



Hitler upheld Germany's honor in Reichstag address . . . members of "best paid male chorus" sang folk songs for \$240 a month plus transportation

HITLER SPEAKS: Reich Chief Summarizes Nazi Progress, Upholds Honor, Is Conciliatory

That "best paid male chorus in the world," the German *Reichstag*, crowded Berlin's Kroll Opera House Saturday in one of its rare assemblies. Like an enormous jack-in-the-box which had benefited by military training, members bobbed up and down in unanimous approval of the Government's suggestions, and chanted *Deutschland Ueber Alles* and the *Horst Wessel Lied*—a performance for which they draw \$240 a month and transportation to and from the Capital.

Throughout the Reich, in homes, factories and restaurants, millions of Germans gathered around microphones, under orders. Workers in plants which had no loud-speakers on the premises marched to the nearest radio, to hear Adolf Hitler give the Deputies, and the nation, the story of his achievements.

Four years ago, Hitler said: "Now, German people, give us four years and then judge us! True to the command of the General Field Marshal (the late President Paul von Hindenburg), we wish to begin. . . . For we wish to fight, not for ourselves, but for Germany."

Honor—In his efforts to wipe out the country's status as a pariah among the nations, Hitler boasted Saturday, he had rearmend the Reich and seized the disarmed Rhineland. Still denouncing Versailles, he last week erased one of the most painful of the Treaty's blots on German honor with a few words: "I hereby and above all annul the signatures extorted from a weak and impotent Government against its better knowledge, confessing Germany's responsibility for the late war."

Hoarse with his own emotion, he indicated that the Treaty's one remaining grievance—the "rape" of German colonies—remained unavenged.

Conciliation—With the exception of this passage and bitter attacks on Bolshevism and the League of Nations, Hitler's remarks seemed conciliatory. He promised that the series of "Saturday surprizes"—those sudden coups which have kept Europe nervous for three years—had ended. He praised the candor of Anthony Eden's appeal to him: "There must be a will to cooperate which is unmistakable."

Germany, its Leader insisted, did not seek isolation, and he pointed to the British Naval Treaty, the Polish, Austrian and Japanese agreements, and the close cooperation with Italy, adding: "As to France, Germany has repeatedly and solemnly declared—and I desire to reiterate it here—that between Germany and France there are no humanly conceivable points of dispute and there can be none."

"Companions"—In a peroration to the two-hour speech which left him exhausted, Hitler cried: "I have had in my lifetime three unusual companions. In my youth it was need and suffering that accompanied me for many years. When the war broke out, it was deep sorrow over the collapse of our people which pointed the way for me. On January 30, 1933, I made the acquaintance of my third friend—care and worry for the people and the Reich which had been entrusted to me."

"Now I am happy that I no longer need walk alone and lonely, for at my side walk men whose names in the future will be emblazoned on the pages of German history. And I thank the millions of unknown Germans who have stood by me and the movement—especially the German mothers who have borne children for the Third Reich."

Later that day, all non-members in the Cabinet joined the Nazi Party. Even Baron Constantin von Neurath, Foreign Minister, and Economics Minister Hjalmar Schacht, who during four years resisted incredible pressure to make them sign up, accepted the party's gold badge from the *Fuehrer*.

Satisfaction — Spanish Loyalists rejoiced that Hitler offered them no new threat, no new promise of aid to the Insurgents. Loyalists also took heart from the week's campaign, during which they made gains in the suburbs of besieged Madrid and drove back Gen. Francisco Franco's men at Aranjuez, strategic railway center twenty-five miles southeast of the Capital on the road to Valencia, seat of the Loyalist Government.

The European press, stubbornly looking on the bright side of Hitler's oration, generally found it good. Thus the London *Sunday Times*, tho admitting he had contributed nothing to the troubled international situation, commented: "Yet the door remains open. Once again Hitler has uttered words of peace. . . . The tone and temper of his reply to Eden's speech . . . suggest a wish on his part for further discussion. British statesmen wish it, too."

Italy's newspapers, subtly crediting Mussolini for the mild temper of the address, hailed it warmly.

France received it less enthusiastically.

THE LITERARY DIGEST

February 6, 1937

~p. 14~