

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Or maybe nobody!

I make this dubious reservation, because right now President Roosevelt is on the air. During this same fifteen minute period, on other stations the President is giving a fireside chat.

So, maybe I'm talking right now -- to nobody. However, schedule is schedule, so here goes. I think I'll put on a little extra steam, just to carry the joke along, even if in telling the day's news, I'm talking to myself.

GERMANY

~~Fuehrer~~ Hitler ~~is going~~ to startle the world again. So we learn through information given to foreign correspondents in Berlin. There will be a meeting of the Reichstag on February Twentieth. And on that occasion, says the statement: "the world will hear ~~the~~ Fuehrer's voice more clearly than may be agreeable to certain quarters abroad." *So reads the statement.*

Hitler
~~The Fuehrer~~ received a telegram today from his friend, *lesser -* General Franco, *^* fuehrer of the Spanish Rebels. It conveyed "heartiest congratulations on assuming supreme command of the German army." It also expressed the hope that "the move will contribute to strengthening the ties between Spain and your great country."

Speculation still goes on over the meaning of Hitler's latest step. In answer ~~to these speculations~~ there was an editorial in Hitler's ~~favorite newspaper~~, the organ of the Nazi Party. *it* ~~this~~ *includes* ~~contains~~ *quote* the words; *^* "It must be emphasized that the changes of personnel in no way signify a modification of the principles which hitherto have guided German foreign policy."

There had ~~also~~ been a rumor that General von Fritsch, the army's ex-Commander-in-Chief, had been arrested. Coupled with

this were reports of a putsch by the army leaders, of a subterranean monarchist movement. The government spokesman compared these to stories by Edgar Allen Poe, too fantastic to be taken seriously, by serious people, *said he.*

The newspapers of London fairly seeth with rumors on this subject. According to one of them, the Fuehrer, as supreme war lord, has cancelled the leave of all officers in the army. In addition to that, a hundred and eighty officers have been arrested. ~~Another London paper places the number of officers arrested at somewhere between a hundred and eighty and a hundred and ninety.~~

LONDON

There were cheers in the British House of Commons today.

They greeted a ^{string} statement by ~~Captain~~ Anthony Eden, ~~the Foreign~~
~~Secretary, about the Mediterranean business.~~ ^{The Foreign Secretary} Eden told the House

~~about~~ ^{of} the instructions he had sent to the British agent at Franco's
headquarters; ^{to tell Franco —} ~~He was told to notify the Rebel chiefs at Salamanca,~~

that "His Majesty's government have in the past treated these attacks
on British shipping with the utmost patience. But their patience
is not inexhaustible."

~~One seems to have heard that statement before within the~~
~~last twelve months. But~~ This time ~~xxxxx~~ it looks as though the

British Cabinet's ^{were deadly in earnest,} ~~attitude had teeth in it.~~ The admiralty has

issued orders that British warships are to attack and sink any

submarine found in the waters of the British patrolled zone. ^{They'll}
^{fire on sight. And Britain}
~~What is more, if any more British ships are attacked, John Bull~~

will retaliate ^{if more British ships are sunk.}

Observers point out that when a German warship was hit,

without being sunk, Hitler didn't wait to issue any statements.

He retaliated immediately with the bombardment of Almeria. John Bull

~~xxxxxxx~~ so far has taken no such firm measures after the

ENDYMION was deliberately torpedoed. So people are wondering ~~how~~

What London
~~much John Bull~~

means by ~~the word~~ "retaliate."

Captain Eden also told the House that the bombardment of Barcelona that killed a thousand civilians, was carried out by airplanes of Italian type. As for the submarines, the government believes that they are based on the island of Majorca, ~~which~~ the place where Italians have been active since the outbreak of the civil war, a place virtually, though not nominally, in Italian hands. In other words, Eden intimates ~~that~~ it's ~~some of~~ Mussolini's undersea craft that have been raising so much hob with the British flag in the Mediterranean, — *and, that it must stop.*

ADD LONDON

~~A later bulletin seems to indicate that John Bull is now~~
~~really in earnest in the Mediterranean. Not only John Bull but~~
~~France~~ After Captain Eden made his statement to the House,
additional news came from British naval sources. At this moment
there's virtually a complete naval blockade of the island of Majorca.
British and French warships are patrolling, cruising on regular beats,
just outside Spanish territorial waters. ~~They're~~ on the watch for
any pirate submarine that might leave ~~their~~ ^{its} base on Majorca.

Some ^{from} senators have long since become exercised over the continued reports ^{that} there was a secret diplomatic understanding between Uncle Sam and John Bull. Admiral Leahy today again denied those reports. "The United States Navy has no thought of obtaining assistance from any other nation in case of trouble." That's what our chief of operations told the House Naval Committee, And he continued: "The Navy has no thought of getting assistance in the solution of ~~the problems of~~ its problems from any other nation. It has no foreign commitments,"

51
Of course, Admiral Leahy was empowered to speak only for the Navy. Senator Johnson of California, wants information of another source, from the State Department. To that end he introduced a resolution in the Senate today. He wants Secretary Hull to inform the Senate whether any naval alliance^s exist between the United States and any foreign power. He also ^{wa}nts to know specifically: "Does an alliance exist or is one contemplated between the United States and Great Britain?" And, he demanded further: "Is there an understanding or agreement concerning the use of the United States Navy to patrol or police certain waters?"

