

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In the House of Commons today Prime Minister Winston Churchill got a vote of confidence. This comes as a reminder that a British Prime Minister, no matter how great and powerful he be, can be overthrown at any time by a mere majority in Parliament. Today's vote on the question of confidence or no confidence was the first since Winston Churchill took control of Britain's government at war. On no previous occasion has the Commons voted whether to keep or turn out his cabinet and himself.

As so often happens, it was one of those parliamentary technicalities that seem rather meaningless to everybody but a Britisher. The matter at issue concerned members of Parliament who are assigned to posts outside of Great Britain and who nevertheless keep their places in the Commons. Sir Stafford Cripps for example He's British Ambassador to Moscow and yet remains an m.p.

This does not sound like any vast issue in the war, but today Prime Minister Churchill made it a question of stand or fall for

his war time government. If the Commons did not approve, he and his ministers would resign. So how did Parliament vote? Well, if they had voted "no", that would have been a screaming headline all over the world. So the real question is what kind of majority did Winston Churchill get? And the answer is -- one hundred percent. The House of Commons voted unanimously in support of the Churchill cabinet.

BALKANS

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We have an official report tonight on the negotiations that British Foreign Secretary, ~~Sir~~ Anthony Eden has been carrying on in Turkey, together with Chief of Imperial Staff Sir John Dill; ~~He has been~~ conferring with the Turkish Government concerning Nazi German doings in the Balkans. The official report, as usual, is not at all precise and not very informative. It merely carries a note of optimism. "Agreements have been reached on all points," it says - and characterizes the negotiations <sup>as</sup> ~~in these words--~~ "extremely satisfactory." So satisfactory that there'll be no need of further discussions."

From Bulgaria we have a statement by the German legation - a declaration that no German troops are in Bulgaria and that Germany has no intention of sending any soldiers into that Balkan kingdom. That sounds definite enough, but another Sofia dispatch quotes the British Minister as saying that <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ British-Bulgarian break is very near. He ~~used these words:~~ "Time for breaking off diplomatic relations." ~~The Minister went so far as to mention the possibility of outright hostilities. He said:- "England will declare war before committing any hostile acts."~~ Meaning air

attack, the bombing of Bulgarian lines of communications ~~or~~  
concentrations of troops.

As for the German denial that any Nazi <sup>soldiers</sup> troops are in  
the country, the British Minister made the illuminating comment  
about a lot of Germans supposed to be civilians <sup>who</sup> ~~who~~ have entered.  
He said they could no longer be classed as "technicians."

Sending soldiers in, in the guise of technicians, is an old Nazi  
trick, and very likely they're trying it once again. Speaking  
of the "technicians", the British Minister said:- "They are  
forerunners of occupation."

MEDITERRANEAN

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It was reported at first that the Italian island in the Dodecanese was captured without much resistance. Apparently there wasn't much of a fight on shore, but today's account describes a lively sea <sup>and</sup> ~~an~~ air battle. British destroyers attacked the island, which is near the Italian stronghold at Rhodes. They were bombarding, when they were attacked by warplanes, either German or Italian. The destroyers broke off the bombardment, until British sky fighters were able to arrive on the scene. They fought off the Axis planes, whereupon the destroyers started their gunfire again - sent landing parties ashore, and seized the island.

## AFRICA

Yesterday we had the story of German motorized units in action in Libya. This came from the German side, and claimed a success.

Today London reports a clash with Nazi mechanized units in Libya, and declares that the British won. Their armored fighters beat off the Nazis. This fight on the desert may be the same one as the Germans reported yesterday - although the British give a different position, about seventy miles west.



CONVOY

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The Germans claim another successfully convoy attack -  
made yesterday. Berlin reports that nine ships, totalling  
fifty-eight thousand tons, were shot out of a convoy and sunk -  
three hundred miles west of Ireland. To this are added statements  
of successes scored ~~today~~. Five British ships sunk or seriously  
damaged by Nazi sky bombs. One is said to have been a ten thousand  
ton merchantman, which Berlin <sup>claims</sup> ~~says~~ must be reckoned as a total loss.

HOLLAND

It isn't clear just what kind of trouble the Nazi Germans have had in Holland. The news, as it gets through the Hitler censorship, is cryptic and vague. One Nazi spokesman uses these words: "foolish actions against German troops of occupation." There were clashes between German soldiers and what are called "rebellious elements." Another Nazi statement is this:- "These incidents <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ used by anti-German elements to create political developments."

