

RADIO, DECEMBER 5, 1943

Good Morning, Friends:

For the past week in Washington, the United States Senate has been busy trying to pass a bill making it possible for soldiers to vote ~~at~~ next years elections. One of the Senate Committees has been holding hearings on the tax bill, which the House has already passed. Another Senate Committee has been holding hearings on the anti-subsidy bill, which the House has ^{already} also passed. Still another Senate Committee reported ~~with~~ ^{an enormous} vote a bill to give the non-operating railroad employees an 8¢ per hour wage increase, which proposal has heretofore been vetoed by Mr. Fred Vinson, the ~~Comm~~ Economic Stabilization Director. ~~Each~~ Each of these matters, in any ordinary week, would be a subject of considerable concern in its own right. But each of them and all of them together are driven to relative unimportance by the drama, the history, and the importance of the meeting between President Roosevelt, Primeminister Churchill, Marshal Stalin, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai Chek.

For many days before the news was officially released, it has been widely hinted and speculated upon that these leaders were meeting. Even before the speculation became ~~ripe~~, many people in Washington knew that the President and several of the highest army and navy ~~my~~ officials were out of town. There is considerable bitterness among ~~responsible~~ newspaper men at the way in which the news was released. But the important thing is that

At the same time, this meeting of the allied leaders was being hinted at, the air and the press was full of speculative stories about movements for a negotiated peace. Secretary of State Cordell Hull said, during the week, that these rumors were untrue and he ~~further~~ went further than that. He hinted that they were inspired by the enemy to slow down allied war effort. This, of course, would not be the first time that Hitler has planted such rumors in ~~prime~~ places, for instance, like Stockholm and Burne. But perhaps never before have we been so susceptible or rather gullible to such unreasoning optimism. Of course, a compromise with Hitler now would be a Hitler victory. He still holds a large part of the territory he has overrun. And we have only wrested a few islands from Japan. So, a peace with Japan now would be a victory for Japan. She still holds a vast empire, fabulously rich in resources. At any rate, Secretary Hull's denial of these rumors should ^{put them} end at least for awhile. All of us might as well be thinking about winning the war the hard way, which, after all, would be the surest way to hasten victory.

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A-10 * THURSDAY, Dec. 2, 1943

Japan's Death Sentence

Three men, meeting in the long shadow of the Pyramids, have passed a death sentence on the Japanese Empire—an empire which has claimed the lives of untold millions during the past fifty years.

This is the only meaning that can be read into the statement by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who have met and reached agreement on the conduct of the Pacific phase of the war. When the fighting ends Japan is to be stripped of her conquests and reduced to the status of a minor island power. That is a harsh penalty, but a necessary one, for it is the only way to be sure that a race which has been taught to live—and die—by the sword will not seize the first opportunity to renew the assault on mankind which was begun with the war on China in 1894. A Japan which cannot fight will not fight. And that is the way it is to be.

There is not a great deal that is new in the statement. It is emphasized that the several military missions have agreed upon future military operations against Japan. That is heartening, for it apparently means that the Generalissimo is satisfied with the plan of battle and is reconciled to the impossibility of giving more direct assistance to the Chinese armies that have endured so much for so long. It also is specified that the three powers are fighting to "restrain and punish" Japan. Coveting no territory for themselves, they nevertheless propose to restore to China all of the areas stolen from her. The people of Korea are promised freedom, and Japan is to be stripped of all of the islands in the Pacific, which she has seized or occupied since 1914. Finally, in one all-inclusive sentence, the Japanese are to be expelled from all other territories which they have taken by "violence and greed"—which virtually would reduce Japan to the geographical status in which Perry found it in 1853.

missions nor as to the scope of agreements reached. Yet it is safe to predict this much: The news from Iran will be as bad for the "master minds" in Berlin as the news from Cairo has been for Japan.

Grim Reminder

It took our forces only seventy-six hours to wrest Tarawa from the Japanese, but in that brief space of time and that relatively minute area of battle, at least 1,026 Americans laid down their lives and another 2,557 suffered wounds of varying degrees of seriousness. It was the bloodiest engagement ever fought in the entire history of the United States Marine Corps; it lasted less than four days, but so concentrated was its withering violence that almost as many Marines were lost in it as were lost in six months of hell on Guadalcanal.

The price paid for Tarawa—offset by Japanese losses estimated at close to 6,000—was not too high in a military sense because it bought us a victory of first importance. Yet, even though the rate of future casualties in future advances through the islands of the Pacific may not be nearly so high, this one fierce and bloody battle should serve to sober all of us, disabusing our minds of any too-optimistic ideas about the kind of war that must still be fought before our enemies are finally put down. For Tarawa is representative of more than the flame-pure, shining heroism of our fighting men. It is more than a name to be glorified in the history books and to be held up to future generations of Americans as an example of the meaning of bravery and sacrifice for love of country. It is an eloquent reminder, in addition—a grimly eloquent reminder—of the peculiar deadliness of the Japanese, of their fanaticism, of their queer, mystical determination to fight to the death for their Emperor and thus win an honored place among the warrior gods.

