

U.S. - Sunco. Tues., Jan. 5, 1943.

ROOSEVELT SPEECH

Good Evening Everybody.
And first a salute to Ambassador Hugh Gibson who took my place for two nights and so ably gave you the news.
IP We hear that this is a busy night at the

White House - with President Roosevelt and his advisors working hard on the presidential message to Congress, which will be delivered on Thursday. ~~At the beginning of each congressional session, the chief executive always presents to Congress the regular message on the state of the nation.~~ And ~~this is the first time that~~ President ~~Roosevelt~~ *has faced a* will do so to a Congress with ~~xxxxxxxx~~ such a large opposition party.

The Republicans, as we know, are not far short of control. All of which gives Thursday's presidential message ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ special importance. IP It has

required more work than usual. ~~The President has been busy for weeks with his advisors, deciding upon what~~

~~things to say.~~ We are told that the rough draft is *ready, but must too long,* already completed. ~~It is much longer than the final~~

which ~~version will be.~~ The final length is expected to be

~~between seven and eight thousand words~~ And tonight
is cutting night, so they say - ~~when~~ the rough draft
being
~~is~~ boiled down to the right length. So ~~right~~ now
President Roosevelt and his advisors, likely enough,
are eliminating paragraphs and trimming phrases.

Two advisors on the literary job are mentioned -
Judge Samuel I. Rosenman of New York and Robert
Sherwood, the playwright. Judge Rosenman is an expert
in cutting and trimming - the art of getting the
presidential wordage down to right length without
changing the basic thought. He is the President's
favorite - "editor". Playwright Sherwood is an adept
at building punch lines. They do their editing and
punch lining, and then the President alters phrases to
suit his own style of diction.

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White House Secretary Steve Early stated today
that the President will confer with a number of

Congressional leaders concerning the message, getting
their advice ^{on} ~~concerning the~~ phraseology. This will
happen tomorrow, and then early on Thursday morning
the message will be turned over to the clerical force
for copying. Later in the day, the President will take
his own copy in a black loose-leaf notebook and proceed
to Capitol Hill - Congress.

DEMOCRATS

The Democrats in the House of Representatives had a caucus today, and chose their candidate for Speaker. ~~in the House of Representatives.~~ Since the Democrats have a majority in the House, though a slim one, their choice today is as good as elected. ~~Speaker of the House.~~ He is the same as last year - Congressman Rayburn of Texas, renominated today. At the same time, the Democrats reelected Congressman John McCormack of Massachusetts as Majority Leader.

The Republicans also held a caucus and reappointed their floor leader - JOE Martin of Massachusetts.

STRIKES

There seems to be an end to the strike trouble at the big Ford plant at River Rouge, where air equipment for the Army is being turned out. A late news dispatch states that strikers began returning to work late today - this in response to an order issued by the Union, the United Automobile Workers ~~and~~ the C.I.O.

R The walkout was staged by maintenance workers who objected to a reorganization of the maintenance system at the Ford River Rouge plant. Because of the strike, more than six thousand workers were made idle last night and more than eight thousand today. ~~(There was an estimated loss of eighty thousand man-hours last night, and another eighty thousand man-hours today. This was stated by)~~ Colonel Strong, who represents the Army Air *Force* Corps at the factory, ~~and he added:~~ *stated:* "The situation is growing more serious as time passes."

Later in the day, the Union sent a

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preemptory ^{order} ~~story~~ to the maintenance men, telling them
to go back to work. And this they are doing - according
to last reports.

HOTELS

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We have some information about the hotels the Government has taken over ~~xx~~ as a war measure. This comes in consequence of an argument ^{Uncle Sam's} ~~about the Government~~ acquisition of the Stevens Hotel in Chicago. That huge hostelry, with thirty-five hundred rooms, was purchased by the Government for six million dollars. And now along comes Senator Byrd of Virginia with a blast of criticism. The Senator, who was a member of the joint economy committee, says it would have been cheaper to have leased the hotel for the duration of the war. (Why buy the place, when presumably the Government does not intend to go into the hotel business when times of peace return?)

To this, Under-Secretary of War Patterson responds today by saying that it was cheaper to buy the Stevens in Chicago than to lease it - at the price demanded.

