

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Japanese are <sup>more than</sup> ~~audibly~~ <sup>tonight</sup> excited about those

Australian troops in the Malay Peninsula. The Mikado's war lords look upon <sup>this latest</sup> ~~that~~ British move as more than a threat and they counter with another threat.

<sup>Tolayo</sup> The official ~~utterance on these~~ <sup>Imperial</sup> ~~British~~ reinforcements

~~was made by a spokesman for the Nipponese army in Shanghai. He~~

described <sup>S</sup> it as an aggressive step <sup>- and that</sup> ~~which~~ might almost be

interpreted <sup>as</sup> ~~to mean~~ an act of aggression. ~~And~~ <sup>He</sup> added that it

indicates ~~that~~ Britain does not desire to cooperate with Japan,

specifically <sup>with</sup> ~~that~~ Japan's effort to make peace between Siam and

~~Indo-China~~ Indo-China. This British action, he continued, does

not make the situation in the Far East more peaceful. On the

contrary, the Japanese are taking it as an attempt to create

suspicion and distrust. His words were ~~that~~ "it cannot be

interpreted as a gesture contributing to peace in the Far East."

Siam, he said, is cooperating with Japan in an effort to establish a new order in East Asia and the arrival of those Australian troops may be considered as pressure on Siam.

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Cautious language, this, but the feeling underneath is unmistakable. Then a broadcast from Tokyo was heard in New York, a broadcast of the Japanese official news agency. This quoted what it called an authoritative source in Tokyo to the effect that if the movement of those Australian troops is carried out with the intention of intimidating Japan or as a provocative gesture, Tokyo will regard the move in a different light from other dispositions of British troops.

~~On the other hand,~~ those Australian divisions which arrived at Singapore yesterday were today moving up to defense positions in Malaya. The dispatch reports that they advanced to their new posts cheering loudly. With them went strong forces of bomber and fighting <sup>er</sup> planes, <sup>some</sup> several of them made in America. British spokesmen announced that on account of these heavy reinforcements, new dispositions of the Royal Air Force in the Far East will be made.

MEDIATION

On the other side of the ledger, Japan <sup>today officially</sup> appeared in a new role, that of a would-be peace-maker. Foreign Minister Matsuoka has offered the services of his government to mediate between Great Britain and Nazi Germany. The British Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs made that announcement to the House of Commons today. He said this offer ~~was made~~ in a special message which the Cabinet is now, as he puts it, "studying." Matsuoka also sent a special personal message to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden along the same general lines.

Apparently this offer is being received courteously but coolly in Britain. Nobody has the slightest idea that <sup>it will be</sup> ~~it will be~~ accepted.

GUAM

After long years of dispute, Uncle Sam <sup>intends</sup> ~~is going~~ to build <sup>that</sup>  
a naval base at Guam, the island <sup>we</sup> acquired in the <sup>far</sup> Pacific after the  
Spanish War. <sup>At any rate</sup> ~~At least~~ a bill which includes an appropriation of  
money for Guam has passed the House and <sup>now goes</sup> ~~is now up~~ to the Senate.  
The last time this matter came up, Congressmen objected that if  
we fortified Guam it would offend Japan, <sup>although</sup> It was pointed out that <sup>even then</sup>  
the Japanese had fortified the Caroline and Marshall Islands,  
<sup>after</sup> ~~though~~ they had specifically promised not to when they accepted  
the <sup>in</sup> mandate from the League of Nations. <sup>So</sup> The decision now to fortify  
Guam is altogether in the spirit of the day.

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The Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, <sup>read</sup> ~~reads~~ the  
House a letter from Admiral Stark, Chief of Naval Operations. <sup>Admiral</sup>  
Stark told the Congressmen that the improvements which the Navy  
proposes are inoffensive and if Japan does take offense, it would  
<sup>should</sup> be undeserved and be disregarded. After all, the Admiral pointed  
out, Guam is United States property. The Guam defense is really  
only one small part of a bill which appropriates two hundred and  
forty-five millions for naval and air bases all the way from  
Newfoundland and Trinidad in the Atlantic to Guam and Samoa in the  
Pacific.

