

Good Morning, Friends:

On the day before yesterday, the House passed the largest single army appropriation bill in history-- A 12½ billion dollar measure devoted almost exclusively to advancement of the nation's bid for ultimate air supremacy, on a record vote of 389 to 0. The measure appropriating funds for procurement of 33,000 aircraft was sent to the Senate. The bill contemplates an integrated program for the procurement of airplanes, facilities for production, communication and signaling equipment, armor and armor devices, ammunition and other devices for their operation in combat or training. This bill will make a total of approximately 84 billion dollars in appropriations and contract authorizations for war purposes. But this is only a beginning. No one can foretell the effect upon our economy, both now and after the war, of such great expenditures. Congress may fear the effect, but it has no choice. The Constitution imposes upon Congress the duties of raising and supporting armies, providing and maintaining a navy, and providing for the calling forth of the militia. Therefore, Congress, with the full approval of the people whom it represents, is proceeding to appropriate all funds necessary to win the war. The bill which passed Friday involves the greatest dislocation of industry, the greatest program of readjustment and conversion of industries in the economic development of the country. Congress is also acting with dispatch. The estimates for this enormous appropriation bill came to the Appropriation Committee on Monday. It was passed by the House on Friday. The magnitude of the bill and its relationship to those expenditures which are in store for us can be more fully

appreciated by reflection upon the ~~effect~~^{fact} that this bill was for one single branch of the service - the air force. The value of air power has been demonstrated in every theater of war. If we had these 33,000 fighting craft now, with the pilots trained to fly them and other facilities for their use, Singapore could be saved. Indeed, McArthur and his men could be saved in the Philippines. All Americans thrill at the courage of the American soldiers under McArthur who, though hemmed in and cornered, are fighting back like tigers against an overwhelming force. > Courage, patriotism, and morale are great forces. They are a necessary component of the forces of victory, but courage and patriotism in and of themselves can not win a war. They must be implemented. We realize today that another necessary component for victory is the fastest, the best equipped, and the largest number of airplanes. We have the resources in America to build the necessary planes to have supremacy of the air. ~~We have the largest supply of raw materials in the world; we have the largest number of trained workmen and the most efficient modern mass production factories in the world.~~ And with these facilities we hope that we can - yes, we must - produce more planes than ^{all of} our enemies combined.

A necessary metal for plane~~pr~~ construction is aluminum. To make aluminum a huge quantify of electrical power is necessary. For the creation of power to make this necessary aluminum, an appropriation was carried in the bill for the building of Douglas Dam by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Engineers say this is the only dam of comparable size in the United States where power can be obtained by next year.

The entire automobile industry is disrupted. The factories must be converted to the manufacture of planes and tanks and other implements of warfare. During the period necessary for conversion, the automobile factory workers will be thrown out of employment. President Roosevelt sent a message to Congress on last Tuesday requesting an appropriation of \$300,000,000 for unemployment pay to these men while they are out of work. Undoubtedly, their unemployment, which is forced by the government, will create much hardship. Unquestionably, the government should do all it can, under the circumstances, to alleviate this hardship. But the hardship arising from the stoppage of automobile production does not end with the factory workers. All over the United States, there are hundreds of thousands of automobile salesmen, garage owners, tire salesmen, filling station operators and employees, and others who will not only be thrown out of work but, in many cases, will suffer bankruptcy because of this move which is absolutely necessary for war production. So, if benefits are to be provided for the factory workers while they are temporarily unemployed, benefits must also be provided for the others, and the ones I have named are only a beginning. Let me read you a letter which comes from a town in Tennessee. It says:

(Insert letter)

*Mr. Hale, (father)
Wassville
Re: son's lease
on garage Bldg*

This letter will serve to dramatize what is happening to thousands of small business men all over the nation. It is going to be difficult for the government to see that nobody suffers. In fact, millions of people will suffer, while, tragically enough, millions of other people will make a profit out of the war.

It is such a pity that in the very beginning of this tragedy, we could not have imposed a ceiling on profits, a ceiling on prices of all commodities, a ceiling on wages and salaries, rents, etc. But no, the politicians wouldn't stand for it. And so we have up for final vote on Tomorrow in the House the conference report settling the differences between the Senate and the House on a weak-kneed, limber-neck price control bill which is unworthy of its name. A great furor has gone up about the farm Representatives trying to place the ceiling too high on agriculture commodities. The farmers of the United States would have gladly accepted a ceiling upon their prices if ~~it~~ a ceiling had likewise been imposed upon other people. So while the big city newspapers are condemning the farmer for being greedy, let them first consider that there is no ceiling on profits in the bill, that there is no ceiling on wages in the bill, and then let them ask themselves if they can blame the farmer for trying to get out from under the bill when *others are entirely left out.* ~~he is about the only one put under it.~~

The fair thing to do and the effective thing to do would be to apply ceilings to all segments of our economy, straight across the board.

A great argument has been under way about giving the Secretary of Agriculture the right to approve the price ceilings on agriculture commodities. This is much ado about nothing. The Secretary of Agriculture is appointed by the President and his tenure of office is subject only to the will of the President. ~~The President has appointed Mr. Leon Henderson to administer price controls.~~ ~~The President has publicly said that he could fire either or both Mr. Henderson and Secretary Wickard.~~ Of course, Secretary Wickard will approve the agriculture price ceilings of Mr. Leon Henderson if the President tells him to; or else the President will appoint a new Secretary of Agriculture who will obey his orders. So all of this fuss about the Secretary of Agriculture having the right to approve or disapprove agriculture price ceilings amounts to nothing. It's just something to fuss about, and perhaps make the farmer think he is getting something which he isn't. Certainly there should be a ceiling on agriculture commodities. And with equal certainty, there should be a ceiling upon profits, upon wages and salaries, and all other commodities. After the war is over, we will hear a great deal of talk and many hot-air speeches about what we should have done to prevent another large crop of war millionaires. Perhaps after the American boys clean up on the Japs and the Huns, they will come home and clean up on the politicians who are too weak-kneed to do what they know ought to be done, - and I hope they do.