Of course a resolution by the Senate makes it mandatory on the Secretary of State to give out the information. But there's a string to it. He's to give the Senate as much information "as is compatible with public policy." ~~In short, if the State Department doesn't see fit to tell, all it has to say is the revelation of certain facts is not compatible with public policy, and take it or leave it.~~

~~and~~ Senator Johnson remarked:- "If the Secretary says that a reply to my question is not compatible with the public interest, that will satisfy me, it will tell us clearly whether there are any such alliances." Then he added:- "On the other hand, if there are none, it will do no harm to say so."

NEUTRALITY

2
1
A mine was sprung in Congress today. It wasn't altogether unexpected. ^{It's} about that Neutrality Act of Nineteen Thirty-Five. Administration leaders have been fervently trying to head it off for many months. Until tonight they succeeded in avoiding any open discussion.

It was Senator King of Utah who sprang the mine. He dropped a bill into the hopper calling for the repeal of ~~that~~ Neutrality Act. As he puts it, it serves the purpose of aggressor nations but is disadvantageous to small and weak countries.

I called up ^{the} United Press Bureau at Washington and asked a few questions. I wanted to know whether Senator King ~~had any~~ weight with his colleagues ^{would} to get solid support. And they told me, "Senator King is a stout fellow, a staunch conservative, and carries a lot of weight." In this fight there'll be ~~a lot of~~ ^{plenty of} ~~support~~ ^{support} ~~congressmen~~ on his side. Among them will be many of those who voted reluctantly for the Neutrality Act in Nineteen Thirty-Five under pressure of the White House steam roller. If that Neutrality Act were to come up for discussion tomorrow, it could not possibly be passed.

And since it was passed, two wars have been raging furiously. Neither in Spain nor in China was it invoked. It became quite clear that Senator King's contention was true, that if it were invoked it would help the aggressor and ~~it~~ would be of serious injury to the weaker nation.

However, it has not yet become clear what the opponents of the Neutrality Act have to offer in its place.

LABOR

The die was definitely cast today by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. All hopes of peace in the union world are at an end. The Council ^{today} formally and officially expelled three unions ^{connected with the C. I. O.} ~~of the Committee for Industrial Organization~~

First and most important, the United Mine Workers of America, the one of ~~which~~ John L. Lewis is chief, ~~it is said to be~~ ^{expelled.} One of the richest and largest of ~~the~~ unions. ^{It all created} ~~that looked like~~ a curious

situation for William Green, President of the A.F. of L. ^{For} He has been a member of the United Mine Workers for forty-eight years. ^{But}

^{Gordian Knot} He cut them ~~out~~ by announcing his resignation. ^{Which} ~~That~~ makes it unnecessary for the Mine Workers to expel him as they had been proposing to do.

The other C.I.O. unions that were thrown out were the Federation of Flat Glass Workers and the International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

There's one significant aspect of this drastic ~~and~~ ~~significant~~ action. It makes a sweeping reduction in the membership of the American Federation of Labor. ^{For it is} ~~it is~~ estimated that no fewer than six hundred and eighty thousand men belonged to those three

54

expelled unions.

There are seven ^{more} ~~other~~ unions, ~~that are~~ still members of
the A.F. of L. ^(that are also affiliated with C.I.O.) ~~and also of the C.I.O.~~ They have been suspended for
~~more than a year.~~ No action was taken on them ^{today.} ~~Mr.~~ ^{President} Green said that
the Council ^{had} decided that revoking ~~those~~ three charters was enough.
~~for the time being.~~

Reporters tried to get a statement out of ^{John} ~~Mr.~~ Lewis about ^{all}
this. He ^{merely} smiled, shook his head, and said:- "It's unimportant,
it makes no difference."

TOWNSEND

It has been a long while since we've heard anything about Dr. ~~Francis B.~~ Townsend, inventor of ^{the} ~~that curious~~ old-age pension plan. Some months ago, ^{the Doctor} ~~he~~ was convicted of contempt of the House of Representatives. He walked out on the Committee that was investigating his organization, ~~walked out with a figurative thumb to his nose.~~ The conviction was promptly appealed, as everybody expected. But today the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the conviction.

When he heard the ~~good~~ news at Portland, Oregon, it didn't seem to phase ^{the Doctor,} ~~him.~~ He smiled and said: "So they want to put me in jail. Well, I would like them to send me there. I have my old typewriter all oiled up in case they do."

Dr. Townsend's lawyer, Elisha Hanson, said he would appeal the decision all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary.

55

CAPONE

~~Alphonse~~ Capone ~~is safely immured~~ in Alcatraz, ^{But} ~~but he's~~ in the news again. From his ^{grim} island prison, he makes an appeal to the

Supreme Court of the United States. Six ~~years~~ years ago ^{the Chicago} ~~he was~~ ^{underworld king was} convicted of failing to file returns and dodging his income taxes.

