

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's the latest, ~~and~~ a dramatic flash ~~it is a story~~ that purports to tell the detailed facts of the downfall of Mussolini. It begins with what has already been published - ~~namely~~, that the Fascist Grand Council disagreed violently with the Duce in a stormy session, and decided that he must ~~xxx~~ resign.

Musso, however, did ⁿot do anything of the sort. Instead of going to the King and handing in his resignation, he attended an agricultural ceremony where farm prizes were given - the same old Duce presiding at ~~some~~ ^a public celebration.

A number one member of the Fascist Council, Dino Grandi, went to the King and protested - because Mussolini had not come to the Palace to resign. Whereupon the King sent an order to the Duce to come at once. Mussolini did, and argued with the King that it wasn't necessary for him to get out. He assured the Monarch that he could suppress his opponents within a few hours.

Saying this, the Duce left and went out to his automobile. He was about to get in when he was arrested, by ~~the~~ order of the King. He objected, and they forcibly put him into a military ambulance, which drove away. Where the ambulance went is not known. Neither that nor the present whereabouts of Mussolini - all this according to a story that has just been received from Switzerland.

ITALY

There is still silence from Italy, with the belief that the Badoglio Government is conducting surrender negotiations with General Eisenhower. This opinion was strengthened when the British War Cabinet was called suddenly for a special session early this morning -- not long after midnight. The members were summoned hurriedly from their beds to Prime Minister Churchill's residence, number ten downing street.

London supposes, naturally enough, that this was in connection with the question of Italy, and there was a suggestion that the Allies were laying down a formal time limit for the Italians.

Another sign in England today was the refusal of the Churchill Government to have any debate in the House of Commons on the subject of the surrender of Italy. That refusal would be normal, if negotiations were going on and were undecided. Diplomatic sources in the British capital pointed out that several exchanges of communications might be necessary for an agreement.

Today in this country the Office of War Information released a story under the following heading:- "Rome radio

tells France that Italy is weighing allied terms." And the O.W.I. proceeded to quote the Rome radio in these words:- "The Italian people ~~is~~ ^{are} considering with great understanding those conditions which the enemy proposes and ~~is~~ ^{are} aware of the seriousness of the dilemma."

President Roosevelt today stated that we are prepared to do business with anyone in Italy except definite Fascists. He said that peace negotiations might be with the king, Prime Minister, ~~or~~ ^{even the} ~~of~~ mayor of a town. Newsmen asked him whether he regarded Marshal Badoglio as a Fascist, to which he responded that he was not going to discuss personalities. He stated that our main purpose ~~was~~ ^{is} to occupy the country without encountering armed resistance, and also to prevent anarchy. The President explained that an army occupying a country in a state of chaos has a difficult job. To ~~be~~ preserve order requires large numbers of troops, thereby cutting down the effective fighting force of an army.

~~The~~ He went on to say that the Italian Peninsula would get from us the same sort of treatment that ~~was~~ we have accorded to the people of Sicily. What kind of treatment? The President told how the advance allied forces carried with them emergency B rations,

which were distributed to the people. And large shipments of food were promptly poured in, like meat, milk, flour -- and macaroni. That was the fine point of the charitable impulse -- to provide the Sicilians with lost of macaroni.

Our provision for them went so far as to include oil for diesel engines, engines used to run the mills that grind their local wheat. And we proceeded to free a number of Sicilian prisoners of war, and sent them to their native districts to work and repair damage. In other words, we captured them and then sent them back home.

All this kindness is extended to the Italian people, but not to the Fascist leaders -- definitely not. And President Roosevelt issued a warning concerning war criminals like Mussolini. He addressed a declaration to neutral countries and told them not to give sanctuary to top men among the Axis war makers, in whom the United Nations intend to punish. The President stated that any neutral country that might give sanctuary to ~~xxx~~ war criminals would be considered as following a policy ~~of~~ which the President described as "inconsistent" with the principles for which the United Nations are fighting."

"I find it difficult to believe that any neutral country would give asylum or extend protection to any of them," said the President.

D

In Italy, the suppression of the Fascist Party continues. The latest news today tells of a decree issued by Marshal Badoglio, whereby all Fascist secretaries and local leaders are to go into the Army at once. This puts thousands of minor fascist functionaries into military service and prevents them from conducting agitation against the Badoglio Government.

