

Radio Talk, July 20, 1941

Good Morning, Friends:

~~The principal news of the Capitol for the last week has been made on~~
~~the side of the Senate.~~ Whenever the administration faces a hard battle on
some proposal, they undertake to ^{first} pass it in the ^{particular} House of Congress which is
most favorable to the proposal. The reason for this is obvious. Passage of
a proposal by one House ~~would~~ ^{has} naturally ~~have~~ a favorable influence on the other,
~~House.~~ ~~Thus,~~ After a long conference at the White House, it was decided to
begin hearings before the Senate Military Affairs Committee on the proposal
to retain the selectees, National guardsmen, and reserve officers beyond the
twelve-month period of service which is the limit of their required peacetime
service under present law.

General Marshall, ^{Army} Chief of Staff, appeared before the Senate Committee and
made a strong statement in support of his recommendation. General Marshall
said that to refuse to extend the service of the men now training in the army
"might well involve a National tragedy." He fears disintegration of the army
unless Congress acts favorably upon his request and recommendation. The
selectees and the guardsmen compose approximately two-thirds of our army;
and at least three-fourths of our army officers have been drawn from ^{the guard} the Reserve
Officers Corps. "If they are to be returned to civilian life after one year
of service," General Marshall says, "they will not be ready for modern combat;
and yet it would be at least another year before new selectees could reach the
stage of training which the present army now has."

One strong advocate of the proposal to keep the men for an indefinite
period said: "We would have one group of partly trained men in a demobilized

state and another partly trained group in camp, but nowhere would there be an army ready to defend the country."

Congressman Jim Wadsworth of New York, an eminent military authority, said that the question confronting the Congress was whether or not "to demobilize an army which is just beginning to get good."

We now have an army of approximately a million and one-half men. There are 91,500 officers of which only 14,700 are regular army officers, the remaining 76,000 officers come from the National Guard or the Reserve. There are approximately 500,000 regular enlisted men. Approximately 600,000 men have been called to the service for one year's training under the selective service act. 266,000 were called to service from the National Guard. >General Marshall says that the regular troops, and the National Guard and the selectees have been co-mingled into army units; He ~~says~~ that it would destroy the army as an effective defense weapon if ^{2/3} ~~three-fourths~~ of his men were now mustered out and their ranks filled with new recruits.

Even with all of these arguments by the Chief of Staff and by the President, there is much opposition to the proposal ~~of~~ in both the Senate and the House. The opponents of the proposal say that the Government had a contract with the young men to keep them for only one year, or at least that the young men went into the service with the understanding that they would only train and serve for one year unless war should come. The advocates of the proposal counter by saying that no such contract was in the law or could have been implied from the law. Perhaps it would be well at this point to read that section of the law:

(b) Each man inducted ~~under the provisions of subsection (a)~~ shall serve for a training and service period of twelve consecutive months, unless sooner discharged, except that whenever the Congress has declared that the national interest is imperiled, such twelve-month period may be extended by the President to such time as may be necessary in the interests of national defense.

"Is the national interest imperiled?" That is the question.

The opponents say further that it is absolutely unjust to these ^{unfair} particular young men to keep them in the army indefinitely. The proponents answer by saying that there is nothing just ^{or fair} about war. The opponents come back and say that we are not in the war. The proponents ^{then will} say we are liable to get into it unless we get prepared ^{to defend ourselves} - And so the argument goes.

There has been a weakening of the opposition as a result of the strong arguments of President Roosevelt, ~~and~~ General Marshall, and others, and also because of the grave responsibility of taking a negative position. The opposition, however, is still strong and several compromises and concessions may have to be made before it can pass. *President Roosevelt will send a special message to Congress within the next few days urging quick congressional approval of Gen Marshall's recommendations.*

There has been a tendency in recent years to minimize the influence and importance of Congress in our scheme of government. This week's developments plainly shows the power vested in the legislative body. The power to raise ⁺ support an army is vested in Congress. True, the President is Commander-in-Chief of the Army, but unless he has an army to command, of what force and effect ^{is} ~~would~~ ~~be~~ the office of Commander-in-Chief? Congress has been overshadowed by the Executive Branch of the Government. In fact, Congress has ^{in some cases} ~~almost~~ been servile to the wishes of the Executive Branch, ~~in many instances~~. Yet, at any time Congress is willing or has the fortitude to stand up against the power, the ^{patronage +} expenditures, the prestige, the ~~patronage~~ of the Executive Branch, it can assume and exercise its proper place as a coordinate branch of our Government. ~~A~~

At the White House Conference ^{during} ~~at~~ which it was decided to ask for authority to keep the trainees for longer than a year, it was ^{also} decided not to ask Congress ^{at this time} to lift the ban which limits the service of the selectees to the Western Hemisphere. It was decided not to ask for this because Congressional leaders advised that Congress would not ^{now} repeal that provision of the law. The Legislative, the Judicial, and the Executive Branches should be independent, but if the ends of good government are to be attained, they must also cooperate.

