

Radio Program, June 15, 1941

Good Morning Friends:

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln said, "government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Highly organized minorities and pressure groups of one kind and another have now come to exert an influence out of proportion to their number. Sometimes it appears that our government instead of being one "of, by, and for the people" is one of pressure groups. This is more true when the people, the average citizenship, complacently go about their business paying little attention to government. But the people can and do still run this government of ours when they take a notion to do so. Our process is slow. It may appear disgustingly slow at times. We are a nation of 132,000,000 people; we are hard to arouse, but when once aroused, our demands are not easily quieted.

Events of the ~~last~~ ^{efficiency} week have beyond question reaffirmed the people's ^{of self-government.} power. The overwhelming majority of the American people, including the loyal elements of organized labor, have felt outraged at the strikes in National defense industries. Many of them being fostered by subversive elements, they became a national scandal. Throughout the length and the breadth of this land the people were asking why workers manufacturing instruments with which soldiers were to train and possibly use were allowed to strike for higher wages or for some other more reprehensible reason while boys were being taken into the army at \$21 a month. Throughout this land, Mr. Average American was demanding action by his government, and when enough Mr. Americans want a thing bad enough, they usually get it. Charles Evans Hughes, the great and retiring Chief Justice, once said:

"If our checks and balances sometimes prevent the speedy action which is thought desirable, they also assure in the long run a more deliberate judgment. And what the people really want, they generally get. With the ultimate power of change through amendment in their hands they are always able to obtain whatever a preponderant and abiding sentiment strongly demands."

Thus it can be said that the people got the action which they were demanding.

The President directed the United States army to take over the airplane plant in California which was tied up by strikes. Now what happened there? The armed forces of the United States went there and protected the right of the men to work who wanted to work. A large majority of them returned to work immediately. This just goes to show that ~~a large per cent~~ *an overwhelming majority* of the working people of this country, organized or unorganized, are "Americans first," and that if this government will just protect their right to work, then they will overcome the purposes of the few who are so vociferously insisting upon the right to strike. No worker in this California plant was ordered back to work by the army. Each one of them had the right to continue to strike if he wanted to strike. Each one of them today has the right to quit if he wants to quit. But what do they want to do? The record clearly shows that the big majority want to work. They have made demands for higher wages. These demands may be just. This can and must be determined without stopping the production of aeroplanes. This question is now before the National Defense Mediation Board. Let's all hope that they will render a fair decision, which undoubtedly they will.

All draft boards were ordered to reclassify all strikers who had been deferred because they were doing essential defense work. Now, isn't that fair? Let's take two boys for an example: Say they live door neighbor. Boy No. 1 doesn't have a job and he is drafted. The neighbor boy No. 2 has a job in a gun factory making guns for the other boys to carry. His call to service is deferred because he is doing work which is just as essential as the carrying of the gun. After all, the soldier boy can't carry a gun unless he has a gun to carry. Now, let us say, Boy No. 2, who is working in the plant manufacturing the gun, goes out on strike. Then how can he rightfully claim that his service should be further deferred. He certainly can not claim to be doing essential work. What is worse, he has quit and refuses to do essential work. *So let them take their choice - to work or face the draft.* ~~If the government will just stick to this it will have a good effect on these strikers.~~

This, of course, is a revival of Woodrow Wilson's famous order to strikers in the other war - "to work or fight," *and if the govt will just stick to it, it will have a wholesome effect.*

On the same day that the President took ~~this~~ drastic action, which so many people had been calling upon him to do, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly adopted an amendment to a ten billion dollar army appropriation bill saying that not one dime of that money could be paid to a man who was out on strike for more than ten days after the National Defense Mediation Board had rendered a decision upon the dispute. This will make them think because most of them want that pay check. The House adopted another amendment to the bill prohibiting the use of the funds to pay a man who uses violence, threats, or intimidation on the picket line for the purpose of preventing other men from going to work who wanted to work.

The people even got some action out of the Senate during the week. They voted to condemn strikes in National Defense industries. This concurrent action by the President and the Congress has already had a quieting effect upon the strike situation.

Yes, the American people still run this government when they decide to do so. Public opinion is the most potent force we have, when aroused. It should become aroused more often. It should stay aroused for the cause of good government. When the majority of all the folks demand that something be done, these small pressure groups, of whatever sort, retreat in the background. They become relatively less important.

