

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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The biggest center of news today should be Iraq,
but ~~precious~~ little news ^{is getting thru} comes from there. Confusion, bewilderment
and conflicting reports, form the burden of our intelligence from

Bagdad ~~there~~ today. Curiously enough, one of the principal centers of
rumors concerning that clash in Mesopotamia, is Budapest. Of course,
the Hungarian capital today is just another Nazi center, and the
semi-official Hungarian news agency published a story from Beirut,
that there had been fighting between British troops and ~~the~~ Arabs
near Nablus, ~~that's~~ in Palestine. The Hungarian news agency rumors
further that Arabs have kidnapped leaders of the Jewish Zionists of
several places in Palestine, and ~~that,~~ on the other hand, Arab
leaders have been arrested by the British.

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Then here's the gist of a broadcast by the official
radio station at Baghdad. According to this, both the Iraq and

Turkish governments have reenforced their troops along the frontier between Iraq and Turkey. It is explained that this was done "in view of the obscure situation." "Obscure" is

just the word for it. (All reports agree that the siege of the British Royal Air Force's airdrome at Habbaniyah continued all

day. The British claim that the bombardment by the Iraq artillery was ineffective and that successful infantry patrol^s were carried out.

Radio reports from Berlin had it that the Iraq troops were closing in on the Royal Air Force garrison at Habbaniyah, but ~~they were~~ ^{this was} ~~denied~~ denied by the British.

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Then there were reports from all over the map that the government of Turkey and also young King Farouk of Egypt had offered to mediate the differences between the British government and the pro-Nazi government at Baghdad. ^{The Iraqi pro-Nazi} ~~That government~~ broadcast a threat today that every English home not only in Baghdad but all over Iraq would be bombarded and destroyed if the Royal Air Force planes bomb Baghdad, again.

LEAD - 3

But here ^{is something later - via} ~~is more up-to-date intelligence from~~ London.

The besieged imperial garrison at Habbaniyah has been relieved.

~~That~~ is announced definitely in a dispatch from Cairo. The

high command landed reinforcements at Basra, presumed to be a

mechanized column, which speeded over the three hundred and

seventy miles up the Euphrates valley toward Baghdad.

IRELAND

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A most dramatic bit of news comes from Ireland, a heart-warming piece of news. For years it had been said that nothing could overcome the hostility between North and South in the Emerald isle. It took disaster to do it. Hitler's planes have turned Belfast into a raging holocaust. They were put out by fire brigades from Eire, yes, Eamon 'de Valera's Eire, which threw aside red tape, neutrality and all formalities and rushed across the border. There, south-of-Ireland. Irishmen worked side by side with Ulstermen, fighting ~~those~~^e flames. In addition to that, the people and authorities of Dublin rushed all the help in their power to the stricken folk at Belfast.

All this is the more fine and gracious, when it is remembered that, by these actions, Eire even risked its immunity from Nazi raiders as a neutral.

Tonight in that island there's a bond of sympathy between North and South that ~~no living person ever~~^{many never} expected to see.

HITLER

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One reaction to ^{Hitler's} ~~the~~ latest oratorical effort of ~~Adolf Hitler~~ ^{is} ~~was~~ a contradiction in London. One ^{boast} ~~of the boasts~~ made by the voluble Fuehrer was that he had defeated the British and the Greeks with only five detachments. That, said the British Minister of Information, was incorrect. The Ministry then enumerated the troops employed by Hitler's generals, said that they included three armored divisions, two mountain divisions, one Adolf Hitler Division, and one infantry division. That makes a total of seven. As for Hitler's claim that only eleven hundred Germans had been killed in that campaign, the British Ministry said, those figures were obviously given out for propaganda purposes inside Germany.

~~Unofficially,~~ It is being said in London that Hitler's discourse was a silent admission that he no longer has any hope of knocking Britain out this year.

In Rome, the comment came, as you might have expected, from Virginio Gayda. Mussolini's editor writes that the speech by Hitler closes the first cycle of the Spring

offensive of the Axis and prepares for a new cycle. Gayda then points out that this is the first time any Hitler speech deliberately omitted any invitation ^{to} ~~for~~ peace. And that, said Gayda, is because the Fuehrer is leaving such initiative to the British. Gayda then threw out another warning to the United States, with the declaration that the Axis powers are ready to repulse with gravest losses, any last minute intervention in the European conflict.

