

WSM March 26, 1944

Good Morning, Friends:

The United States Senate unanimously passed a bill known as the G.I. Bill of Rights. "G.I." is a term which has become widely used. It stands for "government issue," which technically means the standard military issue of clothing and equipment. But around the world, it has come now to stand for an ordinary soldier as well. In other words, the standard U. S. man of war. The bill known as the G.I. bill of rights is the bill providing benefits to war veterans. It passed the Senate unanimously without a record vote, but so many of the Senators wanted to go on record personally for it that a roll call was had on its passage, and again it passed unanimously. The bill has now come to the House of Representatives where it will be accorded a warm welcome.

After this harmonious action, there was a considerable flare-up in the Senate which more or less went on a rampage against some of the programs, agencies, and personnel of the Roosevelt administration. It adopted an amendment offered and pushed by Senator McKellar of Tennessee to strip the Tennessee Valley Authority of its right to operate ^{with its receipts} more or less as a business institution, which it has done with marked success for a number of years, and ^{in making} it come to Congress for specific approval of every item of expenditure. For instance, if during the year, the TVA, which has an enormous utility operation in several states, should have a truck wrecked and had used its ^{appropriation} allotment for trucks, it would have to come to Congress and get a bill passed to buy a new truck with which to service its power lines. This seems to me to put Congress in the ridiculous position of trying to operate an electric power business.

Still on the rampage for what some claim to be ^{the} rights of Congress, the Senate passed an amendment requiring Senate confirmation of about 27,000 government jobs which pay over \$4500 a year. Now can you imagine the United States senate in this time of war when there are so many urgent questions before the country, ^{+ the Congress} taking time to consider and debate the qualifications of 27,000 government employees. This seems to me wholly impractical. I just don't see how the Senate will have time. For instance, let's think how long it would take to consider the qualifications of 27,000 people if they were only considered for five minutes each., and ^{surely} no one ^w could contend that a very thorough consideration of one's qualifications could be given in less than five minutes. Well five minutes for each of 27,000 men would amount to 2250 hours. The ^{take an} average Senate session ^{cf} will ~~be~~ ^{be} about five hours ^{per day,} ^{which,} In fact, ^{is} ~~that~~ is a little longer than the average session. So to give five minutes consideration to each of these 27,000 men, it would take the Senate 90 full days, doing nothing but giving five minutes for the consideration of each man. Now Congressional independence ^{which I am strictly for,} is one thing, but Congressional tomfoolery is another.

On the same day, which was last Friday, the Senate also approved an amendment denying funds to any government agency for which Congress had not specifically authorized funds. It also prohibited, under penalty of one thousand dollars fine or one year in jail, use of any government-owned automobile for social purposes. Now these last two amendments have definite

merit. Of course, no government employee should be allowed to use government automobiles for social purposes, nor should the executive branch of the government be permitted to set up helter-skelter fashion one government agency after another. However, it must be conceded that Congress has given very wide authority to the President to create agencies for the purpose of carrying out governmental functions. During previous years, Congress has been very lax and very free in conferring authority upon the Chief Executive. It went too far in that direction, but there is a tendency now to go too far in the other direction. ~~But~~ Throughout the political history of our country that pendulum has been swinging, and as the clock of time continues to tick, the pendulum of politics, representing ~~social~~ ^{continuous} and political trends, ^{social} advancements, and ^{reactions} setbacks, will continue to swing. It appears to have swung definitely to the right now, and only next November will give a ^{really reliable} ~~good~~ indication of just how far ^{it has swung.} ~~the swing has gone.~~

The army is calling for more young men, and the call has come to be an insistance and a demand. Leaders of our armed forces say that commanders in every theater of war are crying for more men and particularly young men who have sufficient physical stamina to withstand the rigors of ^{hard} combat. This demand has not been met to the satisfaction of any commander, according to officials here in Washington. And for 13 months now, the draft boards have not met their quotas. For the past several days, there has been a see-saw struggle between those responsible for the nation's production and those

responsible for directing the army and navy. The prize has been a group of deferred young men, particularly under 26. ^{these} ^{year 1942} A tentative compromise has been reached, which appears to be a victory for the army and navy ^{leaders!}

On last Friday, General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of National Selective Service, gave priority to the review of classifications of men under 26 listed in classes 2 and 3. He instructed local boards to call up immediately for their pre-induction physical examinations all registrants under 26 holding 2A and 2B deferments who have not been examined in the last 90 days. All new deferments to men under 26 have been banned unless the deferments are approved by State Selective Service Directors. Review and reconsideration of men over 26 has been postponed until the review and reclassification of men under 26 has been completed.

Agricultural deferments of men under 26 are being reviewed also, but farmers under 26 who meet the production standards will continue to be deferred. ^{the} ^{however,} But these production standards have recently been drastically increased. > All of this means that fewer young men will be deferred, either ^{on the farm} in agriculture or in industry. And this call by our ^{battle front} commanders ~~on the~~ ~~battlefronts~~ for more young men means that the man with the rifle must still be the instrument of final victory. You remember that it was Prime Minister Churchill who said that it would be an interesting experiment to see if airpower could bring victory. ^{And} ^{now} We have seen, for instance, that even in ^{Cassino} ~~Salerno~~ where a historic air raid dropped a sufficient load of bombs to

virtually level the town into utter destruction, the town is still not wholly in our hands. Men with rifles and bayonets are having to go in and take it. This is not in any way to minimize the benefits of air power and particularly superiority in the air. It is one of the essentials of victory. But it has been demonstrated that in every theater where we have taken ground and held it, men with rifles have been there to do the final taking and to hold it after it has been taken. Of course, there has been a great ~~new~~ improvement in ground weapons, such as tanks, but in this war as in all other wars, new inventions and mechanized development has tended to be offset by new defensive weapons. For instance, the development of the tank brought forth the development of anti-tank guns, ^{to} ~~which can stop tanks~~. So now comes the urgent call for more and more young men who are physically qualified to withstand the terrible strains of long day and night battles and military campaigns. The need is so urgent that during the week 36,000 young men, especially selected for the air corps, were transferred into the army's

ground forces. *This was done not only because the army needs more men in the ground forces but because casualties in the air corps are smaller than was anticipated.*

President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull ^{finally gave} ~~seem to give~~ ^{the U.S.} an answer to their critics who claim that ~~we~~ have no foreign policy. The President remarked sarcastically that some people have been wandering around asking hotel bell-hops whether we have a foreign policy. Now a lot of people have been asking if we had a foreign policy, and if so, what it was. Secretary Hull released a carefully prepared statement during the week, setting out

17 points as a basis of American foreign policy. This statement appeared not only as a reply to these critics who have been saying we had no foreign policy, but it was viewed as setting goals ~~which~~ for long-range international cooperation and security on the basis of sovereign equality of all countries, large or small.