

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY.

P.T. - Luncheon, Monday, March 18, 1940.

For a few hours today the most important place in the world was the <sup>B P</sup> Brenner pass. If the walls of those mountains between Italy and Austria had ears, they could tell a tale that all of us would give a good deal to hear: - <sup>what</sup> ~~mean of course the true tale of what~~ ~~talk~~ passed between Mussolini and Hitler; <sup>What</sup> was decided by the Duce and the Fuehrer in that historic mountain pass, ~~now even~~ ~~more historic?~~

Naturally, the guessing <sup>is on</sup> ~~has been~~ at fever heat. <sup>TP</sup> But first ~~lets~~ ~~deal with~~ <sup>the things we do know.</sup> the facts. The two heads of the Rome - Berlin Axis talked for two hours and twelve minutes. That much we know. Each of them traveled in a special train, one from Rome, one from Berlin. They met at Ten thirty Central European time, in a snowstorm, a blizzard blowing through that gap in the mountains by a fierce wind. <sup>Perhaps</sup> ~~There~~ <sup>like the snow storm some of us were in on</sup> <sup>mt. Washington, yesterday.</sup> ~~There was~~ ~~was~~ the usual ceremony when they met, but unusually short. Then Hitler and Mussolini went off by themselves to Mussolini's private car, accompanied only by their foreign ministers, Ribbentrop and Count Ciano. The shades in Mussolini's car were drawn while they talked. Standing on watch outside was a guard of Italian policemen and alpine soldiers, with steel helmets ~~on their heads~~ and bayoneted rifles.

TP At the end of two hours and twelve minutes conversation, they parted just as mysteriously as they had met, Hitler for the North, Mussolini for the South. About their parting here is one bit of eye-witness report which may or may not be true. Duce "Mussolini," said a bystander, "was smiling; ~~Fuehrer~~ Hitler was pale."

TP That's <sup>about all</sup> ~~the main body of~~ the facts <sup>we have.</sup> ~~as we know them.~~ <sup>Oh yes, there</sup> ~~There's also~~ <sup>was one</sup> ~~another~~ peculiar circumstance:- The arrangements for that conference

were known in advance to Sumner Welles, Under-Secretary of State and President Roosevelt's special envoy in Europe. That we know from a peculiar remark. When a newspaper man called on Welles and told him that the Duce had left for the Brenner Pass, Welles replied in these words; "Oh, has he left already?"

<sup>So</sup> ~~This indicates clearly that~~ Welles <sup>must have</sup> ~~had~~ been informed about it. ~~but also that he hadn't expected Mussolini to leave until later, in the day. It would also seem to imply that Welles had been told about it only quite recently.~~ <sup>TP</sup> And here's the unofficial information on the conversation between Mussolini and Hitler.

They are reported to have discussed and planned a new proposal for peace, an offer to be issued by both powers of the rome-berlin axis. <sup>and</sup> they were also said to have planned closer cooperation

between Italy and Germany in case the peace offer is refused and Hitler makes his war against the Allies more ferocious.

Now for other rumors -- and we have to remember that they're only rumors. From Berlin the word is that the conference in the Brenner Pass means a huge surprise in store for the world in general and the Allies in particular. The Nazi claim that Hitler's intention was to persuade Mussolini to bury the hatchet with Stalin. In other words, the Rome-Berlin Axis becomes the Rome-Berlin-Moscow bloc. Nazi officials close to the Berlin foreign office declare that in the future Soviet Russia will have a share in any peace negotiations in Europe. As they put it, the Soviets will participate in the coming New Order. That's the Nazi rumor. Propaganda of course!

At Washington, Secretary of State Hull said he had no information from either Rome or Berlin about that conference in the Brenner Pass. The Secretary inferred that, like Will Rogers, all he knew was what he read in the newspapers in this instance. He also announced that he expected Under-Secretary Welles to sail for home Wednesday.

HOLLAND

Here's a bit of news -- trifling in itself, but it gives us a startling idea of what people in Europe have to put up with, even in a neutral country. A subject of one of the neutrals was today sentenced to imprisonment for six years. Six years in prison he got for broadcasting news. And the news he was broadcasting was just a weather report, telling the Nazis about weather conditions in that neutral country. Six years in jail for a weather report!

I wonder if the boys on Mt. Washington heard me tell that one? They are always broadcasting about the weather - and it was perfect on the summit and in Tuckerman Ravine.

There I go broadcasting the weather! And in Europe a man gets six years in prison for doing that! Which shows what a mad place Europe is these days.

## CONGRESS

The political pot was boiling in India today as well as in Europe. At Ramgarg Hills, the All-India Congress Committee got together, making plans for the coming session of the All-Indian Nationalist Congress. The Committee did one thing which probably will have repercussions in Europe. The members of the Committee approved the so-called Patna Resolution, which calls for the independence of Hindustan, immediate independence.

