

Good morning, Friends.

The Creator endowed man with the immortality of intelligence. By the logical use of his reasoning power, man can discern truth. He can keep records of the past and by measuring and studying the story of humanity, <sup>the past</sup> he can speculate on the future. God gave us the power to know the past, but fortunately in many respects, he did not give to man the ability to unfold the future and ascertain the prospect of his handiwork.

President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull recommended the enactment of the Neutrality Act. Congress acted favorably upon their recommendation. During the past week both the President and the Secretary of State recommended its repeal. This will precipitate a bitter fight in Congress, especially in the Senate where the unlimited rules of debate will permit the Isolationist Senators, Wheeler, Taft, Nye, Clark, Tobey, and others, to go their full length in verbal opposition. The issues around which Congressional debate will hinge are plainly disclosed in the facts related <sup>to</sup> to the sinking of the Steam Ship Pink Star, which President Roosevelt cited as pointing the necessity for this legislative action.

The Pink Star was an American owned vessel, but she was sailing the seas under the flag of the Republic of Panama. The Neutrality Act forbids an American ship flying <sup>the</sup> ~~an~~ American flag to go into belligerent waters which have been <sup>prescribed</sup> ~~prespected~~ by the President. American citizens are also forbidden to travel upon a ship in these belligerent waters. Therefore, in order to do business, the owners of the Pink Star transferred the ship from American Registration <sup>and</sup> ~~to~~ to Panamanian registration <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ set sail with goods for Great Britian under the Panamanian flag. No American citizen was on the ship when it was sunk.

The Isolationists contend that the Pink Star sinking offers a perfect illustration of the effective working of the Neutrality Act to the end for which it was designed, that is to keep the United States out of a shooting war. Those who advocate the repeal



of this provision of the law say that the free nations of the world are engaged in a combat against the most outrageous movement of all time and that the United States has adopted a policy of active defense against this spreading menace, coupled with a declared policy of supplying material aid to every nation fighting against this terrible wave of tyranny and enslavement. The Congressional advocates of repeal say the Neutrality Act is at cross purposes with the declared intent and purposes of the aid to Britian policy and in fact the aid to all democracies resisting aggression, a policy which is so succintly and materially launched by the Lend Lease Act.

A message from President Roosevelt asking for repeal or modification is expected within the next few days. There are some provisions of the Act which the administration may desire to keep and, therefore, the message may ask for repeal of certain provisions or it may ask for the repeal of the entire Act, ~~and re-enactment of certain acceptable provisions.~~ No doubt the President will ask for repeal of the provision which forbids the arming of American Merchant ships. Perhaps he will point out that ~~mandates of the Lend Lease Act effectively~~ it is no longer possible to carry out the mandates of the Lend Lease Act effectively while hampered with the limitations of the Neutrality Act.

Of course, it would be a far-fetched conception of impartiality to say that the people of this country have ever been neutral in the conflict which Hitler has unlosed upon the world. Certainly the American people are not neutral now and the people's Representatives will <sup>undoubtedly</sup> also reflect the people's sentiment.

After the Congress receives the President's message, administration bills will be introduced, Committee hearings will begin and the fight will start. ~~Indeed~~ <sup>A</sup> resolution calling for the repeal of the Act has already been introduced in the Senate by Tennessee's Senior Senator Kenneth D. McKellar.

While a bitter fight on this issue is in the offing a Congressional fight on price control is intensifying by the hour. Secretary Morgenthau appeared before the United States Banking and Currency Committee and recommended the enactment of the administration pending price control bill. <sup>Sec. Morg.</sup> The Bill, if enacted would confer upon President Roosevelt the authority to ~~fix~~ <sup>and then it would be unlawful for that com. to be sold above the ceiling price!</sup> a ceiling or ceilings upon any commodities which he chooses. It would prohibit the fixing of any ceiling or limitation on salaries or wages.

The farmer farrows his pigs, feeds them the corn which grows from the soil as a result of his labor and when the hogs are fat and carried to market, the price which he receives is the wage of his work Just as ~~surely~~ surely as the salary check of a Congressman is his wage.

Several members of Congress are <sup>insisting</sup> ~~asking~~ that Thomas Jefferson's yard stick of equal treatment to all and special privilege to none be applied. Of course, people who draw salaries and wages and who anticipate raises do not want ~~any~~ limit placed upon them, neither does the farmer who has had little chance to make any money for the last twenty years want a ceiling placed over the price of <sup>his</sup> ~~their~~ products, when for the first time in twenty years he has the prospect of selling his products for a good price, thus receiving a decent wage. If the danger of inflation is sufficiently grave and serious to place a ceiling over the wage of one group, it is then serious enough to face all groups alike ~~equally~~ and treat all citizens fairly.

Everybody knows that deflation follows inflation and everybody knows that the road down is a little harder, a little longer, and lot more painful than the intoxicating ride up. We all know that in times of run-away prices and inflated values, people incur debts which they can not hope to pay even in normal times and with much less prospect when they are caught by the inevitable crash.



All of us who are of age lived through the bankruptcy, the financial ruin, the heartaches, and desperation of the last depression. Indeed, there are many sections of the country which has not yet recovered from this catastrophe. The danger of inflation is impending and if it is to be averted the Government must move boldly and effectively. To be effective, It must apply to all groups alike and to say that no group shall bear its proportionate share of the economic burden of defense is wholly undefensable.

Congress and the President have the duty to act and act effectively and fairly. No Bill short of these standards is worthy of consideration. As priorities daily go into more effective operation, more dislocation of our economy is wrought--more small plants throughout the country are being denied materials and thus they are having to close.

This has increased pressure in the capitol for the spreading of defense contracts and further sub-contracts to relieve this hardship. All over the country there are hundreds of small and medium non-defense plants which may have to close, because they can not get raw materials which would deplete the supplies so badly needed by the Army and Navy and by the manufacturers who are making planes, tanks, guns, ships, and ammunition.

In these plants are hundreds of thousands of workmen, experienced, good citizens, anxious to serve the cause of Democracy and their country. The answer is of course to place defense orders in these plants, but it is now as easy as it sounds. The little fellows are certainly having a tough time, arranging to submit bids.. Their plants can't afford the technical staffs necessary to even though how to produce such complicated items as are now required for modern war fare. The Government sees the problem and is trying to get at it, ~~while awarding contracts to the big plants for ships, long range bombers, and so forth.~~

The President and the OPM through the newly appointed set-up for this purpose have been working out a plan for further spreading of defense work among the non-defense plants. This is certainly vitally needed.

More thought should have been given to this problem from the beginning. Members of the House and the Senate clamored for it, but they received only scant attention, as evidenced ~~in~~ by the few sub-contracts crumbs which have fallen from the table of big Industry, until pressure from unemployed people and dislocated communities began to be felt in Washington.

President Roosevelt has appointed one of the nation's top executives to cope with the problem. Let us hope he will be successful, let us hope that every productive unit in the United States will be utilized, because at the best we can do, ~~because when we exert our full might,~~ it isn't going to be too much to vouch safe this land of Freedom.