The debate over this measure brought a bellicose challenge from ~~one~~ Congressman, Faddis of Pennsylvania. <sup>who</sup> ~~He~~ voiced the opinion that Uncle Sam should serve notice on the Japanese right now that if they strike against Singapore, the American navy will cut their lines of supply and we will move on their principal cities and industrial centers and destroy them. Which would be rather a large order!

Still another Congressman declared that it was only because of a cowardly attitude that the House had previously voted against the proposals to fortify Guam.

As a matter of fact, of those two hundred and forty-five millions, only four million seven hundred thousand is to be spent on Guam. <sup>Which doesn't sound like</sup> ~~So it evidently isn't much of~~ a menace to anybody.

FRANCE

France on the verge of war with Great Britain, her former ally! There's a prophecy that sounds like the utterance of a sensation monger. Actually, its author is a French statesman, that is, a man who formerly held an official position in the government of his country. <sup>Which was</sup> ~~That's~~ as closely as he would allow the correspondents to describe him. He would <sup>not</sup> ~~not~~ let them use his name. But all newspapermen say confidentially that of course the prophecy, threat, warning, or whatever you choose to call it, was made by none other than Laval, the pro-Nazi <sup>the</sup> ~~and~~ anglophobe.

This is the way he explains it: Hitler has warned Petain that France must bring food and raw materials to the mainland from her colonies. If the French fail to take advantage of their colonial resources, it will be held against them when it comes to negotiating the final peace between France and Germany. ~~(Of course we have to remember that their relations are operating today under an armistice.)~~ And if the Petain government wants to bring food and raw materials from Africa or the other colonies, <sup>it will</sup> ~~it will~~ have to use a convoy system. Then of course, it is argued, the British fleets in the Mediterranean would interfere with the convoys,

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And that would end in open naval battles.

There is a constant clamor in the pro-Nazi press of Paris for France to join the war against England. For instance, one editor, a former Communist who has always been a Laval henchmen, has charged that "the crime of England against the French Navy cannot rest without response." And the same editor declares that the French Navy finds itself by force of circumstances at the point of fighting with Great Britain. It is pointed out that obviously this entire story was inspired by Berlin.

BRITISH AID

This was Administration Day in the Senate ~~the~~ debate over the British Aid Bill. ~~Its~~ <sup>of the bill</sup> Champions had the entire afternoon for their inning. They came to bat with set speeches, interrupted by ~~some prickly~~ <sup>considerable</sup> heckling from the opposition.

The picturesque Senator Tom Connally of Texas ~~was the first man at the plate.~~ He went into action with everything he had, <sup>voice,</sup> gestures and pounding of desk. Among other things, he said it was his belief that if Britain falls and her fleet goes down, the dictators will attack not only South and Central America, but ultimately the United States. "As sure as the sun circles the earth," said the orator from Texas, "sooner or later the conquering armies and navies will swoop across the ocean and attack the people of the United States." He also paraphrased a famous quotation from ~~Benjamin~~ <sup>Benjamin</sup> ~~good old Ben~~ Franklin who claimed that the democracies must either hang together or ~~they will~~ all hang separately.

Then he answered a criticism that had been made by the leader of the opposition, Senator Wheeler of Montana, the criticism that the bill would give the president the power to commit aggressive acts which would drag the country into war. <sup>Sen.</sup> Connally's reply was



that any president could get the country into war if he really wants to. No president, he added, needs a bill like this if he desires to embroil us. Senator Connally then repeated in different words what Senator Barkley had said on Monday, that the intention of the bill is to keep us out of war.

The debate also had its biggest audience today. For the first time the diplomatic gallery was filled, and there was a long line of attaches and secretaries and wives of diplomats waiting outside in the hope of getting a seat.

The boldest note that has yet been heard from any champion of the bill was sounded by Senator Bailey of North Carolina. The dictator nations," said he, "will fight this country when they think they can whip us and not before." Then he went on to say that those who say this bill will lead us to war, are in a pretty safe position because in all probability war is coming, whichever way we go.

ARMY

There may be a storm brewing in army circles. An officer has written a piece charging that Uncle Sam's military are out of date, not abreast of modern war tactics. Congressmen have heard about it and they want to have him called before them and questioned.

