

Good Morning, Friends:

The happenings in Washington for the week have been paled by the drama being written in blood on the North and Western coasts of Africa. It remained for this stroke to demonstrate to the world the truly great and inspired leadership which President Roosevelt is giving to the United States and to the freedom-loving peoples of the world. Likewise, the initial success of our undertaking thoroughly vindicates our great Secretary of State, Cordell Hull. Through the diplomacy of this keen and far-sighted man from the hill country of Tennessee, only the weakest of resistance met our men of arms when they landed in French Africa. This whole development takes the sting from charges that President Roosevelt has been playing domestic politics with the war. It is agreed by many, perhaps it is generally agreed, that, if this offensive action had been undertaken before the election, candidates of the President's party would have fared much better at the hands of the voters. Can it not be said that it is greatly to the President's credit that this action was not launched prematurely for the sake of its effect on domestic politics but that it was carefully and meticulously planned by military strategists in a manner so thorough as to be hailed by the world as brilliant? The achievement and performance of our men of arms in Africa has been elating. But the political and psychological offensive is certainly of no less than equal importance. In its every detail, the campaign is thrilling. President Roosevelt spent considerable time in France in his young days and speaks French rather fluently. He wrote an appeal to the French people in French

and made a recording in the White House. One record was rushed to London, another to a shortwave station in the United States. As our troops began their landing in French Africa, the President's voice and the President's simple, appealing message was broadcast to Frenchmen in France as well as in Africa.

Then, in breaking off relations with Vichy France, the President and Secretary Hull drew a clear distinction between Laval and Vichy puppets of Hitler, on the one hand, and the gallant French people, on the other. The President simply said that the American people would never break off relations with the French people. So successful was this political, psychological, and diplomatic campaign that many Frenchmen are today fighting on our side, and it is reported that millions of Frenchmen now under the heel of Hitler in France are but awaiting the hour and the opportunity to strike their oppressor boldly and viciously. With great success, Hitler has used fifth column activities to undermine his enemies and aid his offensive actions. In France, in the people of that great nation, we have a more potent fifth column ready and willing to be used against Hitler than Hitler has ever dreamed of having against us.

The brilliance of this campaign recalls how President Wilson, in the other war, stirred the people of the world, including those in Germany, with his fourteen points. Critics have been crying for a political offensive. Other critics have been crying for a military offensive. And as the curtain was

drawn back and the stage settings disclosed for the playing of this North African drama, it excelled the fondest hopes of the most intelligent and severe critics.

Because the subject has been covered so thoroughly during the past week by the press and radio, it would perhaps be superfluous for me this morning to undertake a discussion of the strategic advantages arising out of allied control of the Mediterranean and Atlantic coast of Africa. It might be permissible for me briefly to point out that this fight is to determine who holds Suez, who holds Alexandria, Oran, Bizerte, Dakar; who has the African and Mediterranean transportation routes; who has the North African jumping-off places, the spring boards, so to speak, from which to strike at Italy and the under-belly side of the Axis through Greece, through the Balkans, through France. Hitler's occupation of France as a counter action to our invasion of Africa came as no surprise in Washington. The heartening thing is that by an allied offensive, Hitler's hand was forced. For many, many months now, Hitler has called the plays. It has been Hitler who has decided when to strike and where. The United Nations have now taken the offensive. They have now wrested from Hitler the initiative. It is now Hitler who is moving his men on the continent of Europe in defensive positions. It is Hitler who is trying to guess where, when, and how we will strike next. In President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, Hitler has met his match in strategy and courage, and he has been bested

in political appeal to the world's millions whose sympathy will be such a material factor in the ultimate decision.

The brilliance and success of this African campaign quelled the argument over the drafting of 18 and 19 year old boys into the armed forces. Members of Congress felt that the tide was turning, that there was a ray of hope, that the sky looked a little brighter, that we had a chance to win and win decisively, but not without supreme effort. The bill was passed and these young men will face induction in the very near future.

Armistice day found President Roosevelt and General Pershing at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Both must have wondered what the Unknown Soldier was saying if he could look back from the pale of the beyond and see that the peace for which he sacrificed his life, 20 odd years ago, must now be won again. Ah, it was a terrible thing,^a terrible crime to humanity perpetrated by those who butchered the peace which American soldiers won in the other war. And yet, there signs - yes, I fear there are unmistakable signs, too many signs - that this same narrow, prejudiced, nationalistic isolationism is rearing its ugly head again. Signs of this could be seen in the results of the election on November 3. Reverberations of pre-Pearl Harbor isolationism could be heard in the speech of Senator Wheeler in the Senate on last Thursday. Surely, surely, surely, some way can be found to preserve peace and order in the world. After all, God made us all. I do not believe that he made us for the purpose of slaughtering each other. I do not believe that war

is a part of God's plan any more than sin is a part of his plan. Without governmental organization to preserve law and order, to protect people in their rights, and to restrain people from wrong, violence and anarchy would break out in any country, in any state, or perhaps in most any community. Since the beginning of written history, mankind has found it necessary to organize into government societies, whether it be in simple tribes of the early peoples or in the complex societies which we now call states and nations. Is it then unreasonable to think, as did Woodrow Wilson, that a world organization is necessary for the preservation of world peace? Yes, our American soldiers are on the march. They will not quit marching until the war is won. Many of them will pay the supreme sacrifice. And, yet, unless the people are willing to pay the price of preserving that peace, ~~and~~ their sacrifice will be for but a temporary respite from world conflict. This thought is not new, but we must remember that it was rejected by the American people after the other war.

The great question propounded in the scripture, "Am I my brother's keeper?" addresses itself to America. The United States of America has become the strongest and the greatest nation under the sun. As such, it can not escape its responsibility to the nation's of the world, to the mankind of the world and to the God of the world and the universe, to play its part in world affairs. The fighting has only begun. Our initial success is encouraging, but let us not forget that the hardest is ahead of

us. And through it all, throughout the period of trials, of successes and defeats - yes, through it all - as we sorrow for the death of every soldier, as we thrill at every victory, let Americans bear in mind that question: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

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