

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

An important conference at the White House today. President Roosevelt called in all the leaders of Congress to report about his historic meeting with Prime Minister Winston Churchill, somewhere in the northeastern waters. Vice-President Wallace, Senator Barkley, Democratic Floor Leader, and Senator Tom Connally, Chairman of Foreign Relations, Senator Geroge, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Congressman Bloom, Chairman of Foreign Affairs in the House, all were there. Speaker Sam Rayburn and Congressman McCormack of Massachusetts, Majority Leader in the House, were reported to be out of the city. So Congressman Woodrum of Virginia Acting Speaker, attended.

The President talked to the congressional leaders for an hour and a half -- giving them as much of a detailed report as he could in that time.

After the conference, Acting Speaker Woodrum told newspapermen that the President's report had covered all continents and all oceans. The same phrase Mr. Roosevelt had used when he discussed his conversations with Churchill.

Late<sup>y</sup> in the day, the President conferred with  
Lease-Lend Administrator <sup>Harry</sup> Hopkins. And that resulted in a dramatic  
piece of news. American planes are going to be delivered to the  
British imperial armies in the Middle East by way of West Africa.  
~~Mr. Roosevelt made that~~ <sup>The President made this</sup> announcement himself. <sup>TR</sup> Pan-American is  
already establishing air transport service from West Africa to  
the Middle East. The President said further that plans are now  
under way for transport service from this country to West Africa,  
to tie up with that new airline. The ferry system and the  
transport services will provide direct and speedy delivery of  
aircraft, said the President's announcement, from the arsenal  
of democracy to a critical point in the front against aggression.  
And the announcement added that the importance of this direct line  
of communication between our country and strategic outposts in  
Africa cannot be over-estimated.

BEAVERBROOK

Britain's Number Two Cabinet Minister was one of the principal sources of news in Washington today. Viscount Beaverbrook, second only to Churchill today told a group of our own government officials just what John Bill needs most, it seems, needs more of everything and much faster than up to now. London's dynamic Minister of Supply handed out a blueprint of Britain's necessities, armaments and food, and in such quantities as to stagger the imagination.

President Roosevelt was going to ask Congress for another seven billion dollars to swell the Lend-Lease Program. But today the report in Washington is that seven billions won't be enough - it will take ten billions or more. And, the whole defense production program is being revised.

It is reported in Washington that Lord Beaverbrook will sit in at tomorrow's meeting of the Office of Production Management Board, the Board which includes Director Knudsen, Associate Director Hillman, Secretary of War Stimson, and Secretary of the Navy Knox.

## CHURCHILL

Prime Minister Winston Churchill was back home at Ten Downing Street today. Returning from American waters by way of Iceland and with time out to inspect the American and British Garrison on that far northern island.

He returned to London as news from Russia grows more ominous, with further reports of the advance of the Nazi steamroller into the Ukraine. Accordingly, the first job for him to tackle was all important the problem of getting help to the Soviets. It is believed in London that Churchill will send Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden to Moscow for the three-cornered conversations between Stalin and representatives of America.

Also Churchill is expected to broadcast tomorrow; a report on his dramatic mid-Atlantic conference with President Roosevelt.

Though his movements were supposed to be secret, there were large crowds to cheer him as he left the British port by special train.

## REACTION

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Here's the Nazi reaction to the Roosevelt-Churchill meeting. It was uttered by an authorized spokesman who said it was obvious that the President and the British Prime Minister were proposing to replace the League of Nations with an Anglo-Saxon police force. Presumably, said the spokesman, they will deal with Europe according to Chicago methods.

The spokesman continued to talk with typical German irony. He said the people of the United States may have had considerable police experience in dealing with gangsters but they prove daily that they have had no experience in dealing with Europe. You may recall that Americans who have returned from Nazi Germany after trying to do business there reported that it was just like trying to do business with gangsters, that the Nazis are the Number One gangsters of all time, looting, robbing, taking public and private property without qualms.

Apropos of this everyone should read Douglas Miller's book "YOU CAN'T DO BUSINESS WITH HITLER," published by Little Brown, and now running serially in the New York World-Telegram and probably in other papers throughout the country. Douglas Miller was for fifteen years commercial attaché in the

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American Embassy in Berlin. Six of those years under the Nazis. He says the Nazi leaders seek world dominion. That their intention is to create a scientific slave state in which Germans will hold the military power and make virtual ~~slaves~~ slaves out of hundreds of millions ~~if~~ of the peoples of other nations.

I wish I could boil down his book and give you the gist of it. Every American should read what this American diplomat has to say, one of our own representatives who had an extraordinary chance to watch the Nazi rise to power. "YOU CAN'T DO BUSINESS WITH HITLER!" Don't miss it!

A military spokesman in Berlin tonight announces that almost all of the main Red Army has been trapped by the Nazis that is Budyenn's army, west of the Dnieper River; and, that nothing <sup>can</sup> ~~could~~ save them. By air and by land, the Nazi mechanized forces are hammering at the Russians day and night. Berlin declares that the Nazi air arm, working ahead of the mechanized land divisions, is thrusting into the heart of the richest farm and industrial part of the Ukraine. And that the Germans, Hungarians and Rumanians are doing their utmost to clean up in the southern Ukraine so as to avoid the danger of a stalemate through the winter.

We are told also that southeast of Smolensk, a battle has been raging for three days, which has culminated in the encirclement of large Soviet armies who have been fighting in vain to break through the steel noose that the Nazis have thrown around them. That the Germans are nibbling away at the main body of the Red Army, cutting off detachments one by one.

All this comes from the official German news agency, D.N.B., which sometimes gives us news that is premature. At any rate, the Nazis appear to be confident that it is only a matter of days before they will have that entire Dnieper region.