They also want to have nothing to do with the war in Europe. The Patna resolution further provides that in case the British Government refuses independence, there will be another campaign of civil disobedience at once. As the Committee put its okay on that resolution, there was obvious joy in the mind of Mohatma Gandhi. He thanked the Committee and said, "By approving the resolution you have increased my responsibilities as your leader."

DAHL

TP There seems to be more trouble ahead for Whitey Dahl, the American Aviator who fought against Franco in Spain. For ~~more~~ <sup>many</sup> ~~than~~ months he was in a Spanish prison. And it begins to look as though he might have exchanged a Spanish jail for imprisonment in his own country, ~~for a while at least~~. The New York police have been asked to arrest him. This at the request of the <sup>California</sup> Authorities, ~~in several counties of California.~~

5-1  
TP ~~You may recall that~~ Some weeks ago we heard that police on the west coast had charges against Dahl. Today it turns out that there are warrants in ~~no fewer than~~ three California counties. Five years ago, Whitey Dahl was convicted in Los Angeles for issuing a bad check. He was let out on probation, and the accusation against him there is that he had violated his probation. In Los Angeles alone he is accused of having obtained fifteen hundred dollars on checks against insufficient funds. There's another similar accusation in Riverside County. And in Orange County, California, the police have a warrant against him on a charge of having put out a rubber check on a bank in San Antonio, Texas, and that ~~as long ago as~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>TP</sup> nineteen thirty-six. A grim outlook after all that stretch in one of Franco's prisons.

BARLOW

It will soon be discovered whether we have the most deadly

bomb in the world, perfected here in America. Its inventor

today won out in a long and heated fight <sup>that he has</sup> ~~has~~ been conducting

in Washington. <sup>This inventor</sup> ~~He~~ complained that he couldn't get to first base

with the Technical experts of the Army and Navy. <sup>#</sup> Lester P.

Barlow--~~for~~ that's his name,--says he has an explosive so powerful

that on one occasion a bomb weighing no more than ten pounds  
smashed all the windows in a building <sup>a mile and a half</sup> ~~one and half miles~~ away.

If that can be done with a ten-pound projectile, we don't need

much imagination to conjure up a picture of what a really large

52  
sized bomb could do. However, <sup>TP</sup> says <sup>Inventor</sup> Barlow, the big shots of the

Navy and War Departments would not give him a break. <sup>Well,</sup> ~~That,~~ <sup>of</sup>

<sup>that's</sup> ~~course,~~ <sup>is</sup> an old old story. Inventors in all countries have ~~been~~

complaining <sup>ed</sup> for years that war departments in general are

indifferent to the inventions of their own citizens. <sup>TP</sup> Lester Barlow

took his fight straight to the Congressmen. There was a long

joint session of four congressional committees, the military

affairs committee of both house and Senate, the ~~the~~ Naval committee

of both house and Senate, likewise the Secretaries of Army and ~~the~~

Navy. It was Secret session that lasted four hours. The outcome

of it <sup>all</sup> is that there <sup>is</sup> ~~is going~~ to be a test of Barlow's explosive —

in the presence of not only Army and Navy experts, but ~~also~~ <sup>before</sup> members

of Congress <sup>as well.</sup>



## HATCH

53  
Now for the latest about the Hatch bill, the So-called clean politics act. There has been a lot of betting that it would never pass in its present form. Especially with the joker that was slipped in last week, the clause that provides a five year prison sentence for anybody who contributes more than five thousand dollars a year to any political party. Needless to say, that joker was slipped in by the opponents of the bill, the law-makers who don't want it to pass.

Be that as it may, anybody who laid a bet that the Hatch bill wouldn't pass the Senate has lost money. Joker and all, the Hatch bill went through the Senate on greased wheels. The majority was quite emphatic. Fifty-eight in favor, twenty-eight against. And it's interesting that of the fifty-eight who helped to pass it, twenty-two are Republicans. Those who were against it are all Democrats, except one, Farmer - Labor Senator Lundeen from Minnesota. However, the Hatch bill still has to run the gauntlet of the House. If it passes the representatives the American political scene will be changed in spectacular fashion. Just by itself, that joker forbidding anybody to make a political

4  
contribution of more than five thousand dollars in any one year is almost incredible. If that were to become law, it is difficult to see how any political party could survive.<sup>TR</sup> Then there's another provision that nobody holding a contract with the government, or connected with a corporation that holds a contract with the government, may make any political contribution.

TR And there's a provision that any state or county office-holder who runs for another political office, must take leave of absence. Also, office-holders are forbidden to use their official position to get a nomination.

