

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The skies of northwestern Europe were overcast today, bad weather, and there was comparatively little bombing activity over Britain. Nazi war planes tried to raid London tonight, but were said to have been driven off.

FRENCH COLONIES

Three French colonies now have decided to cast their lot with Great Britain, instead of Marshal Petain's Government of France. They are - ~~just south of the Sahara,~~ the Lake Chad area, the Cameroons, and New Caledonia. Lake Chad is equatorial Africa south of the Sahara. The Cameroons are in West Africa and were taken by France from Germany under the Versailles Treaty. New Caledonia is an island group in the remote ^{South} Pacific. These colonies have "resumed the war." - That's the way the case was phrased today by General DeGaulle, the French leader who refuses to recognize the armistic with Germany.

One picturesque detail is given. Foremost in the decision in Central ~~xxx~~ Africa is a full blood Negro. He's the French Governor of the Lake Chad area. This African Negro studied in French schools ^{where he} distinguished himself as a rugby player. Back in his native Africa, he rose in rank in the French Administration, and today as Governor declares for a continuation of the war against Nazi Germany.

ITALY

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In Rome the supposition is that the Italian bombing of the Suez Canal is a prelude to a Fascist drive to conquer

Egypt. War planes over Suez are regarded as a preliminary gesture. Gesture seems to be the word - because the Italians

make no claim of any particular damage, although a number

of bombs were dropped at the northern entrance of the water-way *that separates Africa and Asia.*

In fact, ~~xx~~ Rome passes along the ^{hint} ~~xxxx~~ that Italy does not

particularly want to cripple the Suez Canal - not in any

serious way, because Italy hopes to get ~~xxxx~~ possession of

it.

SOUTH AFRICA

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Here's a late dispatch from South Africa, a move in the Capetown Parliament to get that British colony out of the war. The former Premier, General Hertzog, has entered a motion demanding that the Union of South Africa start immediate peace negotiations with Germany and Italy. Hertzog was forced out as Premier ~~xxx~~ two days after Great Britain entered the conflict. He was opposed to war. Now he calls upon South Africa to make a separate peace, and he states that Britain is carrying on the struggle in what he calls "a spirit of despair".

This declaration by Hertzog, the Boer leader, was swiftly answered by another prominent figure among the Dutch in South Africa, General Smuts, ~~who~~ replied angrily that South Africa would have only one kind of peace - peace through victory, said he.

AIRCRAFT

The biggest aircraft order for national defense was announced today. It comes to a hundred and sixty million dollars for seventeen thousand aviation engines. The firm taking the contract is the United ~~Si~~ Aircraft Corporation. This was announced by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox today. The Seventeen Thousand engines will range from five hundred to two thousand horsepower.

In making the announcement, the Secretary of the Navy denied that there had been any sit down strike by industry. He said that companies have not been backward in accepting defense orders. He pointed out that today's record-breaking contract has been agreed upon even before Congress has voted the money to finance it. "This indicates", said he, ^{quote,} "that these fellows are good sportsmen, willing to take a chance, even before Congress votes the funds. We want them to get full credit for their patriotic spirit," said ^{Col. Knox.} ~~he~~.

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On top of this we hear that the War Department ~~xx~~ is negotiating with the Ford Motor Company to manufacture forty-five hundred, two-thousand horsepower engines. Previously,

a deal with Ford fell through because the greater part of the aviation engines were for the British. The ace of motor ~~XXXXXXXX~~ magnates said he would build for the United States only. Apparently this **New Deal** is on an All-American basis.

HOUSING

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An alarming possibility was suggested today before a Congressional committee - the possibility of another influenza epidemic like the disastrous outbreak during the previous World War. This was stated by C. F. Palmer, Housing Coordinator of the Defense Commission. He based his contention on the argument of housing. If we conscript a huge army, and have not enough buildings for the soldiers to live in - why then the result may be a deadly outbreak of the flu. As an illustration, the Administrator cited Hampton Roads, Virginia, where there is a host of men - Army, Navy Yard and shipbuilding. "The need of housing," said he, "is so serious and there is such overcrowding, that if something is not done immediately - we will have another condition like that of the World War that took so many lives so unnecessarily through disease."

