

Radio Talk, WSM
January 17, 1943

used same
broadcast
for Jan. 24, 1943

Did not reach
W.S.M. in time
for broadcast
Jan. 17, 1943

Good Morning, Friends:

On Monday, President Roosevelt sent to Congress his budget

message calling for an appropriation for the next fiscal year of over

\$109,000,000,000.

Before commenting on what has been happening in Washington this week, let me explain why this program was not heard last Sunday Morning. These talks are recorded in Washington on Sat afternoon and sent to W.S.M. by air express. If there is no mishap they reach W.S.M. in time to be broadcast at 8:30. Last Sunday's broadcast was recorded as usual and put on a plane, but along came an army rush order shipment which had a priority on plane space. The record ^{along with other recordings made} was taken off as a consequence it should have been to make way for a war shipment. That, then, is why last Sunday's record did not reach the ^{W.S.M.} studios in time to be broadcast.

Congress has started to work on ~~an appropriation bill~~
the President's request for an appropriation of over 109 Billion dollars.

Washington and the country ^{has} ~~have~~ been aroused over the coal
strike in the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania. *from the*
Beginning

A political tempest has been raging in the Capital over the President's nomination of Democratic Chairman, Edward J. Flynn, as Minister to Australia. Any nomination or appointment which creates such a political ruckus, in which no vital question of National policy or program is at stake, must be regarded as a political mistake. In this sense, perhaps, President Roosevelt made a mistake in nominating Mr. Flynn; but that, in turn, does not justify the hue and cry ~~and ruckus~~ which the Republicans ~~are~~ *Senators* are making over his appointment. True, Mr. Flynn is a politician. But so are the Senators who are making such a fuss about his appointment. In all fairness to the President, to Mr. Flynn, and to ~~those who are making~~ *the public* ~~such a fuss~~, Mr. Flynn is a man of unusual ability, well read, a graduate of Fordham University Law School. ~~He is~~ *a* polished and well mannered *gentleman*. I do not say that he should have been appointed. As I see it, the President is in error in nominating him, not because he lacked ability to fulfill *the duties of* the position, but because of the acrimonious debate which the President *surely* must have known would follow his nomination. And those who are creating *in raising such a row* the ruckus are in error and are doing a disservice to the unity of this country in order to make political capital of *Mr. Flynn's appointment* ~~the nomination~~. We would be better off if more people gave less thought to the coming political battle of 1944 and *put* ~~concentrated~~ their whole heart and soul *in* to the winning of this terribly dangerous war in which the very freedom of mankind is at stake.

And that is the news of the week from Washington, as I see it.

Radio Talk, WSM
January 17, 1943

Good Morning, Friends:

On Monday, President Roosevelt sent to Congress his budget message calling for an appropriation for the next fiscal year of over \$109,000,000,000.

Washington and the country have been aroused over the coal strike in the anthracite coal mines of Pennsylvania.

One of organized labor's dictators, Jimmy Petrello of the Musicians' Union, has been sitting on a hot seat before a Senate Committee during the week. He is the gentleman, you will remember, who has stopped musicians from making phonograph records. He is the same Mr. Petrello whose orders have even stopped high school bands from playing certain compositions over the radio. Now, organized labor has its rights and it has its place, an important place, in American society. It may be that some people want to destroy organized labor and their right to organize, but that is not true of the vast majority of Americans. But in all fairness to the cause of organized workers, individually and collectively, the government should take charge of the atrocities of such ruthless American dictators as James Caesar Petrello. Perhaps in dealing with Mr. Petrello, the government, willingly or unwillingly, adopted the old policy of giving him enough rope ~~to~~ that he would hang himself. He is now being prosecuted by the Government in Federal courts, and during the week, he has been called before a Senate Investigating Committee, and there he put on a sorry show of selfishness and unrestricted power. He is now trying to find a way to extricate himself from the mean mess of his own making. He had the effrontery to say that he would call off the ban if President Roosevelt would ask him to. I don't believe the President would so humiliate the exalted office of President.

A political tempest has been raging in the Capital over the President's nomination of Democratic Chairman, Edward J. Flynn, as Minister to Australia. Any nomination or appointment which creates such a political ruckus, in which no vital question of National policy or program is at stake, must be regarded as a political mistake. In this sense, perhaps, President Roosevelt made a mistake in nominating Mr. Flynn; but that, in turn, does not justify the hue and cry and ruckus which the Republicans are making over his appointment. True, Mr. Flynn is a politician. But so are the Senators who are making such a fuss about his appointment. In all fairness to the President, to Mr. Flynn, and to those who are making such a fuss, Mr. Flynn is a man of unusual ability, well read, a graduate of Fordham University Law School. He is polished and well mannered. I do not say that he should have been appointed. As I see it, the President is in error in nominating him, not because he lacked ability to fulfill the position, but because of the acrimonious debate which the President must have known would follow his nomination. And those who are creating the ruckus are in error and are doing a disservice to the unity of this country in order to make political capital of the nomination. We would be better off if more people gave less thought to the coming political battle of 1944 and concentrated their whole heart and soul to the winning of this terribly dangerous war in which the very freedom of mankind is at stake.