All of which suggests the question- How many hotels has the Government taken over, how many bought and how many leased? ^{The following} ~~This~~ information is given ~~to us in connection with the controversy about the Stevens in Chicago.~~ The Government has taken over four hundred and eighty-three hotels, ^{with} ~~for~~ a total of forty-three thousand and ninety rooms. Eight hotels have been bought ~~by the Government~~ at a cost of sixteen million dollars. Four hundred and seventy-five have been leased. ^{TP} Among the hotels purchased, some of the best known are the Miami-Biltmore with four hundred rooms at Miami Beach, Florida; ~~the~~ El Mirador, with a hundred and fifty rooms at Palm Springs, California; ^{swank} and the [^]Greenbrier, with seven hundred rooms, at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. (~~Two of the~~ ~~eight hotels purchased will be used to quarter troops~~ and ~~six will be converted into permanent army hospitals.~~)

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AUSTRIAN BATTALION

President Roosevelt denied today that the United States Army is organizing an Austrian battalion, ~~which is~~ under control of Archduke Otto of Hapsburg - the heir to the ancient and abolished crown of the Austrian Empire. The President stated that the Army is organizing a number of free battalions; ~~One, of these~~ **is** Austrian. He said that the two younger brothers of Archduke Otto have enlisted in it as privates.

TP There have been reports ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ with a lot of angry criticism - that Archduke Otto is the head of this Austrian battalion. President/Roosevelt stated that these reports were completely vicious and untrue.

GUADALCANAL

Today's account of a futile Jap attempt to land supplies to their garrison on Guadalcanal makes a dramatic story - the way ten Jap destroyers headed for the embattled island - the way they were beaten off, and the way ~~that~~ they still tried to get supplies ashore.

Secretary of the Navy ~~Frank~~ Knox, in his *news* conference today, stated that the Jap destroyers were attacked by American air forces and torpedo speed boats. American bombing planes damaged two of the enemy ships and our P T boats hit three others. Smashed up like that, the Japs were unable to do a regular landing job.

But
They tried something unusual. *R* Speeding off ~~shore~~ *the coast* they

dropped drums of supplies - hoping that these would drift ~~ashore~~ *ashore* carried by tide and wind. The drums of supplies went drifting all right - but they were spotted and ~~were~~ sunk by our planes and P T boats.

Which represents a new kind of naval sinking - shooting

floating containers, and sending them to the bottom.

Today's bulletin, issued by the Navy Department, tells of a new success for our ground forces on Guadalcanal. Four miles southwest of Henderson Field, there is an elevation called Mount Austin, and the Japs use it as an artillery position.

So the marines and regular soldiers launched an attack in that direction, ~~and~~ they stormed enemy positions on high ground. Killing a lot of Japs, they seized elevations favorable for the placing of our own artillery.

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And, ~~of course,~~ ^{once more} American bombers [^] dropped high explosive on the ^{new} Jap airfield at Munda, on New Georgia Island. They are doing it all the time. Bombing Munda ^{is the order of the day.} ~~seems to have become a habit, and the boys become addicted to it~~

SAN FRANCISCO

Another chapter of the epic of the cruiser SAN FRANCISCO was written today. President Roosevelt bestowed the Congressional Medal of Honor on Commander Herbert Schonland of New London, Connecticut, decorating him not only for heroism, but also for humility. ~~in a~~
~~way.~~

The story has been often told how in the sea battle of the Solomons, the SAN FRANCISCO, flagship of the American squadron, sank Jap ships, and was savagely hit by enemy shells. Admiral Callahan was killed, and so was Cruiser Captain Cassin Young. Whereupon, the command was taken by young Lieutenant-Commander McCandless, who directed the flagship through the rest of the battle. But he was not really next in command, after the Admiral and Captain were killed. The ranking officer who remained was Lieutenant-Commander Schonland. He, however, was damage control officer and was below

decks trying to cope with the frightful ^{havoc,} ~~damage.~~

So he called to the bridge, and said:

"I am too doggone busy down here fighting fire and water - let Bruce McCandless take the ship."

Today President Roosevelt, in presenting the Congressional Medal, commended this unselfish decision - Schonland assigning to another officer ^{the} headline distinction of commanding the flagship of the squadron in battle. What lieutenant-commander wouldn't jump at a chance like that? So humility was decorated today.

W And as for heroism - the President cited the way that Schonland, in the flooded hold amid the fires, went waist deep in water and by the light of hand lanterns directed the task of getting the water out of the flooded ship.

In other words he made it possible for McCandless to carry on, above.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Soviet forces have recaptured the important town of Nalchik in the Caucasus. ^{this} ~~This~~ place is ~~near~~ near Mozdok, another Number One place retaken by the Red Army. Moscow reports, moreover, the seizure of a string of other inhabited localities.

So today's news continues the day after day story of Soviet advance. ^{And} The gains in the Caucasus indicate that the Germans are receding from the most advanced points of their push toward the Caspian Sea.

The question of the hour is - How far do the Red Army advances represent a possible collapse of the

Germans in Russia? Is the enemy being routed into disorderly defeat; or, are the Germans retiring to prepared positions, as they did last winter?

