

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Nazi Germany has sent what is described as an urgent message to Yugoslavia. Berlin demands that the new government at Belgrade shall state at once its attitude toward the treaty which the previous government signed -- putting Yugoslavia into the Nazi-Fascist Axis. That is they must say whether they intend to give their support to the Axis against Great Britain? Hitler wants to know quickly.

The Berlin dispatch uses the words -- "without delay". This might seem to indicate that Germany has sent an ultimatum to Yugoslavia. Either abide by the Axis treaty or face a German invasion.

Berlin's concern is not astonishing. The coup-d'etat at Belgrade has all the markings of a Hitler set-back. This was indicated by the first news of the army revolt and is made triply clear in the story that now comes through from the Yugoslavia Capital. The earlier accounts were from outside sources, other Balkan countries

and London. Communications with the Yugoslav Kingdom itself were cut off for a long time -- while the army was ousting the government of Prince Paul.. Now, However, from Belgrade comes a full account of what occurred, and it is obviously with the permission of the Yugoslav censor. The early outside reports were significant enough.

This one is vivid.

Dispatch from Belgrade state

~~The~~ begins:- "A spontaneous people uprising against recent events swept Boy King Peter the Second to the Yugoslav throne in the dark hours before dawn today." Tonight," the dispatch continues, "People crowded the streets of Belgrade shouting "down with the Pact! Down with the Germans! Down with Hitler.'" "

The overthrow of the Government that signed up with the Nazis occurred with the least of violence. Military units, headed by army aviation, took control of government headquarters and arrested the ministers who made the agreement with the Nazis in that Hitler ceremony at Vienna only a couple of days ago.

The Regent, Prince Paul, was on his way to his country home. He was stopped and compelled to turn back. The Ministry tonight is under arrest. The army chiefs proclaimed the Boy Peter -- King of the Yugoslavs. He as a child succeeded his father, the

Assassinated Alexander. As he was a minor, his uncle Prince Paul, held the Regency. Today the boy becomes a full-fledged monarch.

No sooner had the coup-d'etat become known than Belgrade broke into a demonstration of wild enthusiasm. The young king, as he drove through the city, received delirious acclaim. Huge crowds cheered the army to the echo. The new ministry consists of men known to be opposed to the Nazis. Several of them, statesmen who resigned in protest against the pact with the Axis.

Belgrade broke into a pageant of British and American flags. Tens of thousands hurraed the names of Churchill and Roosevelt. Britishers and Americans were the objects of popular homage. They were applauded and kissed. A United Press correspondent reports that during the day he was there recipient of a dozen embraces and kisses.

All of this indicates clearly the Anti-Nazi quality of the Yugoslav uprising. It's a striking victory for the British and American influences. So no wonder Hitler is making an immediate and urgent inquiry -- what does the new government intend to do about the treaty with the Axis? Thus far there is no Yugoslav statement. The British expect the Kingdom to veer to their side. This optimism

was expressed today by Prime Minister Winston Churchill who, however, added customary words of Churchillian caution. The optimism is shared in Washington, where acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles gave out a statement applauding the overturn in Yugoslavia. He for the first time made the official admission that the United States government has been using its influence against the entrance of Yugoslavia into the Nazi camp.

The United States has promised that if Yugoslavia resists Nazi Germany, the Balkan Kingdom will receive aid under the lend-lease Bill.

AFRICA

British forces today captured Keren, a key position in the East African campaign. This occurred after a solid month of heavy fighting. Day after day crack Italian troops and battalions of Native Askari, put up a strong resistance -- though the Empire forces of the British were closing in from both the north and the east. And the strong Fascist position was under constant bombardment. The Defense of Keren represents the strongest stand that the Italians have made in either North or East Africa. They stood siege for a month, but today Keren fell. It's in the province of Eritrea which stretches along the coast of the Red Sea and fringes the ~~xxx~~ northern part of Ethiopia. The capture of the stronghold opens the way for a British advance to Asmara, the principal seaport of Eritrea.

