

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

When the House of Representatives today began final action on the ~~XXXXXX~~ Neutrality Bill, one striking phenomenon was to be observed--newspapers. It's not unusual to see a congressman or two having a look at the front page while legislative proceedings are going on. But today the lower house broke into a rash of newspapers. Every member seemed to have one. And that was a vivid sign of the drama in the news today.

The headlines that spread across the many papers to be seen in Congress were all about the same--^{--- headlines about the} United States destroyer torpedoed, the U. S. S. Kearny hit and damaged by a submarine in waters off Iceland.

That, in itself, was enough to put an accent on drama in the Congressional proceedings today. But ~~there~~ there was still another headline to attract the profound attention of the lawmakers. ^{The headline} ~~this one~~ concerning Japan. There ^{is} always an

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electrical impression of impending war, when in a crisis a nation orders its merchant vessels to safe harbors--[^] *-- tells them to* get off the open spaces of the ocean where they might be seized in the event of a sudden outbreak of war. And the report was that the Navy Department in Washington had ordered all American vessels in the Pacific to proceed at once toward what were called--"Friendly Harbors."

So the Congressmen had a spectacular background of news, as they proceeded to take action on changing the neutrality law--[^] *-- as* they themselves ^{were} making a large news headline.

There was quick comment concerning the torpedoing of the destroyer Kearny. Speaker Sam Rayburn said, "Certainly this is an attack on the United States, since it was committed against an American warship." ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ There was equally prompt reaction to the Japanese angle. Congressman Faddis of Pennsylvania, speaking in the Neutrality Law debate, declared, "We should serve notice on the Japanese that if they move in any direction we will destroy their Navy."

On the side of those who oppose the Administration Foreign Policy--warnings were issued against the Bill to alter

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the Neutrality Law. Representative Dewey Short of Missouri charged that the proposal to arm American merchant vessels was designed, in his words--"simply to create the ~~xxxx~~ incident which will plunge us all the way into the war."

There were recollections of the last war--one particular and foreboding ~~xxxx~~ turn of memory. American entrance ^{into} ~~into~~ that conflict was immediately *p*receded by the same sort of measure that was under consideration today--the arming of merchant ships. Then President Woodrow Wilson's proposal was killed by a filibuster in the Senate. But guns were put on the ships anyway --and it was one of the last events before we went into the war.

When the Congressmen voted today, the count was--two hundred and fifty-nine to a hundred and thirty-six in favor of amending the Neutrality Law. The majority was just about what administration leaders had predicted--a heavy majority for arming the ships. The Bill now goes to the Senate, where the Anti-interventionists promise a hot fight.

In today's debate, the opinion was freely expressed--
that the measure to put guns on the ships is only a starter. ^{That it} =
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will be followed by an Administration move to make another change in the Neutrality Law--one that will permit United States merchant vessels to go into combat zones and carry war supplies to Britain.

DESTROYER

Up to this moment, there are no further details about the torpedoing of the ~~x~~ Kearny. So we are left with the information given in the first bulletin issued by the Navy Department today. Navy spokesmen say that it may be some time before we learn ~~anything~~ anything more. The only available news about the torpedoing of the destroyer is a ^brief wireless message flashed by the Captain of the Kearny, and any further word must come from him.

At the Navy Department it was pointed out that he is not likely to use his radio any more than necessary--not wanting to give away the position of his boat and risk the possibility of another attack. Consequently, the full story may not be learned until the Kearny arrives at port. And it is not known to what harbor the destroyer is proceeding--whether to Iceland, Greenland, Canada or the United States. Moreover the torpedo damage may have decreased the speed of the boat to delay its arrival. [↑] The Kearny was on patrol duty some three hundred and fifty miles south and west of Iceland. She was hit by a torpedo, but not damaged badly; it would seem. In spite of the torpedo ~~hit~~ and whatever it did the Kearny is able to proceed under her own power. And there were

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no casualties, apparently. President Roosevelt stated today in specific terms that at the time of the attack, the KEARNY was in American defense waters.

