

Good Morning, Friends:

Seldom is one privileged to see such historic events as the address of the Prime Minister Churchill before a joint session of Congress on last Wednesday. Undoubtedly many of you who are hearing me listened to the Prime Minister's great address and, therefore, I will not attempt to analyze what he said. Perhaps a few of the occasion's side-lights would be of some interest.

The joint sessions are held in the Chamber of the House of Representatives. The House convened at 12 o'clock and soon thereafter the United States Senate marched through the Capitol, led by the Vice-President, who is the presiding officer of the Senate, and came into the House Chamber. The Vice President, as is always done in joint sessions, walked to the dais and took his seat along side the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Thus, you see in a joint session, we also have a joining of the presiding officers of the two bodies. After the Senate had taken their seats, the United States Supreme Court marched in and took their places. They were followed by the President's cabinet which was led by the Secretary of State. Members of the diplomatic corps have places in the ~~Senate~~ Chamber upon such occasions and they took their place. The galleries were filled to the last inch and you can imagine the demand for tickets to witness this historic occasion. Outside the streets were lined with thousands of people anxious to get a glimpse of this great Englishman. Into the gallery, there came, unobtrusively, the former King of England, the present Duke of Windsor and his comely American

wife for whom he surrendered his kingdom. He was quickly recognized and every person in the Chamber and in the galleries stood and applauded.~~the/~~ The Duke and Duchess acknowledged the plaudits with gracious courtesy. Immediately after the applause had ceased, the British Prime Minister came into the Chamber and was met by a thunderous ovation. His address was masterly. It was dramatic and powerful, and yet, it was spiced with humor and sarcasm of which he is a true master. Indeed, Prime Minister Churchill is a real master of the English language. He has the ability to express himself precisely and powerfully. I have heard speakers who possessed a more powerful and attractive delivery, but I am sure I have never heard anyone who could use words to better and more moving effect. He is a great orator, a great Englishman, and a great world statesman. He and President Roosevelt seem to hit it off very well together and they make a powerful team for leadership of free mankind.

Another sidelight to the occasion was the severe spanking given Kentucky's Junior Senator, Happy Chandler, who had, only a few hours before the Prime-Minister's speech, delivered quite a speech in the United States Senate, demanding that the Japs be whipped first and plainly insinuating that unless the Japs were whipped first, the United States would have to do it alone. It seemed as though the Prime Minister was answering Senator Chandler's categorically, ~~Senator Chandler~~ and, in my opinion, he answered him incontrovertably. Senator Chandler tried to make a comeback, but it was the comeback of a man who has already been knocked out and doesn't know it.

The news from the battle on Attu is very good. This gives us our nearest base to Japan. To the North, to the South, in all directions, the Japs can see the ring tightening and drawing closer to them as can Hitler and Mussolina.

I had a letter on yesterday which said: "Please in some of your Sunday morning talks, let the people know that the war won't be over by next Sunday, that the victory in North Africa does not mean that Germany has folded up." He goes on to say that he finds a large number of people who think the war will soon be over. Well I'm surprised that very many people could entertain such an opinion. That opinion can soon be dislodged by a frank examination of the facts. True, we have won some marvelous victories but they are only preludes to the hard task ahead. Of course, it is necessary to win the preludes, but the winning of these initial moves can not erase the fact that enormous and bloody battles are ahead before victory is won. To most observers, the tide has definitely turned. The sky begins to brighten, but the end is not yet by any means.

The panel of three men whd were studying the coal strike situation have made a report of their findings to the War Labor Board. The Board ~~has~~ as a whole is expected to make some decision within the next few days. No assurance, however, has come from John L. Lewis that he will abide by the decision of the War Labor Board, however favorable or however unfavorable it may be to him. On the contrary, he has repudiated the board and refused

to cooperate with it in any manner.

Some people have inquired why John L. Lewis suddenly made application to ~~xxxxxx~~ affiliate the United Mine Workers Union with the American Federation of Labor. Of course, I do not know, but I can give you my opinion upon it, for whatever it is worth. To begin with, John L. Lewis was for many years affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. He broke with the A.F. of L. and set up the rival C.I.O. Relations between the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L., as well as between Lewis and A.F. of L. leaders, became very bitter. Lewis, although for many years a supported of the Republican Party, ardently supported Franklin D. Roosevelt for election as President. Later on, a breach came between President Roosevelt and John L. Lewis. Despite numerous attempts to heal the wounds, relations became more strained, ^{7 (1940?)} until the Presidential campaign of 1920 John L. Lewis, the President of the C.I.O. tried to persuade ~~xxxx~~ C.I.O. members to leave the President and support Mr. Wilkie. He made a dramatic appeal to them in a nation-wide radio address and stakes his own position as President of the C.I.O. upon their decision. The C.I.O. did not follow his political leadership. Consequently, living up to his word, he resigned as President of the C.I.O. and some months later, took his United Mine Workers Union out of the C.I.O. and the Mine Workers Union became an independent labor organization.

Mr. Lewis must suffer some embarrassment in now coming back and asking the privilege of rejoining the A.F. OF L. So, many people are naturally

wondering why he has done it. I think the reason must be political. It involves both labor politics and national politics. Some very strong elements in the A.F. of L. have been attempting to persuade the American Federation of Labor to switch to the Republican Party. If John L. Lewis goes back to the A.F. of L. and joins hands with them, the coalition might be strong enough to swing the A.F. of L. away from the President, or whoever might be the democratic nominee next year. Also, for the first time in many years, John L. Lewis has found himself in a sideshow. He was a leader in the A.F. of L. and then he became leader of the CIO and now, though he is dictator of his mineworkers union, it still is only a small part of organized labor. So, as I see it, his move is prompted by political motives which he hopes will, first, enhance his own position in labor politics; and, second, result in another blow at President Roosevelt, whom he hates with a vengeance.

The Rumel plan was again defeated in the House of Representatives on last Tuesday, even though the Senate had passed it by a vote of 49 to 30. This action was taken in the face of the fact that the President has said that he could not agree to a full cancellation of one year's taxes. The conference Committee, composed of representatives of both the House and the Senate, are trying to work out an agreement, and the outcome is still in doubt.

I had a talk with Mr. Chester C. Davis, Administrator of the War Food Administration, a day or two ago about the problem of feed for livestock, particularly in deficit corn areas such, for instance, as Tennessee which does not produce enough corn to support her livestock industry. Ordinarily the corn supply needed by this area and in other such areas in the United States, over and above its own production, comes from what is known as the commercial corn belt. In many of the deficit corn areas, that is areas which do not produce as much as they feed, the local supply of corn is about exhausted. And, unless, the corn starts moving out of the corn belt into these areas, the livestock industry in such sections of the nation is definitely threatened. May I say, Mr. Davis is ^a very good man, and, in my opinion, if we had had him in charge of our food program from the beginning of the war, we would not be in such a mess now. He frankly recognized the situation. He pointed out that we had the largest corn crop in history last year and that 105 million pigs were farrowed last year. He estimated that all of last year's ~~105~~ record-breaking corn crop would be consumed by the middle of the coming fall. He estimates that 125 million pigs, an increase of 20 million, will be farrowed this year, but that there will be a considerably less amount of corn produced. So, you see the problem of bringing about a better balance between feed supply and livestock is a tough one. Although cattle have not increased as rapidly as hogs, there is, nevertheless, an increased number of cattle, as there is of sheep and lambs.

The increase in hogs has been particularly large in the corn belt and, as a result of this, most of the corn is being fed to hogs right in the corn belt. This is one big reason why corn is not being shipped out of the corn belt and into the deficit grain areas. Another reason is that the corn is not moving into the normal graineries and commercial grain distribution channels because of the ceiling price of corn.

It just looks like nothing is ever really settled in Washington. One thing is done, and that creates a dozen more things that need to be done.

But, as for now, that is the news of the week in Washington, as I see it.