

Good Morning, Friends:

President Roosevelt returned to the White House during the week, but he did not say a word, that is, he did not publicly say a word about the flare up in Congress over his veto of the tax bill. He seemed to treat the whole matter as a closed book. His first conferences after reaching the White House were with high commanders of the army and navy. Undoubtedly, there were many things which he needed to discuss with them but, in addition to this, it was certainly good political strategy on the President's part to ~~consider~~ thus *show* that his first concern was the progress of the war.

Now that a little time has elapsed since the blowup in Congress over the President's veto of the tax bill, dramatized by Senator Barkley's speech, it is perhaps possible to evaluate some of the results. ^{1st} The relationship between the President and Congress, incredible as it may seem, appears to be ^{unaffected, that is} about the same as it was before the rift occurred. The Roosevelt haters still hate Mr. Roosevelt. The 100% new dealers are still new dealers. The middle-of-the-road gentlemen appear to be back in the middle of the political thoroughfare.

Liberals, The Republicans and Democrats are back at each others throats. The relationship between the President and Congress ^{very} might have been ^{if} materially affected ^{had} ~~had~~ ^{had made a permanent break,} Senator Barkley ^{refused} reelection as Democratic leader in the Senate and thereby throw the leadership to a clearly anti-Roosevelt man. But Senator Barkley didn't do that. He was reelected unanimously the Democratic leader in the Senate and, as such, he can ^{not} very well escape the responsibility of carrying forward the program of the President. That Senator Barkley recognized this responsibility was clearly shown in his letter to the President. So, as I see

it, the relationship between the President and Congress, bad as it has been for more than a year now, is little changed. It will be hard for the present Congress and the President ever to get along very amicably. Why? Because this Congress is essentially anti-Roosevelt. In the House of Representatives, for instance, the division is very close between the Democrats and the Republicans. Of course, the Republican members are opposed to Mr. Roosevelt. And quite a few of the Democrats, particularly from the South, are just as bitterly opposed to Mr. Roosevelt. So, until the issue is decided in the November election, you will continue to witness wrangling between the executive and Legislative branches.

The political effect of the veto tornado seems to be divided into two parts: (1) it will likely have little or no effect upon the President's decision to seek or not to seek a fourth term, or upon his chance of renomination should he be willing to run - and I might say that the betting odds are very long that he will. (2) a campaign issue may be made of President Roosevelt's inability to get along with Congress.

But perhaps the deepest result of the flare-up is a loss of confidence on the part of some of our Allies in the President's ability to lead the country into a system of peaceful international collaboration after the war. In other words, this vigorous panning of the President was right shocking to nations who have no clear understanding of American politics. At any rate, the capitol's political sea has been unusually calm for the last several days, following the storm in which many a member voted to over-ride the President's veto out of

resentment and anger over the President's message rather than upon the merits of the bill. Perhaps it would not be amiss now to examine just what the bill would do.

So, as I see it, after tempers have cooled off, the President was eminently correct in vetoing the bill, but that it was an error for him to send a message to Congress couched in such caustic, intemperate, and injudicious phrases. Hot tempers are not very lasting, but the inadequacies and injustices of the bill are now law.

The Conference committee, representing the House and Senate, has labored long trying to reach an agreement on the soldier vote bill, and finally brought forth an agreement on last Thursday. It will first be considered by the Senate. It represents a hands-down victory for the States-Rights proponents.