

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The state of the war in Russia is reflected in the news from London tonight. Here's a statement made by Averell Harriman, head of the United States supply mission going to Moscow. Stopping off in Britain, he contrasts the American view and the British view -- they're so different. He says there is among Americans what he calls - "a definite let-down." Tension has subsided among the people of the United States since Hitler went to war with Stalin. The let-down, said Harriman, is largely because of the belief that the Red Army can hold out against the blitzkrieg - without any vast help from the outside.

While the British are far more keen than the American about the Nazi-Soviet War, right now they are worried because of the reported break-through of the blitzkrieg armies in the Ukraine. The German drives beyond the River Dnieper are of imminent peril to the Red forces, the British think. Consequently, they want their own country and the United States to rush the largest possible amount of war materials to the Soviets.

Lord Beaverbrook announces that one entire week's

production of British tanks will be hurried to the Red army.

And we are told that <sup>some</sup> ~~a similar amount of~~ American supplies <sup>have</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>already</sup> arrive in Russia.

London gives us a statement that Great Britain and the United States have agreed to provide the Red air force with <sup>several</sup> ~~seven~~ hundred fighting planes ~~per~~ per month, beginning

January First. Also - London and Washington are going to go halves with the Soviets on certain kinds of war stocks. The

Red army is to get half of British-American production of some sort<sup>s</sup> of war material - and that's to begin immediately.

The British report that Moscow has been disappointed by the amount of aid received, and Soviet tempers are running short. They want more. And they've been assured they will get more. London says that Soviet dissatisfaction at United States-British aid was largely dispelled at a recent conference between Prime Minister Churchill and Stalin's Ambassador to Britain.

All of this urgent talk of aid to the Soviets is emphasized by word from Berlin. The Nazi high command officially announces large advances in the Ukraine area. The Berlin bulletin

uses these words:- "advancing victoriously on a broad front."

No definite places are named to measure the distances the panzer units have driven, but it would appear that there are several thrusts hammering deep into Soviet territory.

And Berlin announces victories equally as large in the north -- the Leningrad area. The Nazi high command claims that eighteen Soviet divisions were smashed in the sector about a hundred miles south of Leningrad. This is where the Soviets day after day have been launching violent counter-attacks to relieve the pressure on the second Soviet City. If the Berlin claim today be true, it means the counter-attacks have been turned into a heavy defeat. The Germans declare, indeed, that the Red army offensive to relieve Leningrad has been transformed into a Nazi drive threatening Moscow.

The government of Bulgaria today rejected a Soviet protest. Moscow complained that the Bulgars were not being neutral. Today the protest was rejected, and it looks as if a state of war might ensue between Bulgaria and Soviet Russia.

## PERSIA FOLLOW WAR

One of the world's amazing rulers fell from power today -  
the Shah of Persia, <sup>Riza Khan Pahlevi</sup> He leaves his throne, as the British and Soviet  
forces draw near the city that was his capital - until today. The  
occupation of Teh<sup>e</sup>ran by Empire forces and units of the Red army  
may be expected at any time - if it has not happened already.

Riza Khan Pahlevi ~~has often been nicknamed the water~~  
~~boy.~~ He began life as a stable groom, watering horses. Then he  
climbed his way upward to the command of the army of Iran.  
He became the strong man of the ancient land of Persia, deposed  
the ~~Shah~~ Shah - and took his place on the throne. Now, he's a  
casualty of the conflict that engulfs nations - has resigned the  
throne to his son, who may or may not be able to keep it.

