

WSM February 24, 1946

Good Morning, Friends:

As former Secretary Ickes faded out of the picture and the fight over ^{Pres. Truman's} ~~the~~ nomination of Mr. Edwin Pauley for Under Secretary of the Navy wore on, the House of Representative passed a school hot lunch program and also passed a bill, as one man said, "To trim James Caesar Petrello down to a man's size."

The The debate on the school hot lunch bill was rather amusing. Those who were opposed to it talked of high political principles, of the ability of the people to feed their own children, of the obligations of the states, counties and cities to provide lunches if ^{not} ~~there~~ ^{hot lunches} were needed; while those who favored the bill, accused its opponents of being more concerned with appropriating money for control of bollweevils, Japan bean beetles, for improving Texas' steers, Georgia's peaches, Iowa's hogs than in giving to needy children a nourishing hot lunch at school.

To illustrate this debate, I would like to read an excerpt from the Congressional Record in which two distinguished Members of the House, Mr. Summers of Texas, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Mr. Flannagan, ^{of Va,} House Chairman of the/Agriculture Committee,

Ⓚ (Congressional Record
Feb 19

The bill to stop the excesses of James Caesar Petrillo, head of the Musicians Union, made no mention whatever of Mr. Petrillo; but its provisions were directed exclusively to him and his practices which to many people appear ~~to be~~ little short of extortion.

The Senate has already passed a bill ^{for this purpose} but it is less drastic than ~~the~~ the bill which passed the House this week. It remains to see ^{to} what the Senate will do. The public demand, ~~however~~, is so strong for some legal curbs on the excesses to which Mr. Petrillo has gone ~~as the musician labor boss~~ ^{such as forbidding high school bands from playing on the radio} that some ~~final~~ ^{final} ~~similar~~ action will probably be taken.

Well,

The Committee investigating Pearl Harbor finally closed hearings on last Wednesday night; and after a few days rest will take up the task of writing a Committee report. It will be a political miracle if Republicans and Democrats agree and write a unanimous report. ^{as for} The public, ^{they} seems to have grown tired of the investigation ^{with} and all ^{its} ~~the~~ ^{of the events of Dec 7, 1941} rehash.

There is

Quite a stir ~~was created~~ in the Capitol over the announcement from Canada that a Russian spy ^{system} ~~group~~ had obtained secret and confidential documents, ^{probably} relating to the ~~Atom bomb~~.

A headline in one of the ^{Washington} papers proclaimed that a break between Canada and Russia was imminent. One emotional Member of Congress, who frequently professes to see ~~a~~ communistic influence in almost everything that does not suit him,

~~was~~ waving the paper in the ^{Congressional} cloak room and ^{ed} ~~excitedly~~ ^{proclaimed} saying, "Sooner or later, this is to come and if it has got to come, it is better now than later," meaning ^{I tell of this incident because it is not an isolated reaction.} of course, war with Russia. Not infrequently one encounters people who think

that war between the United States and Russia is inevitable, and I think this attitude is most unfortunate, ^{largely} based upon political hate and suspicion.

We dislike spies. We hate
to be spied upon. It might
be well to stop ^{for a moment, though,} and think
a moment about what we
would do if some other
country had discovered the ~~secret~~
most destructive force known
to man and was not only ^{attempting to} keep
~~the~~ it secret but was developing
it with all speed. Let us ^{he} suppose
specific - and suppose that Russia
instead of the U.S. had invented
the atomic bomb, demonstrated its
overwhelming destructiveness, and had
then proclaimed that they would ~~not~~
by all means keep the secret from
~~the U.S.~~ ^{the U.S.} More over, let us suppose that
some Russian statesmen, politicians and
leaders were going ^{about predicting that}
war with the U.S. ^{and boasting that they had a monopoly that}
do you think our military intelligence ^{what}
would be doing. ~~Do~~ Make no
mistake about it, we would be
trying to find out all we could
about it thru secret agents and
otherwise. I am not trying to defend
Russia's action. I ~~can~~ do not condone

it. What I am trying to say is that espionage is to be expected when we and our allies prattle about war, hide our secrets and boast about it.

Suspicion begets suspicion and hate begets hate. Oh, if the people of the world would but trust one another, the greatest barrier to peace would be removed.

Just 3 days ago the ambassador from Iran came to my office and for an hour told me the story of his country.