

Radio Speech
March 30, 1941



Good Morning Friends:

During the week the Senate Appropriations Committee favorably reported the agriculture appropriation bill which has already passed the House. The Senate Committee added several increases. One increase, though small in amount, might prove to be very beneficial to burley tobacco farmers of Kentucky and Tennessee. This item referred to is for Federal grading of tobacco. The burley markets in Middle Tennessee which have never had Federal grading are Carthage, Hartsville, Gallatin, and Fayetteville. There are many angles to Federal grading of tobacco, even some objection, but we face a situation which may make it very necessary. The disruption and dislocation of our whole economic system due to the war and the curtailment of tobacco markets may have very harmful affects upon the next tobacco sales. In this event, we would need to depend upon commodity credit loans to insure farmers a reasonably fair return for their crops. Prices fell near the close of the market which ended a few weeks ago, and some loans were made on tobacco in Kentucky, West Virginia, and perhaps in other places, but no loans were made in Tennessee. Before a loan can be made upon a crop of tobacco, it is absolutely necessary that a Federal grade be placed upon it. Otherwise, there would be no measure by which to fix the amount of the loan. Loans on wheat and corn can be made at so much per bushel, but there are so many classes and grades of tobacco with a wide variation in value that a loan amount for each grade must be determined. This situation increases the importance of Federal grading.

Now, how would the loan program operate if it became necessary to have commodity loans upon Tennessee burley tobacco for the next season. The Commodity Credit Corporation of the Department of Agriculture would fix an average amount per pound for each different grade which they would loan to the farmer, taking his tobacco as security. The tobacco would then be prized and stored for future sale. If the tobacco sold for more than the amount of the loan made to the farmer, then he would get this increase. This situation makes the increase in the appropriation for Federal tobacco grading particularly important to burley tobacco growers. The House refused to increase this appropriation, but if it is increased in the Senate, there is a possibility of getting the House to accept it.

Final legislative action was given to the extension of the Bituminous Coal Commission on Thursday. The coal operators and ^{the leaders of} the coal miners' union ~~leaders~~ are in dispute now regarding the renewal of a two-year contract. Both the miners and the operators, ~~however~~, supported ^{this} extension of the Bituminous Coal Commission. The Bituminous Coal Commission stabilizes the industry and fixes the price of coal. It gives to the operator a stabilized industry and a better profit, and it gives to the mine worker a stabilized industry and a higher wage. This, of course, means higher prices of coal for the consumer. The consumer generally carries the load. Representatives from farm areas voted for the extension of the Bituminous Coal Commission, but at the same time served notice that when legislation was presented looking toward the

stabilization of the agriculture industry and the raising of farm prices, the same unselfish viewpoint and the same broad-minded consideration would be expected.

(The Government ^{has taken} finally took a firm stand in an effort to start production ^{in the striking} ~~at the~~ Allice Chalmers plant. Mr. Knudsen and Secretary Knox ordered the plant opened and the workers back to work in the name of National ^{Defense} interest.)

The inside talk is that if this move does not get results, the Government will take the plant over and operate it.) Authority to draft industry was given to the government at the same time it was authorized to draft men for military service. Mr. Sidney Hilman and Mr. Knudsen/^{are} co-directors of our defense effort but where was Mr. Hilman when it became necessary to take a firm stand against the Allice Chalmers strike leaders. He was practicing the good old American custom of conveniently being out of town. It is difficult, if not, indeed, impossible, to serve two masters. Mr. Hilman still draws a large salary as head of a C.I.O. union and, of course, expects to remain as such long after he quits service for the government from which he draws only \$1.00 per year. So, is it any wonder that he was out of town?

Another appointee of the President's, Phillip Murray, President of the C.I.O. who is on the Mediation Board, publicly blasted at Mr. Knudsen and Secretary Knox, demanding to know by what right they called for an end to the strike. — Another case of service to two masters. Or is it just riding the back of one to serve the other?

The Mediation Board was appointed almost two weeks ago in the midst of disastrous stoppages of work. What did they do? They met, got acquainted, had their pictures taken and went home. Well, maybe they thought they might as well go home since Madam Perkins had not certified any disputes to them. The Board can not move to mediate a strike until she refers it to them. Under pressure she has now certified four disputes to the Board and they have now returned to the Capitol and started work on them. Let us hope that a slow beginning means an efficient ending. As has been said, the Board really has no power. Congress and the President acting together can give to it or to some other executive agency the necessary power.

(A virtual storm broke out in Congress during the week over strikes holding up defense work and over fees charged men before they can work on defense projects. Congress is in a bad temper. Public opinion seems to be solidifying and public opinion is the most powerful force in America.) One can not study and observe National developments without coming to this conclusion. When aroused, public opinion controls Congress and the government. This does not mean that every congressman and senator is a weather vane with a feather in the breeze to see how the wind is blowing before he acts. This is not true, *and it would be unfair to say so.* Of course, every member desires to reflect the sentiment and wishes of the people he represents. This is usually made easier by the fact that a member of Congress is generally typical of the people he represents and, therefore, the same influences which operate to form the public opinion of his people will very likely cause similar reactions in his own mind.

