

Good Morning, Friends:

Despite raging battles, the world's attention has been focused upon Washington as the new Congress convened and the American leader, President Roosevelt, delivered his annual State of the Union message. Doubtless most of you listening to this program heard the President and have likewise heard professional commentators speak their interpretations and impressions of his address. It would, therefore, be superfluous for me to repeat the President's words. This is the fifth State of the Union message I have heard him deliver, in addition to his various other appearances before joint sessions of Congress. I do not believe I have ~~heard~~ ever seen him appear more confident. This is heartening ^{to me. He is} ~~to me.~~ ^{As} our leader and upon his leadership, we must rely. That he have confidence in the plans and progress of the Allied war effort is vital to its success. Upon occasion, the President has been quite political and sometimes quite partisan in his messages to Congress, but not this time. It was a difficult task for him, coming before a new Congress, many of whom had been elected upon platforms critical of the President's Administration, a Congress which he definitely could not influence as has been the case with the Legislative body since 1933.

In this situation, there are the makings of disunity, the makings of internal conflict, and hurtful political bickering. The President rose to the occasion. Instead of deepening the schism, I am convinced that he left Congress a more unified body. Every member of Congress, no matter how partisan, could but thrill as the President extolled the successes of our production program. Few, if any, could differ with his idealistic, though general,

statements of war objectives. Then, in dealing with domestic questions, which was another place of acute danger, he was adroit and statesmanlike. Instead of attempting to make a partisan issue of further social legislation, he stated the problem and the broad objectives and expressed the hope that it would not become an issue but that it would be regarded as an American problem, the solution of which was a mutual task of all persons and parties.

The address was one of the President's greatest. The one instance in which he seemed not quite up to par was his assumption of a defensive attitude regarding the restrictions and regimentation which have been necessary. It was admirable, of course, for him to acknowledge that mistakes had been made, and perhaps it should be noted that this is one of the few times in the President's career that he has made such an acknowledgment. But it should be unnecessary for the Commander-in-Chief, or for anyone else, to make apologies for the imposition of restrictions, limitations, or regulations which have been made necessary ^{by} for the exigencies of the war. Nevertheless, no one, including the President, can afford to close his eyes to practicalities.

This new Congress, the 78th American Congress, may well be one of the most historic in the annals of United States history. It is, of course, a war Congress. This year, 1943, will be a year of violent conflict. This is the year when our might can be brought to bear heavily against the enemy. When the United States entered the war in December of 1941, it was recognized then that it would be the spring, summer, and fall of 1943 before our strength could

charge at the enemy. Of course, there has been fighting by American troops already. In most instances, though, it has been defensive and against great odds. Despite these disadvantages, however, remarkable victories have been won, but fighting in which we have engaged thus far is only a prelude for the terrible and violent conflicts which will rage before this year ends.

It may be that this Congress, God grant, will also be a peace Congress. President Roosevelt made no predictions but he indicated a possibility that the war might be won in 1944. No one, not even the Commander-in-Chief, can accurately foretell the fortunes of war. If one calculates as best he can the strength of our enemies, the scope of the conflict, and the ~~moment~~ moment of the issue, the hope of peace in 1944 appears to partake of optimism.

The Congress convened on last Wednesday and proceeded to elect a Speaker. This is the fourth time I have participated in the election of a speaker. The other times, ~~there has been~~ it has been much more of a routine matter than the election on Wednesday. The same is true of the formal organization of the House. Of course, everyone knew that Speaker Rayburn would be elected, but likewise everyone was conscious that the Republican Party was within a few votes of the necessary number to elect the Speaker and organize the House of Representatives. The calling of the roll seemed to emphasize the tension. Every member knows full well that this will be a political session. ~~We all hope that it will not affect adversely the progress of the war.~~ We hope

that there will be a very minimum of political bickering and partisan ~~snapping~~ snapping, but over it all, we can not fail to know that both the major parties will be looking toward 1944. The Republicans zealously are mapping their strategy to capture the presidency. The Democrats are just as zealously making plans to retain ^{it.} ~~the presidency~~. People will say this is unfortunate. It is, but under the American system, there is no way of setting aside election day, no matter how untimely might be the time of the event. It appears now, and I certainly ^{hope} ~~pray~~ that it will ~~not~~ be the case, that the partisan differences and conflicts will be largely upon domestic issues. I fear, though, that fights may come upon questions which will have a bearing, a dangerous bearing, upon our foreign relations, upon such questions, for instance, as extension of the reciprocal trade and the lend-lease programs.

It is encouraging and inspiring to know that the entire Congress is pervaded and that every member is imbued with a deep patriotism and a determination to help win the war ~~and win it~~ quickly and decisively. That is equally true of every member regardless of party. The difficulties will arise out of differences in opinion, out of degrees of confidence in constituted leadership, and out of the traditional making of party issues. For instance, the lines of battle are already being formed on the reciprocal trade program. This program expires this year, and Secretary Hull and the Democratic Administration will attempt to renew it. Some of the leading Republicans have already introduced bills to outlaw it. This raises the old tariff question which has been a bone of contention between the Democratic and Republican

parties for many years. Secretary Hull believes that International cooperation must be economic as well as political. He believes, conversely, that political isolationism inevitably follows economic isolation. Perhaps it's a little premature to discuss this coming battle, but the broad outlines are already in the making, and it will be one of the momentous issues before this new Congress, *which meets in such a sad but crucial hour of*

~~The OPA announced a ban upon all pressure driving on the Eastern seaboard.~~

~~It is remarkable how the people have cooperated.~~

world civilization. As members stood with heads bowed in prayer the chaplain prayed as follows: