

WSM BROADCAST  
MAY 27, 1945

Good Morning, Friends:

The most important action of Congress during the week was consideration by the House of a bill extending and broadening the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Program. The decision of Congress on this bill has been watched by the world as a barometer of America's will for international cooperation. It is all very well to make glittering statements about being for international cooperation. It's easy to give lip service to an appealing generality but the <sup>proof</sup> ~~test~~ of the ~~test of the~~ pudding is in the eating there of. So, ~~xxxx~~ the test of international cooperation is in <sup>the</sup> actual extension of cooperation instead of mere oratorical utterances.

As the San Francisco Conference meets for the high purpose of drawing up a charter for the peace loving nations of the world, as they near the completion of their task of establishing a world organization in which nations can hold membership and cooperate for the purpose of keeping world peace, the Congress was engaged in an old time ~~and~~ free-for-all political fight on the question of tariff. It is ~~undoubtedly~~ unfortunate that the Reciprocal Trade Agreements program should be made <sup>a</sup> political issue but ~~the~~ the question of tariff has been one of the sharp issues between the republican and democratic parties for many, many years. <sup>Perhaps it was bound to out at this time.</sup> The republicans say that to allow further cuts in the tariff would make the United States a dumping ground for cheap foreign goods, that ~~it~~ would hurt industry and mean unemployment to our workers. Backing up this viewpoint the republicans membership of Congress almost solidly oppose authority to make deeper cuts in our tariff.



The democrats believe that the extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program is a practical test of whether the United States means to back up its high pledges of world political cooperation with economic cooperation. The democrats further show that overseas trade has been greatly increased by operation of the Trade Agreements Program. They further say that the program will bring more jobs to American workers because it will allow us to sell more good<sup>s</sup> abroad.

Responsible observers in San Francisco have said that <sup>the program</sup> decision on the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program was being zealously watched by the representatives of all the nations gathered there. Repudiation now of this program of economic cooperation by the United States, which is, indeed, the strongest nation in the world economically, would undermine world confidence in the nobility and the sincerity of the high aims which our leaders and the Congress have heretofore expressed. It would notify the world that the United States was back on an isolationist tact. Furthermore, it would demonstrate that the United States did not have and apparently could not have a sustained foreign policy.



It is said here that Secretary Frances Perkins has wanted to resign for a long time. In truth it should be said, also, that many people wondered why the late President insisted upon her remaining as Secretary of Labor. Instead of placing the responsibility of handling the difficult <sup>war</sup> labor problems in the hands of the Department of Labor and Secretary Perkins, the War Labor Board has been created, the National Mediation Board and prior to that the National Labor Relations Board. In other words, the bulk of labor problems during this crucial period have been handled not by the Labor Department of the government but by agencies outside that Department. The reason generally given why the late President Roosevelt insisted upon her remaining in the Cabinet was that he was unable to find a successor who would be acceptable to both the A.F. of L. and the CIO.



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## Giants' Strength

From San Francisco—Wednesday

It is a commonplace to say that Big Five solidarity must be the governing consideration in any approach to the small nation agitation against the power to veto action which is reserved to any of the Big Five under the Dumbarton and Yalta agreements. However, the big power solidarity will not necessarily be attested by the exercise of that veto when the occasion occurs. On the contrary, the solidarity of the big powers may be manifested by waiving their legal rights in actual practice. A case in point is the argument which has suddenly blown up between France on the one hand and Syria and Lebanon on the other. Suppose the world organization were now in existence. Syria and Lebanon would obviously bring up their complaints against the French through one of the non-permanent members of the Security Council. Under the Yalta voting procedure, which is likely to be made part of the charter, France could block even the consideration of this dispute, let alone the settlement of it. Judged by France's attitude here, this is exactly what France would do.