He added that more than a hundred and ten thousand defense housing units are needed immediately. For this Congress is considering a bill to put up a hundred and fifty million dollars.

ADD HOUSING

The statement about the danger of an epidemic led to prompt action. Soon afterward, the Senate unanimously voted a hundred million dollars for housing - this hundred million to be added to the five billion dollar total for defense.

SECOND ADD TO HOUSING

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Shortly after that, the Senate passed the Five Billion Dollar Bill - for total defense. The measure provides for the construction of a two-ocean Navy and more than eighteen thousand airplanes.

CONSCRIPTION

The House of Representatives and the Senate have different ideas about the age limits in the Conscription Bill. The measure as passed by the Senate last night calls for the drafting of men between twenty-one and thirty-one. Today the military affairs committee of the House gave its own version of the age limits. The bill as introduced called for all men between twenty-one and sixty-four to register for military service. The committee today cut out the upper end of the scale of ages, and amended the bill to read twenty-one to forty-five. ~~Of course the Senate and House versions will have to be harmonized, and there is some prospect of a fight in the Lower House to conscript the boys up to forty-five, instead of merely to thirty-one.~~

A more serious battle seems in prospect over the clause for the conscription of industry. The Senate passed that one, but a lot of the Congressmen don't like it - and will try to have it stricken out.

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It was ~~xxxx~~ revealed in Washington today that the Administration is considering a plan to train the Civilian Conservation Corps for National Defense work. No, this does not mean that the C. C. C. boys are to be turned into soldiers. Democratic Representative Scrugham of Nevada stated today that the Administration program does not contemplate the militarization of the C. C. C. ~~Such~~ militarization has been demanded by a number of Congressmen. The idea being - if *we are* ~~were~~ to draft soldiers under the Conscription ~~xx~~ Act, why wouldn't the Conservation Corps make a first rate lot of recruits? President Roosevelt, however, is opposed to this. He doesn't want the C. C. C. to be put in the Army. The plan is to train the Conservation Corps as aviation and motor mechanics, workers at technical tasks of one sort or another - those services which a modern army needs.

Representative Scrugham stated today that the program is based on German methods. The Nazi victory in France, said the Congressman, was due largely to a huge supply of mechanics - ten or twelve mechanics for each airplane or other unit of motorized equipment. The United States Army needs that

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sort of secondary military personnel, and according to the plan
the Civilian Conservation Corps would be utilized to supply
the need. Of course, the C. C. C. would quite naturally be
included in the conscription of young men in general - a certain
proportion of them taken as soldiers.

Today Republican Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire called upon President Roosevelt to demand the resignation of the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee. This is the latest in a Number One political storm. The Secretary of the Democratic National Committee is Lawrence Wood Robert, surnamed "Chip". At the Chicago Convention, Chip Robert was one of the ace high figures in putting across the renomination of President Roosevelt. He was a doughty battler for a third term.

Chip Robert is also the owner of an architectural and engineering company at Atlanta, Georgia. ~~The name of the firm is Robert and Company.~~ Recently, there has been gossip about the awarding of defense construction contracts in the southern area, contracts for buildings on aviation fields and other military projects. There has been complaint that the contracts have been unfairly awarded. And there has been mention of Robert and Company of Atlanta, ~~the firm~~ owned by the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee. Congressional demands for information were made and today a statement was inserted in the Congressional record by

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Congressman Carl Vinson, Chairman of the House Naval Committee.

He got the statement from the Navy Department.

