

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

( Today Adolf Hitler rode triumphantly into Prague. )

A dramatic symbol of his complete control of the ancient countries of Bohemia and Moravia. )

Bismarck once said: "Who holds Bohemia, holds Europe."

Historians have been speculating about that bit of rhetoric ever since. Actually, the last ruler of Bohemia who had an important voice in Europe was the Emperor Charles the Fifth. Since then numerous rulers have held Bohemia, such as the late Emperor Franz Josef. But he didn't hold Germany and he didn't hold Europe.

Today

The man who made his triumphal entry into Prague <sup>is indeed</sup> ~~today is beyond~~  
~~question~~ the dominant figure in Europe. <sup>Not because</sup> ~~Actually, he doesn't~~  
~~he holds Bohemia does he rule Europe.~~  
~~rule Europe because he holds Prague, he holds Prague because he~~  
 He holds Bohemia because he  
 rules Europe. ~~But we wouldn't want to make a legend of Disraeli~~  
~~over a trifle like that.~~

HV

One part of the day's news is more than a trifle  
 puzzling. As we learned on Monday, Hitler decreed that  
 Czechoslovakia should be partitioned into three divisions.  
 One, Bohemia and Moravia; two, Slovakia; three, Carpatho-Ukraine.  
 But today Carpatho-Ukraine disappears <sup>as a nation,</sup> ~~before it ever really~~  
~~existed.~~ A Hungarian army burst into that short-lived republic,  
 marched over it all the way to the Polish border. So tonight  
 there's a common frontier between Poland and Hungary. When they  
 reached the border of Poland, Polish troops greeted them with  
 cheers, applauding their triumphant victory over an almost  
 helpless people. <sup>II</sup> <sup>fought today</sup> The Ruthenians did their best and left many  
 of their dead, ~~on the battlefield.~~ But the Hungarian army went over  
 them like a steam-roller.

And that

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ could not have been accomplished if Hitler had said "No." It's a fair bet that all this was decided months ago when Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary, paid his visit to the Nazi capital. And here's the puzzle:- Why does the Nazi Fuehrer want the Hungarians in that strip of land? In what way does it help ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>the Hitler</sup> drive to the east? How will it help him carry out his openly avowed intentions of grabbing the Ukraine? Most of the Fuehrer's political moves are thoroughly and unblushingly explained in his book, <sup>Mein Kampf. But in it</sup> ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ I can find no indication, not even a hint, of this Hungarian business.

PRAGUE FOLLOW LEAD

It isn't surprising to learn that there was a state of terror in Prague when the word went round, "The Germans are coming!" All Czechs who had been politically active took to cover. Thousands wait in fear expecting at any moment to be grabbed by storm troopers and dragged off to concentration camps.

(Heinrich Himmler, the dread chief of the Gestapo, sent eight hundred Nazi secret police into Prague. ~~Some soldiers~~ The Nazi press in Bohemia and Roumania have already opened an anti-Jewish campaign so there's little doubt of what will happen.)

German soldiers, as they entered the land of the Czechs, marched in to a chorus of boos and hisses. People even stood up on the roofs of street cars to groan out their hatred of the conquerors. Pitiful of course; actually it was all over except for the groaning. People in Germany heard the booing and hissing over their radios. To avoid any violent outbreak in Prague, the German Provost-Marshal established an eight o'clock curfew law.

People are also wondering what will be the form of the German sovereignty over Bohemian-Moravia. (Some observers venture the

guess that Hitler will adopt some such model as the British protectorate over Egypt. However, the latest announcements from Berlin are that the Nazi Fuehrer has appointed one general as supreme authority in Bohemia including Prague, another general officer in Moravia. German civil administrators have also been appointed in each province but they are subordinate to the generals.

The Fuehrer's triumph as he entered the <sup>royal</sup> ~~city~~ <sup>of Prague</sup> once ~~city~~ was a comparatively silent one. He did not reach Prague until eight o'clock, <sup>in the evening,</sup> the hour at which his provost-marshals had ordered everybody to be in their homes. Heavy snow was falling as ~~Hitler~~ <sup>Hitler</sup> and his staff entered the city ~~armoured~~ <sup>— a column of</sup> ~~bullet-proof~~ <sup>armoured</sup> ~~They~~ <sup>bullet-proof.</sup> They drove straight to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> historic palace of the ancient kings of Bohemia and the Hapsburg emperors. While Czechoslovakia was a republic, it was the home of the first President, Thomas Masaryk, and its last President, Eduard Benes, now a professor in Chicago. So ~~Hitler~~ <sup>Hitler sleeps</sup> tonight in the room where the Emperors Charles the Fifth and Rudolf the Second once slept.

automobiles!