These actions of the week should serve to reaffirm the people's confidence in democracy. Some people have been wondering whether democracy would be equal to the crisis. At best, democracy is a cumbersome form of government and especially so for a nation of one hundred and thirty million people. It can only work when self-restraint is exercised all around. It can not work if special groups are allowed to defeat the aims of government and of the majority when and where they wish. We should give equal treatment to all and special privileges to none.

The President and Secretary of State have exercised remarkable and commendable restraint ^{regarding} the sinking of the American ship, the Robin Moor. Upon the first reports of the sinking of the American freighter in the South Atlantic, the White House requested that the public withhold its judgment until the full facts were known. Three days later, the Under-Secretary of State gave out a

brief report that the ship was undoubtedly sunk by a German submarine, but again he emphasized that the government would await a full report. In the face of such apparent facts, and bearing in mind that other such incidents may be just over the horizon, the need is evident for the kind of restraint that the President and the State Department have manifested - the kind of leadership that will cause the people to use their heads instead of their emotions. That's is a sign of strength; not weakness.

The President's appointment of Justice Harlan Stone to be Chief Justice and of Senator Byrns and Attorney General Jackson as Associate Justices met with the overwhelming approval of both the House and the Senate. This is the kind of appointments to high positions which the President should make when the most vital need for America is unity behind his leadership. He is providing great leadership. Some may disagree with certain things President Roosevelt does. Why shouldn't they? It's a great privilege to disagree. You can't disagree with Hitler in Germany, but this is not Germany and one of the great privileges of democracy which we are determined to defend is the right to think for ourselves and speak for ourselves. However, even in the exercise of our right of freedom of speech, we must use restraint. We just can't do everything and say everything we please. All laws and moral codes are restraints of one kind or another. ~~Ma~~ If we use our freedom of speech to the extent of slandering our neighbor, then we have abused our right and we become liable in law for that abuse.

So, to get back to the thought, some may in their rare privilege disagree with our leader. Undoubtedly most Americans have disagreed with some things he has done or has not done, but on the whole and in the main, President Roosevelt is a great leader of the American people. He is a good man. He has broad vision and his heart is with the common people. Congress sometimes disagrees with the President. Congress is a coordinate branch of the Government and in the exercise of its functions and duties, it is entirely proper for the Congress to agree or disagree. The President recommended that the Congress appropriate nearly one billion dollars for the WPA for the next year. The Lower House agreed with this recommendation and passed the bill on Friday. Congress had added upon its own initiative written into the law a provision which prevented any of the funds from being used for the employment of aliens. The President recommended that this provision be stricken out. The Congress, disagreeing with the President, retained the provision in the bill. The Congress feels that we can not afford to give public work to aliens in our midst until we can take care of our own people and pay for our National defense program. If these aliens are to remain with us, let them become citizens and then they will have all the privileges available to any native-born American save that of being President. America, love it or leave it.

in this instance

The property seizure bill which was suggested in such drastic terms without the specific approval of the President has already been greatly modified and passed by the Senate. It confers upon the President sufficient authority

to take over any plant where production for National defense is being unduly withheld. The House committee to which the original bill was referred is working upon it and is working in agreement with the administration. This bill created some unnecessary fears in the country. It is now generally understood that President Roosevelt has no such drastic measures in mind as the War Department suggested.

Let it again be said that this has been a wholesome week for self-government. The Congress and the President are working together admirably, yet each branch of the Government, as it should, retains its own coordinate functions.

The Senate amended the selective service act, ordinarily called the draft act, to permit the President to defer from service all those who have reached their 28th birthday by July 1. This bill now comes to the House for consideration.

Friends,

This is FATHER'S DAY. So let us pause for a closing moment to pay tribute to the fathers who have toiled in weariness that their sons and daughters might follow an easier path of life. Few prettier thoughts can be called to mind than that stanza from the VILLAGE BLACKSMITH which reads:

*Maybe he doesn't make so much
over you, but his heart like his
moving hands, is big and within the
son or the daughter
needs him
don't rest he
of love.*

He goes on Sunday to the church;

And sits among his boys;

He hears the parson pray and preach,

He hears his daughter's voice,

Singing in the village choir,

And it makes his heart rejoice.