She's a new boat, commissioned only last year, a sixteen hundred and thirty tonner. Her skipper is Lieutenant-Commander A. L. Danis -- and he has seen adventure before. He's an airship expert, who served on the dirigible AKRON, but was not aboard that ill-fated craft when she was lost. However, Commander Danis was aboard the Macon -- which came to grief in the Pacific. He's a survivor of that airship disaster, and now another kind of peril - his surface boat torpedoed by a raider of the undersea.

Today's episode of the KEARNY most pertinently recalls the previous affair of the GREER - the American destroyer which was attacked by a German U-boat, but the torpedoes missed. That too happened off Iceland.

The news of the attack on our destroyer brought a typical Nazi propaganda response -- something said by the heckler who nightly butts into British programs. When the B.B.C. announcer said that the nationality of the attacking submarine had not been established definitely. The heckler cut in with this:- "Undoubtedly it was a British submarine", said Harrassing Harry.

JAPAN

The news about Japan today ~~fixes~~ fluctuated with various degrees of alarm. The first dispatch ~~was~~ was from Tokyo stating that the new ~~premier~~ premier was an army leader - General Tojo. Any General heading the Mikado's government sounded ominous, because the Japanese army is the most ~~extreme~~ belligerent element in the Far Eastern empire. However it was explained that General Tojo while a militarist was also a moderate. He's less of a fire-eater than the Japanese army ~~and~~ extremists who want to go out and grab everything right ~~now~~ away, war or no war. Tojo was reported as the kind of man who would keep things on an even keel. So this was taken as reassurance that the new Tokyo cabinet does not necessarily imply a swift increase of the war danger.

However, it was pointed out that we don't know who the other new ministers are. The full slate has not yet been disclosed by Tokyo. A good deal of the meaning of the ~~governmental~~ governmental change depends on the rest of the slate.

If they turn out to be military fire-eaters, why then the

fact that the new premier is an army moderate won't signify so much.

This political indication from Japan was promptly followed by the sensational news - that ~~was~~ the United States had ordered all American merchant ships in the Pacific to proceed to ~~friend~~ friendly harbors. The report was insistent. Coming from many places, both in the United States and from localities of the Pacific. It was repeated so definitely that it seemed as if it must indeed be the case. The war-like portent was obvious -- ~~is~~ for a nation does not order its vessels to safe harbors unless it believes a clash may be imminent.

However, here's the latest. It's an announcement by the Navy Department minimizing the orders to American merchant vessels in the Pacific. The Navy bulletin uses these words: --"A very few American merchant ships." And it goes on to state that these very few American merchant ships have been ordered into port for instructions regarding their voyages. And that play^s down the alarming note considerably.

HITLER AND JAPAN

While the Japanese are playing ball with ^{the} Nazis
Hitler is plotting to destroy Japan. So we are told in the
leading article of the November issue of Asia, the Magazine
Of The Orient. ^{in this authoritative magazine,} The article [^] goes on to point out that "One
of the most extraordinary illusions in history is Japan's
innocent faith that Hitler, if he should win, ~~would~~ would share
the rule of the world with the race which he has denounced
as "yellow vermin" and as less than men -- 'under-men'."

"On the contrary", says Asia Magazine ~~"Hitler's~~
"Hitler's intention is not merely to rule Japan, but to destroy
the Japanese people - not to enslave them as he has enslaved
others - but literally to exterminate them, with poison gas
and bacteria." Then the article goes on to quote, ~~Hitler,~~ from
Mein Kampf and elsewhere, to show that Hitler regards the
Japanese ^{as} ~~not~~ ~~then~~ hardly more than "trained monkeys". Then
it concludes with these remarks:- ~~Hitler has sentenced Japan~~
^{and} to death. [^] "Whatever Japan's decision will be, whether it decides
to fight as Hitler's ally or not, on no account will it ~~be to~~
escape its fate in a Hitler-dominated world." For "Hitler has
sentenced Japan to death."