And ~~here's~~ the Berlin aftermath to that Hitler speech.

No matter how vigorously the Americans try to help the British, Germany will always have superior weapons. ^{So say} ~~That's what~~ the Nazis. ~~announce~~ A Nazi spokesman was questioned about Hitler's failure to repeat his earlier claims that the war would be won this year. The reply was that Germany is confident of winning and that they didn't particularly care when, but that ultimate victory might come quite soon.

SHIPS

Uncle Sam's men today turned their attention to the Yugoslav ships now in American waters. Coast Guard officers visited the vessels flying the Yugoslavian flag but they explained that they were merely inspecting. They declared with great emphasis that they were not seizing the ships and that Coast Guardsmen frequently board foreign vessels whenever rumors fill the air. At the same time it came to light that one Yugoslav ship which had started to sail from New York was compelled by the Coast Guard to return to her berth. Altogether there are seventeen Yugoslav ships in American waters. The Coast Guardsmen said they had found no evidence of sabotage.

This news broke just as Congressmen were getting ready to vote on the bill authorizing President Roosevelt to seize all of the idle foreign ships that are in American harbors. The discussion brought out the usual crack from Representative Ham Fish of New York. "If that measure is passed without amendment," said Fish, "it will virtually be a declaration of war." After that it wasn't long before the representatives found themselves squabbling about the ticklish question of convoys. Congressman Cox of Georgia interrupted

Congressman Fish and asked him if it wasn't a fact that every realist admits the Lend-Lease measure was a war bill. Cox then went on to ask whether it doesn't follow as a matter of course that we have to convoy the war materials that we make for the British. To that Fish replied that we have been led right up to the brink of war already. We are on the precipice now and powerful sources are trying to push the president over the precipice and into the war. Fish then declared that every member of the president's cabinet is an interventionist and three of them Republicans. Congressman Cox then ventured to prophecy that we are going to convoy and convoy right now.

Here's another straw to show which way the wind blows, quite a hefty straw. One of the most important members of the House came out flatly in favor of convoys. It was Congressman Carl Vinson of Georgia, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee. He made his argument in an interview with Washington correspondents. He used these words: - "I am in favor of convoys if it becomes necessary to get the materials there." He was then asked whether that meant he is in favor of convoys now. To which he replied with two words:-

"Yes, now."

Vinson's remarks are all the more important because it is known that he frequently expresses the White House point of view on naval affairs. He worked with the President on the program to build a two-ocean navy and was largely responsible for steering the bill through the House.

Nazis Near Pole.

NORTH STAR

A German base near the South Pole! That's a bit of information that came to light at Boston today, when the steamer NORTH STAR brought home the United States Antarctic expedition led by Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd. ^{That} The Nazis ^{have} had been maintaining naval repair shops in the harbor of Deception Island, only six hundred miles from South America. This the Byrd Expedition learned at a Chilean port on its way home. The information came [^] ~~thought~~ [^] a high officer of the Chilean Navy.

The shops were built there when a German exploration expedition was down in that area in Nineteen Thirty-Eight. ~~However, they aren't there any more. They were blown up a few months ago.~~

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Another bit of intelligence made public by Admiral Byrd was that members of his party had surveyed more than a thousand miles of coast ~~land in~~ ^{line along} the Antarctic continent, ~~which gives the~~ ^{thereby giving} Uncle Sam a clear right to about ~~United States a claim to something like~~ a million square miles of new territory.

DRAFT

Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, has heard several
ill reports about the way the draft law is being enforced, ~~I~~
~~beg its pardon,~~ the Selective Service Law. ~~In fact, said the~~
Michigan Senator, ^{said that} numerous complaints have come to his ears.
He declared in the Senate today that the act as passed left too
much to the discretion of the local boards. Consequently,
there's a good deal of discrepancy in the rulings of the different
boards. Sometimes, ^{Sen.} declared Vandenberg, there are as many as
half a dozen different methods of determining whether a man should
be deferred. Therefore, the Michigan Senator wants a special
committee of five Senators appointed to study the question and
report within sixty days.

