

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A show opened in Washington today that amazed even the Washington correspondents. And when you can astonish those lads, you've done something. It was President Roosevelt's much discussed "little business" conference, ~~that did the trick.~~

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I called up the Washington office of the United Press and they told me that a large part of the proceedings could be described only as ^{sheer} pandemonium. It sounded as though almost everybody wanted to talk, ~~and~~ all at the same time. The most popular man present was a delegate from Arkansas. He was called upon to tell the government something about conditions in his part of the country. He got up and said:- "I have nothing to say. " Thereupon he received an uproarious round of appluse. ^a
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~~Even~~ Secretary Roper, who presided over a considerable

part of the proceedings, was unable to maintain order. It became evident that practically everybody present had ~~different~~ ideas about what should be done, all of them different. However, nobody ~~appeared to have any particular articulation of how things should be done.~~

On one occasion, ^{the} Secretary ^{of Commerce} ~~hope~~ pleaded:- "Won't you sit down so that you can hear me?" That was answered with a chorus of vociferous "Nos!"

There were cheers ~~also~~ for Mrs. Susan Gill of Narberth, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Gill told the assembly that what was needed was a constructive program which ought to be suggested by the Department of Commerce. They gave the little girl a great big hand, not so much for what she said, but for the way she looked when she was saying it. It's the consensus of the United Press experts that ^{this business woman,} ~~she~~ a young and pretty blonde with an orchid pinned to her black satin dress, was far ^{and} away the most decorative part of the show.

There were cheers also for Mrs. Mary Riker, who owns a beauty parlor in Columbus, Ohio. Her diagnosis of the

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trouble of "little business" was high wages and high taxes.

At the beginning of the meeting, Assistant Secretary Draper told the delegates that the first thing they needed was a temporary chairman, and he suggested Fred Roth, a wholesale shoe dealer from Cleveland. Later somebody suggested that Mr. Roth be made permanent chairman. At that Mr. Charles H. Schnor, a dealer in metal products ^{from} Springdale, Pennsylvania, shouted:- "That chairman is hand-picked. We don't want him." Someone else then asked Mr. Roth: "How many people do you employ?" "Fifteen," replied the chairman. "All right, that qualifies you."

Mr. Roth's first utterance was the confession that he felt jittery, "somewhat like the condition of the country now."

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The pandemonium became even worse during the moments when the loud speaker system broke down. Everybody was shouting. Most of the delegates paid no attention to what was going on on the platform. ^{Chairman} Roth had so little luck in keeping order that Assistant Secretary Draper was forced to take ~~the gavel~~ ^{the} ~~over in the place~~ But he didn't fare much better than ~~poor~~ ^{the}

~~shoe-dealer~~
~~Mr. Roth~~

One of those present offered the suggestion that "this is God's country and I think we should open this meeting with a prayer for God's guidance to lead us." It was a pious idea, but it didn't receive any more attention than any of the other proposals. Every few minutes the gentleman repeated his suggestion with the same results as before. When confusion finally became confounded beyond the chance of saving it even by prayer, Uncle Dan Roper gave up in déspair. He declared the meeting in recess. But even that didn't phase some of the delegates. Fully a third of them remained in the hall. Some of them got on the platform and made speeches, but nobody listened. The conversation, boos, applause, and cat-calls, were so deafening that it was impossible for reporters to make out what the speeches were about. The meeting melted away gradually, one earnest orator still occupying the platform, talking loudly and fervently to himself.

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HERRICK

A sensational story was told in Washington today by Mrs. Eleanor Herrick, ~~she is~~ Regional Director for New York of the National Labor Relations Board. She was testifying before the Senate's Committee on Commerce. Labor people who don't like Mrs. Herrick had published the charge that she was sympathetic to Communists and that she had falsified elections held by the Labor Relations Board among seamen. She denied those charges and ~~she~~ added the information that she had received several threats against her life, ~~that was~~ while she was trying to settle the labor quarrel in the maritime industry.

NAVY

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It has frequently been stated and even printed, that the heads of our Navy ^{have} had secret plans in case ^{of} war, ~~broke out~~, plans for cooperation with the fleets of other powers, principally Great Britain. Those reports are not true. Admiral Leahy, Chief of Naval Operations, flatly denied them. He told the Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives that Uncle Sam's navy has no plans to join any other nation in a possible war.

^{our} navy's plans are all made to protect the United States against aggression by foreign powers, and ^{hence} ~~they~~ have no relation to the navy of any other country.