And that is the news of the week from Washington, as I see it.

NAtional 3120-Ext. 1387 & 1296

RADIO ROOM

SENATE AND HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

(Checks Payable to Robert J. Coar)

CUST.
ORDER NO.

DATE

1943

M

ADDRESS

SOLD BY

CASH

C. O. D.

CHARGE

ON ACCT.

RDSE. RET.

PD. OUT

QUAN.

DESCRIPTION

PRICE

AMOUNT

Trans. Service
to Sta. W. S. W.
Washville,

\$

8 06

(Includ. Contain
& air sep
charges)

TAX

TOTAL

8 06

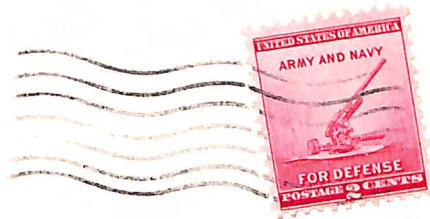
ALL CLAIMS AND RETURNED GOODS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THIS BILL.

No.

524

REC'D BY

Radio Room
Old House Office Building
Washington, D. C.



Congressman Albert Gore

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

Behind The Strike

There can be only one outcome to the unauthorized strike of anthracite miners. In compliance with the WLB order of last night, the men must go back to work. Idle mines while the Nation is at war and people are shivering because of fuel shortages simply cannot be tolerated. So the Government must break the strike in one way or another and bring about a full resumption of mining operations without further delay. That much is clear beyond any rational challenge.

But this revolt against the United Mine Workers of America should also be recognized for what it is—a distress signal. The strike involving upward of 18,000 men began as a result of a boost in union dues from \$1 to \$1.50 a month. Wage increases have since been added to the revolting miners' demands. But the real issue appears to be dictatorship within the U. M. W. In reply to the War Labor Board's demand for an explanation of this wartime strike, one union leader declared that the miners are fighting dictatorship at home while their sons fight dictatorship abroad. That explanation in no way justifies the strike. It does, however, sound a warning against abuses within the labor movement which now seem to have the stamp of Government approval.

The ugly fact underlying this situation is that the miners have lost their power of reforming their union from within. Once they could have resigned if dues were raised too high or if they couldn't tolerate the policies of the union leadership. Now the check-off deducts dues from their salaries whether they like it or not, and they can't resign without losing their jobs. Disgruntled miners can make their influence felt only by the spectacular gesture of a wartime strike.

What is true in the mines, of course, is true in most other industries. In effect the Government has forced thousands of war-workers into unions, without regard for their wishes in the matter, and then has utterly failed to require operation of the unions in the interests of their members. Why did John L. Lewis raise miners' dues? Is he preparing to make another \$500,000 political campaign contribution, as he did in 1936? It is a gross encroachment upon the rights of workmen to force them to pay dues into a treasury which is at the disposal of union leaders, dictators, or racketeers, who are not required to make an accounting for their stewardship.

Some of the keenest students of the labor movement are deeply concerned over the outcome of governmental policies that herd men into unions and assume no responsibility for democratic control or even honest management of those unions. William M. Leiserson of the NLRB recently decried the

abuses within the labor movement which now seem to have the stamp of Government approval.

The ugly fact underlying this situation is that the miners have lost their power of reforming their union from within. Once they could have resigned if dues were raised too high or if they couldn't tolerate the policies of the union leadership. Now the check-off deducts dues from their salaries whether they like it or not, and they can't resign without losing their jobs. Disgruntled miners can make their influence felt only by the spectacular gesture of a war-time strike.

What is true in the mines, of course, is true in most other industries. In effect the Government has forced thousands of war-workers into unions, without regard for their wishes in the matter, and then has utterly failed to require operation of the unions in the interests of their members. ~~Why did John L. Lewis raise miners' dues? Is he preparing to make another \$500,000 political campaign contribution, as he did in 1936?~~ It is a gross encroachment upon the rights of workmen to force them to pay dues into a treasury which is at the disposal of union leaders, dictators, or racketeers, who are not required to make an accounting for their stewardship.

