

Radio Talk
March 9, 1941

W.S.M.

While the Senate prolonged debate on the Aid-to-Britain Bill, the House passed the annual Agriculture Appropriation Bill. Because of circumstances brought about by the war, the problems of agriculture are particularly acute.

For a round-table discussion of these problems, we are fortunate to have Congressman Wirt Courtney of the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee, Congressman Percy Priest of the Fifth District, and Mr. Joe Frank Porter, President of the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

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Mr. Courtney: You spoke a little while ago about the repeal of the Arms Embargo. But for that repeal of the arms embargo since last October a year ago, the factories in America could not have furnished a single round of ammunition to England even for cash. Do you now think that should have been the policy of this country through the last year or 15 months?

Mr. Lindbergh: I think that without that policy being carried out, sir, France would probably be in existence today. I doubt if this war would have started if Europe had known beforehand and England and France had known beforehand that we would not take part.

Mr. Courtney: As a matter of fact, the war had started when the arms embargo was repealed.

Mr. Lindbergh: I believe they expected the embargo to be repealed.

Mr. Courtney: Do you think, too, that should have been our position at the time the war started, even though you knew of Germany's ample preparation for warfare and England's almost entire lack of preparation?

Mr. Lindbergh: I believe that events will prove both England and France would have been better off if we had taken that position definitely and they had known we would take it.

Mr. Courtney: Although Germany was fully prepared to strike at those countries who were at peace and England was not prepared, do you still think we should have sat idly by and not even sold a single defensive weapon?

Mr. Lindbergh: I think the chances are a fairly good adjustment would have been made in Europe; at least, for instance, it could possibly have prevented the present war.

Mr. Courtney: Is it your idea, as I understand it, that America now should undertake to act as mediator and bring about a peace?

Mr. Lindbergh: I am not sure of how much mediation we should attempt. I believe we should be receptive to a peace and stop encouraging the war.

Mr. Courtney: Have you any idea England would consider such a proposition at this time or that Germany would?

Mr. Lindbergh: I doubt it at the present moment. I think the time will come when an attempt to bring about a peace and an attitude receptive to peace in this country would help both sides in Europe.

Mr. Courtney: Well, now, should such an attitude as that on our part fail of any result, you say the war should not be prolonged. Do you think, then, England should ask for an immediate truce?

Mr. Lindbergh: I believe as I say, that every month that passes leaves England in a worse position to negotiate.

Mr. Courtney: Considering the practical unimpairment of Hitler's military machine at this time, do you think he can be depended upon to observe any terms of a peace negotiated at this time?

Mr. Lindbergh: I believe that is a mistake to depend on promises of any kind.

Mr. Courtney: As a matter of fact, England did undertake to negotiate a peace or a formula for peace at Munich, did she not?

Mr. Lindbergh: You might say that was an attempted negotiation, I believe.

Mr. Courtney: Did Hitler have any regard whatever for the terms of the pact which he entered into at that time?

Mr. Lindbergh: Apparently not.

Mr. Courtney: And would we have any assurance he would have any more regard for the terms of any agreement entered into at this time?

Mr. Lindbergh: The last thing I would do in the world is to advocate a peace based on promises or a treaty based on promises. I have advocated that we should not enter a ^{war}~~way~~ which I felt would be unsuccessful and I advocate a peace based on realities and not promises.

Mr. Courtney: You said this morning you were entirely neutral in this war and that as of today you are not taking sides either with Germany or England.

Mr. Lindbergh: Right.

Mr. Courtney: You say you are neutral now. Were you neutral after the pact at Munich was broken and Hitler took over Czechoslovakia?

Mr. Lindbergh: My stand has consistently been one of neutrality. I believe this country should maintain neutrality. That is what I feel personally.

Mr. Courtney: And after he disregarded the pact at Munich, and attacked Poland?

Mr. Lindbergh: I do not support that policy, but ask what the alternative is.

Mr. Courtney: I do not want to be at all personal, but I am just interested in this: If all efforts at peace fail and this war is fought to an absolute finish, which side do you want to win this war - England or Germany?

Mr. Lindbergh: I want ^{neither} side to win this war. I think it would be disastrous for Europe if either side won. I take no side. I think it will be a disaster if either side should win the war completely, ~~if it is carried to a conclusion.~~

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Mr. Courtney: With all respect for the Colonel and for his opinion, do you not believe that our Secretary of State, who has had his finger on the pulse of the international situation for eight years, would be possibly in a better position to determine what our foreign policy should be and what legislation should be enacted in support of it than citizens who have not had access to confidential reports to which he has had access?

Mr. Lindbergh: I have the utmost respect, sir, for our Secretary of State.

Thank you. ~~ess~~