

Good Morning, Friends:

A quiet tension gripped Washington officialdom throughout the week. This tension was born of the knowledge that American forces were engaging the enemy in mortal battle at widely separated points in the Pacific and that thousands of American boys were being convoyed across both the Pacific and the Atlantic. Though we know that these troop-carrying ships are being escorted and guarded with mighty naval units, we can not help but be anxious when we know that enemy submarines lurk beneath the surface and that their bombers soar the sky, loaded with deadly missiles. This war is the greatest task that our navy has ever had. Indeed, it is the greatest task America has ever had.

So many problems are pressing that it would be difficult to select any one as the most pressing ~~problem~~. But if one were looking for the most pressing one, he would perhaps take that of transportation. To transport only one fully mechanized division, ¹⁴⁰ trains would be necessary - not 140 cars - 140 long and completely loaded trains. Let us suppose that this fully mechanized division was moving from one of our Eastern cantonments to Australia. These 140 train loads of equipment and men would ^{then} have to be loaded on to ships. But more than just the 140 train loads of men and equipment would be necessary. Supplies in vast quantities must go along with them. Not only supplies of food and clothing, but medical supplies, doctors, and nurses. Then, there is the question of gasoline to operate this mechanized unit when it reaches Australia. A modern mechanized force consumes staggering amounts of gasoline per hour when in action. ^{is not an oil producer} Australia has been receiving her oil from the Dutch and British East Indies.

This supply is now under Japanese control. All the oil going to Australia now must go from this hemisphere except that which can be brought from the Asia Minor fields. But to go further with this mechanized division, When it is loaded on ships, plus many additional ships of supplies and naval vessels to guard it, it must sail 8,000 miles through dangerous waters before it reaches Australia. The convoy can travel only as fast as the slowest ship. It must take long routes to avoid enemy attacks and it will take nearly two months for the convoy to reach Australia. The unloading facilities there are none too good, and this will require considerable time. When unloaded, these ships must return by sailing again 8,000 weary miles.

Another time-consuming difficulty arises in connection with airplane shipment. When planes are shipped by boat, they must be dismounted and crated. When they arrive at their destination, they must be uncrated and reassembled. At many of the destinations, there is not the trained labor or machinery for reassembly of the planes. Therefore, it becomes necessary, in many cases, to send trained labor with a shipload of planes.

These few details of our tremendous shipping problem ~~will~~ are given to illustrate the magnitude of the task. Many people write in to Washington inquiring why it is that we have not put enough men and equipment in Java to check the enemy tide. Perhaps they fail to appreciate the enormity of the task. It can not be done over night.

Vichy France surrendered Indo-China to Japan and Japan had a year and a half,

with peaceful water through which to sail, to concentrate her forces in Malaya.

For her attack upon the Philippines, Japan concentrated her forces on Formosa, which is only an over-night run from the Philippines. *Compare this with the distance and hazard of our transport problems.* Large numbers of our troops have now reached points in the Pacific and also across the Atlantic. No figures can be given, but it can safely be said that the number could be written with no less than 6 figures. The knowledge that our men were on the high seas and in particular areas wherein contact with the enemy was imminent, the knowledge that our planes were engaging the enemy in the air over Java, the knowledge that our naval task forces with their carrier based planes were on the prowl and maneuvering for attack could not but create high tension, a nervous anxiety.

The sentiment to cut to a minimum all governmental expenditures, save those necessary for the war, is gaining ^{some} headway in Washington. The House spent a week battling over an agriculture appropriation bill. One young member from Oklahoma, Representative Mike Monroney, made a determined fight to cut down on the travel expense account of ~~the~~ Department of Agriculture employees. He pointed out to the House that the bill contained a total of 16 million dollars for travel, and almost every time a new page was reached in consideration of the bill, he offered an amendment to reduce the amounts allowed for this purpose. The Farm Security Administration was under fire. Substantial reductions were made by the House in the bill. These will very likely be restored by the Senate. The Senate was in recess most of the week, though they have not yet ever considered the Smith Anti-Strike bill. This bill, which represented an effort to write a definite labor policy for the war period, was passed by the House by a 2 to 1 vote last fall, but the

Senate has shown no inclination to even consider it.