What does Moscow say? The Soviet communique reports that Stalin's policy of the "scorched earth" is being carried out on a huge scale. The Soviet spokesmen also deny that Budenny's armies are fleeing. They say the Red forces are resisting strongly, fighting destructive rear guard actions and leaving the advancing Germans and other invaders nothing but burned crops and wrecked factories.

Here's the latest: Odessa is encircled, with the Russians trying to escape by the thousands. That Black Sea port is now the scene of another Dunkirk. So says the Nazi spokesman tonight. Odessa doomed - is the way the Germans put it. Soviet troops, hopelessly surrounded, suffering terrific losses from wave after wave of Nazi bombers.

Berlin also reports that tonight panzer columns are hammering at the rich industrial city of Dniepropetrovsk, one of the



biggest factory towns in all Russia, the site of one of the largest electric power dams in the world - built by American engineers. Tonight it's being pounded by heavy German artillery.

## FRANCE

Dissension in France! A number of French Senators and Deputies are under arrest tonight. All because they didn't like the surrender of Marshal Petain to the Nazis. And they spoke their minds too freely. And so tonight it is announced at Vichy that those outspoken legislators are in "administrative custody." Also it is reported from Vichy that more than seven hundred and fifty members of the French Parliament are in opposition to the Petain Government.

Last week the old Marshal spoke about the general unrest in both occupied and unoccupied France. His radio address evidently did nothing to quiet the opposition. Up to now correspondents have not been allowed to report on the State of Affairs. But, since he spoke publicly about it himself, the ban of the censor has been lifted.

JAPAN

The people of Japan must be prepared for the worst. That's what they were told by their newspapers today, and in the Mikado's realm the press prints nothing the warlords don't want printed. Never since the days of Commodore <sup>Perry</sup> have relations been so perilous between ourselves and the Island Empire.

There was a long conference today between our Ambassador Grew and the Foreign Minister, Admiral Toyoda. Grew appears to have called at the request of the Japanese Foreign Office itself. The Mikado's government wanted to find out whether there wasn't some basis on which the Japanese could do business with us once more. There was no official announcement about that conversation, but the most reliable story is that Grew told the warlords ~~that~~ our barriers ~~against Japan~~ won't be let down until Japan has let up on her policy of aggression.

*- official and ironic -*

This much is official; the Mikado's Foreign Office protests against the intimation of our State Department that a hundred American citizens are being held in Japan as hostages. At that, everybody wanted to know if not as hostages, then why?

To that question the Mikado's government gave no satisfactory explanation, as the Secretary of State Cordell Hull declared in Washington. The best the Japanese Government could offer was a statement that it wished to avoid a sensational evacuation which might arouse the American people. The Japanese evidently do not consider the possibility that the American people might be aroused when a hundred of our people are not permitted to go home when they want to .

In Hawaii, an elderly Japanese got so worried over the crisis that he set fire to a thousand acres of woods on the island, then poured gasoline over himself and added himself to the conflagration.

GRANT

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There seems to be a little controversy looming over the withdrawal of our Minister to Siam. Last week we heard that this Minister, Hugh Grant of Birmingham, was returning as his resignation, offered at the first of the year, had been accepted. It is customary for diplomats to resign at the end of each four years, or at any rate to offer to resign. The State Department announced at the time that the replacement of Grant at Bangkok had nothing to do with the Japanese crisis, and the hubbub over Japanese threats to Thailand. But today newspapers in Birmingham, Alabama, received a cablegram from Grant, that his removal had been railroaded. He promised to announce facts as soon as he arrived in Washington and to prove that interests hostile to the American government had been responsible for his removal.

The State Department declines to comment, but the story promises to be interesting.

## FIRE

A whole squad of agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are busy investigating the origin of that big fire on New York's waterfront today. There are strong suggestions tonight that it was another case of sabotage, this one the most spectacular in New York harbor since the disastrous Black Tom explosion. Late this afternoon, there were known to be four men killed, fifty-five badly wounded, two of them not expected to live. The police fear others may have been trapped in the ~~fire~~ flames.

Today's disaster started just like the big Black Tom affair, with a loud explosion. At a Brooklyn pier which for months has been used as a loading base for supplies bound for Britain. The blow-up occurred on a ship called the PANUCO, formerly an Italian freighter seized by the Mexican government. She was transferred to the ownership of the New York and Cuba Mail Line - formerly the Ward Line. The first explosion was followed by a series of others. And the flames started to spread - yes, like wild fire. Thirty-six members of the crew were on board when the explosion happened, and for a while three hundred stevedores were trapped in the flaming inferno as a succession of explosions rocked the ship. The thirty-five members of the crew had to jump into the

water of New York harbor to escape the flames.

Three alarms went into the Fire Department, then four, then five. Fire engines and trucks rolled over the bridge from Manhattan to Brooklyn until there were fifty pieces of apparatus working on that fire. Half a dozen hospitals turned out their ambulances. Tugs, fire boats, and Coast Guard Cutters rushed to the scene. Between them, they managed to tow the burning PANUCO stern first down through Buttermilk Channel, onto the Red Hook flats.

When the fire broke out the exploding PANUCO was right near some lighters loaded with supplies for Uncle Sam's navalbase at Guantanamo. Also a passenger ship just in from Puerto Rico and Mexico was unloading at a neighboring pier. All the vessels in the vicinity hurried away as fast as they could, and they were lucky to get away.

Late this afternoon the police expressed the fear that a number of longshoremen had been trapped in the hold of the blazing PANUCO. One report put the number as high as thirty-eight, but this has not been confirmed.

Here's more on that:- The District Attorney of King's

County announces that fifteen persons are still not accounted for.

One stevedore who survived the tragedy described the blaze as spreading like a flash of lightning.