

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The war news can be sketched briefly. Berlin insists that the forces in the Leningrad area have stormed the fortress of Schlisselberg, and that the Germans and Finns have joined forces - on the Karelian Isthmus.

The word from Moscow concerns the central front, where the Red Army claims great victories in a full fledged offensive. Moscow says the Nazis have been driven back to a point forty-five miles East of Smolensk, and that the threat of a blitzkrieg drive on the Soviet capital has been removed. Berlin gives some sort of confirmation on the power of the Soviet drive in the center. It would seem indeed as if the Red Army were making a supreme effort there.

London reports the sinking of three German ships off the Soviet arctic coast -- one of the ships a destroyer. The Arctic area has been little noticed, but the Germans and Finns there are driving against the Soviets on the far northern shore -- and the

British Navy is coming to the aid of the Red Army.

Still further north, Spitzbergen. The allied forces which seized that vast Norwegian island in the arctic ocean, were led by Canadians. A raid by Canadians, British and Norwegians.

VATICAN

In Rome, President Roosevelt's emissary, Myron G. Taylor, had an interview with Pope Pius today.

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The latest is a report that's circulating in Vatican quarters. ~~This says~~ that the purpose of the Taylor Mission is to persuade the Pontiff ~~of the Roman Catholic Church~~ to accept the American policy of collaborating with Soviet Russia - at least passive acceptance by the Pope. <sup>That</sup> The President would like to have this accomplished, as a way of lessening the hostility of American Catholics to aid ~~the~~ to the Soviets.

## SINKINGS

In the sinking of the steamship Sessa, the available facts at this moment are as follows. The ship was under Panamanian registry, flying the Panamanian flag, but she was being operated by an American firm. The ship was bound for Iceland, and was carrying a cargo owned by the government of Iceland, a cargo of foodstuffs, cereals and lumber - no arms or ammunition.

The Sessa was built in Finland, by a Danish shipowner. The vessel was one of the Danish ships tied up in American harbors one of those taken over by the ~~United~~ United States Government some months ago. She was then transferred to the registry of the Republic of Panama, and put into operation by an American Company.

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The Sessa left New York on August sixth. There's a report that she was in a convoy, then sunk. The vessel was torpedoed on August seventeenth, three hundred miles off Iceland, Nationality of the submarine unknown - presumably a German U-boat. Of her crew, ~~two~~ twenty-four men are reported, and are presumed to have been lost. One of these was an American. Three survivors were rescued by United States Naval vessels on September sixth - three days ago. The news was revealed by the Navy department today.

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The sinking of a ship under the Panamanian flag, but operated by an American firm, comes at a time when any event of the kind has the quality of dynamite. The torpedoing of the Sessa follows closely on the bombing and ~~xx~~ sinking of the United States freighter, Sea ~~Way~~farer, in the Red Sea. No lives lost. The report is that the Sea Wayfarer carried a cargo of Lend-Lease materials bound ~~x~~ for Suez - war supplies for the British near Eastern Army.

Word from Cairo today indicates that the vessel was bombed in the northern part of the Red Sea, one of the most forbidding areas of water on this earth. Abounding in reefs and rocks - and rimmed by desolate mountains ~~x~~ that rise from the desert. We are not told the nationality of the plane that sunk the Sea ~~Way~~farer. It might have been Italian~~as~~ - or German. Both Nazi and Faschist planes are operating in that area.

The two ship sinkings <sup>so</sup> ~~are~~ closely pertaining to the United States appear in the news within twenty four hours, and they follow so soon after the attempt to torpedo the United States destroyer Greer in the North Atlantic. We can hark back further to the sinking of the Robin Moor - the first United States vessel

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to be attacked and destroyed during the present war. It all adds up to a new crisis, which in turn puts a new accent of importance on President Roosevelt's radio address to the Nation Thursday.

What he will say can only be surmised, but it is reported that the President will reiterate his previous contention that the ~~United States~~ United States will protect its rights at sea, will repeat this with a still greater emphasis. And there's a report that he may announce that he has ordered the navy to keep the sea lane between the United States and Iceland free of Axis warships.

