

October 6, 1940

Good Morning Friends:

^{last} On Wednesday Secretary of State Cordell Hull had his 69th birthday anniversary. Except for the congratulations of associates and friends, Secretary Hull spent the day as usual keeping a discerning eye and a steady hand on transpiring events as the world passes through a drama of staggering dimensions.

^{But} Since the Democratic National Convention at Chicago reports have circulated that the beloved Secretary of State would resign, or, at least, would not serve further after the expiration of ^{two terms} his eight years. The reports grew, but remained unnoticed by him until Friday when he said that he could not withhold his services to the country in such grave times and that he would be available for duty in whatever capacity he was needed.

When the House met on Friday an Illinois Congressman arose and made the point of order that no quorum was present. Obviously no quorum was present. Agreement on several conference reports and other minor legislative business was awaiting action. If he insisted upon his point of order the House would be forced to adjourn for ~~the~~ want of a quorum. The new Majority Leader, Mr. McCormack, hurriedly went to him to plead that the point of order be withdrawn. The Speaker in the meantime was taking plenty of time in counting to ascertain what he undoubtedly knew to be an absence of a quorum. Finally the irate Congressman withdrew his point of order and the House proceeded to virtual completion of its non-controversial work. ~~Of course, no~~ controversial question could be brought up for fear a quorum would be demanded. The question of recessing until after the election is highly controversial. The leadership has wired absent members to return on Monday to finish legislative business ~~of the session~~ and ^{to} vote upon a resolution to recess until after the election.

Incidentally a joke is going the rounds about one member who went home and wired back that if the question of recess or adjournment came up to count him against it.

The Army shattered all peace time and war time recruiting records in September with the enlistment of more than 45,000 volunteers. The largest number of volunteers in any [✓] previous month was 39,589 in May 1917 -- the month following the contry's entry into the World War. These voluntary enlistments lessen the number to be drafted.

The Army General Staff was reported to be engaged in a drastic downward revision of the number of draftees who would be called to the colors under the Selective Service Act by January. Lack of facilities to house the conscripts, to say nothing of the lack of equipment for their training, is forcing a change in plans which will bring a smaller number into immediate training.

At the time the Selective Service Act was passed, officials announced they expected to have 400,000 men mustered into service by January 1. With the registration date less than two weeks away, officials ^{now} ~~readily~~ acknowledge that probably less than 100,000 draftees will be in the Army by New Years. *day.*

Who is there who has not heard the song "Franklin D. Roosevelt Jones"? A young gentleman with that name visited the White House on Friday. His family is as unusual as his name and they were all with him. Young Franklin D. Roosevelt Jones is the 14th boy in a West Virginia family of 15 boys.

Under present law States are forbidden to maintain ^{any} ~~any~~ troops except the National Guard. By terms of an Act passed by both Houses of Congress during the week, and now awaiting Presidential signature, the States are allowed to organize home guard units for the general purposes of a state militia. The Governors of the States were anxious to have authority to organize units as a safe guard against outbreaks and disorders while the National Guard is called out for one year's training.

~~Boston who came up the hard way shining shoes and selling papers, was elected ~~the~~ Floor Leader of the Democratic Majority in the House.~~

Registration of aliens is proceeding in accordance with a bill which recently became law, ~~and~~ ^{and} The Department of Justice announced that approximately 1, ^{600,000} ~~000~~ of the estimated 4,000,000 aliens in this country have been registered. This registration is not for the purpose of military training and service, but is for the purpose of finding out just how many aliens we have in this country, who they are, where they are, and in what activities they are engaged. For a long time, the Legislative and Administrative Branches of the Government would pay little heed to pleas for more rigid control of our alien population, but their eyes were finally opened by the fifth column sabotage which wrought so much havoc in the vanquished European nations. This registration is in line with the Government's policy of increased vigilance. We certainly need to know who these foreigners are, where they are, and what they are doing. Maybe this knowledge will help get rid of such slimy, debased creatures as this alien who kidnaped the child in California. *Thanks to the speed of Cal. justice he is already incarcerated.* According to department records, ~~just received~~, he illegally entered this country in August 1924 after having deserted the German Army. A warrant was *finally* issued for his arrest in January 1925, but, they say, before it could be served he escaped. Yes, he escaped, but he ~~stayed~~ *is still* with us.

To better guard the country's defense industries against sabotage and to otherwise protect the common good, the House passed a bill on Tuesday making the law, ^{for this purpose} enacted during the world war, ~~regarding this subject~~ applicable to our present preparations -- preparations for peace we hope.

~~As a further precaution the house~~ ^{The house} On Thursday readily and enthusiastically provided \$35,000 for continuation of the Dies Committee investigating un-American activities.