Is this wise? The Middle East is possibly the area of highest combustibility now discernible in the world. In this area the interests or ambitions of no fewer than four of the five powers are inextricably intermingled as, for instance, over Middle Eastern oil. Surely, therefore, France should welcome ventilation of any Middle Eastern dispute in which she is a party before the Security Council. For a veto by France on discussion of that dispute would show a state of jealousy or fear on the part of the big powers in their interrelations. Big power solidarity, in other words, can be maintained only if the big powers do not insist on unlimited use of the veto.

taken yesterday when Representative Anderson himself was made Secretary of Agriculture in charge of our entire food program. A halt should now be called to the policy of drift that would otherwise land us in the midst of a crisis. The Anderson Committee has performed a public service by warning the public of the imminence of a crisis as well as suggesting the kind of preventive action needed to improve the supply situation in 1946.

## New Blood In Cabinet

President Truman moved vigorously yesterday to reorganize his Cabinet for the immense responsibilities that will fall upon it in the remaining months of war and the postwar period. In a single day he announced the appointment of new chiefs for the Departments of Justice, Agriculture and Labor. These shifts, together with the change already announced for the Post Office Department, go a long way toward reconstitution of his Cabinet.

The mere fact that such changes are being made is a hopeful sign. Being shifted unexpectedly into the great responsibility of the Presidency, Mr. Truman was naturally reluctant to effect immediate changes. As his grip on the reins of authority tightens, however, he is moving resolutely to put the Government's own house in order. That is not surprising, for, as *The Post* has repeatedly pointed out, the Cabinet has long been in need of reorganization. It has had no shake-up comparable to that of yesterday since 1933.

There may be a number of reasons why President Truman eased Francis Biddle out of the Attorney Generalship, some of them personal reasons. What is most important is that Mr. Biddle's chief service often seemed to lie in providing legal justification for whatever action the Chief Executive wished to take, even though he sometimes admitted that he had "very little to go on." In safeguarding civil liberties Mr. Biddle has earned widespread commendation. His record in discouraging war hysteria and in judicious prosecution of wartime offenses does not, however, offset his blunder in asking Congress for criminal penalties for newspapermen or others found guilty of divulging information which Government officials wish to keep secret. Hearty support of civil liberties is not the sole measure of an Attorney General's service. We hope that Tom C. Clark, the new Attorney General, who is promoted from within the department, will attain a higher degree of statesmanship in providing the Administration with legal guidance.

Secretary Frances Perkins' resignation had long been foreshadowed. Indeed, she wanted to retire months ago. Only the difficulty of selecting a successor who would be acceptable to the public and Congress delayed her departure.

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practice. This course, to say that the big powers should have veto rights. It is essential that they should. Possession of the veto authority merely amounts to recognition of the realities of power and responsibility. But while it is excellent to have a giant's strength, it is foolish, to say the least, to use it tyrannically.

## Sugar Shortage

As in the case of meat, it is already too late to escape the consequences of the errors made in connection with the sugar-control program. We are heading for a severe sugar dearth, according to the evidence presented in the report of the Anderson Committee on Food Shortages. Military requirements have increased about 250,000 tons, or 26 per cent, while the supply estimated to be available for civilians has decreased by more than one million tons, or about 19 per cent. To make a bad situation worse, 53 per cent of the diminished civilian supplies has already been distributed or allotted for the first half year, although normally the latter half of the year accounts for about 55 per cent of total consumption. Consequently there will be an aggravation of the difficulties resulting from the reduction in the total amount available for the full year.

The situation clearly calls for stock taking and reexamination of our commitments in the light of the latest information concerning supply and production figures. The Anderson Committee suggests, therefore, a survey to determine the minimum to be withheld for domestic use, with revision of the amounts distributed to foreign claimants. It may be that reductions in the amounts of sugar allotted for foreign use will not prove to be feasible. But the committee rightly insists that we should try to find out, without further delay, just how much American civilians can count upon and then decide whether changes in allotments to industrial users and to individuals are desirable. It warns that "the effect of permitting civilian requirements to become a residual figure might be disastrous to a large segment of the food-processing industries and to the victory-garden and home-canning programs. It would tend to encourage and multiply black market operations. The adverse effect on the food-processing industries of too little sugar could have serious repercussions on the whole food-conservation program. This in turn could seriously affect supplies of processed food for this country and for the liberated areas as well."