Some of the keenest students of the labor movement are deeply concerned over the outcome of governmental policies that herd men into unions and assume no responsibility for democratic control or even honest management of those unions. ~~William M. Leiserson of the NLRB recently decried the tendency of unions to look to the Government for achievement of those aims that should come through collective bargaining.~~ The fact that unions have abandoned the right to strike gives the Government a great obligation to uphold their rights in war-time. But that does not dispose of Dr. Leiserson's incisive warning. "Organized labor," he says, "now moves in a vicious circle; as it resorts more and more to political action to achieve its objectives, it tends to divide its members and to disrupt its organization; then it must appeal to Government to use its coercive powers to force workers into the unions or to prevent members from resigning." Any labor movement that comes to lean heavily on Government favor and coercive devices is indeed built on quicksand.

Congress rather than the WLB ought to be delving to the bottom of this larger problem as a means of preventing widespread unrest among warworkers. It is not enough to stop outlaw strikes. So far as practicable, legitimate grievances ought to be eliminated. This is one of the biggest jobs looming up ahead of the Seventy-eighth Congress.

Total War Budget

The budget figures for the coming fiscal year, calling for the expenditure of just under 100 billion dollars for the prosecution of the war, can have little actual meaning for any one. It is a sum too vast for ordinary comprehension, yet some conception of what it means in terms of Federal outlay may be obtained from a comparison with what has been spent in the past.

From the hour of the inauguration of George Washington in 1789 down to the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor the Treasury spent a total of 197 billion dollars. But that is only one billion dollars more than we will spend on this war alone in the period beginning with Pearl Harbor and ending with the windup of the next fiscal year. Thus, in a period of two years and one month, the war is going to cost us virtually as much as the Government spent on all activities in all of the preceding century and a half. Certainly, however well we manage this program, it is going to subject our national economy to stresses of unprecedented severity.

To meet this strain, the President has asked Congress for legislation to raise a total of about fifty billion dollars in tax receipts and compulsory savings during the next fiscal year. This is approximately sixteen billion dollars more than the estimated revenues from existing tax laws, and would enable the Treasury to defray about one-half the current cost of the war. The balance, plus about nine billion dollars for other purposes, would have to be met through borrowing.

The attempt to raise an additional sixteen billion dollars in new taxes, forced savings, or both, is going to put a terrific load on the already heavily burdened taxpayers. But with the national income for the year estimated at 145 billion dollars it should be possible to achieve all or a substantial part of this objective, provided the tax load is properly distributed, and Congress feels that the economic factors justify or require the imposition of such drastic levies.

In return for shouldering such an immense tax burden, the taxpayers have a right to expect at least two things in return. One is the elimination of every unnecessary non-war expenditure and the avoidance of waste in war outlays. The second is the placing of his tax load on a pay-as-you-go basis. The tone of the President's message was encouraging in both respects.

Mr. Roosevelt said he would be glad to co-operate with Congress in further reductions of non-war expenditures, although pointing out that they already had been reduced

The attempt to raise an additional sixteen billion dollars in new taxes, forced savings, or both, is going to put a terrific load on the already heavily burdened taxpayers. But with the national income for the year estimated at 145 billion dollars it should be possible to achieve all or a substantial part of this objective, provided the tax load is properly distributed, and Congress feels that the economic factors justify or require the imposition of such drastic levies.

In return for shouldering such an immense tax burden, the taxpayers have a right to expect at least two things in return. One is the elimination of every unnecessary non-war expenditure and the avoidance of waste in war outlays. The second is the placing of his tax load on a pay-as-you-go basis. The tone of the President's message was encouraging in both respects.

Mr. Roosevelt said he would be glad to co-operate with Congress in further reductions of non-war expenditures, although pointing out that they already had been reduced by 36.7 per cent since 1939. There is reason to believe, however, that further reductions are possible, and they should be made, but it is also essential to keep in mind the fact that the so-called non-war outlays will constitute but 4 per cent of spending in the next fiscal year. With 96 cents out of every dollar going for the war, it will be necessary to look to these items for economy if any substantial saving is to be made. There have been gratifying indications that members of Congress intend to do this, and it is to be hoped that ways will be found to trim some of the projected war expenditures without impairment of the military effort.

The President did not elaborate on the question of tax collection, but confined himself to the assertion that "it is more important than ever" to simplify taxation and "to put our taxes as far as feasible on a pay-as-you-go basis." This is a simple statement of fact. Unless Congress acts to this end this year, it is no exaggeration to say that the vastly increased tax load is going to destroy the solvency of a great many taxpayers.

Mr. Roosevelt dealt with a number of other aspects of our fiscal problem, such as the effect of current taxation on the economic stabilization program and the desirability of holding to a minimum the burden which must be passed on to future generations. When all is said and done, however, the one great justification for the heavy load which he has asked the country to assume lies in the fact that it is necessary to the winning of the war. And that, as every one will agree, is justification enough.