It's a list of building contracts given out under the defense program, and discloses that there were sixty-six awards. Of these sixty-six, eight were given to the firm of Robert and Company - most of them in the Florida area. They were contracts for aviation-building mostly. Eight out of sixty-six sounds like a considerable proportion, and the contracts were granted without bidding. They were on a basis of cost-plus-fixed-fee. The Navy is empowered to grant awards in that fashion - so much for ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ costs and so much for a fee. ^R The costs in the case of the eight Robert and Company contracts was nearly seven million dollars. The fees ranged in percentages from nearly three per cent to four and a half percent. The total of the fees was nearly a million dollars - nine hundred and thirty-one thousand, five hundred and sixty dollars, to be precise. That much government contract profit taken by the firm of ^{the} Secretary of the Democratic National Committee. ^R ~~This is the financial story which has raised a first class rumpus in Washington, with charges of~~

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~~politics and political connivance in the realm of national defense. The contention is made - that the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee should not be permitted to get defense contracts. And, leading the Republican charge, Senator Bridges of New Hampshire demands - resignation, and even prosecution. He issues this manifesto: "The President," says he, "should immediately demand the resignation of Mr. Robert as Secretary of the Democratic National Committee. And, in addition it would seem that an investigation of the entire matter might properly be made by the Attorney ~~General~~ General."~~

Looks like
~~Altogether, it's something of a political tornado,~~

~~in the delicate realm of national defense.~~

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Well, the Army has finally recaptured ~~XXXXXX~~ Private Londino. Private Londino is what you would call a peacherino. He has been A. W. O. L. for twelve days, and that's a lot of days if you know the Army. In addition, ~~XXXXXX~~ Peacherino Londino has proved himself to be a great lover and also an expert with wine and spaghetti.

The Private was in camp at Fort Hancock, drilling, peeling potatoes, doing kitchen police, when he was smitten with an irrisistible desire to see his sweetheart, so he left camp without bothering about permission - A. W. O. L. To Londino A. W. O. L. simply meant - a want of love. However, the Army is not so sentimental about such matters, ~~XXXX~~ expecially when the A. W. O. L. lasts for twelve days.

A military detachment was sent out to arrest the romantic private. They got him, and were taking him back to camp, the Lovelorn Londino, snatched ~~wxx~~ away from the girl of his dreams. What did he do? Why, he invited the soldiers to his home for a bit of spaghetti and some wine. The guards were ~~xxxxxxx~~ hungry, and maybe a bit thirsty. They went. And Londino proceeded to ply them with a mountain of spaghetti and

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a barrel of wine. A good time was being had by all, ~~EXXX~~
especially by Londino. While the soldiers of the detachment were
inhaling yards of spaghetti and rivers of wine, he disappeared,
leaving the guards with very red faces. So Londino was A. W. O. L.
all over again, presumably returning to his true love.

Today, however, he was caught once more, this time
by the police at Elizabeth, New Jersey. The cops were not so
susceptible to the wine and spaghetti treatment. Presumably
they get more of the same than soldiers do. So tonight
Peacherino Londino is in the guardhouse at Fort Hancock. He
is expected to be there for some time to come.

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Here's a melancholy tale, the saddest kind of sad story. Yesterday, a flash of good news came to Dizzy Dean - Diz, the one time flame ball artist of the diamond. As all the baseball world knows, Dizzy Dean for the past couple of years has had a sore arm. The hitters were slugging his fast ball far and wide, that same fast ball which they couldn't touch a few years back. So the Chicago Cubs sent Diz to the minors - to the Tulsa team. The hope was that the hot Oklahoma weather would boil the soreness out of that once invincible right arm.

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Right now the Tulsa team is at Dallas, Texas, playing a series there, and at Dallas Dizzy Dean got the glad news - Chicago was recalling him. The Cubs wanted him for the final drive of the season. Back to the majors - for Diz. Those were glad tidings indeed, and Diz spoke up and said in his old time bragging way:- "The old arm is as good as it ever was. I got all my stuff", he shouted. Then he went out to pitch against Dallas, one of the feeblest teams in the minor leagues. They socked him for fourteen hits and won by a score of nine to five. It was the first victory that Dallas has had in ten games.

CENTENARIAN

In New York, Abe Pinchasid is a hundred and one years old. Abe might perhaps be expected to succumb to old age, but no - that's not the story. Today Abe, his hundred and one years and all - went out for a walk. He was hit by a trolley car - and that may seem like an ironical trick of fate. "It was," said Abe, as he waited impatiently while the doctors bandaged up his cuts and bruises. Then he continued his walk - cuts, bruises, a hundred and one years and all.

Hugh, I understand you
have some interesting news;
what is it?

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