Why did Riza Khan Pahlevi abdicate? The answer would  
seem to be simple, but it gives us an odd oriental twister. Shah  
Riza Khan, ~~Pahlevi~~, himself, explains ~~that~~ with a stale diplomatic  
excuse. He says he's quitting the throne because of ill health.  
Everybody else knows that he's resigning because the British and  
Soviets are marching in and they don't like the way he has been  
acting. London and Moscow have made an abundance of statements

that Riza Khan has been procrastinating, dilly-dallying,  
trying to evade British-Soviet demands. So that's why he quits,  
as everybody knows. That is - everybody save people in Persia.  
In <sup>e</sup>Tehran today there was a wise shaking of heads with sagacious  
Λ smiles. They know. They understand the real reason. It is  
numerology. The Persians go in for the mystical science of numbers  
applied to names - it's an old kind of Persian cabalistics. ~~So~~  
~~what's the numerology of it all?~~ Years ago, they applied the  
mystical science of numbers to the name Riza Khan Pahlevi and  
found that numerology indicated that the Shah would lose his  
throne in this present year. So that explains it all - numerology!

## AVIATION

The City of Cairo bombed -- that's a headline because of the special reason. The British have announced all along that if the capital of Egypt were blasted by air raids, retaliation would be made on Rome.

Cairo -- one of the holiest cities of Islam. If it were attacked from the sky, why then the British would bomb Rome.

That's the supposition, and what do we hear today? The Egyptian Government announces that thirty-nine persons were killed in an Axis raid on Cairo last night. However, the report uses the term "the Cairo area." So this might indicate that the bombs were dropped on objects outside the city proper.



FRANCE

Grim events in occupied France continue, ~~to happen~~.

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Today in Paris notices were posted announcing the execution of ten Frenchmen, hostages. The Nazis describe them as Communists. They were shot in accordance with German threats to take reprisals for attacks on Nazi soldiers in the occupied area.

A few hours after the posting of the sinister announcements, two more Germans were reported shot in Paris. A non-commissioned officer was badly wounded by a bullet as he walked along <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ boulevard. And another German was shot and injured at about the same time.

NAVY

Now here's a question- What is the meaning of "shoot first." President Roosevelt today gave one possible hint -- a sort of negative inkling.

He said in effect, - Don't think that convoying is the only way to protect ships. He warned amateur strategists not to regard convoying as the necessary implication. There might be other ways to safeguard ships of all nations in American defense waters. And he added that possible clashes between United States warships and Axis raiders will be revealed only at the discretion of the Navy Department.

So that's all we're told officially, as the American fleet today began the operation ordered by the President. We don't know what's happening out on the ocean. It's all shrouded in blank secrecy.

An order was issued today -- to permit American ships to go into ports hitherto forbidden to them under the Neutrality Act/ The ban is taken from harbors of the British Empire, save those in the actual war zones in Europe. So American ships can now traffic with the British in Africa, Asia, and the South Seas - such important places as Suez, for example.



## TAXES

The House of Representatives today puts its okay on the final draft of the Tax Bill -- the measure that increases taxation so drastically and is designed to raise three and a half billion dollars. The Senate is expected to give its approval tomorrow.

Today's proceedings were enlivened by an inquiry about taxes on safety razors. The Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman Doughton waved that aside. "Under this bill and previous bills," said he, "the taxpayers will be shaved so clean and so closely they won't need a razor."

## LEGION

The American Legion had its big parade today. Milwaukee witnessed all the customary noise and splendor. On the more serious side, the convention proceedings featured speakers on the reigning subject of the hour -- foreign policy. Representative Ramspeck of Georgia attacked Lindbergh. He said that anyone who tries to sabotage the nation's foreign policy is bordering on disloyalty. He spoke of American freedom, and added, "In fact we have freedom to the extent that men like Lindbergh can raise intolerant issues." And the congressman summarized his denunciation in these words, "There are people in this country who hate the Roosevelt administration so much, that they would rather see Hitler win than see Roosevelt vindicated."

GORILLA

The White House is exceedingly expert on matters of international ceremony and propriety - the greeting of foreign dignitaries, the reception of diplomats. But how do you receive and greet a diplomatic gorilla? That's the question which now confronts the protocol division of White House affairs.

The gorilla is a big one, and most ferocious.