Our Western minds may find it difficult to comprehend such qualities in our Eastern enemy, but they exist none the less and account in no small measure for the extremely bitter character of the war in the Pacific. Tarawa is simply an outstanding case in point, and there may be numerous other battles like it before Japan is battered into the dust. Its chief meaning to this extent is that the road to victory is still long and hard, and we must steel ourselves to that basic fact, governing all our efforts accordingly.

Local Budget Simplification

The District budget has been a Chinese puzzle to everybody except the few experts at the Municipal Building who spent years learning how to unravel it. The Commissioners and Budget Officer Fowler, with the friendly assistance of the Federal Bureau of the Budget, have accomplished something worth while in simplifying it.

The benefits of this simplification will extend beyond making the budget itself more understandable. For the simplified budget, with a previous total of 215 separate items reduced to 95 will

tence, the Japanese are compelled from all other territories which they have taken by "violence and greed"—which virtually would reduce Japan to the geographical status in which Perry found it in 1853.

Thus the Japanese are slated to lose the Marshalls, Pelews, Carolines and the Mariannes—the island groups which they seized from Germany in the First World War and had mandated to them in the peace that followed. Although only some 1,000 square miles in land area, this scattered territory, including the powerful base at Truk, is of such enormous strategic importance that the Japanese will be tremendously weakened in the Pacific once they are forced to give up. Similarly, they will be tremendously weakened when they are forced to give up Formosa and the Pescadores off the south-east coast of China—a key island territory, about 13,500 square miles in area, which the Chinese ceded to them after the war of 1894-5. And when Korea is liberated "in due course," they will lose a militarily and economically significant region of more than 85,000 square miles, flanking their home country directly to the west on the Asiatic mainland. As for Manchuria, which they grabbed in 1931, its restoration to China will be a body blow likely to affect them for generations—equivalent to the loss of at least 460,000 square miles of land rich in such things as coal, iron ore, wheat, rice, cotton and lumber. All told, these territories constitute an area more than three times the size of Japan's four main home islands (147,000 square miles) and now house probably not less than a third of the total Japanese Empire population of 90,000,000.

This dismemberment of Japan follows generally what was promised by the President in his September 17 message to Congress. To some extent it clarifies and enlarges our objectives in the Pacific but the essential goal remains the same—the total defeat of Japan and her permanent destruction as a military power. It should be emphasized that this is only the goal—its attainment is not close at hand. As the President said in September: "We face, in the Orient, a long and difficult fight. We must be prepared for heavy losses in winning that fight. The power of Japan will not collapse until it has been literally pounded into the dust. It would be the utmost folly for us to try to pretend otherwise." These words remain as true today as on September 17.

For the moment that turns the page on the Far East, but the President and Mr. Churchill are far from through. It is reliably reported that, upon concluding their meeting with Chiang Kai-shek, they left for Iran to meet with Premier Stalin. Presumably this meeting has been, or is being held. There has been no hint as to the nature of their dis-

The benefits of this simplification will extend beyond making the budget itself more understandable. For the simplified budget, with a previous total of 215 separate items reduced to 95, will give a clearer picture of the present organization of the Municipal Government than has been available in the past. The grouping of related functions of government, the separation of maintenance from capital outlays and the inclusion in the local budget of items of expense to the District which hitherto have been buried in other departmental appropriation bills undoubtedly will reflect the need for simplification of the municipal organization as well as the municipal budget. Its submission in final form, with Budget Bureau approval, will be of more than ordinary interest to the citizens' organizations whose advice was sought in framing it.

As for what the budget itself contains, the most interesting recommendation is the plan to set aside a sum for capital outlay (construction) when priorities are modified or lifted and building material becomes once more available. This is not strictly "postwar planning," for it is possible that construction for public, nonwar purposes may be resumed before the war is over. It is putting aside a definite sum—\$3,400,000 is recommended—specifically earmarked for public works, to draw interest in Government securities until it can be spent. The same practice is being followed in many States and municipalities, thus creating a reservoir of employment in needed undertakings to be tapped when the time comes.

With a sum earmarked for public works and an additional fund—\$2,700,000—applied to debt retirement which will almost wipe out municipal indebtedness, an important step is being taken now in preparing to meet the many accumulated needs, requiring capital outlay, now facing the District.

To Right a Wrong

Justice Harold M. Stephens of the United States Court of Appeals for the District has given powerful support to the Hobbs bill to nullify the adverse effects of the Supreme Court decision in the McNabb case.

That decision, rendered in a murder case, held that a voluntary confession can not be used in evidence if there is a delay in arraigning the accused person. This means, in practical effect, that many persons guilty of the most serious crimes—even murderers—will be turned loose to prey on the public merely because a police officer may have delayed a few hours in taking them into custody for arraignment.

In laying down this principle the Supreme Court made a bad law. There was no statute that the confessions be true. On the contrary, it had