#50

In the glittering staff that surrounded him were Joachim  
von Ribbentrop, his Foreign Minister, and General Keitel, the  
Commander-in-Chief, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

REACTION TO HITLER

And what does the rest of Europe think of events in Berlin and Prague? Let's take London first. The English don't seem to care for it much. But they aren't going to do anything about it, at least not in a big way. Here's the official expression. (Viscount Halifax, His Majesty's Foreign Secretary, made an announcement in the House of Lords.) A British trade delegation was to have paid a visit to Germany on Thursday. That visit has been indefinitely postponed, ~~the~~ said the Foreign Secretary. This is interpreted as a ~~slap~~ slap on ~~Hitler's~~ Hitler's wrist. Perhaps it didn't hurt him much as he slept in the bed of the <sup>Holy Roman</sup> Emperor ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ <sup>s.</sup>

There's a typical British understatement in the rest of Halifax's statement to the Lords, the <sup>se</sup> words: "His Majesty's government cannot but regard what has taken place in central Europe as inconsistent ~~x~~ with the spirit of the Munich Agreement," <sup>to which</sup> the echo comes back: - what spirit? (He <sup>then</sup> went on to say that Hitler had sent his troops beyond the frontiers laid down at Munich and had done so without consulting any of the other four powers who signed the Munich agreement.)

There was irony underlying all this, the irony of statesmen who apparently were profoundly shocked by what had happened but were unable to do anything about it or even to express themselves freely. Lord Halifax went on to say that the British government does not specifically charge Hitler with any breach of faith, but, he added, "We cannot admit that anything of the kind that has now taken place was in the mind of the British government at the time of the Munich conference." Not, it was not the British plan.

Altogether it was not a frightfully cheerful day in old Westminster.



WILLIAMS

Here's a different interpretation of Hitler's plans.

It comes not from Germany but from Greenwich, Connecticut, where Wythe Williams, former European Manager of United Press, edits his newspaper, GREENWICH TIME. The Fuehrer's next move will be not to the east, says Williams, but to the west. He claims that he has special ~~XXXX~~ sources of information, information which comes by way of France from Switzerland after a devious journey from Scandinavia. <sup>Says</sup> ~~Williams:~~ "Neither Tokyo nor Berlin has any intention of attacking Soviet Russia. The redistribution of interests that the Fascist leaders have been talking about concerns the wealth of England, France and the United States. Japan, Italy and Germany are proposing to divide up the wealth of the Far East, cotton from India, oil from Borneo, and <sup>Java,</sup> ~~and~~ and so forth.

BERLIN

53  
Here's a late bulletin from Berlin. The United States government tonight made a formal request upon the government of the Reich. Our representative in Berlin asked the Nazis to guarantee the safety of American citizens in the Czech areas of Bohemia and Moravia now occupied by German troops.

~~Since President Roosevelt called our Ambassador from Berlin,~~  
~~we are represented there by the Consul General, who is also~~  
~~Charge d'Affairs, Raymond Geist.~~ <sup>H</sup> The State Department ~~had~~ instructed him to ask two questions:- first, what will be the status of Moravia and Bohemia under Hitler's protectorate. Second, in what way will the safety of American citizens be guaranteed? Since Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop is with Hitler in Prague tonight, the questions were answered<sup>d</sup>, or rather were not answered, by the UnderSecretary of State. He told our representative that it will be two or three days before any reply could be forthcoming.

WASHINGTON

In Washington the most important effect of the European news was to put a burr ~~in~~ under the saddle of Congress. The legislators seemed to hear the thunder of those marching feet in Bohemia and Moravia. So they put on a big rush to pass President' Roosevelt's Emergency Defense Bill, the program that will cost three hundred and fifty-eight million dollars. The conference committees of the Senate and House acted as though they were electrified. ~~and~~ <sup>So</sup> that three hundred and fifty-eight million dollar program is a foregone conclusion. ~~Incidentally~~ <sup>And</sup> the conference adopts the Senate's idea of six thousand planes for the Army Air Corps instead of fifty-five hundred.

54

DEBTS

There's one side to this Czech business which <sup>has</sup> raised a headache not only in Washington but other parts of the U.S.A. In fact, you might say, in every place where there's anybody owning Czechoslovak bonds or securities of any Czechoslovak industry. Hitler's policy so far whenever he has taken over another country has <sup>not been to honor the</sup> ~~been to repudiate~~ debts. That's what happened in Austria, though Berlin has offered to negotiate in that case.

~~It~~ <sup>R</sup> The short-lived republic of Czechoslovakia owed Uncle Sam more than a hundred and sixty-five million dollars. But that doesn't take into any account the people who bought Czechoslovak bonds or the obligations of Czechoslovak cities.

