GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The news this evening begins with a real Fourth of July spirit. Tomorrow, of course, is the glorious Fourth, and all Americans will be celebrating it. And the French seem to be celebrating it too.

The Paris correspondent of the International News Service cables that the government of France is all set to celebrate the Fourth of July tomorrow by announcing an agreement with the American government on the subject of the Hoover plan.

Secretary-of-the-Treasury Mellon and American-Ambassador Edge have come to an understanding with the French ministers. All that remains is the threshing out of a few technical details.

But the French authorities cannot give out word of that agreement today.

According to rules and regulations they will have to hold a formal cabinet meeting before they can break the news

to the world. That cabinet meeting will be held tonight, which quite appropriately puts off the declaration until tomorrow -- the Fourth of July. It's the right way to celebrate the glorious Fourth.

The United Press quotes Acting-Secretary-of-State Castle, who is holding down the job while Secretary Stimson is abroad, as saying that he was hopeful that an agreement with France would be all fixed up at a meeting held late today by Secretary Mellon with the heads of the French government.

The Associated Press reports that this announcement in Washington was given right after the Washington officials had received a telephone call from Secretary Mellon in Paris.

As a Fourth of July celebration, that understanding on the subject of the Hoover plan -- why, it just beats firecrackers.

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I suppose that over in London this evening Ramsey MacDonald, the British Prime Minister, may be saying:

"Congratulations, Phillip, old chap! We certainly won our point."

And Phillip Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer, replies:

"Righto, Mac! We jolly well did "
Meaning that the British Labor
government scored a victory in the
House of Commons today when it put
through the budget bild about which
there has been so much debate. The
vote was 274 to 222 in favor of the
budget.

Well, the Labor party had to do a bit of compromising with the Liberal party. The Liberals hold the balance of power in parliament, and if they vote against the Labor ministers, why, BANG, the Labor ministers fall right out of their official chairs.

The big feature of the new
British budget is the fact that landowners are required to kick in with a

certain percent of the value of their land. The percentage was a penny to a pound, which comes to 2 cents out of every \$4.85. Every bit of land was to be taxed in that fashion. I mean that's what the Labor government wanted, but they had to compromise. The Liberal leaders came to bat with an amendment saying that only developed land should pay that tax. Undeveloped land should be exempt. The Labor party didn't like this, but the Liberals stuck to their guns until finally the Laborites gave in and said: "Have it your way."

And so the budget bill was amended, and both the Labor members and the Liberal members voted for it, and it was all over but the shouting.

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A new law went into force in Italy today and it concerns the making of spaghetti. This spaghetti law has a certain importance to the whole world. The new law won't make spaghetti taste any different. It merely decrees that manufacturers of flour for both bread and spaghetti shall not use more than 5% of foreign grain.

Italian flour hereafter will consist of 95% native-grown grain and 5% foreign. The United Press reminds us that Italy is a great wheat-consuming country and that heretofore it has always been a big buyer of foreign grain, -- a country that could never produce enough wheat for its own use.

Well, Mussolini has been waging what he calls "The Battle of Wheat". He wants Italy to grow more wheat, as so as to cut down the ports of foreign grain.

And that new law is a symbol of victory. It means that Italy is now producing 95% of the wheat it consumes

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countries.

Let's just remember that before

the World War Italy produced less than half as much wheat as she consumed. and well see that the buce Battle of Wheat and the decreeing of this new spaghetti law has an important bearing on world economics.

and has to buy only 5% from outside

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24 25 Well, bring on the crown, folks-the crown for tennis playing, and place
it on the noble brow of Sidney Wood,
the young American tennis expert.

The other evening we had the Stars and Stripes waving giorieusly because it was certain that an American was going to take first tennis honors in the big tennis tournament, over in England.

