive ~~in~~ to the Mediterranean there, ~~the~~ will pinch off another slice of besieged and beleaguered Catalonia.

^{today's drive}
The ^{drive} ~~drive~~ for Spanish roads was supported by raids in Spanish skies - the greatest aviation activity ever seen in war, they say. Franco is reported to have concentrated a fleet of

six hundred war planes on the Barcelona front. ~~And the~~ ^{Huge} air
squadrons ~~were~~ in continuous activity all day, ^{today,} raiding, ~~and~~
^{batling.} bombing, [^] Along the ~~battle~~ front the sky was never empty of
war birds.

TUNIS

Today on the north coast of Africa, Tunis pledged allegiance to France - but there was a bit of trouble. Premier Daladier's colonial tour, staged as a French gesture controverting Italian claims, mounted to a climax at the palace of Sidi Ahmed, the Bey of Tunis. ~~As a reply to Mussolini's designs, there was a mighty demonstration.~~ ^{His Highness the Bey} ~~With Bey Sidi Ahmed~~ pledging allegiance to France - ^{---but} the police had to break up a Moslem disturbance quite out of harmony with all the loyalty.

Agitators of the Pan-Arab movement started a counter-demonstration. They're a Moslem faction that has been demanding more freedom from France. Last spring they did a bit of rioting, and a lot of them were shot down by French troops, and their leaders were arrested. Today, the Arab nationalists shouted for the release of ^{the} prisoners.

At the same time the local Italians, who constitute about half of the European population of Tunis, held a rally of their own. Orators made fiery ~~Italian~~ Fascist speeches proclaiming equal Italian rights in the protectorate of Tunis.

These minor discordant notes, notwithstanding,

Premier Daladier had a rousing reception at the palace of

Sidi Ahmed, with an enthusiastic multitude shouting for France.

And ~~Sidi Ahmed~~ ^{the Bey} himself assured the Premier - "You can be certain

that all Tunisians will, if it is ever necessary, rally to France."

CHINA

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The Far Eastern mystery about Wang Ching-Wei is complicated by new reports today. (Wang Ching-Wei was at one time the Premier of China, and until recently was considered the second most powerful figure in the Chinese government fighting Japan, second only to Chiang Kai-shek.) Recently, it was reported that he was in Hong Kong for the purpose of negotiating a Japanese-Chinese settlement. This was emphatically disavowed by Chiang Kai-shek. And there was plenty of confusion and contradiction.

(Today's account makes it appear that Wang Ching-Wei fled from Chiang Kai-shek's capital at Chungking. As leader of the moderate faction, he was opposed to the theory of last ditch resistance to Japan. And today's advices report him as just arriving at Shanghai - aboard a Japanese warship.)

It was noted today that in the Japanese section of ~~Shanghai the~~ ^{the whole} place was shut down right after midnight.

Streets were cleared, all activities halted. Last year these same measures were taken - when Japanese Prince Chichibu was in

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Shanghai. ^{All to} ~~They were~~ protect~~ing~~ him against a possible assassination, ~~attempt~~ by the Chinese. And so the Shanghai surmise is tonight - that the Japanese section of the International Settlement was shut down as a preliminary to the arrival of former Premier Wang Ching-Wei. They're afraid of an attempt by nationalist Chinese to kill him.

All this might make it appear as if there were discord in the councils of the Chinese government - with one party favoring a policy of coming to terms with Japan. And it may ~~mean~~ also mean that former Premier Wang Ching-Wei, who used to be second only to Chiang Kai-shek, is in line to take the power in the central Chinese government - the regime set up by the Japanese.

CHINA - *SPY.*

From China comes a melodramatic headline - the Mata Hari of Japan has been assassinated. The dispatch gives no further information about the killing - merely asserts it. Nevertheless, there's plenty to be told. In eastern Asia there are legends about the Far Eastern Mata Hari ~~of Japan~~ - a spy for Japan who directed a fabulous system of espionage on the Chinese side. Yoshimko Kawashima was her name. Not a Japanese, however, but a Manchu Princess. She is described as the tenth daughter of Prince Su of the Imperial Manchu Dynasty that sat on the dragon throne of China.

The story is that when the Chinese Republican Revolution drove her father into exile, Yoshimko Kawashima was adopted by a Japanese ~~family~~ *Family* and grew up devoted to ~~Japan~~ *the Mikado.* As a mere girl she became connected with Japanese political intrigues in China, and when she was eighteen ~~she~~ *Japanese* agents ~~of the Mikado~~ arranged her marriage to a potentate of Inner Mongolia, Prince Fan Chulchab. After two months of marriage she vanished from the palace of her husband, and took with her important secret documents about Mongolian affairs. These she turned over to the Japanese.

Thereafter, ~~she plotted with the Japanese secret agents in China, and~~ *They* say she organized a widespread espionage ring of Chinese women. Rumor connects her with Japan's famous military schemer, General Doihara. She was in the Doihara ^{*to*} machinations by which the Japanese got hold of the former Chinese boy emperor, Henry Pu-yi - and made him the Emperor Kang-Teh of Manchukuo.

The Chinese Mata Hari made a practice of disguising herself in men's clothes. Once ~~she disguised herself~~ ^{*garbed*} as a Chinese army officer ^{*she*} ~~to~~ ^{*d*} scheme to procure secret military information at Chinese headquarters. She campaigned as a soldier, is said to have organized in Manchuria a pro-Japanese military outfit called "the Iron Blood Army." And in the Manchukan fighting she was a casualty ^{*of*} ~~in~~ battle - wounded.

Her assassination is reported today from the present Chinese capital at Chungking, far up the Yangste, ~~and~~ ^{*sea port*} ~~city~~ It is said to have occurred at the Japanese-controlled ^{*city*} of Tientsin in north China. A round-about way to hear of the end of the Mata Hari of ^{*the Far East*} ~~Japan~~.

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UNEMPLOYED

Today in London at Number Ten Downing Street, a hearse drew up. An ominous sight in front of that celebrated address of the Prime Minister of Great Britain. The undertakers started to unload a coffin. In the coffin was an umbrella - this ⁱⁿ point ^{ed} of reference to the umbrella-carrying Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. On the coffin was a placard reading - "Unemployed - no appeasement." And that was a jibe at the renowned Chamberlain policy of appeasing the dictators - but no appeasement for the unemployed. The jobless demonstrators unfolded a banner reading: "We need appeasement, not Mussolini."

This ~~was~~ the latest of a whole series of spectacular stunts staged by unemployed in London: - ~~They've had~~ ^a lie down strike in the snow at Oxford Circus; ~~They~~ ^a paraded ^{into the} ~~in for tea~~ ^a ~~at the~~ tea room of the Ritz; ~~they had~~ ^a marched ~~at~~ Buckingham Palace to petition the King; ^{and} ~~They had~~ ^a barricaded themselves with big banners at the top of ~~the~~ ^a tall memorial ^{, a memorial} to the ~~&~~ Great Fire of London. And finally today, the coffin with the umbrella at Number Ten Downing Street! ^f ~~s-l-u-t-m,~~

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