It will be recalled that something over a month ago, the Administration asked Congress to pass the property seizure bill which would ^{have} confer ^{and} upon the President authority to take any property, anywhere, any time, temporarily or permanently. Congress very quickly rebelled ^{against this} and the bill was pigeon-holed in both House and Senate Committees. A compromise bill was worked out during the ^{last} week which seems to be satisfactory to Congress and to the White House. *It was favorably reported by the Senate committee* ~~It~~ is to be called up in the Senate tomorrow and will likely pass without a great deal of controversy. ^{This just} ~~It~~ goes to show that in a democracy, ~~much~~ legislation is the result of deliberation and ~~eventually~~ compromises in order to arrive at a composite viewpoint. ^{It also shows that cooperation gets results.} > This compromise version of the property seizure bill was presented to the Senate Committee by Kentucky's Senator, Happy Chandler, who seems to be winning his spurs right along. Several young men are coming up as National figures in the Senate. In recent months, the Senate has lost some Senator of its stalwarts -/J. Ham Lewis, Senator Morris Shephard, Senator Borah, and Senator Pat H. Harrison have passed away. Senator Byrns of South Carolina has been promoted to the Supreme Court. Some of those younger Senators now

forging to the front to fill the places left vacant by the stalwarts are Senators Chandler of Kentucky, ~~Senator~~ Hill of Alabama, ~~Senator~~ Lucas of Illinois, ~~Senator~~ Brown of Michigan, and others.

Without one voice being raised in opposition, the House passed a bill authorizing another \$585,000,000 for naval expansion which was desired by the Administration. Democracy can work very speedily when there is agreement.

~~When there is disagreement, Debate and delay ensue.~~ *When there is disagreement, exposed to the Atlantic & Pacific, there is no disagreement about our need of a navy second to none.*

It was disclosed by General Marshall that we are acquiring air bases in Brazil. This fact has been known by many members of Congress for a long time. German and Italian capital own a large proportion of the commercial airlines in South America. We have ~~become~~ *been* quite apprehensive over this, and several weeks ago, the Congress quietly passed legislation which authorized use of funds by the R.F.B. either to purchase these South American airlines with their air fields, or to negotiate with the South American Republics to set up competing air lines. ~~Obviously,~~ Because of local South American political difficulties, it would be difficult to establish military air bases in those countries. If we ~~could~~ *can* succeed in building air fields at the places where they would be needed for military purposes in case of an emergency, in the course of operating and building up Pan American commercial air line business, even though it were highly subsidized by us, our principal purpose of building American air bases for use in emergency hemispheric defense will have been accomplished. In fact, we have had men in South America for weeks and months now negotiating with those governments for that purpose. This was more or less secret information, but

General Marshall thought it advisable to discuss it before the Committee at this time. This country is ^{finally} awake in some respects, at least. > This nation is

now the most powerful of the world. ^{yet,} There is a reluctance among our people

to accept the responsibilities of world leadership. ^{Many still} ~~We really~~ desire to

mind our own business and let everybody else do the same. ^{that sounds good but} ~~We can not, however,~~

assume the leadership of the world which is within the grasp and the destiny

of this nation with such an attitude. ^{The American people must recognize our situation, for what it is. We are sending aid to Europe, Asia & Africa. Alaska & Greenland} ~~We are now protecting Iceland,~~ at the

very threshold of the Arctic Ocean. We are ~~now~~ protecting the Philippines,

Guam, and Hawaii in the ~~far~~ far away Pacific. ^{The Philippines, The British & Dutch} ~~We are sending supplies to~~

^{possessions in the Orient} ~~Europe, Asia, and Africa.~~ ^c We are pledged to defend and safeguard the entire

^{about from the North to the South pole. The sun never sets on our outposts.} ~~Western Hemisphere.~~ We must either retract and unshoulder these obligations

or ~~determine to~~ accept the responsibilities which necessarily go with the

privilege of leadership.

ALBERT GORE
4TH DIST. TENNESSEE

HOME ADDRESS:
CARTHAGE, TENN.

COMMITTEE:
BANKING AND CURRENCY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

July 22, 1941

Copy to Mr. Courtney

Station W. S. M.
Nashville, Tennessee

Gentlemen:

Congressman Wirt Courtney has consented to deliver the commentary Sunday morning, July 27.

You know, of course, that Congressman Courtney is one of the distinguished and well-informed members of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I am sure he will give an interesting interpretation of the week's news in the Capitol and especially so since his knowledge of foreign affairs can serve as such a splendid background.

I am not participating in the program at all and no mention will be made of me. Congressman Courtney will use the full quarter hour. I am telling you this so you can arrange your introductory remarks accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Gore, M. C.

AG:WC

WSM July