RAILROADS

55

Evidently the problem of the American railroads becomes more and more abstruse. But the total of brilliant and definite ideas is nil. President Roosevelt some weeks ago dropped ~~the~~ *the question* politely in the lap of Congress. The other Congressmen, ~~as~~ *just as* politely, ~~as may be~~ passed the buck to Senator Wheeler of Montana. The gentleman from Montana now ~~meditates~~ meditates a little buck passing of his own. ~~He~~ He is going to introduce a bill to put this entire railway problem up to a court, a new court. It will be called a "Reorganization Court." To that tribunal all rails in distress will carry their troubles in the hope of having them settled.

RELIEF

There seems to be no doubt that President Roosevelt's demand for a hundred and fifty million dollars more relief funds will be met. ~~I don't know that there ever was any serious doubt about it.~~ Close observers in Washington tell me that this whole business of economy and relief was more or less ~~shadow-boxing~~ shadow-boxing. Congress cut the President's request by a hundred and fifty million dollars as a polite bow to economy. <sup>Nearly</sup> Everybody in Washington <sup>called it</sup> ~~know it was~~ only a gesture. Today Representative Taylor of Colorado, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House, announced that he supports Mr. Roosevelt's request. Said he: "I really think they need the money and that the showing justifies it."

~~Of course the Appropriations Committee of the House is of paramount importance. That money won't be appropriated, however, without argument. The sub-committee of the House, which is considering this affair, is making a detailed inquiry. At present only three out of twelve members are in favor of meeting Mr. Roosevelt's demands. But their announcement by the Chairman of the Committee is the real straw which way the wind blows.~~

TAXES

*But* There were signs in Washington today that the Administration is in earnest about tempering the wind of taxes to the shorn lamb of business. There was a conference at the White House today. Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi was the principal visitor from Congress. He's the leader of the bloc in ~~Congress~~ that's almost in out-and-out rebellion against the President, insisting upon economy. When he left the White House he didn't have any specific action to report. All he would say was: "We reached no conclusions but made progress." <sup>H</sup> Then he made public an idea that he suggests. That is to raise the regular income tax on corporations to twenty-two per cent and cut out all other obnoxious levies, such as those on excess profits, capital gains, undistributed profits. The present <sup>T</sup> maximum income tax on corporations is nineteen per cent. But it's complicated by a raft of other taxes. And it's those others that the Mississippi senator wants to cut out.

STRIKE

Only today we were threatened with a formidable strike in the coal industry. Three hundred and twenty thousand workers in the bituminous mines of the East ~~xxx~~ were proposing to walk out on April first. Their present contract expires on March ~~xx~~ thirty-first. But today they agreed to continue at work even though their contract expires. There will be no *coal* strike during 1939.



STORM

The weather is going to give us some more to talk about shortly. The government has ordered storm warnings hoisted all the way from the Virginia Capes to Maine.

Out in Michigan, they've had the worst blizzard of the entire winter. One Chicago and Northwestern passenger train was stalled in drifts that towered high above the coaches. A search party went out on snow shoes to bring succor to the marooned passengers.

JOHANSSON

This is quite an anniversary in the automobile world. As such, it's of <sup>special</sup> ~~course~~ ~~peculiarly~~ interesting to my sponsors, the Sun Oil Company.

8  
Strangely enough it is being celebrated in a little town in Sweden, the town known as Eskilstuna. It was in that pretty little Swedish community, that a scientist labored for many years. ~~—~~ <sup>to be used in precision measurements,</sup> What he was aiming at was a perfect gauge block. At that time, the automobile industry was in its infancy. But every other manufacturer was crying aloud, "Give us a gauge block that will measure even as close as one-thousandth of an inch."

8 1/2  
8 1/2  
Forty-three years ago, the Swedish scientist finally turned out the little steel blocks that were found to be accurate to within two one-millionths of an inch. Now that doesn't sound spectacular, but to mechanical engineers it actually was almost incredible. And that's why today ~~we have~~ the world of science and industry are paying honor to Carl Edvard Johansson, the Swedish inventor.

The first of these blocks to reach America were imported by Henry Ford. And in Nineteen Twenty-Three the Ford Motor Company

9  
brought ~~Mr~~ Johansson himself to Dearborn as head of the  
laboratory to manufacture ~~Johansson~~ gauge blocks for the entire  
western hemisphere. ~~As a matter of fact, Johansson blocks were~~  
~~adopted by Uncle Sam's Bureau of Standards.~~

Now if I had a guage blocks  
for time it would tell me that I've  
run over my time about one-ten  
thousandth of a second. So s-l-u-t-m.

9 1/4