

WSM, MARCH 16, 1947

~~Good Morning, Friends.~~

The message which President Truman delivered to a joint session of Congress and to the world brought a hushed tenseness such as I have not seen in the Congress since President Roosevelt's dramatic war messages. The doctrine or the foreign policy which he outlined was literally breath-taking in its scope. ~~The President was forced to choose his course of action as between two uninviting alternatives.~~ The course which the President chose and which now the American people and the American Congress must back up or repudiate is a course of ^{affirmative} action and not a course of appeasement.

As I listened to President Truman's message a newspaper ~~picture~~ ^{photograph} of nearly ten years ago came into my mind. It was a ~~photograph~~ ^{picture} showing a former prime minister of Great Britain, Neville Chamberlain, alighting from a plane which had brought him home from Munich where he had appeased Hitler. ^{Umbrella in hand,} He ~~had his umbrella,~~ ^{wore} a benign smile ~~on~~ on his face, and he was quoted as saying, "Peace in our time." Did that appeasement bring peace? It brought a veritable hell on earth. I do not know why this picture came into my mind unless it was the realization that President Truman was not repeating this mistake.

As Thomas Jefferson said of the proposal that led to the formulation of the Monroe Doctrine, the policy enunciated by President Truman, "Sets the compass and points the course which we are to steer through the ocean of time, opening on us." ~~I think this quotation from President~~ Jefferson can be accurately applied to this broadening of this global Monroe

~~Doctrice for freedom from aggression. It, of course, will not be applicable unless the Congress supports the President in the policy, but indications are that Members of the House and Senate as well as people throughout our land ~~xx~~ will support the President not because they are happy about the situation, not at all; but because they feel it is the course most likely to bring peace and security to the United States and to the world. It was a sad day when such a decision was forced upon our country by a sad state of affairs in world relationship.~~

This policy which the President has laid down involves an overhauling of the concept of what constitutes our national security. In our early years as a nation we jealously followed the course of isolationism. From Washington and Jefferson on down to 1823, non-intervention in foreign affairs that did not directly concern the United States was our firm policy. History shows that this policy was based upon the weakness of the new nation for one thing, our physical isolation considering means of transportation of the time, and the new nation's distrust and unrelieved suspicion of international master nations.

In 1823 when the Monroe Doctrine was promulgated, the United States was a nation of ten million Americans. It must have taken great courage on the part of so small a nation to challenge the nations of Europe and the world to assert that this nation would not countenance and would fight against any threat of aggression in the western hemisphere. President Monroe and the people of America at that time felt that the security of the United States would be endangered by aggression any where