

Radio Talk
March 16, 1941

Good Morning, Friends:

The final enactment of the Aid-to-Britain Bill marked an end to an era of isolationism which began with the rejection of the Versailles Treaty by the United States Senate in 1919. It is interesting to note that there is a close parallel between the vote by which the Versailles Treaty was rejected and by which the Lend-Lease Bill was passed. The Lend-Lease bill passed the Senate by a vote of 60 to 31. The Versailles Treaty was rejected by a vote of 57 for to 37 against. If the Aid-to-Britain Bill had been a treaty, then it would have been defeated by the 60 to 31 vote ~~because~~ ratification of a treaty requires ^{ing} two-thirds of the Senate.

In the years following 1919 and until recently, public sentiment supported and followed the isolation ^{ist} philosophy of the 37 senators whom Woodrow Wilson called "a little band of wilful men." In 1920, the League of Nations, the product of Woodrow Wilson's great mind, met, but without the United States. We never became a member and without us it availed but little. In 1921, we actually scuttled war ships. During all of the 1920's, the United States armaments were reduced and cut to the bone. Even the Roosevelt [✓] Administration sponsored the Neutrality Act containing the arms embargo which prevented this country from selling implements of war to any Nation at war. [During all this period, this country's hate for war blossomed into a beautiful, yet misguided idealism. Hate of war! Is there anyone, save military lords, who does not hate war?

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everyone, highways, smooth as floors, span our nation and country side like ribbons. We sit in our homes and listen to music, drama, and speech from the distant parts of the world. We travel water, land, and ~~air~~ ^{sky} with undreamed of speed and comfort. Ah, this is a great place - great, because we have used our energy and our genius in the production of things for scientific progress and human betterment. ~~Isn't~~ ^{Is not} it a travesty on civilization that today we and other great nations of the world are devoting our strength, our energy, our productive genius, and our substance to produce instrumentalities of death and destruction. - Destruction of the arts, the architecture, the monuments and accomplishments of untold ages - instrumentalities with which to slaughter mankind. It's uncivilized; it's unchristian.] How could such a performance ^{be} please ^{ing to our heavenly father?} God? Yet, ~~the Bible says that there will be~~ ^{are} wars and rumors of wars.

While we withdrew with an air of detachment both economically and militarily, a new ideology and a new wave of aggression was taking form. In 1931 Japan invaded Manchuria. The next year we further reduced our armament appropriations. In 1933, Hitler rose to power in Germany. In 1934, Italy invaded Ethiopia. Perhaps you will remember that Mussolini's son exultantly said that when he dropped a bomb on an Ethiopian village it blossomed like a rose. The petals of the rose must have taken their color from the blood of helpless and innocent Ethiopian women and children. In 1935, Germany marched into the Saar. In '36, Spain became the testing ground for the implements of present-day warfare. In '37, Japan, without provocation, invaded China, and Hitler feverishly prepared for the war he intended to wage. In 1938, Hitler subjugated

Austria and made ominous moves, demands and threats upon Czechoslovakia and Poland. The British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, met with Hitler and made the Peace of Munich. He came back to the British Isles with his face all aglow. "Peace in our time" was his statement. Poor man! Was that peace? That was hell on earth. Czechoslovakia was sacrificed on the altar of appeasement. In 1939, Hitler's hordes marched into Poland, and thereupon France and England declared war on Germany. We were still following a program of isolation. In 1940, Hitler crushed Holland, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Luxembourg, and France and leveled his assault upon Great Britain, the last bastion between the aggressor and the Western Hemisphere. The American people saw that isolationism had failed them. The freedom and democracy for which we ^{had} fought was now threatened everywhere. The peace our soldiers had helped to win was shattered. War raged on three continents. The American people wondered if it might not have been different if this country had embraced the great vision and dream of Woodrow Wilson to create and join an international authority which would bring law and order to govern the relationship of nations, thus guaranteeing the rights and privileges of all peoples. "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest of these it might have been."

With the Lend-Lease Bill out of the way, the House unanimously passed and sent to the Senate an appropriation Bill of three and one-half billion dollars to build the greatest navy ever to float the high seas.

