

RADIO SPEECH, W.S.M.
April 11, 1942

Letter to

Good Morning, Friends:

The nation and the nation's Capitol mourn the loss of our gallant band on Bataan. In tribute to the valor and courage of those Americans and Philipinos, we must, in humility, recognize that some defeats are more triumphant than victories. A passage from Milton's PARADISE LOST comes to mind:

What though the field be lost?
All is not lost; the unconquerable will,
And study of revenge, immortal hate,
And courage never to submit or yield,
And what is else not to be overcome;
That glory never shall his wrath or might
Extort from me. To bow and sue for grace
With suppliant knee, and deify his power,
Who from the terror of this arm so late
Doubted his empire; that were low indeed!

We can take pride that in this hour of travail our soldiers, though hopelessly outnumbered, hungry, and without hope of victory, fought with a valor which has placed about them a halo of glory which will last through the ages,

as ~~have~~ ^{has} Bunker Hill and the Alamo. Nothing so inspires a nation as such exemplary courage and sacrifice. *Let us - each of us - translate this inspiration into action. Let us make sure their sacrifice was not in vain.*

Members of Congress from the East, West, North, and South are returning to the Capitol today, weary from travel but refreshed and restrengthened by a fresh contact with the sovereign people whom they represent. Representative government partakes of two qualities: that of representation and that of leadership. The primary responsibility of a United States Senator or a Representative

is to represent the ~~political~~ sentiments and interests of his constituents.

The first obligation which he owes to his constituents is to so represent

them as to preserve the nation of which they are a part and to guarantee ^{the} public welfare. On many questions he may know the sentiment of his constituents; and

yet on many ^{more} ~~other~~ questions which arise in the Congress, a Representative or

Senator does not know the sentiment of his constituents, ^{and} and ~~Indeed~~ no sentiment

may have crystalized itself. Many, many questions arise suddenly. Therefore,

by and large, a member of the Congress of the United States must use his own

independent judgment in arriving at decisions, ^{+ conclusions} upon ~~questions~~. (It is sometimes

the case that a Representative feels justified, because of a strong conviction,

in going against what he interprets to be the wishes of the people whom he

represents. This conviction on his part may be based upon better and fuller

information than has been made available to his constituents. Those who have

the courage to take such independent stands and whom subsequent events prove

right in the public mind attain that coveted peak of public service known as

statesmanship.) A close contact and understanding between the Representative ^{or Senator}

and the people who are his constituents constitute a fundamental and vital

part of representative democracy. It is for this reason that the leaders

of the House and the Senate so arrange the Congressional program as to allow

Representatives and Senators an opportunity to visit with their constituents.

After each visit home, members return with a renewed determination to bring

~~into enactment~~ and to consummation those things which they conceive to be in

the ^{public} National interest. There are conflicting convictions and conceptions of what is right and what should be done, but it is this conflict which sustains democracy.

No doubt, the Congress will return to work tomorrow, after this brief respite, with a renewed enthusiasm, drawn from the rich well of the American people's patriotic fervor, to place everything secondary to winning the war. Complex problems face the Congress. ^{for one thing,} The President and the leaders of ^{his admin} the Administration have now admitted that the piece-meal price control system will not prevent inflation. Wage demands are increasing. Cost of living is rapidly rising. Competitive wage bidding is disrupting industrial employment. Stronger controls of our economy must be inaugurated. How much better it would have been to have placed restraints and restrictions upon all major segments of our economy many months ago. Last November, the Dominion of Canada placed a ceiling upon wages, commissions, rents, prices, profits, etc. It has worked remarkably well. They have definitely called a halt to rising profits and rising wages and thereby have greatly lessened the cost of ^{the} war ^{to them.} Rising wages and prices have already added billions of dollars to the cost of this war to the United States, and unless it is checked, it will cost many billions more and may go so far as to undermine and wreck our whole domestic economy. It is heartening, therefore, to know that the President is giving much of his thought and time to the fundamental economic factors ^{making for} of inflation. If he gives the matter sufficient study, the conclusion to control all the

major elements is inescapable. He has been holding long conferences on the question with various officials during the week. It is not yet definitely known whether he will be willing to advocate regimenting the Nation to the extent necessary to save us from the hazards of a run-away inflation which would inevitably be followed with an economic disaster, sometimes called depression. Regimentation is an ugly word, but so is bankruptcy and so is war.

One of the fundamental weaknesses of a democracy is the influence of pressure groups. These pressure groups exert an influence entirely out of proportion to their numbers. Their influence so permeates the Government that it usually overshadows the public welfare. *It is largely these pressure groups who have frustrated the adoption of an overall ending.* Perhaps some day we will assign ~~to them~~ and require of the leaders of such groups a public responsibility which they do not now ~~have~~ *assume* or exercise. It is high time that the people demand that its Government cast aside the selfish desires of our various economic segments and act for the public good. The public good and the Nation's welfare require that we make an all-out approach to all the problems of war until victory is firmly and surely ours. Any delay, any "faltering John" in positions of public responsibility may cost thousands of lives of young American manhood.

This war will try the soul of America as it has not been tried since the days of Valley Forge. Just why such a holocaust has been loosened upon the world is perplexing. It is difficult to understand how the people of the world, possessed with intelligence and immortality, could so

confound and confuse the mission and purpose of human life. All of us, possessed
only of but a small, finite mind, must wonder how such a catastrophe could be in
accordance with the wishes of the Master. ~~We know that we~~ are told that the
Children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and that with God
a day is but a year and a year is but a day. Perhaps we are being tried. *tried*
in a fiery furnace of suffering & sacrifice.
We must prove ourselves worthy to win. Not only must we prove ourselves
to carry
worthy ~~of~~ the Stars and Stripes, we must prove ourselves worthy to bear the
banner of God.