Anyway you look at this ~~amusing~~ bill, it will be interesting to see what happens in the House. It will also be interesting to speculate<sup>on</sup> how it can be enforced.  
^

CENSUS

The row over the census took a new turn today. The president's wife took a hand, or rather I should say, <sup>The First Lady</sup> put in a word. ~~She~~<sup>^</sup> held a press conference this morning and one of the lady correspondents asked her what she thought about that census controversy..

And what did the first lady think about it? "A tempest in a teapot." She can't for the life of her see what all the fuss is

about. Then she explained; <sup>Here are her words:-</sup> "I got the Census questionnaires and read them," said the first lady, ~~of the land.~~ And she <sup>added:-</sup> ~~continued.~~

"I can't see anything anyone would mind telling." ~~And she added.~~

"Beside<sup>s</sup>, in any small place, all the neighbors would already know <sup>I wonder how it is up here at No. Conway N.H. Do you all know all about your neighbors?</sup> the answers, anyway." <sup>^</sup> Furthermore, Mrs Roosevelt does not believe

the general public is widely interested. Few of the letters she receives in her fan mail make any allusion to the census. Most of them, she said, are about jobs."

## INTERSTATE BARRIERS

Congress will have to something about what has been called "the Balkanization of the United States, and the trade barriers that many of the state<sup>s</sup> have erected around their borders. This ~~appalling~~ problem came up in today's session of the congressional committee on monopoly. Frank Bane of Chicago, executive director of the council of state governments, was the expert witness. ~~And told~~ ~~He~~ told the committee that these interstate trade barriers are stifling commerce in America. <sup>TR</sup> Once upon a time, the United State was the outstanding example that proved how extraordinary prosperity can be achieved by means of free trade among ~~the~~ states. <sup>But</sup> The trade barriers that have been erected in the last few years are threatening to <sup>spoil all that.</sup> ~~break down that tremendous advantage~~ ~~once enjoyed by us in America.~~ <sup>#</sup> "A trade barrier," said the director of the council of state governments, "is a counterpart of a traiff war in international trade." Then he pointed out that it's clearly against the spirit of <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ federal constitution.

Also, that conflicting highway regulations, taxes, police ordinaances inspection rules, <sup>and</sup> excise taxes, have actually begun to discourage not only interstate trade but <sup>even</sup> automobile travel in the <sup>se</sup> United States.

FEUD.

*Drop it*

Another feud in Breathitt County, Kentucky, the County  
characteristically known in feud history as "bloody breathitt."  
On Saturday night a young man, <sup>who is</sup> a deputy sheriff <sup>as well as</sup> and the son of the <sup>local</sup> sheriff, was trying to stop a fight between four men. That was in  
line with his duties as a deputy sheriff. But it was a costly  
performance, <sup>for he</sup> ~~since the deputy sheriff~~ was killed. <sup>P</sup> Less than a  
month ago, the same deputy's brother, who was also a deputy,  
got into a duel on one of the streets of Jackson, Kentucky. His  
opponent was a former Democratic Chairman of the county. The  
ex-chairman was wounded and died, and the deputy was indicted on  
a charge of murder.

Today, officers of the law went to the mountain homes of the four  
men who shot that <sup>the young</sup> deputy sheriff. <sup>and now the</sup> ~~on Saturday. So now~~ four mountaineers  
languish in jail. The oldest of them is thirty five, the youngest  
eighteen. Two women were also being held in prison, because eye-  
witnesses said that while that deputy sheriff was fighting for  
his life, the women shouted; "four it on, <sup>four</sup> ~~our~~ it on". Feuding in  
bloody Breathitt once more, and people ~~do~~ say it's all part of  
the aftermath of the nineteen thirty - eight elections, the  
campaign when former governor happy chandler of kentucky was  
*running against United States Senator Alben Barkley.*

## MINE

The rescue workers in that wrecked coal mine out in Ohio had a dismal task today. They found the bodies of three more ~~dead~~ miners killed in the explosion on Saturday. And the rescue crews are still at work, ~~night and day,~~ clearing out the tunnel where the explosion occurred, the tunnel where sixty-six other miners are believed to have ~~certainly~~ perished.

HOOK

8  
A tragedy that is reported from Detroit seems to have been ironically unnecessary. On Saturday night a young man, twenty years old, a steel worker making good wages, bought a diamond ring. He put it on the finger of his sweetheart a girl eighteen years old. Then he took her in his car for a ride, to make plans for their wedding. Early Sunday morning that steel worker deposited his young fiancée at the door of her parent's home and drove off for his own home.

8 1/2  
A few minutes after he had left her, he passed a red light, <sup>and</sup> made a wrong turn. A police cruiser was watching him and set out in pursuit. The young steel worker, instead of stopping, stepped on the gas. According to the cops, he was soon tearing along at eighty-five miles an hour. One of the officers fired, the bullet hit the young steel worker in the head, and this morning he died in the hospital. in other words, he appears to be dead because he passed a red light.

9  
And now Hugh tell us something to cheer us up - something about making life easy.