^{Congressman}
A California Representative, ~~was~~ Scott, came to bat with the report that some of Japan's warships had been seen off our Pacific coast and that Uncle Sam's naval patrols had been hunting for them. That also was contradicted by Admiral Leahy. ^{he} ~~said~~ the movements of American ships off southern California are merely a part of the yearly manoeuvres.

Incidentally, there are ^{of our warships now} ninety-eight ~~units now~~ assembled in the Pacific, going through the yearly war games; ~~they are~~ rehearsing the movements that they'd carry out in case the United States were attacked by some other power.

JAPAN

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A startling ^{anti-climactic} announcement was made in the Japanese Parliament today! A state of war exists between Japan and China! Somehow or other we've been suspecting this for quite a while but hitherto ~~the~~ Japan's rulers have refused to admit it. They've described their activities on the Asiatic mainland as a punitive expedition.

One Japanese deputy addressed a pointed question to the War Minister. "What about Soviet Russia?" he asked. And the answer came crisply:- "The Japanese imperial army is prepared to win victory under all circumstances, no matter what Soviet Russia does."

A question was also levelled at the Naval Minister. "How strong is the Japanese Navy?" "It's plenty strong enough at present," replied Admiral Yonai, "but if other countries continue to expand their fleets, Japan will have to expand also."

As for the expenses of the ~~party~~ ^{invasion of} China, ~~the~~ ^{all that} will have to be paid eventually by the Chinese. So said Foreign Minister Hirota. Even if it's impossible to collect from the Chiang Kai-shek government, Japan will get indemnity somehow out of Chinese pockets.

CHINA

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Any member of the League of Nations is at liberty to ship war materials to China - if it can. Furthermore, countries that belong to the League may give Chiang Kai-shek's government any other kind of help that they choose, ~~and that is~~ ^{anything} within their power. Such was the resolution adopted by the League today, the final day of its ~~hundred~~ one hundredth meeting.

Of course that resolution ~~is a pretty~~ ^{sounds like an} empty piece of business. Since Japan controls the ~~sea~~ ^{Far Eastern seas}, the only way for member nations to send war materials to China would be by the long overland route through Russia - not only a long but a costly business.

Wellington Koo, China's representative at Geneva, said as much in ~~almost~~ so many words. The hope held out to China in that resolution is ~~pretty~~ ^{so} meager, ~~ex~~ he intimated, ~~and still~~ and ~~still~~ still offers no reply to the demand made by China under Articles Ten, Eleven and Seventeen of the League Covenant.

Two countries declined to vote on the resolution.

Peru and Poland objected that it had all been arranged secretly by John Bull, France, and Soviet Russia.

ITALY

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Correspondents and diplomats have been puzzled by the violent hatred of America ~~that's been~~ expressed in the Fascist press. As a rule our government pays no attention to anything ~~that's~~ printed in foreign newspapers. But in the last few weeks the anti-American tone of the Fascist papers has grown more and more ~~xxxxxx~~ violent. And since the Fascist Press is controlled by the government the State Department can no longer ignore this. ^{TR} In fact, it has ~~xxxx~~ become so blatant that Ambassador Phillips has been instructed to make it the subject of a special visit to the Italian Foreign Office. So he is arranging to see Count Ciano, Italian Foreign Minister and Mussolini's son-in-law. ~~and~~ ^H he will ask: ~~the~~ "What's the meaning of this" and particularly "Why the attacks on President Roosevelt?" One particularly violent abuse of the President was published yesterday. It appeared in two papers, both organs of the Fascist party. It was ~~wxxx~~ written by a former priest, now a newspaper man, who has lived in the United States ^{for} many years. The gist of it is that President Roosevelt is preparing for war ^{at} the behest of the American Jews.

ENGLAND

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There was much excitement in the English House of Commons today. The sinking of the British steamer ENDYMION in the Mediterranean aroused ~~great~~ fury among the M.Ps. The labor members were particularly enraged. They demanded that the government should retaliate against the Spanish Rebels and seize Franco's warships.

Their demands did not have much effect, however.

Foreign Secretary Eden declined even to reply to them. However, he told the House that the government intended to cooperate with France and Italy to prevent any further piracy. In Paris it was announced that the French government would back up England in any step she took in that direction. There were suggestions that French warships would resume patrolling the waters around Spain. (As a matter of fact, it is stated in the English weekly, "Time and Tide", that British destroyers have been quietly sinking quite a number of so-called pirate submarines in the Mediterranean, though no official announcement has been made.)