Also -- Badoglio today ordered the militarization of the Italian Railroads, and of telephone, telegraph and post services. These now become subject to army rule. Thus the ~~young~~ aged Marshal is trying to clamp the lid down harder than ever and keep revolt from spreading ^{through} the country. A report from Scandinavia today states that the peace demonstrations throughout Italy are tending to become anti-Badoglio as well as anti-war.

Disorders are increasing -- particularly in the great industrial city of Milan, where two hundreds persons are reported to have been killed in the rioting to date. At Milan, crowds stormed a

a jail and released political prisoners . The most significant thing about this was the fact that the soldiers refused to oppose the mob. When the crowds ~~then~~ stormed forward, officers ordered the soldiers to fire -- but the troops refused. All of which may be construed as meaning that the Italian Army is getting out of hand, and that would create a revolutionary ~~condition~~ condition indeed.

Today, Allied planes flew over Milan and dropped leaflets setting forth the speeches this week of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill and the peace appeal made to Italy by General Eisenhower. Crowds cheered as the leaflets fell, grabbed them and read them eagerly.

One report tells of a general railroad strike in Northern Italy, a walkout paralyzing transportation over a large area. And farmers are refusing to turn over portions of their crops to the authorities -- the crop percentages that the Fascist Government had been seizing.

With all Italy clamoring for peace, the Allies are putting the pressure on again. Bombing squadrons, which had let the peninsula alone for days, have resumed raids against military objectives

And today the British Fleet bombarded a section of the coast of South Italy -- dropping shells on a strategic bridge and an electrified railway.

In Sicily, the Allied Forces are pressing on against the stubbornly defending Germans at the Eastern tip of the island. Canadians have captured a place called Missoria, and ^{the} Americans lunged forward toward San Stefano, on the northern coast. Allied advances at the center of the line have driven forward in a manner that threatens to cut the German defense line in two. Our forces are proceeding carefully and methodically, and from this distance it would seem as if the Allied Command had no intention of launching an all-out storming attack which might be costly. Why do that when the whole Sicilian military Problem may be solved by the surrender of Italy?

BAZOOKA

That mysterious weapon of war, the bazooka, is in mass production. A lot of silence has surrounded the new American anti-tank mortar, which a single soldier can fire. But now the War Department permits the disclosure that the bazooka is in mass production by the general electric company of Schenectady.

And stories of the prowess of the bazooka are told by Major General Campbell, Chief of Army ~~Staff~~ Ordnance, ^{one of} ~~Basellis~~ of an incident during recent landing operations in the Mediterranean. "A small but strong fort," he relates, "gave considerable trouble to the Americans, one lone soldier detached himself from the landing party, waded ashore, and with one shot from the bazooka^a effected the surrender of the fort. That," adds the general, "will be known as the saga of one American soldier and his bazooka." General Campbell said the weapon is so simple and yet so powerful that, in his words, "any foot soldier using it can stand his ground with certain knowledge that he is master of any tank that may attack him."

RUSSIA

The latest from Soviet Russia announces new gains of

from two to five miles around the salient of Orel. ^{And} More than twenty fortified villages ~~have been~~ captured in this newest surge of the Red forces. Previous word that the Germans might be ~~were~~ evacuating the Orel salient seems not to be borne out - the German command is throwing into the battle new and heavy forces, and ~~is~~ launching counter-assaults by masses of tanks. ^{TP} Moscow reports that a fight-
~~ing~~ to-the-death order has gone out to the Nazi Army in a desperate effort to halt the Soviet multiple drive that is hitting the Orel salient from the North and East and South.

AIR WAR

The great city of Hamburg is marked for utter destruction designed to wipe it off the map. Last night allied air power hit Hamburg again, two thousand tons of high explosive ~~was~~ were dropped. ~~It was~~ The seventh raid in one hundred and twenty hours, and ~~bombs~~ dropped at the rate of fifty a minute. The total weight of high ~~explosive~~ explosive hurled on Hamburg since last Saturday night is now approximately the same as the tons that hit London during the entire eleven months of the ~~German~~ German blitz -- seventy-five hundreds tons.

PARACHUTE

Here's a dizzy record -- the longest parachute jump.

Over in the Mediterranean area, Lieutenant Robert Emile Armstrong of Knoxville, Tennessee, was flying at thirty thousand feet, when his plane was hit and ~~it~~ disabled. He took to his parachute for a thirty thousand foot jump, six miles. And that is said to break all records.