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The man who made <sup>the</sup> ~~that bold~~ statement is an officer of considerable importance, Lieutenant Colonel Phillips, former instructor of the army command and general staff school. He's now a staff officer, a brass hat in Puerto Rico. He wrote an article for the Infantry Journal. In it he made the accusation that there are conservatives and traditionalists in our high command who ought to be replaced with men better able to understand modern warfare. <sup>^</sup> ~~And~~ <sup>The</sup> Lieutenant Colonel also wrote that our failure to keep up with the times in warfare might cost needless dead and even lost wars. Two Congressmen urged the Military Affairs Committee to have Lieutenant Colonel Phillips called back from Puerto Rico to testify before Congress.

LABOR

The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives heard the sentiment today that you can't make a man a criminal because he goes on strike. <sup>And that came not from</sup> ~~It was not uttered by~~ a Union leader, <sup>but</sup> ~~the words came~~ from the mouth of William S. Knudsen, former President of General Motors, now Director of Defense Production.

The Congressmen had asked him his opinion on the need for new laws to obviate any <sup>h</sup> old-ups in the defense program by strikes or lockouts. They have two bills ~~in~~ before them, which would make strikes or lockouts unlawful until after both employers and employees had taken thirty days to cool off. One of the bills also has a clause providing for mediation.

The Congressmen ~~apparently~~ found Director Knudsen quite skeptical about the need for new laws. He said he had looked over the Labor Bill offered by Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia, and he said it contained some good suggestions. So they asked him what <sup>for instance?</sup> ~~points did he consider good~~. Knudsen replied, the clause providing for mediation, and it was <sup>then</sup> ~~there~~ that he added:-  
"You can't make a man a criminal for striking."

Another Congressman asked him whether he thought the

penalties for violating the Wagner Act were severe enough.

Knudsen replied that there are no penalties. Then he was asked whether the government ought to blacklist employers who don't abide by it. Knudsen replied emphatically, "Certainly not."

As for the suggested cooling off period in labor disputes, Knudsen admitted it might be good. ~~But~~ then, he added, ~~that~~ if a strike has been brewing over a long period, no one is going to cool off much, and he said further:- "The cooling off should be done by agreement, not by criminal law."

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Some of Knudsen's other answers provided a conspicuous note of sanity by contrast with some of the hysteria that has been worked up. For instance, ~~about sabotage~~. A Congressman asked him whether there had been much sabotage in the defense factories.

Knudsen replied that it is always with us in times like these, but

~~he added~~ that he doesn't think it amounts to much, <sup>so far. He went on to</sup> ~~then he~~

~~says~~ explained that sabotage is usually committed by one or two persons,

and he said:- "We depend on the good men in a factory to watch

them." To which he added that mostly, sabotage is the result of

plain meanness combined with dumbness. "There might be some

military sabotage today, but we haven't heard much about it."

I have no complaints and no legislation to suggest," said the Director of Defense Production. The things that are unlawful now - if you prosecute them then you've gone as far as you need to go at the present time," said he. And he stated his belief that as labor leaders become more conservative and as manufacturers consider the laws on the statute books, little by little we shall do better.

"The militant labor organization movement in this country is only four or five years old," continued Knudsen, "and its leaders have not had a chance to mature."

This was the first time since he became Director of Production, that William F. Knudsen had expressed himself so clearly and definitely. Observers report that his testimony came as ~~xxxxxx~~ somewhat of a revelation, throwing the cold water of common sense on the endless fires of alarm and exaggeration.

ROBERTS

58 1/2  
The officials of the draft board in Denver were rather astonished by the appearance of a tall young person with hair fourteen inches long. Those tresses made the draft officials think it was a girl, since the wearing of pants nowadays is no indication of sex. So one of the draft board said: "Can I do something for you, miss?" To that came the answer in a deep bass voice: "Yeah, I want to ~~en~~list."

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The person in question was Tommy Roberts, a hunter from the mountains, <sup>who</sup> ~~around Parshalt, Colorado.~~ He explained that he wore long hair just as Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickok, and Bill Carson used to do -- to keep his ears warm. And he vows he won't have his hair cut until he's definitely accepted by the army.

59 1/4  
And now something from Hugh to warm our ears.