LOANS

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Once upon a time, John Bull ~~used to be~~^{was} the most extensive money lender in the world. That is to say, British capital was invested all over the globe. A few years ago, that situation changed when the government put its foot down and frowned upon the lending of British capital in other lands. ~~But~~

That policy is ^{now} to be changed. ~~again~~. It was announced today that the government's objection to the lending of British money in other lands will be relaxed, ~~that is~~ to some extent. This is due to the complaints of influential bankers. They objected that ~~the~~^e attitude of ^{Downing Street} ~~the government's~~ had resulted in the freezing of large amounts of capital.

When this became known, some members of Parliament pricked up their ears and became suspicious. They wanted to know:- "Does this mean that English capital is to be lent to Germany and Italy?" The answer to that was an emphatic "No!"

BLOMBERG

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Germany fairly seethed with conjecture and speculation today, after the resignation of Hitler's War Minister. Several observers put a grave interpretation upon the departure of Field Marshal von Blomberg. They say it means a political crisis. The foremost commanders object to the intrusion of Nazi principles into the army. Nazi philosophy, they say, is all right for civilians but has no place among soldiers. *Furthermore* ~~and the~~ generals have been gravely shocked by the arrest of the prominent and popular preacher, Paster Niemoeller. In fact, it is said that one of the most important officers, Colonel General Werner von Fritsch, ~~ix~~ has also threatened to resign.

All this, however, is guess-work, and, is officially denied by Nazi leaders. The generals themselves aren't saying anything.

RAB

In the Adriatic Sea, off the coast of Jugoslavia, there's a beautiful little island called "Rab." Once upon a time, it was the favorite seaside resort of Roman knights and potentates in Dalmatia. In medieval times, princes and barons took their holidays at Rab, swimming and fishing. On his way back from ~~one of his~~ ^{the} Crusades^s, Richard-the-Lion-Heart^{ed} spent several weeks on that island.

Rab It comes in the news today because it was almost wiped out by fire. The City Hall, a beautiful specimen of medieval architecture, ~~was~~ reduced to ruins, also the castle of the prince. (Other islands nearby sent their fire brigades to try to stop the flames but the damage was done before they arrived.)

PLANE CRASH

Another
~~The first serious~~ airplane accident in the South

Atlantic Ocean ~~is~~ reported today. Mario Stoppani was homeward bound in a seaplane on ~~the~~ ^a round trip ^{commercial} flight from Italy to Brazil. He had not gone far toward Africa when urgent radio messages were received from him. His engine had gone bad and he said he was returning to Brazil. Then came anxious calls for help! ~~After~~ ^{that} ~~silence~~ ^{silence}. Later on, a seaplane from the German airmail service to South America found Stoppani's plane, ~~found it~~ ^{found it} a mass of flames. Of the crew of five, only Stoppani himself was alive.

MATAMOROS

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Silence and strict censorship surrounded the political atmosphere at Matamoros in Mexico today. That's where the ~~supposed~~ uprising of the Gold Shirts, the Mexican Fascisti, was reported. ~~on Monday~~ American newspaper men were sent to the scene of excitement, but ~~they~~ couldn't get there. They were turned back at the border. ^{TF} General Gomez, Governor of the State of Tamaulipas, was still on the spot. But he denied all the stories of trouble. Nevertheless, the streets of Matamoros were patrolled by soldiers as well as policemen. ^{TF} The censorship naturally multiplied the rumors that flew. According to some of these, the Gold Shirts were burning railroad bridges, attacking trains, and assembling en mass^e near the American border. ^{TF} The government insisted that all these reports were either exaggerated or entirely false.)

FLOODS

(recent)

~~present~~

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The end of the freezing wave brought no good news to the middlewest. From the Pacific coast to the Appalachian Mountains, temperatures were so warm that the ice in all the rivers began to thaw. And that of course brings a recurrence of the threat that hangs over so much of America every year - the menace of flood. Every city along the Rock River in northwestern Illinois, has been warned to prepare for the danger.

GROUND HOG

Here's important news that comes from Quarryville,
Pennsylvania. A group of gentlemen in high silk hats, white
nightgowns and other regalia, went on a solemn expedition into
the woods. They are members of the Slumbering Ground Hog Lodge.
At their head was His Excellency, Defender of the Faith, Joseph
Richelieu Swinehart. They returned from the expedition bringing
the grave news that they had seen a ground hog, that the
ground hog had seen its shadow, and that we may expect six
more weeks of ^{heavy} winter. And - SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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