The capture of Asmara would be an important step in throwing a ring around the Italians in Ethiopia. The British are moving in from all sides, and today they report an advance from a new direction -- the extreme west. The town of Gambela seized -- fifty miles inside Ethiopia. Still later, and more important -- is a London report that the British had captured Harar in southern Ethiopia, the second most important city -- next to Addis Ababa. The British Empire forces are thrusting from all directions into Italy's East African

Empire, And the question is being asked -- whether they can take it all before the rainy season sets in, as it will soon. That time of tropical rainfall which is supposed to make military operations next to impossible.

VATICAN

The Vatican is going to make another appeal for peace -- in a worldwide radio broadcast on Easter Sunday. Such is the word that we have from Vatican City. Pope Pius is said to cherish the hope that perhaps peace can be brought about in time to stop the Spring offensives. Those all-out assaults that are planned to occur soon.

It's in the nature of the human mind to look for signs and portents when great events are occurring, So now we have the Presidential pen, the writing implement that today inscribed the signature Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"It's a custom nowadays to give to some favorite person as a souvenir the pen that signs an important document of State.

So what about the signature ~~of~~ the President Roosevelt appended today? He signed the seven billion dollar measure which appropriates that vast sum of money for Lend-Lease Aid -- mostly aid to Britain. This occurred aboard the yacht Potomac, in West Indian waters, the seven billion dollar bill having been delivered to the vessel by airplane. How many pens did the President use?

The answer is - only one; and after signing the bill which puts the billions into lend-lease, President Roosevelt turned and handed the writing implement to Harry Hopkins.

Are we to surmise any particular significance in this? Harry Hopkins has been one of F.D.R.'s closest intimates throughout the New Deal era, his Secretary of Commerce for awhile. and then his Personal Representative on a mission to Wartime Britain. The most recent word has been this -- there are reports that Harry Hopkins is

slated to be the Administrator of the Lend-Lease Program. The number one man in applying the seven billion dollars as aid to Britain. So was that rumor symbolically confirmed today?

LABOR

This afternoon the Secretary of Labor, Miss Frances Perkins, referred four strikes to the new Defense Mediation Board. The first cases of labor trouble to be placed before the Board for settlement. The group of eleven men on the Defense Mediation Board assembled on Tuesday and announced that they were ready for business. There was no business, however. Plenty of strikes in defense industries, of course -- but the Board can take action only in the case of such labor disputes as the Secretary of Labor passes on to them. So, after meeting for the first time, the Mediation Board called an adjournment, and the members went home -- to various parts of the country.

This caused a protest, which was voiced strenuously in the United States Senate today. There is complaint because the Mediation Board can only consider such cases as the Department of Labor places before it. The contention in the Senate today was that the board was no real power in the settlement of strikes, can only advise.

Today Senator Byrd of Virginia denounced the strike situation as a menace to national defense. "Strikes must be dealt with sternly and firmly," he declared. "We cannot compromise any longer with interruptions in our national defense effort to arm ourselves

and send aid in ever increasing volume to Britain ", added Senator Byrd.

News of this Senatorial blast was followed by a dispatch stating that Miss Perkins has now called the Board to action -- presenting it with four important strikes. What strikes are they? That an interesting question; because among all the cases of labor -- trouble, three are making the biggest headlines -- The Harvester strike, the Bethlehem disturbance, and the Allis-Chalmers walkout. Those three loom big in the headlines. The four that the Secretary of Labor presents to the Mediation Board are the following:- The Harvester Strike, and the Walkouts at Universal Cyclops Steel, the Condenser Corporation of America, and the Vanadium Corporation. So, of the three headliners, only one is on the list passed to the Mediation Board by the Secretary of Labor -- that one being the Harvester strike.