## CHURCHILL FOLLOW SINKINGS

This news about the sinking of ships is in dramatic relation to Prime Minister Churchill's address to Parliament today. Churchill argued the contention that Hitler may soon take a line of action on the North Atlantic that will bring the United States into the war.

Addressing the House of Commons, the Prime Minister reasons as follows:-Hitler's idea previously was to finish off Soviet Russia and Great Britain, and then deal with the United States. But Hitler may be forced to change his plans. The Nazis <sup>e</sup> expected a short war against the Soviets, but now the Blitzkreig faces a campaign through the winter. <sup>today</sup> Churchill said that the Germans have lost more men in the Russian War thus far than they did in any year of the previous World War.

Faced with a long war against the Red Army, Hitler also sees the battle of the Atlantic going against him.

Churchill said that British shipping losses have been curtailed ~~so~~ greatly, that during July and August the tonnage of Axis shipping destroyed was three times as great as tonnage the British lost. He called that an extraordinary statement, but said it was true. He added that it was partly because of the American



Patrol system, which is aiding the British fleet in the Battle of the Atlantic. Huge quantities of American supplies are going across, and Churchill reasoned that Hitler might have to make an attempt to stop the stream of Lend-Lease goods. He may be forced to carry the sea war into the American patrolled waters, and that would bring on a shooting war with the American naval forces.

From this argument, Churchill went on to call for greater American aid -- aid of two kinds. He asked for more American help in the Battle of the Atlantic, new naval measures against the Nazis, action by American warships.

This is partly because of a vastly greater need of aid to the Soviets. Churchill revealed that large volumes of aid-to-Britain material are being diverted to help the Red Army. And the Stalin forces will need much more. The Germans have already seized a large part of the Soviet War industry - and the United States and Great Britain will have to make up for that.

The Prime Minister's address to the Commons, was followed promptly by a discussion of that much debated proposal an American Expeditionary Force, a new A.E.F., Robert Cary, a conservative member, pointed out that General Sir Archibald Wavell and other



British Military leaders, have stressed the necessity of sending an American army into the war abroad. The M.P. supported that contention. "It's a mistake," he declared, "to say we do not need a large army. We may have to produce a larger army than we possessed in Nineteen Eighteen," he added.

## SPIES

In New York's big espionage trial, there was dramatic testimony today about the famous American bomb sight - that celebrated military secret stolen by Nazi Germany. A government witness took the stand, and was introduced by the United States Attorney as - "A counter-espionage agent." William G. Sebold, an American citizen, a German by birth. He fought in the Kaiser's army in the World War, then immigrated to the United States, became naturalized, and worked in the plant of the consolidated Aircraft Company at San Diego, California.

Today he told how in the summer of Nineteen Thirty-Nine, he went back to Germany on a visit. At Hamburg before he left the ship, two men came to him and asked him about his work at the American Airplane Plant. Sebold told them, "Go find out for yourselves."

Later at his family home in the Ruhr Valley, a Gestapo agent visited him, asked him to cooperate with Nazi spies working in the United States, and threatened him with death unless he agreed. Sebold went ~~the~~ to the United States consul at Cologne and told him the whole story. As a result, a plan was laid, whereby Sebold would pretend to become a Nazi spy, but in reality he would work for the United States as a counter-espionage agent.

He went to Hamburg, and there took the Gestapo's training course for spies - a study of under-cover radio and telegraphy and secret writing, code work. - At this point of the story, the bomb sight enters. How did the American authorities learn the Nazis were ~~xxx~~ able to steal that carefully guarded military secret? Today Sebald, the counter-espionage agent, explained as follows.

He told how he wanted to establish confidence with two Gestapo agents. To make a good impression on them he remarked: "Perhaps I will bring you the famous American bomb sight."

To which the Gestapo men replied: "Don't bother. The bomb sight is in our possession."

Sebald says he was told that when he returned to the United States he should contact a man named Herman Lang. This Herman Lang had formerly been ~~in~~ an inspector at the Carl Norden Plant. That's the place ~~★~~ where the invention for aerial aiming was developed. Its correct name is - "The Norden bomb sight."