That the disturbances were severe is indicated by the admission that eight persons were killed. ~~The official statement~~ is as follows:- "During ~~the restoration of orders, about eight~~ of the disturbers ~~of~~ <sup>the</sup> peace were killed and about forty severely or slightly wounded."

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The Nazis, as usual, put the blame on the Jews. Here's one type of statement: "Agitations by Jews from the Ghetto and obscure agents." Then there's mention of what is called a secret Jewish club. ~~In~~ In retaliation, the Nazis are taking punitive measures which they describe as - "military and economic."



FAR EAST

The Far Eastern news tonight focuses on French Indo-China. The Government at Tokio has ordered all Japanese to be ready to leave the French colony. <sup>Seems like</sup> ~~This may be~~ a sign that Tokio expects trouble. (French Colonial officials, however, say they think it's just another way of trying to put pressure on them -- Tokio acting as if some sort of military move was about to be launched.)

It is all connected with the quarrel between French Indo-China and Siam -- the Siamese demanding large areas of territory that France now holds. The Japanese offered mediation; this was accepted; negotiations have been going on -- with the French ~~ix~~ turning down <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ Japanese proposal for a settlement. This <sup>to</sup> ~~was~~ giving <sup>e</sup> Siam a huge slice of Indo-China. ~~But~~ The French Colonial authorities say the Japanese are acting, not like mediators, but like dictators. Obviously it would seem as if Tokio were backing the cause of Siam -- in some sort of Far Eastern game of politics. It's easy to suspect that the Japanese might regard Siam as their own particular theatre of influence.

The Government of Marshall Petain today declared that

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France has offered all the concessions to Siam that France is going to. The Vichy Government will not go "one inch beyond them," in the words used today.

This is, of course, no mere three-cornered affair between Japan, France and Siam. It's a part of the whole Far Eastern picture -- with Great Britain much ~~concerned~~ concerned. Today in London the Admiral of the British Fleet, Lord Chatfield, said he hoped Japan would not be so foolish as to make Great Britain <sup>go to</sup> ~~fight~~ <sub>war</sub> in the East Asiatic area. "But we need not fear a fight in the Far East," said the Admiral of the Fleet, "although we could ill afford any further strain on our meager naval resources."

BRITISH ROYALTY

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Here's a fine example of a rumor -- one of those wild and wooly reports that originate -heaven knows how. It emanates from Rome, Where the newspapers frequently indulge themselves in flights of Latin imagination. The British Queen Mother is in the United States -- Queen Mary. So are the Princesses <sup>Elizabeth and Mary-</sup> ~~Alice and Marie~~ <sup>aret-</sup> Rose -- daughters of King George. And so are the crown jewels of Great Britain -- also in the United States. So stated a Roman newspaper today.

The account goes on with some shrewd analysis -- much too shrewd. It reverts back to the reception without precedent of Lord Halifax when he arrived in the United States. The Viscount came aboard the great battleship George the Fifth, and President Roosevelt went personally to meet him -- sailing out on Chesapeake Bay. This, says the Italian newspaper was not because of Lord Halifax. Oh now! -- there was something more imposing, because secretly aboard H.M.S. George the Fifth were Queen ~~Mother~~ Mary, the two princesses and the British crown jewels. ~~They were~~ Taking refuge in the United States under conditions of the greatest secrecy. And they are here now -- without the public knowing anything about it. So says Rome, in  
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Yes, another example of how wild and wooly rumors can be.

LEND-LEASE

The debate on the Lend-Lease Bill has consisted mostly of speeches, but today there was a good deal of dialogue.--

Said Democratic Senator McCarren of Nevada: "If we're not preparing for war why are we buying all the army transports we can get?"

Said Democratic Senator George of Georgia: "I've talked to the President, and I do not believe that this is a war bill."

Robert Taft: "I maintain that the President is deliberately holding back aid to England in order to put pressure on Congress to pass this bill -- which is not necessary for aid to Britain," declaimed the Ohio Senator.

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts proposed that a temporary bill to aid Britain be adopted, while they take plenty of time to consider the Lend-Lease proposition at length. He suggested that we extend to Great Britain a two billion dollar credit, and put the bill off for a while, let it ride for the time being.

