Herbert C. H. came to Washington to speak at the Rep. Dems dinner and make a serious bid for the Rep. nomination for President. The Rep. rate the press and public questioner questioner, he then held a reception for Members of Congress and Made a prepared speech at the hotel. This speech was broadcast to the Nation by the New York World. The Succinct would contain a plan that discussed plans for electing a new Congress.

Roosevelt was asked if he was one of the press conference if he would be a candidate for a Senate term. The press laughed and said that man of one of their things. Which when just another one of saying nothing about it.
So you can see early that this is an election year and both sides are getting ready for the showdown. I fear we all hope that the decision of the people in these questions will not be clear enough to decide the various details of the war and thus prolong it. This is not to help.

Under Sec'y of War Patterson was recently with he said publicly that our forces were firmly established on the beach in front of Rome. Then has been a lot of activity here over that situation, our situation on the beachhead before Rome. And, though, it was very uncertain. At that time, the end of war was not even firmly established there.
Good Morning, Friends:

The developments in Washington during the week ending yesterday make a pitch work of lassitude, in an agency or an office, continue were five-fold. The fight over the soldier vote bill; the Congress final passage of the tax bill by Congress; the passage of an appro-

priation bill by the House; a partisan political moves; and S. War-

Home our troops in Italy were sorely pressed. Developments. Let's take them up in their order.

The Senate passed the soldiers vote bill providing a uniform Federal

ballot by a very close vote. There was bitter debate and wrangled feelings

over the question. Opposition to the bill, which was supported by the

Administration, came from a combination of a majority of the Republican

and Southern Democrat Senators. The House had previously defeated the

Administration's plan for a uniform Federal ballot and had passed a bill

recommending that the state provide state ballots. So, instead of ending the

fight, one might say it has started all over again. The bills, which passed

the two houses, differ very widely and conferees representing the House and

the Senate have been appointed. A majority of the conferees representing

the Senate will favor a uniform Federal ballot, while a majority of the

conferees representing the House are opposed to a uniform federal ballot

and are in favor of trying to send the ordinary state ballot. So, there is a

likelihood that the conferees may not be able to agree. In any event, both

the House and the Senate will have to vote upon whatever recommendation

comes from the conference committee, because before any bill can pass Congress,

it must pass both the House and the Senate in identical form. As I see it
any soldier's vote bill that comes out of this conference committee without
a provision for a uniform federal ballot, at least for the men who are
serving overseas, would be an advertisement to the servicemen everywhere
that a large percentage of them will have no practical opportunity of casting
their vote. Of course, other members of Congress feel very differently.

Many say that if the War Department and Navy Departments will just turn their
hand to it, the ordinary state and local ballots can be carried to the
servicemen everywhere and brought back in time to be voted in the election.

This would put a very heavy burden upon our transportation system. For
instance, the list of candidates in the State of New York, which was prepared
by the New York State War Ballot Commission, is a book of 900 printed
pages bigger than a mail order catalog. Let us say this
ballot is to be sent to half a million soldiers overseas. Think of the number
of ships it would take, not only to carry it over but to bring it back.

But more than that, the soldiers must first send in an application for a
state ballot. So, that's an additional mailing. And another thing, how would
this ballot be printed in time to be mailed to the soldiers, voted and
returned to his home precinct before the election is over. This question
arises because the candidates of the respective parties are determined
in the State primaries, some of which are held as late as September, and
one or two, I think, in October.
These are just some of the reasons why many members of the House
and Senate and many people over the country have felt that the use of a
uniform federal ballot, sent in the same form to all places where troops
are concentrated is the only feasible method of
giving a practical opportunity to servicemen and women, especially overseas,
to vote. All that this would entail is that the Federal Government would
to the soldiers prepare and distribute, by airmail, this simplified uniform ballot for Federal
offices; then collect the executed ballots; bring them back to this country;
and then turn them over to the election officials of the respective states.

Congress should not say to the men and women in the armed forces that they
are unwilling to take this minimum step to protect their right and opportunity
to vote in the important elections this fall. There is the constitutional
question, of course. But the Supreme Court has repeatedly said that the war
powers inherent in the Congress and the National government are very broad.

In its most recent interpretation of war powers, the supreme court said that
the war powers were broad enough to wage war successfully and that this power
did not stop with repulsing the enemy on the battle field but that it went
far enough to protect members of the armed forces from injury. Congress has
moved to protect members of the armed forces from civil injury, and it
should protect them from the loss of their franchise and the opportunity
of exercising it. It is easier to say this, though, than it is for Congress
to do it, as has been demonstrated by the weeks of wrangling and fighting
over this issue. As I said on a previous "Sunday morning, this question has become a hard political issue, which it should never have been. As a result of this, the outlook for final passage of a bill providing a practical opportunity for a great majority of our servicemen to vote is still dark.

The House and Senate conferees finally reached an agreement on the controversial provisions of a tax bill. This conference report was adopted by both the House and the Senate and sent to the President's desk, but not before 101 votes were cast against it in the House as a manner of protest.

There is some speculation that the President will veto the bill. It purported to raise about two billion dollars. But it had other features in it which very nearly nullified this alleged increase in taxes. So, as a revenue raising measure, it is a puny effort in war-time taxation.

Another objection which many entertain to it was that it let down some bars in the renegotiation law, which opens the way for more war profiteering.

Along side this weak tax bill, the House passed a big appropriation bill. An economy gesture was made by the Republicans who offered amendments to reduce the size of the appropriation by a small amount. This was defeated by only a one-vote margin, but even had the reduction been adopted, it was inconsequential and, at best, was intended only as a gesture toward economy.