Let's look at the state of affairs in the Harvester quarrel. The Company today announced that it would not agree to Federal Mediation in what is now a clash between rival unions. The strike was called by the C.I.O. and an A. F. of L. has been sending its workers to the Harvester plants. The trouble at those plants flared to the fore-front

of strike violence today. There was a pitched battle at the factory in Richmond, Indiana. A hundred policemen and special deputies formed a cordon through which the A.F. of L. workers passed into the plant. A hundred and ten C.I.O. pickets formed a line of battle. A truck brought them a load of weapons -- kindling wood, coal, stones and long iron bars. The pickets heated the iron bars for the clash. They charged to the attack and there was fierce fighting - police night sticks versus the assortment of weapons wielded by the strike pickets. Blows thundered, heads were cracked, men were knocked down, beaten and bruised. Twenty-five police men and pickets were injured. Fifteen C.I.O. men were arrested at the scene of the fracas and later on the police raided union headquarters and arrested thirty-five more.

An equally dramatic situation exists in the Allis-Chalmers strike -- though not so much violence -- headcracking. Yesterday, Defense Administrator Knudsen and Secretary of the Navy Knox issued a stern order to both sides, to both the company and the union. The strike must be called off at once. The men must go back to work right away. Production must be resumed immediately, production important to the defense program. Such was the command given by

Knudsen and Knox. Today the company announced -- okay immediate compliance. The management flashed the order to the factory "open at once." Telegrams were sent to all the seventy-eight hundred employees calling them back to work -- get busy on forty-five million dollars worth of defense orders.

But on the union side there was - refusal. The President of the C.I.O. challenges the right of Defense Director Knudsen and Secretary of the Navy Knox to order the men back to work. He sent a telegram to each of them pointing out that, according to regulations strikes are to be settled through conciliation efforts by the Department of Labor or by the National Mediation Board. So what right did Knudsen and Knox have to issue such an order?

Backed by that declaration by the President of the C.I.O. the union ordered the Allis Chalmers men not to obey the order to go back to work -- continue the strike. The latest pronouncement issued by the union leaders is that the walkout will continue at least until Saturday. On that day there'll be a union meeting to decide what to do about the return to work ultimatum issued by the Director of the Office of Production Management and the Secretary of the Navy. The opinion is expressed that if the union continues to

defy Knudsen and Knox, the only solution will be for the Government to take over the Allis-Chalmers plant.

The strike situation evoked drastic statements by Secretary of War Stimson. He called upon the various states to form homeguard units to deal with the labor situation in defense industries. The National Guards of the States have been taken largely into active service, for training. Their absence said the Secretary may lead to dangerous situations -- nothing to take their place in case of trouble. Hence the need of forming units of homeguards. For this purpose, said Secretary of War Stimson, the Army has already furnished quantities of rifles, munitions, gas masks and other military equipment.

This afternoon I've been discussing some military problems with a man who is an authority on the subject. Of late we have often heard it said that Alaska is Uncle Sam's "Heel of Achilles." A vast northerneempire that would be might difficult to defend. Our Army and Navy people are getting busy about it, for there are those who think Alaska might be just the place the Japanese would want to seize first if war broke out in the Pacific. Also, Soviet Russia is known to be doing some rather ambitious things in a military way, in Siberia, and on islands just off the Alaskan coast.

Emile Cochant, one-time Swiss ski champion, and father of three Canadian champions -- Louis, Emile and Pierre, believes that both the U.S.A. and Canada should build up crack ski battalions, troops trained to operate in regions such as Alaska and the northern part of the Dominion.

Hubert Stevens, ~~Olympic~~ Olympic champion from the Adirondacks, and some more of us, skied with the Chochants today, and with some other Canadian wizards, Yvonne Godmer, girl champion of Quebec Province; Marilyn Miller of the Canadian Olym pic Team and speed demon Viateur Dousineau of St. Adele.

Just a moment ago I heard some sad news fro skiers. Engineer Asperbren Christian, from Norway, said he had just received word from home that the world famous Birger Ruud is a German prisoner now, because he refused to take part in ski competitions with the Nazis who have overrun his country. And saddest of all is this message that came through to him: the greatest jumper of all time, so far as form is concerned, was Ridder Anderson, who ~~xxx~~ spent several years over here. Engineer Christianson's faimily sends word that Ridder Anderson lost his life in a battle for his country.

AND SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.