

Radio Talk  
March 23, 1941

*Good Morning friends:  
of last week*

On Wednesday, according to schedule, the House passed the seven billion dollar appropriation bill <sup>for aid to Britain</sup> by a vote which disclosed a surprising degree of unanimity.

[The vote for final passage of the bill which was 336 to 55 shows more unanimous support <sup>for the program</sup> than really exists. Throughout a whole day over controversial amendments, the minority party voted almost in a block for every restrictive or reducing amendment.] A good many members who voted for passage of the appropriation bill said frankly that they did so because they believed in ~~the~~ majority rule and that since the passage of the Lend-Lease Bill by Congress, through orderly democratic processes, <sup>established</sup> a National policy of aid to Great Britain ~~had been fixed and~~ that, although they disagreed with the advisability of the policy, nevertheless, they reconciled themselves to the majority will and would now vote to give full force and effect to that policy.

One could not but admire the bigness and true Americanism of this attitude.

~~A few die-hards continued to be obstinate.~~ The Senate appropriations committee has already reported the bill to the Senate, and it will very likely pass that body early this week. As if to show the country and the countries of the world that this Nation was in dead earnest and meant business, the House <sup>on Friday</sup> passed an appropriation of four billion dollars for the Army and Navy <sup>unanimously.</sup> ~~without~~ <sup>unity.</sup> ~~a single dissenting vote.~~ Now that is real ~~unanimity.~~ <sup>unity.</sup> ~~What was the difference~~ in the seven billion dollar bill and in the four billion dollar bill? The

four billion dollar bill was for ~~our ships, planes, guns, and navy~~ the defense of the United States proper. <sup>for ships, planes, guns for our own forces.</sup> It is heartening to know that when <sup>it is agreed that</sup> ~~there is no question~~

*only the defense of the United States is involved*  
~~involved other than the defense of the United States, even in a restricted~~  
~~agreed to be so~~

~~sense, that the bill passes~~ <sup>vote is</sup> unanimously. Many people believe that to help Great Britain survive is just as much <sup>to our</sup> defense as the placing of a coastal gun at the entrance of the New York Harbor, but the isolationists do not accept this viewpoint.) ~~Seven billion plus four billion! A total of eleven billion dollars appropriated by the House within one week.~~

Will <sup>this money</sup> ~~it~~ be spent wisely and effectively? We know there is abundant evidence already of waste and exorbitance. Will we again <sup>as in the world war,</sup> buy a branding iron for each horse?

The program is so stupenduous, so complex that the speed with which the American people and their leaders demand that it be executed defeats all efforts for economy. ~~What does this mean? It means that~~ There will be some day <sup>he</sup> a reckoning and in that day an outraged America will condemn and lash with the whip of public opinion those who in its hour of emergency extorted a pound of flesh.

( The seven billion dollars bill plus the four billion dollar bill makes a total of eleven billion dollars in appropriations passed by the House during the week. ~~That is~~ an enormous sum. This one week's appropriation amounts to a good deal more than the total tax revenue for an entire year. As soon as the urgent appropriations are acted upon, the Congress should turn its attention to a tax bill. It is a good deal easier to spend than to tax, but this Government belongs to the people, and the people know that we should make an effort to pay at least a major portion of the expense of our defense program. When will it be more easy for the people to pay taxes than now when, even



though it may not have reached the rural sections of the country, ~~nevertheless~~ we are in an unprecedented era of business activity and expansion. This fiscal year will see the nation's income reach an all-time high. Perhaps, the people have never been more willing to pay additional taxes than now when they know that their ~~peace~~ and security and liberty are threatened. What financial sacrifice would our generation ~~be making~~ <sup>make</sup> if we do all of our spending upon the credit of our children? It might be well to remind ourselves that when we began preparing during the first World War, we owed less than two billion dollars. We are beginning this preparation owing approximately forty-five billion. At the beginning of the World War, the ordinary current operating expense of the Government was around two billion dollars. <sup>now it is ~~over~~ 8 Billion.</sup> We are <sup>weekly</sup> ~~now~~ adding ~~every~~ week billions and billions for preparedness. We can not know where we are going, but we do know we are going somewhere. We know we are moving out from where we are and where we have been into a situation that nobody seems to know where the end is to be. We ought to know that the continued drawing upon the Nation's credit is a danger within itself. It is imperative that the people become conscious of this fact and thereby give to the Congress and the Government the solidifying influence of the common realization of our danger. There is no solidifying influence comparable to the realization of a common danger. Extravagance is in the atmosphere. It is reflected in the prices being charged, the profits being made, and the rackets being practiced in our preparedness program. The

danger from without is great, but in viewing that danger and in preparing to defend ourselves against that danger, we must not overlook our internal dangers.