Much of the dialogue punctuated a speech of Democratic Senator Brown of Michigan -- interruptions while he was defending the bill for All Out Aid to Britain. He said it would avert what he called "Prussianized America."

## STRIKE

There's violence in the strike at the Lackawanna, New York plant of ~~the~~ Bethlehem Steel, ~~Corporation.~~ ~~This is~~ an important unit of national defense. ~~industry.~~ Sporadic disturbances broke out early today, with clashes between the police and the strikers. Picket lines were thin this morning, but were reinforced this afternoon, and the police had a job forcing their way through. They formed flying wedges to clear a <sup>path</sup> way for automobiles carrying workers. ~~to enter the plant.~~

Late this afternoon came a riot call. Patrols on duty reported that they were encountering - resistance. And the latest is that all available police cars and patrolmen were being rushed to the scene. Disturbances consisted largely of rock throwing, as is illustrated by the report that one policeman has been seriously injured - hit by a brick.



CRASH

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The air crash of last night stirred immediate repercussions in Congress today. Senator McCarren of Nevada, in a scathing statement, placed the blame for this and other airplane accidents on the state of affairs in the Civil Aeronautics Authority. This is part of a long drawn out quarrel which began when part of the functions of the C.A.A. were transferred to the Department of Commerce. There have been charges of politics and political interference in the Bureau dealing with safety in aircraft.

Senator McCarren, in characterizing last night's crash in Georgia, used the drastic words - "legalized murder." And he reiterated the contention that the Civil Aeronautics Authority and the Air Safety Board <sup>should</sup> ~~shall~~ be reestablished as independent agencies.

After much confusion about the casualties during the day, it turns out that seven persons were killed, three of the crew and four passengers. One <sup>of them</sup> ~~was~~ Congressman Byron of Maryland. He was chosen for office last November in a local election that attracted some national interest. The candidate whom he defeated was



Walter Johnson, the famous pitcher - legendary character of baseball.

Nine passengers were injured, and the most vivid story is told by the one who was ~~most~~ hurt the least. His name is Rosenfeld; ~~and he was~~ the only passenger <sup>who was</sup> awake; ~~and~~ up; when the crash of the night sleeper occurred.

"It was hot in the plane," he related <sup>s,</sup> "and I woke up and asked the steward for a little more ventilation. The next thing I knew," he continues, "the ship was losing altitude and the lights went out. When I came to, I was lying in the open against a pine tree."

His remark about the lights going out before the crash would seem to indicate that the pilot cut off the ignition, switched off the motor - else there would have been an explosion. The gasoline tanks ~~were~~ burst, and the inflammable motor fuel was scattered everywhere. Later this was to be an occasion for a display of heroism by Captain Eddie Rickenbacker. America's World War Ace is the President of ~~the~~ Eastern Airlines, the Company operating the ill-fated plane. He is one of the injured,

with broken bones, and badly cut. The latest medical report gives <sup>Eddie</sup> him a fifty-fifty chance to survive. Desperately hurt as he was, Eddie Rickenbocker gave advice and encouragement to the others. He kept telling them not to light matches - realizing the danger of exploding gasoline.

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The story of Passenger Rosenfeld, of how he found himself lying against a tree, is characteristic. The airliner ~~XXXXXXXX~~ crashed in a Georgia pine forest, and the whole front part of the cabin was sheared away. Passengers and members of the crew, dead and injured, were hurled forward into the open. Some were able to get up. One of these was N. V. Hassell, a New York civil engineer. He was in such a daze, that he wandered about complaining that somebody had stolen his wallet.

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Rosenfeld helped his companions as well as he could, and then set out to get help. The crash occurred miles from the highway, and intervening was a gully of red Georgia clay. In the blackness of night, Rosenfeld stumbled into it, and then had an ordeal getting out. It was raining, a chilly wintry drizzle.

The sides of the ravine which Passenger Rosenfield found himself were steep and the clay was slippery and wet. He struggled a long time before he could get out. The crash occurred shortly after one o'clock. It was half past five before he was able to reach the highway and get to human habitation. Then rescue work was difficult because of that clay ravine -- which halted rescue parties, doctors, ambulances.

The violence of the crash is indicated by ~~en~~ people who heard it, natives of those parts who were within hearing distance. Jim Hunt, a farmer, says -- "It sounded like two freight trains running together."

\*And now, Hugh.