Today this same Herman Lang is one of the sixteen defendants on trial. He is accused of having procured the bomb sight secret while he was an inspector at the Norden Plant, and

of having transmitted it to Nazi Germany.

The bomb sight was the headline item in the testimony given by counter-espionage agent Sebold - though the story went on with still more melodrama.

He told how when he returned to the United States, he was contacted by an F.B.I. agent and a representative of the State Department. To them he gave five micro films, which were photographs of instructions to guide him in his espionage work. Directed by these instructions, the F.B.I. built a radio station on Long Island, and got into communication with the Gestapo in Hamburg. The F.B.I. sent to the Gestapo two or three hundred messages - many of them phoney, to mislead and frustrate. Counter-espionage work.

MRS. ROOSEVELT

There was today a scene of simplicity, solemnity and sorrow at Hyde Park. A sunlit day, the open air, the glowing green of nature in early autumn. A church amid the trees, old trees - some of them higher than the spire of the church. A *Dutchess* *County* cemetery a hundred and thirty years old, and there the rector of St. James Episcopal church spoke the age-old words of scriptural promise:- "I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord. He that believeth <sup>on</sup> ~~in~~ Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me, shall never die."

A small group listened with bowed head, the President of the United States, <sup>s</sup> member of his family and some friends and neighbors. Thus they bade a final farewell to Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt, mother of the President, a woman who lived a long and ample life, with dignity and honor.

## MOVIES

Today began the investigation of motion pictures on the charge of war propaganda. The proceedings were started by Wendell <sup>Willkie,</sup> ~~Willkie~~, representing the Hollywood Producers. He argued that the investigation was illegal. The <sup>Willkie</sup> ~~Willkie~~ contention was turned down, and the hearing began.

Senator Nye of North Dakota was the first witness. He charged that Hollywood has a financial stake in a British victory. The companies have large interests in Britain, which would be wiped out if Britain lost. Then Senator Nye proceeded to answer accusations of anti-semitism.

"I bitterly resent this effort," he cried, "To misrepresent our purpose, and to prejudice the public mind by dragging this racial issue to the front. If the anti-semitic issue is now raised for the moment," He added, "It is raised by those of Jewish faith.

Then he uttered a warning, saying:- "Let us not disguise the facts and fool ourselves about the seriousness of this general anti-semitic nightmare." And he explained that after the war, the



masses of unemployed will be ready to respond to agitators " Who will want," he said, - to help them find the scapegoat responsible for it all. Organized forces and their leaders", he declared, "will find a goat."

Nye of North Dakota asserted that the production and distribution of motion pictures is controlled by a few people. These he described in the following words: "Four or five individuals" each of them I believe an American citizen. But ~~in~~ the majority, born abroad in lands that have been ~~xxx~~ saturated with hate, with ~~xxxx~~ fear, with prejudice and with persecution."

There was a lively series of exchanges, as Wendell Willkie took a hand in the proceedings. At one point Senator Clark of Missouri stated that last year's Republican candidate had sent him a letter making incidious reflections on the committee, The Senator said the letter was, in his words, "A monumental example of campaign oratory." That drew a huge laugh in the crowded committee room. Willkie shouted over the din, " I am very appreciative, Mr. chairman. That's the best thing in the record yet."

At another time, Senator McFarland, who is not an  
8 1/2 isolationist, asked whether Senators Nye or Clark had any ~~xxxxxx~~

~~isolationist, asked whether Senators Nye or Clark had any~~  
legislation in mind. Nye replied "No".

"You mean!" McFarland shot back, "That we should conduct this inquiry just for publicity?" That drew a round of applause and laughter in the Senate caucus room.

Nye went on to explain that there wasn't any need for legislation, that the interstate commerce laws would be enough to check motion picture war propoganda/ He pointed out that radio is required by law to give equal time on public issues to opposite sides. That drew a retort from Willkie: "Does that mean that the movies would be required to make pro-Nazi pictures?"

All of which would seem to indicate that before the hearing is through, we may have as lively entertainment as you will find in many a Hollywood comedy.

And now something lively  
from you, Hugh.