~~from Nineteen Twenty Five to Nineteen Twenty Nine. It is for that~~

^{So he went to} ~~that he is serving his eleven year sentence at~~ Alcatraz. But in

addition he was sentenced to another year, to be served in Cook

County jail. On top of that the court plastered a twenty thousand

dollar fine, ~~on him. That was for willful failure to file tax~~

~~returns for Nineteen Twenty Eight and Nineteen Twenty Nine.~~

It's on that second sentence that he appeals to the Supreme Court. He had already taken his case to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals which turned him down. He claims that the extra year in the Cook County jail and the twenty thousand dollar fine were illegal, ^{having} ~~to~~ placed him in double jeopardy.

FIRESTONE

56

There was no man more typical of his environment than Harvey Firestone. It is interesting to learn that when he was fifteen years old he was celebrated around Columbiana, Ohio as a cagey horse trader. But he wanted to be something different ^{than a} ~~from a sort of~~ Midwestern David Harum. He sold patent medicines, horse liniment, vanilla extract, and a lotion for chapped hands, ^{Tiring of} ~~to small grocers. But he soon got tired of~~ that ~~he~~ ^{And} went ~~in~~ into the selling of rubber tired buggies. Then ~~he~~ got the idea of making the tires himself. ~~He got~~ ^{Three} ~~of~~ ^{of} his friends ^{put} ~~who had~~ a thousand dollars ^{and} ~~in~~ a piece. They formed a partnership, ^{and} bought a broken down rubber factory in Chicago. ~~They bought it~~ ^{Hundred} for Fifteen ~~thousand~~ dollars. They sold tires for ~~ninety~~ ^{that} ~~Forty~~ dollars ~~which only cost them~~ ^{which only} ~~fourteen~~ dollars to make. In the year Nineteen Hundred they sold ^{the} ~~out that~~ business ^{for} a Million and a quarter.

Out of that young Harvey got for his share, a quarter of a million. ^{Whereupon he} ~~he~~ went back to ~~the~~ ~~home~~ ~~farm~~ town of Columbiana, but ~~soon~~ ~~got~~ ~~restless~~ and tired ~~and~~ of doing nothing. ² ~~So~~ ² a year later he went to Akron, bought an old carriage works and that

was the beginning of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, the company that now owns an empire of plantations in Africa, South America and factories in France, Ontario and Akron.

The passing of Harvey Firestone leaves Henry Ford, the only surviving member of that famous triumvirate of friends, Thomas Edison, Firestone and Ford.

FLOODS

A year ago today, there was terror along the Mississippi.

The crest of that devastating flood was approaching Memphis.

~~And~~ ^{And} ~~Sanchez~~ ^{Sanchez} ~~Cities~~ ^{Cities} ~~along~~ ^{on} the Ohio ~~River~~ ^{River} were slowly emerging from the torrent of destructive waters, digging themselves out of the mud that was left behind.

Today we have flood stories from vastly different places.

Ice jams broke in the rivers of southern Michigan. Weather so warm ~~that~~ it brought thunder storms with rain and hail, sent volumes of angry water over the low lying countries. A dam collapsed on the Rouge River, ~~south of Rockford~~. The Pine River is on the rampage. Bridges have collapsed, roads ~~are~~ inundated.

Similar tales of destruction come from Wisconsin and Ontario.

In New York State the Mohawk River swept over its banks. Flood waters ~~were~~ up to the second stories of buildings in

Amsterdam, New York. The Mohawk is twenty-one feet above normal.

^{In N.Y.} ~~Here~~ ^{as} in Michigan and Wisconsin, ~~are~~ ^{were} repeated the harrowing episodes of last year, ~~entire families~~ ^{families} being evacuated in boats.

A bulletin just come in, reports the Mohawk receding again.

WINDSOR

An item from Paris, ~~will surely warm the cockles of all sentimental hearts.~~ It concerns that famous ~~royal~~ couple, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. According to this report, the Duchess is expecting what is euphemistically described as the stork. ^{The} ~~stork~~ ~~their partisans begin to cheer, however, they should learn that the~~ report comes from an evening newspaper in Paris. And some of those Parisian journalists can ~~certainly~~ make the writings ~~our~~ of our own yellow press look staid and conservative.

8 1/2

Incidentally, ~~I wonder whether Walter Winchell hasn't~~ ~~got cause of action for plagiarism.~~ For that news item from Paris uses the Winchellian phrase saying that the Duchess awaits a ~~"happy event."~~ It adds that ~~this happy event is still some time off.~~

CAPITAL

A story from London should interest Americans who feel bearish about America's future. British capitalists are getting ready to invest heavily in American securities. They want to take advantage of the low prices in the American market. That's the first consequence of the recent action by the British government/ As I said last week the London government has just lifted the bars on the lending of money abroad and the buying of foreign assets.

And as I said just a few minutes ago, maybe nobody has been listening to me. Maybe everybody has been listening to President Roosevelt -- and maybe I'm just saying to myself

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW