

Good Morning, Friends:

Even though the world is aflame with the wild fire and madness of war, with violent fighting raging around the globe, we in the United States have reason to pause and be thankful on this Easter morning - thankful for the freedom to worship the Christ whose resurrection we celebrate, thankful that his teachings permeate our thinking and give us ^{faith and} strength to carry on at home while loved ones are away and ~~which gives us~~ strength ^{in our} to the soldiers who are fighting the battle of Christianity and freedom.

I recently had the privilege of reading a letter which a soldier, Russell Murphey of Robertson County, Tennessee, wrote to his family. I would like to read a few sentences from it as it seems ^{very} ~~most~~ appropriate ^{this morning.} ~~on Easter.~~ He said:

"Speaking of faith in God, I find it easier to rely on him since I am in the army than ever before. Here we live so much from day to day ~~that it is a constant job to keep up~~ and things are so indefinite we can only entrust the future to him and take what comes as our lot. I realize more and more every day th t the only valuable thing I brought with me to the army was my faith. I pity the poor fellows who have no such ~~stake~~. Every day I am more and more thankful for a home where we were reared as Christians. I am here where I get a different aspect of this war than any of you. This is a climactic struggle between right and wrong."

Yes, this young soldier sees the conflict aright. "A climactic struggle between the forces of right and wrong." Well said, ^{soldier}

The nation was shocked by the announcement that the Japs had executed American boys whom they captured after the raid on Tokyo a year ago. This shows the utter bestiality of our foe. When we capture an enemy, we feed him and clothe him well. And, furthermore, we give him his soldier's pay. This is in accordance with an agreement signed by the nations of the world, including Japan. It will not do for us to retaliate by executing Jap prisoners held by us. Let us not forget that the Japs are still holding as prisoners many Americans captured on Bataan. And, besides, the American people are humanbeings and they would not want to execute prisoners of war. *this barbarism is for the low, contemptible japs.*

The details of the Tokyo raid were made public during the week. It was made known that the planes ^{flew} from from an airplane carrier. Shortly after the raid was made, I talked to a naval officer who saw the planes take off from the aircraft carrier, the Hornet. I could not tell it before, but now I can tell some of the things he said. Of course, it has already been told that the naval vessels sailed to within 800 miles of Japan before the planes took off. This naval officer with whom I talked said that they could tune in their radio ^{to the Jap broadcasting stations} and hear the Japanese announcers and news commentators expressing consternation and alarm during ^{and after} the raid. Of course, ^{immediately} the Japanese sent her planes and naval vessels scurrying out over the waters of the Pacific in an effort to find and destroy the carrier which had brought the planes ^{so} near her ~~shore~~ shore. Fortunately for our task force, they found a localized rain storm and they immediately got into ^{into the middle of} this and whether the wind currents wafted

it to the North or to the South, they endeavored to stay ^{inside} beneath its protecting clouds, mist, and fog. It was a long and dangerous journey, but the ships returned to American waters without being attacked one time by a Jap plane. *Now that the details of the raid are known,* The question ~~now~~ arises whether or ~~not~~ this raid was worth the price. It looks doubtful. But this could not be determined without knowing ~~just~~ how much damage the raid did to Japan.

President Roosevelt has been out of town for a good many days. The nation was no doubt surprized to hear him speak from Monterey, Mexico, a few nights ago. ~~Even in~~ Even in his absence from Washington, though, the President keeps his hand on the throttle; by telephone and by wire he keeps in constant touch with things going on here. And things continually go on in Washington.

During the week the hot rubber controversy between William Jeffers and the War Department ^{again} boiled over, ~~again~~. Another Senatorial investigation was started. Democratic and Republican leaders were unable to agree upon a pay-as-you-go tax plan, and the stage was cleared for another bitter fight on this question to begin one week from tomorrow. A large majority of House and Senate members are out of the capitol today. Congress is in recess until tomorrow week and most members are taking advantage of the situation either to visit their homes ^{where near enough to permit} or to get out into the country to get a few breaths of fresh air. *and get away from this center of pressure, stress + strain conflict.*

Meanwhile, the show down with John L. Lewis is on the way. One of his local unions has ^{already} been out on a 12 or 14 day strike at the Celanese plant in Newark, New Jersey. And the threat of a nation-wide coal strike is imminent. John L. Lewis is a powerful figure, and President Roosevelt played a major part in giving him that power. It seems a bit of irony that Lewis should now plague the President of a great nation at war. It is a bitter feud, a political and a personal feud. But John L. Lewis should know that the United States will not tolerate a nation-wide coal strike which would paralyze our railroads, our blast furnaces, ~~and~~ our whole war industry. If he attempts it, he will be crushed and any one who would dare to do such a disservice to his country ought to be drushed - crushed into nothingness, physically as well as politically.

Hearings on the bill extending the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program have been closed by the House Committee. The next step will be a consideration of amendments ^{by} ~~within~~ the committee in executive session. This important question will come to the floor of Congress soon after we again vote on the tax proposition.

I closed last Sunday's broadcast by remarking that Mrs. Gore had paid \$2.50 for a small chicken at the grocery store here in Washington and that I'd wager ~~that~~ the farmer received only a small part of that \$2.50. I used this as an illustration to show that the government could do a great service to the producer as well as to the consumer by wringing some of the water out

of ^{our} the distribution system. Now I haven't said anything on this broadcast for a long time that brought as many letters as this did. It seemed to strike a responsive chord. ^{Well,} Here are a few other prices in Washington grocery stores: string beans, 35¢ a pound. Cabbage, 15¢ a pound - And mind you, while the grocery stores here charge 15¢ a pound, the farmer receives less than 1¢ a pound. The farmer gets 2¢ a pound for sweet potatoes, while they sell on the market here at 10¢ a pound. The truth is the government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to improve methods of production, but very little study has been given to the problem of distribution. About a year ago, I went to Canada and made a study of how they had held down their cost of living. I found that they had tried to cut down on the cost of distribution, to reduce the number of middlemen and the profit they received. It's time that we, too, were doing something about that.

It was announced here two or three days ago that our high ranking diplomatic representatives had been withdrawn from Finland. This immediately brought about wide spread speculation about what action might be impending in that area. If it caused speculation here, we can know that it caused speculation in the chambers of the German dictator. And as he wonders if the Allies are going to strike at him from that direction, he can look to the South and see British and Americans slowly but surely driving the last German and Italian contingent off the tip of Tunisia which points his way like a sharp sword. He can hear the roar and the rumble of American, British, and Russian

planes in the air over Germany and the terrific explosions as bombe released by them rock and tear and destroy German production facilities and, we hope German morale. He can look across the English Channel and see intense preparation and concentration of forces to strike at him when the moment of his destruction is at hand. He can, then, look to the East and see the relentless Russian Army ever plaguing, ever threatening him from that direction. ^{Yes} Hitler must know that he is slowly becoming a prisoner of his own fortress.