On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln said "government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Since Abraham Lincoln made that statement, minority pressure groups of one kind or another, highly organized, have come to exert an influence out of proportion to their number. Sometimes it appears that our government is no longer one "of the people, by the people, and for the people" but that instead it is one of pressure groups. This is more or less true when the people, the average citizen, complacently go about their business paying little attention to government. But the people can and do still run this government of ours when they become aroused. Our process may be slow. It may appear disgustingly slow at times. But it must be remembered that we are a nation of 132,000,000 people. We are hard to arouse, but when once aroused, our demands are not easily quieted.

Events of the last week have beyond question reaffirmed the people's power. The overwhelming majority of the American people, including the loyal elements of organized labor, had become outraged at the strikes in National defense industries. Throughout the length and the breadth of this land the people, not just the capitalist, not just the professional man, nearly everybody was asking why boys were being taken into the army at \$21 a month while workers manufacturing instruments which this soldier was to train and possibly use were striking for higher wages or for some other more reprehensible reason. Throughout this land, Mr. Average American was demanding action, and when enough Mr. Americans want a thing bad enough, they usually get it. Thus it can be said that the

people got the action which they were demanding. The President, as everyone who will hear this broadcast already knows, had the United States army to take over the airplane plant in California which was tied up by strikes. Now what happened there? The armed forces of the United States went there and protected the right of the men to work who wanted to work. A large majority of them returned to work immediately. This just goes to show that a large percent of the working people of this country, the organized workers of the country, are "Americans first," and that if this government will just protect their right to work, then they will overcome the purposes of the few who are so vociferously insisting upon the right to strike. ~~Mr.~~ No worker in this California plant was ordered back to work by the government. ^{Each} ~~if~~ one of them had the right to continue to strike if he wanted to strike. Each one of them today has the right to quit if he wants to quit. But what do they want to do? The record clearly shows that the big majority want to work. Now they have demands for higher wages. They may have just demands. It may be right and just that their wages should be increased. This question is now before the National Defense Mediation Board. Let's all hope that they will render a fair decision, which undoubtedly they will. All draft boards were also ordered to reclassify all strikers who had been deferred because they were doing essential defense work. Now, isn't that fair? Let's take two boys. Say they live door neighbor. One boy doesn't have a job and he is drafted. The neighbor boy has a job in a gun factory making a gun for the other boy to

carry. His call to service is deferred because he is doing work which is just as essential, the making of the gun, as the carrying of the gun will be. After all, the soldier boy can't carry a gun unless he has a gun to carry. Now the boy who is working in the plant manufacturing the gun goes out on strike. Then how can he ~~ex~~ rightfully claim that his service should be deferred any further. This, of course, is a revival of Woodrow Wilson's famous order to strikers in the other war - "to work or fight."

On the same day that the President took this drastic action which so many people had been calling upon him to do, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly adopted an amendment to a ten billion dollar appropriation bill saying that ~~it~~ not one dime of that money could be paid to a man who was out on strike for more than ten days after the National Defense Mediation Board had rendered a decision upon the dispute. The House adopted another amendment to the bill which prevented any of the funds from being paid to a man who used violence, threats, or intimidation on the picket line for the purpose of preventing other men from going to work who wanted to work. The people even got some action out of the Senate during the week. They voted to condemn strikes in National Defense industries. Yes, the American people still run this government when they decide to do so. Public opinion is the most potent force we have, when aroused. It should become aroused more often. When the majority of all the folks demand that something be done, these small pressure groups, of whatever sort, retreat in the background. They become

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The President's appointment of Justice Harlan Stone to be Chief Justice and of Senator Byrns and Attorney General Jackson as Associate justices met

with the overwhelming approval of both the House and the Senate. It's the kind of appointments to high positions which the President should make when the most vital need for America is unity behind his leadership. He is providing great leadership. Many have been disappointed because he didn't use a stronger arm with the subversive elements here at home, but even the loudest of his critics along this line can not say that when he did act, he acted decisively.

Speaking strictly upon the question of domestic developments of the week in the capitol, the House passed a WPA appropriation bill for \$875,000,000. This was the exact amount which the President recommended. In the President's ~~recc~~ recommendation for the passage of the \$875,000,000, he also recommended that the House eliminate a prohibition against the aliens being employed by the WPA. The House acted unfavorably upon his recommendation. Why should this government, especially when we can nothing like pay for what we are already spending for National defense, give public work to ^{alien} /citizens who are in our midst. If they love America, they will become American citizens. And if they don't love America, they should leave America.