The present shortages are, the committee states, to some extent the result of the war and could not be avoided. But it also stresses the lack of proper coordination among the 20-odd Government agencies concerned in the control of sugar and recommends the concentration of authority in one coordinating head. A long step in that direction was

Undoubtedly the appointment of Judge Lewis B. Schwollenbach to succeed her will mean a reorganization of the Labor Department. As chairman of the Senate's committee investigating the war effort, Mr. Truman was sharply critical of loose organization and inefficiency in the executive branch. He pointed to "conflicting authority over and responsibility for" various war programs as one of the chief causes of failures and shortcomings. The scattering of governmental agencies dealing with labor is one of the most notorious examples of such "conflicting authority." (Tom C. Clark)

In the Department of Agriculture the appointment of Representative Clinton Anderson effects a large measure of reorganization. He will succeed both Secretary of Agriculture Wickard and War Food Administrator Marvin Jones. During most of the war years the department has been split between these two officials. That impossible patchwork could not stand for any length of time. Apparently it was tolerated only because the late President Roosevelt could not find a satisfactory assignment outside of the department for Mr. Wickard and could not bring himself to the point of dismissing a faithful subordinate.

Representative Anderson brings to his assignment a wide experience in investigating our war food controls. His reports, as President Truman noted yesterday, have been rich sources of information and constructive in approach. Now the critic and adviser will become the executive of the war food program. Much will be expected of him, and we hope that his executive operations will be as effective as his investigations have been.

In each case the new Cabinet members will be tested by their performance. Each will have numerous responsibilities, for President Truman's technique in administration, as we understand it, is to choose able men to head governmental departments, to group the great majority of governmental agencies under them and to give the department heads a large measure of responsibility in their respective spheres. That method truly calls for new blood in the Cabinet, and we are glad to see that the President is acting resolutely to provide it.

## Army Oldsters

The Army's decision to permit enlisted men 40 years of age and over to leave the service will bring balm to a number of American families. Previously, a soldier had to be 42 or more to be eligible for a discharge on the basis of age. The relaxation seems to us altogether sensible and bespeaks an awareness among military authorities of the special difficulties which military service imposes upon older men.

There appears to be a rather widespread feeling that the discharge age ought to be lowered to 35. This feeling found expression in a recent editorial in the *Army Times* and has been reflected in a considerable number of letters to this newspaper—excerpts

The issue should be settled until I get a vote.

men here on the Hill.

Indeed, it is worse than a serious handicap to the performance of duties. The right of new members to select those from whom they have confidence is basic to the gathering. That right ought to be actively upheld by Congress. Rankin and the committee followed his lead have called it. The issue should be settled so that neither they nor any other member of Congress will be tempted to raise it.

As things stand at present, the man who happened to be the victim of Rankin's spleen remains in the anomalous position of being subject to Rankin's supervision, permitted neither to complete his testimony nor to go about his regular work. An individual who became the test case in principle, he deserves an unequivocal declaration. For the sake of simple decency the Veterans Committee ought to clear up the matter without delay.

Mr. Rankin has by now made it altogether plain that no real investigation of the Veterans' Administration can be expected from any committee under his control. His interest is in suppressing facts, not in exposing them. He stands disqualified by his bias as well as by his intemperance. The House itself should now cite Mr. Rankin for contempt of its mandate and of its tradition and intrust the investigation of veteran affairs to another committee.

## Television Towers

The protests against construction of television transmitters in residential areas which have come from one or two citizens' associations seem slightly reminiscent of King Canute. For better or worse, television is probably here to stay. As it improves in quality and as receiving sets become available, great many American families will undoubtedly want it in their homes. Such is the nature of this particular broadcasting technique that programs must emanate from local antennae located near the center of the residential area which is to receive them.

In Washington, the present zoning regulations forbid construction of such towers, of broadcasting studios, in home neighborhoods. What has been proposed by those who desire to render a television service to the community is simply that these regulations be amended, with due regard for public safety and existing property rights, to permit the necessary structures to be erected. There need be no fear that they will be eyesores. On the contrary, they are likely to be examples of functional design—at least as ornamental to the neighborhood as, say, telephone filling stations, power houses or towers. Anyway, like these other devices, they will have to be tolerated if we are to enjoy the modern satisfactions they render. Progress, after all, is another word for adaptation.