Shields and Wood, both of the U.S.A. were scheduled to fight it out between themselves to see who would be crown with the shining crown. A brilliant tennis battle was expected, but it's all off. Young Sidney Wood is King today, but not because he beat Shields. The game between the two is of 15. Shields has withdrawn. He hurt his knee in his hard match with the French star, Borotra, and that knee has not mended fast enough. The doctors advised Shields not to play any more until the joint has fully recovered, and so he called off his game with his rival, and that makes Sidney Wood, the King of the Hour.

This evening the Stars and Stripes are still waving, of course, but with not quite such care-free abandon because in the Women's Singles, the German girls just walked in and pushed athletic young American woman hood right out of the picture.

In the course of the eliminations one American girl was left, Helen Jacobs, of California, and she was the choice favorite to win. She beat the star British girl player, Betty Nutthall, and that made it seem highly probable that she would romp of f with first honors.

Today, however, there was a sharp upset. Helen Jacobs was beaten by Hilda Krahwinkel, of Germany.

Another German woman, Fraulein Aussem won her match today.

And so Fraulein Krahwinkel and
Fraulein Aussem will have a little
private all-German game between themselves
to see who will be crowned Queen of Tennis.

Queen Krahwinkel - or Queen Russem.

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every sporting minded follow are person is thinking of the big fight out in Cleveland for the heavyweight championship of the world. let's take up another sporting event which in 6 certain ways might make the exchange of 7 jabs and uppercuts between Stribling and 8 Schmelling look a trifle pained. This 9 particular sporting event is a wrestling 10 match - it is man against alligator.

In this week's Literary Digest we are told of a slender, drawling Southerner from Florida who makes a living at the pleasant occupation of wrestling with alligators. The young 16 man's name is Henry Coppinger. They 17 call him the Alligator Boy, and we 18 are told that he will wrestle with an alligator on dry land, in a swamp, or in deep water. 20

The Literary Digest, quoting Grantland Rice who writes an article in Colliers, tells us how the Alligator Boy does his stuff.

Picture a big alligator lying

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in a foot of water. The man slowly and warily advances. He has the gator 3 cornered and when the big reptile 4 sees no other chance to escape he 5 does just one thing. He attacks with 6 an unbelievable ferocity. And old 7 Mr. Gator has sudden death at both front 8 and rear. He has a huge jaw full of 9 sharp teeth and he has a tail that 10 lashes out with swift and tremendous 11 power.

Well, the Alligator Boy cornered 13 his alligator and the next thing you 14 know the huge reptile came at him. The 15 man sidestepped nimbly, and then pounced 16 at his powerful antagonist. He took an arm lock and a body scissors and 18 snapped one hand over the gator's jaws 19 and held them shut.

and now the battle was on. The alligator struggled and thrashed 22 in wild fury, but the Alligator Boy just best and held a vice-like clutch on the powerful the powerful there was a wild melee until 24 the alligator began to get tired.

The Literary Digest, quoting

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from that article by Grantland Rice,
in Colliers, tells us that the Alligator
Boy has one peculiar and mysterious
trick. After the gator is pretty well
played out he begins to stroke it along
its wax broad white stomach, and strange
to say old Brother Alligator goes right
off to sleep. Just how he does it is the
Alligator Boy's particular pet secret.
And he won't tell anybody just how it
works.

Of course, there are many who are willing to put on a wrestling bout with an alligator for the purpose of seeing what happens if you tickle it on the stomach - no, not many - at least not me. When who not me.

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Any of you folks who live in Chicago or are going to visit in Chicago during the next two months, why, you may quite likely see solemnly moving along Michigan Avenue or Lake Shore Drive, a snow white automobile accompanied by two snow white motorcycles. No, it won't be a funeral. In fact, the procession will be glad and festive in character.

The International News Service reminds us that Chicago from time to time receives and entertains distinguished guests. Hitherto these distinguished guests have been driven through the streets in ordinary garden variety vehicles and accompanied by ordinary garden variety motorcycle cops. But now everything is going to be different. Chicago has acquired a greeting car and two greeting motorcycles. The car and the motorcycles are painted white, the snowlest kind of snow white. And Chicato has also acquired an official greeter. He xx is George B. Gaw.