The provision forbidding the Department of Agriculture from releasing its huge stocks of agricultural commodities at less than parity was a point of considerable controversy in the agriculture bill. There is no question but that the Department can break and beat down the market by dumping these huge surpluses on the market. And this is exactly what the Department has been doing. The farmers have been promised parity prices for many years. We have been appropriating huge sums of money to make parity payments to farmers. And, indeed, the appropriation bill which has been in controversy for a week carries provisions for parity payments to farmers. The farmer has said that he would prefer to sell his products at a parity price rather than accept payments from the Treasury of the United States. ~~in order that he might have parity.~~ Many people have tried to picture the farmer,

the farm Representatives in Congress, and the farmers' organizations as being hoggish because they want parity prices. *It is no mere plea of the farmer. He has asked for equality of treatment for years, and it has been promised to him for years.* It certainly seems strange for the

Department of Agriculture, which is supposed to be working in the interest of agriculture, to take the position that it is better to appropriate taxpayers money in order to make parity payments to the farmer in order ~~to make~~ that the farmer may get parity when, in fact, the farmer could now get parity prices if they would just let him along. Agriculture prices should not be allowed to go too high. This would not be in the interest of the farmer or the country. ~~And~~ There should be a ceiling on the price of agriculture commodities, but in fairness and in justice to the farmer, who incidentally works harder and longer than anybody, if a ceiling is to be placed upon him, it should be placed ^{also upon} upon wages, salaries, commissions and

profits, rents, etc. There are two sides to every question. No matter how thick or how thin you saw a board, it has two sides.

Leon Henderson, a member of the War Production Board, who has charge of allocation and rationing, dramatized the shortage of rubber by appearing before a Senate Investigating Committee and stating that most of our 30 million automobiles would have to do without tires when their present ones are worn out. ^{This} ~~It~~ will certainly bring about a change in American life. We have become so accustomed to going swiftly from here to there while comfortably sitting down, that it is going to be painful to either stay at home or travel less conveniently. The American standard of living is being reduced, and it will be reduced much more. We must go without not only things made of rubber, but we must conserve all necessary materials to prosecute this war. Until the forces of aggression and enslavement are crushed, our standard of living will be continually lowered. If Germany and Japan are ~~not~~ not crushed, we will have to continue for years and years to spend the bulk of our income, not upon roads and highways and school houses and churches and community upbuilding; not upon education, ^{enlightenment}; not upon radios, ~~and~~ refrigerators, comforts and conveniences to make life more abundant and enjoyable for mankind, but upon military production. As long as Germany and Japan stay on the prowl, As long as they are a threat to the independence, the freedom, and the very existence of our ^{people} ~~nation~~, we must spend our might upon war production. There are some people who would have us withdraw our forces to our own shores and dare the enemy to attack us. We could repel the attack. But ^{think} ~~look~~ what this would mean. It would not mean the end of war. It would not mean the end of scarcities. It would not mean

that our young men could quit serving in the army. Not at all. It would mean that we would be permanently saddled with the burden of war and fear of attack and that we would permanently devote ^{the bulk of} our substance and our national life to military ends. In an effort to cause our people to demand that our forces be concentrated here at home, the enemy will ~~strike~~ ~~continue to sink our~~ continue to send their submarines to our coastline and perhaps ^{some of} our cities will soon have air raids.

The people of Washington would not be greatly surprised to have a bombing raid most any time. It may not come, and then it may. In preparation for this, Washington had a blackout during the week. It was only a trial blackout, of course, but it was a successful try-out. One could scarcely see a light in a city of a million people for an entire night. When the siren moaned its doleful wail at about 8 o'clock, a brightly illuminated city suddenly turned into darkness. This continued until 6 o'clock the next morning. Families either turned out their lights completely or gathered together into rooms, the windows of which had been completely darkened. Although it was only a try-out, the fearful wail of the air raid siren sounded a note of realism. Although we had told our little girl that it was a play game, it was quite too real for her and she tuned up ^{to} ~~and~~ ~~cry~~ and said: "Daddy, are the Japs really going to get us?"

^{Darling}
No, ~~folks~~, the Japs are not really going to get America. Nor are the Huns.

America is free and brave and strong, and though the enemy stabbed us in the back

while talking peace, we are not down and we are not out. ^{America's manhood,} ~~We will fight and fight~~
~~and fight until the enemy is crushed. No, neither the Huns nor the Japs will really~~
~~cautious + determined, will never let the~~
~~get us~~
~~japs~~ really get their little girls &
boys.