

WSM, October 17, 1943

Good Morning, Friends:

Washington has been tensely awaiting the beginning of the conference in Moscow between Secretary Hull, Anthony Eden, and the Russian Foreign Minister. Some consternation was engendered here over the statement by the Russian press, which usually reflects official Russian opinion, ~~to the effect~~ that the conference would ^{consider} ~~be over~~ only military matters such as the urgency of ^a ~~the~~ second front. Just what this means, remains to be seen. ~~In any event,~~ Our Secretary of State is one gentleman in Washington who has not presumed to be a military strategist, not even of the arm-chair sort. Of course, it may have been entrusted to him to tell Marshal Stalin the approximate date when Britain and America will cross the chanel and invade Western Europe. But ^{which both P. M. & R. have said we would do.} it's certainly unthinkable that Secretary Hull and Anthony Eden, who, like Secretary Hull, has not been posing as a military genius, will undertake a full scale discussion of military matters. The importance of this statement in the Russian press may have been exaggerated. Nevertheless, it is just one more thing which has hightened the anxiety in Washington over the coming conference.

No longer does any one underestimate the importance of Russia in either war or peace.

The subcommittee on foreign affairs of the United States Senate finally got around to reporting out a resolution on post-war policy. It took this sub-committee several months to hand down a simple resolution. At one time, it looked as if the job would be shelved entirely. The about-face of the sub-committee and the reporting of the resolution can be attributed, I think,

to three things: (1) The steady pressure of public opinion; (2) the coming Moscow conference; (3) the passage of the Fulbright Resolution by the House of Representatives by a vote of 360 to 29. The Senate sub-committee resolution differs but little in principle from the Fullbright Resolution which was passed by the House. But the Senate did not chose to report a resolution which had passed the House of Representatives. This seems to have been caused by a feeling on the part of the Senate that the House had nothing to do with the Nation's foreign policy, relying, of course, upon the constitutional provision which gives to the Senate the exclusive power of ~~batifying~~ ^{ratifying} treaties. *by 2/3 majority*

There are many signs in Washington, though, that the peace concluding this war will not be reached in one so-called peace conference around ^a ~~the~~ velvet covered so-called peace table and submitted to the Senate in one treaty for approval or rejection, as was the case following World War I. This time it appears that the United Nations will attempt to build the peace structure gradually. And I hope, and have some reason to believe, that it will be subject to the approval of a majority of both Houses of Congress rather than leaving it at the mercy of a minority of only one House of Congress.

In any event,
~~Anyway,~~ it's heartening to know that a Senate sub-committee has favorably reported a resolution 7 to 1, and the propects are that the full foreign & relations committee and the Senate itself will pass the resolution by an overwhelming majority. Some say this means that isolationism is dead.

I do not believe isolationism is dead. It ~~is~~ ^{has} been killed in the

minds of an overwhelming majority of our people, but there are still those who think that our ~~best~~ best interests lie in withdrawing into passive detachment from the world. ^{And} With them, Isolationism is not dead. It is only dormant and awaiting the time when it can raise its ugly head and feast upon the bitterness ~~of~~ ^{and backwash from} ~~and~~ war.

I hope the Senate will pass this resolution hurriedly. It would greatly strengthen the arm and the influence of Secretary Hull in this momentous conference. I believe Windle Wilkie, the Republican nominee for President in 1940 and a candidate for the nomination again next year, made a valuable contribution by his speech in St. Louis Friday night. The fact that the Tituler head of the Republican Party, which has been traditionally isolationist, is now advocating broad principles of international collaboration to make peace secure, will not go unnoticed by the governments with whom ^{our} ~~we~~ leaders will soon be conferring and with whom we must cooperate.

^{Lille} Portugal ^{finally} ventured to call Hitler's dare when she gave to Great Britain, and, therefore, to the United States, the privilege of using the Azores for anti-submarine bases. This clearly illustrates the changed war situation.

Only a few months ago, there was great consternation in Portugal lest Hitler march over the ^{into} ~~the~~ ~~Azores~~ from France and take the Iberian peninsula, perhaps in collaboration with Franco ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ Spain, but to the enslavement of Portugal.

Portugal, though her sympathies were clearly with Great Britain and the United States, dared not take a move calculated to antagonize the German bully.

She watched every move anxiously, fearful that like many other small nations, she would be trampled under the heel of the Nazi Hordes. ^{Now} ~~This week~~, she ^{has} dared to give to us bases in the Azores to fight the Nazis. ^{And} ~~By~~ Italy declared war on Germany. ^{rather} Finland, an ally of Germany, is sending out peace feelers. Yes, Germany's allies are melting away from her. Her armies are being pushed back in Eastern Europe by Russia and are being steadily pushed out of Italy by the British and Americans. ~~The war is changing,~~ To use a common phrase, the tune has changed. To realize the terrible price which we will have to pay to crush Germany, though, we have but to contemplate that in one bombing raid, 60 of our flying fortresses failed to return. It takes ten men to compose a crew of a flying fortress, which means that we lost 600 men in this one raid. And it takes a long time, a lot of labor, and a lot of money to build ^a flying fortresses. The Germans have ~~improved~~ improved their fighters, their guns, and their methods of fighting ^{our} bombers. They are making us pay a terrific price for the destruction wrought. But our Commander in

Chief and the commander of our eighth air force in Great Britain say that the destruction wrought ~~yet~~ upon one of Germany's major ^{air} ~~barren~~ factories was worth the price. > Germany made the announcement during the week that the United States now had a super flying fortress in action. ~~Following this~~

Following this German announcement, an announcement was made here of the super flying fortress. It was my privilege a few months ago to see this super flying fortress, which is called B-29. Enormous it is, ^{much larger than the flying fortress} and equipped with a much greater fire power, heavier armor, and longer range. ~~than the flying fortress.~~ This super fortress is now in production and before long, squadrons of these will be pitted against the best ~~of these~~ which Germany can send up.

The House ^{backing} and currency Committee finally reported its bill to extend the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation and wrote into it a definite prohibition against payment of any food subsidies after 1943.

The provision of the amendment is almost identical with the bill which passed Congress earlier this year, prohibiting subsidies and which was vetoed by the President. So, it appears that the same old pattern is being followed.

The Congress will probably pass the bill prohibiting subsidies and if it does so the president will likely veto it again.

In contemplating the war with all its havoc and ~~looking~~ ^{hoping} for its foundation the conference in Moscow will lay the foundation for a lasting peace - There comes to mind the hopeful passage in the old testament.