~~xxx~~ Along this line we have a story from Stockholm, which has attracted a good deal of attention today. Stockholm attributes the account to

neutral observers in close contact with Berlin, and these tell us that Hitler is beginning a gigantic withdrawal in southern Russia, a withdrawal that will take the Germans entirely out of the northern Caucasus. The information goes on with the statement that a considerable proportion of the German Army in that Area has already retired behind the lower reaches of the River Don.

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The Stockholm story goes on with a good deal of circumstantial detail, and relates the whole ~~thing~~ *thing to the* ~~of the~~ shake-up of the German general staff, about which we heard ~~so much~~ a little while ago, - when Chief of Staff General Halder was ousted by Hitler. ~~They say that Halder told Hitler what would have to be done when it became apparent the Red Army around Stalingrad could not be crushed and the oilfields on the Caspian could not be captured.~~

Halder

~~He~~ advised that the whole Caucasus area must be evacuated for the winter. ~~He argued that the German forces there were worn out, and must be given a rest during the cold months.~~ Hence there should be a withdrawal to the Don, where easily defensible positions could be held by a rear guard.

Hitler did not agree with this. He had another

of those

~~intuition~~, and decided to hang onto the Caucasus. *So*

~~He~~ fired Halder and replaced him with General Zeitzler.

Now, however, says the Stockholm story, things have

got so bad that Zeitzler is compelled to carry out the

plan presented by Halder - *-- the* thing for which that former

Chief of Staff was fired. *TR* ~~The reason is said to be,~~

~~the unexpected strength of the Soviet counter-offensive~~

~~and the difficulties the Germans are having with ~~supplying~~~~

~~supplies -- these long lines of transport all the way~~

~~from Germany nearly to the Caucasus.~~

Here is the latest, from London. British

military sources give us the opinion that the ~~general~~

advances

~~withdrawals~~ in the Caucasus, as announced by the Soviets,

coincide with a general German

~~are part of a general~~ retreat from the north Caucas^{us} ~~area~~

a retreat which may carry
area, ~~according to a plan that may result in a~~

them
~~retirement~~ all the way back to Rostov.

AFRICA

Things are still pretty well tied up in North Africa. Today American bombers were battering enemy positions in northeastern Tunisia - the vicinity of Medjes-El-Bab. In that sector, German armored forces have been trying to push forward and create a threat against the Allied flank.

The Nazis have also launched an assault against positions held by the French at a place called Foudouk. The attack, made with from twenty to thirty tanks, lost some twelve or fifteen of the mobile forts - about half of the armored strength that came rumbling forward.

~~In Libya, it looks as if Rommel's beaten East Afrika Korps were really going to make a stand. This we heard last night, and the indications are the same today - Rommel planning to hold a line at Wadi Zem Zem, a hundred and seventy miles from Tripoli.~~

CAMERAMEN

As a worker in newsreel, with a job at Movietone, I have a special interest in a war story today about two cameramen in North Africa. They are Lieutenant John McClain of New York and Lieutenant Kenneth Pier of Los Angeles. Nowadays the Army and Navy photographic units are producing some great motion pictures of the battlefront^{s, with} the military cameramen going right out into action. And this is what Lieutenants McClain and Pier did. Their adventures were astonishing. At least, they ~~two motion picture makers~~ were astonished - a couple of times.

They swiped a truck from an abandoned garage, and headed for the battleline. On the way they kept ~~driving~~^{from} the truck into ditches - ~~and~~ Nazi planes ~~kept~~ swooping down at them every so often. Finally, they took a dive into one big ditch and there found twenty soldiers.

"Where is the front?" demanded the cameramen.

"This is it, buddy," one of the soldiers replied.

The photographic lieutenants were astonished, but it was indeed the battlefront - as they presently discovered.

They took refuge for the night in an abandoned farmhouse, and the next morning saw twenty tanks rolling down a nearby hill. Simultaneously, a British captain appeared.

Lieutenant McClain gave the Britisher a hail:

"I sure am glad to see you."

"Why?" demanded the Captain.

"Well," McClain replied blithely: "~~for~~^{for} those *are* good old American tanks, and here you are - a British ally."

"Those are enemy tanks," responded the British

Captain. "We are surrounded."

The Lieutenant [≤] heard some machine guns
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coming from the opposite direction and thought Allied
reinforcements were coming to rescue them.

The Captain said: "No, not at all. Those are
Germans coming up by the other road."

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Whereupon the astonishment of the two
cameramen was complete. The Nazis had surrounded a
British unit at that particular place. ^{But a} three hour
battle followed, in which British artillery knocked out
seven Nazi tanks and dispersed the rest. The enemy
was driven off. The cameramen watched from behind a
haystack - filming the battle, we hope. ^{And Hugh}

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is behind his microphone we
hope.