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The Abysmal brute is on its way to this country, sent to the President of the United States. ~~It is~~ a gift from the Free French forces of central Africa, ~~the~~ followers of General DeGaulle. They want to express their regard for President Roosevelt, and are saying it with a gorilla.

The monster, by the way, was captured by an American, Philip Carroll. The diplomatic communication to the White House announcing the shipment, states the following: "It is the largest and, we believe, the most ferocious gorilla that ever left Africa."

On being informed of the matter, President Roosevelt delegated his military aide and secretary, Major General <sup>Pop</sup> Watson, <sub>^</sub>

to receive the monster anthropoid when it arrives. The General admits he doesn't know what kind of ceremony is required when you greet a visiting gorilla. He's trying to figure that out.

And the President is trying to decide what he'll do with King Kong upon arrival.

## QUINTS

There's news about the Dionne quintuplets - and it really is news. They're going to learn to speak English. The quintuplets have been raised on French - English a mysterious language to them. I had occasion to realize that when I broadcast from their studio on their birthday some months ago. They were supposed to say something and sing something in French at the microphone - although they said nothing distinguishable and sang mighty little.

Papa Dionne and Mama Dionne, who are thorough French-Canadians, have insisted that the Famous Five be reared according to the ways and customs of Quebec - including the language. But now the Education Department of Ontario steps in with a new decree. The order is given that the seven year old quintuplets start to study English right away. Beginning with the coming school year, the little girls will take lessons in the official language of Canada.

CHILDREN

Today a bus in Brooklyn was rumbling along an avenue, when down the line the driver saw two children on tricycles - a ten year old boy and a seven year old girl pedaling along. There was something about them that attracted the bus driver's attention - they were riding their tricycles with so much earnestness and industry. He stopped, and asked them where they were going.

"We're going to California," said the boy.

That astonished the busman no little. "Hop in," said he, "and I'll give you a lift - on your way to California."

He drove the children around to the nearest police station, and there ~~xx~~ the cops questioned them. The ten year old boy, dark and rather stern, wouldn't say much. He merely frowned. The seven year old girl, with stringy blond hair and a freckled nose, was less reserved. The boy's name was Armand Mascato, she said, <sup>?</sup> And hers Janet Every. They lived in the same Brooklyn house, <sub>^</sub> and early this morning, at dawn, four A.M. - Armand crept to her bed. "He woke me up," she related, "and said we had to travel." And Janet replied - "All right."



They packed their clothes, and started out. They had two tricycles which they had found in a vacant lot.

They were on the way to the home of a relative of Janet's,

*when*  
~~and then~~ they decided they'd go to Coney Island; and finally

*TP*  
they figured - California, why not? ~~their~~ On their tricycles they ~~had~~ pedaled for two miles - before the bus driver picked them up.

The police phoned an inquiry to the Children's Aid Society, and there the reply was prompt. The boy was an orphan.

The girl's father was dead. They had been given to the custody of the Children's Aid Society, which in turn had placed them to

live in the home of Mrs. Edith Hall in Brooklyn. This morning,

*58-12* Mrs. Hall, getting up at a reasonable time, missed the two and had immediately informed the Society. It would appear that the

ten year old and the seven year old had an attack of the

wanderlust - probably because they happened to find two

tricycles. ~~Having the means of going places - let's go. So~~

~~that's why at ~~ten~~ dawn this morning, ten year old Armand~~

~~awakened seven year old Janet and said - "We've got to travel."~~

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Then in court a midget made a complaint that a side show owner wanted him to act as a barker -- take his place outside and ballyhoo the show.

Said the midget to the judge:- "I wouldn't be a barker!"  
It would make me look like a freak!"

Yes, most peculiar happenings, but they occurred where you'd expect them -- in Brooklyn, home of Our Bums who are now in another extra inning game with the Reds. The score at this moment stands nothing to nothing.

~~AND~~ NOW Hugh.