TAXES

President Roosevelt's recent remarks about taxes provoked quite a to-do on Capitol Hill today. I mean the remark he made in his letter to Representative Doughton, Chairman of the important Committee on Ways and Means. The President, you may recall, urged the Committee to draft a tax law ^{that} ~~which~~ would not make the rich richer or the poor poorer. Chairman Doughton wanted to ~~be~~ insert it into the Committee record, but Republican Frank Crowther of New York insisted that it should first be read. Crowther also made the objection that the President's letter had given Congress very little guidance as to what to do, also that it does not say a word about cutting down expenses. "In fact," added the Republican Congressman, "there's not a word of guidance in any way."

^{all of which}
~~As might be expected, that~~ provoked quite a rumpus, with the Republicans declaring Mr. Roosevelt's communication to be ~~a perfectly useless, letter,~~ and the Democrats ^{saying} ~~contradicting that~~ it was a splendid letter. The Democrats pointed out that economy measures ought to be taken up with the Appropriations Committee rather than the Ways and Means. The Congressmen deputized Speaker

Sam Rayburn to appeal to the President to cut at least a billion dollars out of the non-defense expenses of the government.

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Congressman Disney of Oklahoma declared ^{that} ~~it~~ ought to be a cinch, ~~to cut at least a billion from non-defense ~~expenses~~ expenses.~~

Many government bureaus, he said, could be slaughtered without mercy, ^{and in any way} without [^] hampering the processes of the government, ~~in the slightest.~~

RAYBURN

~~The Honorable~~ Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, is distressed because Representatives have been uttering unkind remarks about members of the Senate, particularly isolationist Senators. For example, ^{Congressman} ~~Representative~~ Sabath of Illinois published some unfavorable remarks about Senator Wheeler of Montana because of a speech that Wheeler had made in Sabath's own town. Those remarks in the congressional record provoked Senator Hoffman of Michigan to raise a point of privilege. And that elicited a ruling from the Speaker who said there should be comity and good feeling between the Senate and the House. So he promulgated a new rule that Representatives must not criticize the Senators. *Oh oh! will Congressmen obey that Emily Post rule?*

PULITZER

A Pulitzer prize for Westbrook Pegler! Peg gets one thousand dollars and a citation, and the Trustees announced that the award is made for Pegler's articles on "scandalx in the ranks of organized labor, which led to the expulsion and conviction of George Scalise."

Another prize, a five hundred dollar gold medal goes to the ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH for its campaign against the smoke nuisance in St. Louis. That, in the opinion of the Trustees, was the most disinterested and meritorious service rendered by an American newspaper during the year.

Usually the trustees award a thousand dollars for the best American novel of the year. Evidently, they considered there wasn't any best novel published during the year by an American author, for they made no award at all. But they did give Robert E. Sherwood a one thousand dollar prize for his play, "THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT."

Hitherto five hundred dollars has been handed out every

year to some foreign correspondent or Washington correspondent who was considered by the trustees to have distinguished himself. Apparently the trustees have decided to abolish this money award. Instead of that, reporters in the war zone will have the distinction of seeing their names engraved on a bronze plaque.

SHERIFF

In Baldwin County, Georgia, they have a sheriff who seems to be not only a forthright fellow, but a believer in direct action. To put it mildly! For I have before me the copy of an advertisement published in the UNION RECORDER of Milledgeville, Georgia, and inserted by that Sheriff whose name is William L. Harrison. The advertisement is headed, "Notice to Loafers and Vagrants." Then it says :- "If you are not working and you are physically able, you better get a job and ^a go to work."

In large letters Sheriff Harrison goes on to inform the world that farmers need help and need it now. "Beginning today we're going to check up on you who are loafing, and if you cannot prove you have a job you'll be given a chance to get one. If you do not go to work," adds the Sheriff, "you're going to jail, charged with vagrancy."

The forthright Sheriff then uses a phrase which I am sure will appeal to all feminists, for in sturdy Anglo-Saxon words she says, "this applies to women as well as men." Go to work or go to jail. Thus sayeth Sheriff Harrison of Baldwin County, Georgia.

And what sayeth Hugh James?