He's the President of an envelope company.

And so hereafter, when Chicago receives distinguished guests, why, they will be welcomed by the official greeter, and then will be paraded through the streets in the snow white automobile accompanied by cops on the two snow white motorcycles.

Some other guests of Chicago, not quite so distinguished, however, will be taken through the streets, not in the snow white greeter's car, but in the usual old fash ioned black Maria.

Let's buzz on to this next item. Yes, buzz is right. Millions and millions of insects buzzed -- and buzzed. It happened at Cedar Falls, lowa. This evening Cedar Falls is O.K. The folks of the town are recovering their breath after a strange plague of insects.

As to just what kind of insects they were the citizens don't seem to agree. Some say they were willow locusts, others say they were shed flies.

Anyway, a huge cloud of bugs settled down on the town. They flew last night in dense swarms from street light to street light. Big blankets of those insects covered the plate glass windows of stores. People going along the streets found themselves deluged with swarms of bugs. Some of the folks at Cedar Rapids vow that they saw drifts of the insects 6 inches deep whirling along through the air. Nobody knows where the y came from, nor

why. And just as suddenly they left town and started for somewhere else. And nobody knows the reason for that either.

Well, I guess you folks are all getting ready to celebrate the Fourth of July tomorrow. I'll bet you've got stacks of firecrackers and Roman candles. And what's more, my guess is that you are going to keep up the good work and be careful with the fire-works crackers and do your bit to make it a safe and sane Fourth.

I have a statement here from the National Safety Council, an organization devoted to the prevention of accidents, and it tells us some interesting facts about the Fourth of July.

In past years the Fourth of July was, as we all know, a dangerous holiday. As a matter of fact, in years past more lives were lost in celebrating American independence than were sacrificed in gaining American independence. That is, more people, were killed on Fourth of July celebrations through the years than the total casualty list for the Revolutionary War.

But of recent years the idea of

a safe and same Fourth has made increasing headway. The

National Safety Council tells us that nowadays the casualties

for Fourth of July average about 900. Well, that's a large

and melancholy list. But most of those tragedies will not be

caused by fireworks. Of the 900 casulaties on an up-to-date

Fourth of July only an average of 30 are caused by fireworks.

The biggest danger is from automobile accidents, which account for an average of 300 Fourth of July fatalities. And swimming comes next.

So when we talk of a safe and sane Fourth it doesn't merely mean fire-works. It means DRIVE YOUR CAR CAREFULLY TOMORROW, and watch yourself when you go for a swim.

How dangerous are fireworks? Well, the National
Safety Council tells us that giant firecrackers are the worst.
Children should not be allowed to have them at all. And the
smaller firecrackers cause plenty of trouble too. Children
hold onto them too long after lighting them; or they pick them up
too soon when a firecracker has been lighted and thrown away and
when it seems to have gone out.

And watch your step with sky-rockets. Those things are liable to tip after you've set them. They're liable to whirl around and go shooting into your house, or into your face.

A skyrocket can easily be a dangerous flaming projectile.

And don't let small children fool around with Roman candles. They don't always hold them skyward. They are liable to swing them in almost any direction, maybe in yours, and a stream of flaming bullets may hit somebody, and then -- OUCH.

And don't forget those sparklers -- the National Safety Council tells us they sometimes damage children's eyes.

And there's one sort of danger from firecrackers that you're not liable to think of -- cases of poisoning. Figures gathered by the National Safety Council show that each year a certain number of infants get hold of fire-crackers and Roman candles and eat them -- and that's bad for the infants. Better feed them ice cream instead.

Well, the old Fourth of July is a time for fun -- and plenty of it. But we can have fun without too much danger of cracking up our cars and ourselves; without swallowing lungfuls

of water while swimming; and without scorching our noses with skyrockets, Roman candles, or firecrackers.

And so let's have a glorious but also an exceedingly safe and same Fourth of July. Don't let baby eat the firecrackers and. SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.