BILL

President Roosevelt today signed a bill that made excited headlines in the news some while ago. It's interesting - the way memory fades in times like these, when great and startling events come tumbling and crowd former sensational affairs out of mind. I wonder how many of us remember clearly the property requisitioning bill - which provoked plenty of storm in Congress.

The law giving
~~It's a law that gives~~

the Administration the right to seize any property the President might deem vital for National Defense - the owners to be paid compensation. Congress balked at the original proposal -

with arguments that it was too sweeping and far reaching and gave the President too large a grant of power. There were contentions that the measure would confer on the government the right to take over any or all the private property in the country.

So the bill was modified, safeguards inserted. Various classes of property are exempt. And a time limit was written in the bill to expire on June thirtieth, Nineteen forty-three. The idea being - not to give the government a permanent right

to take over property, not for all time.

This is the modified bill that President Roosevelt signed today at Hyde Park, and it is believed that the first action taken under its provisions will concern - copper.

The other day, priorities Director Donald Nelson told a congressional committee that there was an acute shortage of copper ~~and yet~~ ^{despite the fact that} more than a million ~~and~~ three hundred thousands pounds were stored in warehouses. Some of this, he said, was undoubtedly owned by the Axis powers. So the copper in warehouses is likely to be first on the list of things to be taken. However, the million ~~and~~ three hundred thousand pounds is only a drop in the bucket. It is estimated that the defense industries will need two hundred and eighty-eight million pounds of copper for next year's operation.

WAR

In the war Berlin claims that the Panzer columns south of Moscow have driven to a point eighty miles east of the city. That far to the rear of Moscow. Berlin states that the drive began at the strategic town of Tula, and has thrust eastward a hundred miles from that place. If this be true, the Panzers are in a position to come up behind Moscow. The obvious German strategy would be to make the same sort of drive to the north of the city -- a northern column driving east and converging to meet the southern arm. That, apparently is their plan for surrounding the city.

The Red Army tells of successful resistance here and there and even of victorious attacks. Soviet war dispatches described the Blitzkrieg Forces as exhausted, the troops worn out -- as well they might be. The rate at which they've been smashing forward. The Red Bulletin gives accounts of slashing charges by horse cavalry and motorcycle troops; beating back the Germans. The whereabouts of the Stalin Government and the diplomatic corps is still a mystery. That's how dense the censorship is, and how remote are the spaces of Eastern Russia. Our own state department announced today officially that Ambassador Steinhardt, together with the

rest of the Diplomatic Corps, Has retired to some unspecified place east of Moscow - name not given. The report still continues to speak of the Tartar City of Kazan. But that's not so certain now. Some think the Soviet Government may retire even further to the east -- all the way to the Urals. London, however, gives us the belief that Stalin is still in Moscow. What the Soviets and the Red Army will do in the future is one of the most important and fascinating questions of the day. Just where will they go? Where will the fighting line be? Turkey gives us an interesting rumor to the effect that the Red regime will divide itself into three parts. The story is that Stalin and part of the Red Army forces will retire to the East of Moscow in the area of the Ural Mountains. A second section of the Soviet power will be established in the Caucasus, where those all-important oil wells are. There the Red forces will be in contact with the British in Persia.

Turkey says that Stalin is convinced the British will send a big army up into the Caucasus to join the Russians in making a stand there.

But what will be the location of the third section of the Red regime? That's the surprise -- it will be in Western Russia,

behind the German lines. It will be an undercover kind of Soviet government, operating in Nazi held territory. A secret Communist organization, coordinated groups operating in concealment and continuing the war. A sort of guerrilla affair -- continuing the Communist power. An undercover regime sounds like something new -- but it might be in line with the old Bolshevik talent and habit of conspiracy.

The rumor from Turkey adds that Stalin will try to maintain as good communication and coordination as possible between the three sectors of the Soviets, in the Urals, in the Caucasus, and in the territory occupied by the Nazis.