

WSM, July 31, 1949
Rep. Albert Gore

Good Morning, Friends:

Your nation's capital is sweltering through a terrific heat wave. Every day for the past week the mercury in ^{the} ~~termometers~~ ^{here} has gone to 95 or above, and the sticky humidity of the air has made it quite insufferable and almost impossible to get a good night's rest. As a result of both the *uncomfortable* weather and the long troublesome session we have had, tempers of ~~Members~~ of both the House and Senate have become touchy and quick.

The House engaged in a nasty debate on ^{an anti-} ~~the~~ ^{bill} poll tax, which it finally passed by a large vote, but which will probably amount to nothing since the House has passed the same bill several times before only to see it die in the Senate.

The Senate is tied up with a knotty log-jam on appropriations and ^A after the large ECA appropriation bill had been debated for two or three days it was recommitted to the Committee and must start the route all over again. Other large appropriation bills which were passed by the House before Easter yet remain to be acted upon by the Senate.

President Truman submitted to Congress his request for funds to provide armaments aids to nations allied with us against the spread of aggression. Almost immediately a controversy broke out and a hard fight

and injustice than it would eliminate.

Representative Percy Priest's sub-committee has reported out a health aid bill that seems entirely meritorious, but the federal aid to education bill appears to have been doomed for this year by ^{an} ~~the~~ unfortunate out-break of ~~o~~ religious controversy. I hope I am free from religious prejudice, and I believe I am free from religisou prejudice if one can hold true to one of the fundamental principles upon which our government was founded, namely, separation of church and state. Without the holding of such political beliefs, is in itself, per se, religious prejudice. I believe strongly in religious freedom, in the inalienable right of every citizen of America to become a member of any church of his choice and worship God according to the dictates of his ^{own} conscience. But I hold that the only sure way to safeguard this inalienable right of religious freedom is to steadfastly maintain the absolute ^{total} separate of church and state. The question at issue is wheter government funds should be used in support of private or parochial schools. I do not think public funds should be used for such purposes.

Now it happens that my little daughter, Nancy, is going to private school this fall. Heretofore she has attended public school. Whether we are living in Tennessee or Washington, D. C., I have the American privilege of sending my daughter to public school free of charge. We have chosen to send her to prive school this ~~year~~ next school year in order to avoid the ~~mid-year~~ interruption of changing from a Tennessee public school ^{at Xmas} to a Washington, D. C., public school. But the taxpayers

of the country are not called upon nor do I think they should be called upon to provide this special privilege. It is a privilege for which I must pay. Likewise, every other citizen, ~~regardless of his religion or circumstance~~ ^{who chooses to send his child to a private school.} The public schools of the country are open to your child and mine whether we are Protestants, Catholics, Jews or without religious faith.

Our public school system is good, in some respects better than many private schools. However, if because ^{We} ~~a~~ ^{parent} ~~child~~ desires ^{our} ~~his~~ children to be ^{attend} ~~educated~~ in a ^{private} ~~religious~~ school ^{whether} ~~or~~ to have special training or ^{to} ~~to~~ receive religious training ^{under our const.} ~~meet unusual circumstances~~, ^{We} ~~this~~ ^{or other private donors} ~~must~~ ^{should and} ~~be paid for by other than public funds.~~ ^{must pay for it} Now that is how I feel about the issue and I genuinely feel that I can hold such a believe without having religious prejudice.

The House Labor Committee reported out an FEPC bill. I doubt if this bill reaches the Floor for consideration this year but if it does, the fight will be bitter and nasty, indeed. As for me, I am unable to see any merit in the FEPC bill. As I see it, it would create more oppression

The Senate Agriculture Committee has started consideration of the farm bill. Secretary Brannan was ~~invited~~ to appear before the Committee behind closed doors. I understand that one of the influential Senators inquired of Secretary Brannan if he would prefer that the Senate Committee undertake to amend the House bill, which is the bill I offered, or the 1948 Act. I understand that Secretary Brannan replied that he preferred his own recommendations known as the Brannan plan. The Senator replied, "I did not ask you that." Whereupon, Secretary Brannan is supposed to have said, "Well, in that case, I would have a feeling of frustration," and retired from the Committee meeting in that attitude. The Senate Committee is proceeding to write its own bill and the final result is likely to be a compromise between ^{the Senate} ~~their~~ bill and my bill.