Not to be outstripped, ^{in action} the President likewise moved swiftly in several directions. It was announced that the President was going to appoint a Mediation Board to handle the strike situation. That naturally raises the question in one's mind of just how effective a mediation board ^{will} ~~would~~ be. The greatest friend that organized labor has ever had is none other than the President himself. He has never let labor down, and yet, some elements of labor have turned a deaf ear to his plea for cooperation. If they will not heed his call, would they heed the voice of a board appointed by him and, necessarily, with less prestige and appeal? Maybe this is an unjust expression of doubt. Maybe it will be helpful. Let us all hope so.

Several members of Congress who have been advocating some kind of legislation to prevent strikes in defense industries believe that at least one purpose of the mediation board proposal is to forestall enactment of a bill by Congress of a more drastic nature. There are definite indications that the great Judiciary Committee of the House, which has been studying the strike situation for some three weeks, may soon favorably report a bill to the House. Organized labor does not want any kind of strike legislation enacted. The President has indicated that he would oppose any strike legislation as has his Secretary of Labor, Mrs. Perkins. Incidentally, the papers report that in this great crisis when labor troubles are plaguing the nation's effort to prepare to defend itself, Madam Perkins is devoting much attention to the standardization of ladies' hats. Now ladies' hats, we must have. They add to the beauty of the

female of the species and rightfully command a great deal of concern, but it does seem that if she is going to spend her time trying to standardize women's hats, she ought to resign the high office she holds, the duties of which should be performed in the interest of the country now in danger. Who ever heard of a woman wanting a standard hat anyway? No one of them ever wants a hat like any other one.

The ink had hardly become dry from the President's signature on the Lend-Lease bill before he signed an order permitting a transfer of material to Great Britain, the amount and the nature of which can not be disclosed because the information would be beneficial to Great Britain's enemies. Close upon the heels of this action, the President sent to Congress a request for an appropriation of seven billion dollars. Seven billion frankly is beyond the comprehension of ordinary thinking. ~~It is seven thousand million.~~ But if that is what it takes to prevent the subjugation of Great Britain, then Congress, representing the American people, will appropriate that amount, and in a hurry. The House will take the bill up next Tuesday and pass it by Wednesday and it will then go to the more talkative Senate but indications are that it will speedily pass that body also. ~~One might say that it is no time to count dollars when the house is on fire.~~ What good does it do to say that seven billion dollars is so many dollars for every minute since the days of Methuselah, or that we have already authorized and appropriated more than the entire assessed valuation of all of our states West of the Mississippi?

After the money is appropriated, the problem will then be to spend it. *effectively*

A great deal more money than can be spent this year has already been appropriated.

This seven billion dollars calls for more planes, more tanks, more ships,

more guns, more ammunition. Our factories are now straining every nerve

to produce their maximum. How will more orders piled on top of unfilled

orders immediately increase production? The entire seven billion dollars

and more may be eventually expended but it is physically impossible to do so

in the next twelve months. However, just think of the psychological effect

that the appropriation will have upon the countries of Europe and the world.

✓ One purpose of this huge appropriation is to let the world know that we mean
✓ business when we say we are going to give aid to England. *our course has been decided and Americans are no pikers.* A portion of the

money will be spent for agricultural products. We have great surpluses of

wheat, cotton, tobacco, and corn. The British ~~Purchasing Commission~~, however,

does not seem to want very much of any of these products. They want concentrated

forms of food such as cheese, butter, lard, condensed and dried milk, vitamin

concentrates, and pork. There are several reasons why they want concentrated

forms of fats and *✓* proteins. For one thing they can get all of the wheat

they can transport from Canada. Wheat in Canada is actually piled on the

ground as high as barns because of the lack of storage space. Another reason

for wanting these particular kinds of food products from the United States

is that they have an ample supply of such carbohydrates as potatoes, etc.

Their great food need is fats and meats and milk for children. The third reason for wanting these concentrated forms of food is the need for conserving shipping space. > Congress and the country seem to face one big question after another. A big question, indeed, will face the country if huge stores of equipment and food which England desperately needs, pile up in our ports because of her inability to carry it through Germany's submarine blockade. Officials in Washington are greatly alarmed over Great Britain's shipping losses and are deeply concerned over her ability to transport the equipment and food after we make it available. *Without supplies from us their cause is hopeless.*

France threatens to use her warships to bring food to Frenchmen facing starvation. Pestilence rages in Spain, Poland, Belgium and other countries where millions of human beings, created in the image of our maker, as are we, suffer the gnawing pains of hunger while the unsolved problem of the American farmer is that he produces too much. "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

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