Intangible, though clearly felt, public opinion presses heavily upon Washington. It affects Congress. It affects the President. The President has proven himself to be the keenest judge and interpreter of public opinion and also the most adroit and effective ^{molder}~~director~~ of public opinion in ^{all} our history.

The President is away for a much needed rest and a chance to think and study in solitude. Upon his return it will be interesting to watch his reaction to the increasing pressure of public opinion against strikes in defense work and unconscionable fees for the privilege of working.) Congress would pass the necessary laws at the drop of the hat if the President would so much as indicate such a desire. Instead, he has discouraged any legislative action on the subject. He is the ^{our leader}~~only President we have~~ and the Congress wants to cooperate with him and especially so during this great crisis.

[While we are having so much discussion about ^{its being fundamental} a man's right to quit work if he wants to ~~being fundamental~~, it might well be said that the right to work is just as fundamental and even more so. If one man has the right to quit, another certainly has an equal right to go to work without being assaulted.)

Strikes are actually being called by a minority of workers in plants but they forbid other workers from working by ganging up around the plant, perpetrating violence and threats of violence along with imported thugs, paid agitators and communists who have never worked in the plant. In this way a law-abiding ^{citizen}~~worker~~, willing to work for the defense of his country, is denied the right

to work - denied the right to peacefully earn a living and serve society.

This is an infringement of a fundamental right, a cardinal principle in the

code of free men. ~~By organized conspiracy,~~ The law of the land is being

frustrated and the nation's power to prepare to defend itself is challenged.

The overwhelming majority of American labor is patriotic. It is being betrayed by a small minority. And that is not all the picture - Some employers are trying to take advantage of the emergency to flout the law and deny just rights to labor.

Many bills have been introduced. Bills were introduced during the week

to raise the draft age to 65, which would permit the President to call to

military service practically every worker in the land and assign him to his

job as military duty ~~and at~~ ^{with} the same wage which the soldier ~~boys are now~~ ^{draws.}

~~drawing.~~ Several more bills are in preparation for introduction within the

next few days. One will be introduced to make interference with National

defense a felony, and in the case of war it would become a capital offense.

^{more} The introduction of ^{so many, however,} bills ^{enactment of} will not do much good. The ~~bill which becomes~~
^{enforcement of the law} law and the ~~manner in which that law is enforced~~ is the important process.

✓ We are in one of the greatest crises of the ages. [This nation faces the

greatest external threat since it gained its independence. The situation

is far more serious than in 1917. We are on trial. We are being tested.

Will we prove fit to survive as a Nation and as a form of government? *That is a question*

No system which does not put general welfare above the interest of any

sub-group is ~~not~~ fit to survive as a way of life for free men. It's no time for
It's no time for men to be shaking their heads about doing what ought to be done.

temporizing or political bickering. It's high time ~~that~~ ^{time}, instead of stopping

the wheels of industry, that ^{each of us} ~~every body~~ ^{his} puts ~~their~~ shoulder to the wheel. ^{to}

^{save} ~~vouch safe~~ the security and freedom of this ^{country.} ~~great Nation.~~] Congress can not.

but it can and will pass the necessary laws,
execute laws. ^{*execution of the laws*} That is the function of the Executive Branch. The Congress

does not want to embarrass the Chief Executive or the Executive agencies.

^{*, apparently a large majority,*}
Many members of both the House and the Senate are anxious to see the Executive
Branch use the powers which it already has ^{*or indicate what additional powers it needs,*} ~~anxious~~ ^{*they are*} to see this government
get in the saddle and ride, and ride with spurs. ^{*for the general welfare.*} And unless it does ~~so~~,
the Congressional pot ^{*is apt to*} ~~will soon~~ boil over.

Official Washington was jubilant over the news of Yugo-Slavia's overthrow
of ~~their~~ ^{*her*} leaders who only a few hours before had signed away ~~their~~ ^{*her*} independence.
It is the most hopeful sign that has come out of the whole mass for many months.
It shows that there is unrest among the European people and that fundamentally
many of them hate Hitler and the Nazi regime with its tyranny and oppression.
It shows that the spirit of freedom is still alive. This little nation has
dared to face the mighty conqueror before whose might one nation after another
has trembled and cowered. They must have been fired with the zeal of their
independence. This rebellion of the people of Yugo-Slavia is an example
of what might happen after a few Hitler reverses in Roumania, in France, in
Belgium, and in the other occupied countries. Maybe the hope inspired by
this incident is faint, but frankly the picture is so dark that any little
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Adorns and cheers our way;
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execute laws. That is the function of the Executive Branch. The Congress does not want to embarrass the Chief Executive or the Executive agencies. Many members of both the House and the Senate are anxious to see the Executive Branch use the powers which it already has, anxious to see this government get in the saddle and ride, and ride with spurs. And unless it does so, the Congressional pot will soon boil over.

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