One of the greatest contributions we could make to self-government by free men is to prove that we, ourselves, are capable of efficient self-government. To do that, we must prove to the world that we are worthy to govern ourselves. It is difficult for a democracy to survive when everybody is trying to gouge the Government and when people and communities throughout the United States look upon the Government ~~Treasury~~ as a sort of an abstraction in which they have no great interest other than to obtain some subsidy or expenditure or otherwise to tap its <sup>Treasury</sup> valve. It's high time that the American people, all of us, each of us, instead of centering upon profiteering and selfish gain begin to think of making some sacrifice for the defense of our country. X

There's an old American custom of having a board. We can always have a board. The President appointed the much discussed mediation board and charged it with the responsibility of mediating ~~the~~ strikes and labor disputes. It's offices can only be utilized, however, under the terms of executive order, when and after Madam Perkins certifies that her Department has failed to settle the dispute and refers it to the Mediation Board. Thereupon, the Board is to ask the disagreeing parties to cooperate with them in an effort at conciliation. A sympathetic understanding of the problems involved and the power of public opinion is the only force or weapon available to the Board. Its powers are moral rather than legal.



This Board has no power which the conciliation service of the Labor Department does not now have other than that the Board is now composed of eleven men of national prestige.

A similar board during the first World War was headed by former President William Howard Taft. That Board, the records show, was reasonably successful in its efforts to maintain labor peace. Every loyal American hopes that this board will be ~~very~~ <sup>✓</sup> eminently successful.)

It is certainly high time that this government took steps to insure ~~an~~ <sup>reasonably</sup> uninterrupted production. The President said only a week ago that production "must not be obstructed by unnecessary strikes." Yet within 24 hours after he issued this warning, strikers at Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, refused to even permit the loading and removal of two carloads of already finished materials, which were, according to the National Defense Commission, of "the utmost importance" to the National Defense.

The Government has recently completed a huge powder plant in Radford, Virginia. Yet it can not go into full production without machines which have now been held up for nearly two months by a strike at the Alise-Chalmers Plant in Milwaukee. No one denies that only a small per cent of our workers are on strike. The heart is only a small portion of the body, but if the heart stops working, the whole body is paralyzed. Powder can not be made in the new powder plants without machinery. Ammunition can not be made without powder. Guns are useless without ammunition, and unless we have both guns and ammunitions, tanks, planes, and ships are powerless to defend the country.

The record shows that in January something over two thousand men were on strike. In February this number had risen to something over twenty thousand. In the first fifteen days of March, the number had risen to something over thirty thousand. Yes, we all hope and pray that the President's Board will be successful.

Chairman Summers of the House Judiciary Committee which has been studying legislation to prevent strikes in National Defense Industries says that the appointment of the Board does not change the strike picture and that his committee will not be deterred from going forward with its consideration. The fact that the President has appointed this Board may serve notice upon the inter-union labor politicians and some of their short-sighted leaders that unless consideration is given to the National welfare, the President may then be willing to take more drastic steps. This may have the desired effect and especially so in view of the impatience of Congress and the people <sup>with</sup> ~~toward~~ unnecessary stoppages of work in our preparedness effort. ~~About three weeks ago, an amendment designed to prevent the charging of fees for the privilege of working on National Defense Projects was offered to a bill. It only received eleven votes. This amendment in a little changed form was offered again on Friday, and it received 70 votes.~~ The real friends of organized labor ~~within the~~ within the Administration are worried. They know that the present Administration has done more to promote organization of labor than all other administrations combined. They feel that continued lack of appreciation for the National welfare exemplified by unjustified ~~stoppages~~ <sup>stoppages</sup> of work may so inflame public opinion that labor will lose some of the privileges



which it has gained. The leaders of organized labor should know that they can not challenge the sovereignty of the people and the power of the people <sup>through</sup> ~~and~~ their Government to prepare to defend <sup>themselves</sup> ~~itself~~. It is the genuine hope that this movement by the President will cause the strikes <sup>as</sup> in the National Defense Industries to see the error of their way before an outraged people <sup>visit upon them</sup> ~~bring upon them~~ measures *the product of this indignation.*  
~~of indignation.~~

France dilly-dallied about within internal fussing and fuming for months and months. When the Maginot line was broken, they really went to work and the country's production leaped ~~into~~ unprecedented heights for two weeks, but it was too late then. They were already licked.

Several years ago, President Roosevelt said that this generation had a "rendezvous with destiny." It now seems to have arrived at that rendezvous and has come to grips with <sup>its</sup> destiny. We owe a tremendous responsibility. <sup>This responsibility</sup>  
has never been expressed more correctly or eloquently than by Secretary Hull when he spoke at Harvard University on June 20, 1940. He said:

"A responsibility seldom equaled in gravity and danger rests upon each and every one of us.

"Were we to fail in that responsibility, we would fail ourselves; we would fail the generations that went before us; we would fail the generations that are to come after us; we would fail mankind; we would fail God."