Just ~~before~~ before bailing out for the monumental leap, Lieutenant Armstrong shot down ^{the} a German ~~reconnaissance~~ plane that attacked him. And out of this two Nazi airman jumped with their parachutes -- so they apparently share in the record-breaking descent. The German pilot, upon landing, was taken to the same hospital where Lieutenant Armstrong was being treated. So maybe they had a chance to talk about how it feels to parachute down for six miles.

BLIMP

The Navy tells us today of a battle between a German submarine and an American blimp. ~~Who won? The U boat, it says the Navy.~~

The blimp, of the largest type, was out submarine hunting and went after a U-boat on the ~~in~~ surface. There was a fight, depth charges versus gunfire -- the submarine blazing away with its canon. A hit was scored on the blimp, which was disabled and had to land at sea. All but one of the crew of the airship was saved. This is believed to be the first time a submarine has ever shot down an aircraft.

LIENTENANT - GOVERNOR

From Washington we hear that the White House ~~has~~ given its okay to a democratic fight to force the election of a Lieutenant-Governor in New York State. A confused situation has been caused by the death of the late lieutenant-governor, Thomas W. Wallace. The Republicans claims that he must be succeeded by the President pro tem in the State Senate. This President pro tem is a Republican, and the Democrats counter with the statement that, according to the state constitution, a special election must be called to choose a new Lieutenant-Governor. They say that the State Constitution is somewhat ambiguous on that point -- and they'll go to court about it.

Ordinarily, a Lieutenant-Governor of a state is more or less obscure, but in New York right now there is a special point -- the political status of governor Tom Dewey, ^{who} ~~is~~ is mentioned insisently as a Republican possibility for the Presidential nomination though Governor Dewey has declared time and again that he does not seek the nomination, ^{and} that he intends to remain Governor of New York to the end^f of his term. Nevertheless, when polls are taken, the name of Dewey usually appears at the top, and the talk continues that he may be ~~f~~ drafted. So, the supposition, ^{that} that he might step out

of the Governorship adds importance to the Lieutenant-Governor, who would succeed him. ^{And} The Democrats, naturally, would like to have

a Democrat in that position. ^{And the President says:}
Go ahead and fight for it.

~~Moreover, they say the Democrats would welcome an election as an opportunity to retrieve something of the defeat they took at the polls the last time -- when Tom Dewey was elected Governor by such an overwhelming vote. The Democrats believe that they could ~~not~~ do a lot better in a special election for the Lieutenant-Governorship. They are pressing for that, and the President has given them his okay in the effort -- so we are told today.~~

SOLDIERS

The White House today announced a program for helping the soldiers when post-war demobilization comes around. In his radio address, the night before last, President Roosevelt spoke of a program that would provide mustering out pay. And this today takes a definite form -- a three months furlough at regular base pay, plus family allowances. The base pay, however, not to exceed a hundred dollars a month.

This was disclosed by the President, who stated that he will send to Congress a broad program for post war demobilization. This program, in addition to a three months furlough with pay, provides for twenty-six weeks of employment insurance for all soldiers registered with the United States employment service. Also, rehabilitation, educational opportunities and other items.

President Roosevelt referred to criticism of his radio address; and, talked about the moon. The Republicans are complaining that the President, while discussing the war and the home front, was really making a political speech, a campaign argument, talking-up a fourth term.

Asked today about these criticisms, F.D.R. told of a suggestion made by a member of his family, though he didn't say ~~xxx~~

which member. The suggestion was that the President, in his speech, should say something that could not possibly be attacked as political. What, for instance? Well, talk about the moon -- say that the moon is beautiful. Anything political about that? Sure. The President stated today that it was argued that if he exclaimed, "Oh, how beautiful is the moon", that remark might be assailed as political, since so many young people like to sit and look at the moon. So it might be criticized as a bid for the votes of couples who sigh in the moonlight. Of these there are a lot, and many votes would

be involved -- including that of the man in the moon. So, the President decided not to talk about the moon!

And now let's hear from a young man who doesn't talk about the moon either. But he usually does have something worthwhile to say about the Sun -- our Sun, Blue Sun -- ooo! His initials are not F. D. R. They are H. J. It's all yours H. J.