

WSM BROADCAST
JUNE 24, 1945

GOOD MORNING, FRIENDS:

The week in Washington opened with a blast of news and glamor when General Eisenhower was given a hero's reception ^{here} last Monday. The ^{enormous} crowds linking the streets to see and applaud the General, who led our Armed Forces to victory in Europe, and the General's favorable, personal demeanor started some tongues wagging political chatter about General Eisenhower's popular appeal and political potentialities. Even General Eisenhower's positive disclaim^{er} of any political ^{ambition} position in a statement at his home town in Kansas day before yesterday did not stop some politicians from discussing General Eisenhower's availability and potentialities in the political field. For the most part, however, General Eisenhower is ^{Res}pected for what he is -- a great soldier and a great military leader who is satisfied with having done well the job assigned him.

The Senate heard the venerable B. M. Baruch advocate the destruction of Germany's war making potential. Mr. Baruch, ^{who} was production czar of World War I and an eminent advisor to President Wilson, ^{who} and ~~he~~ has been closely tied in ^{with the govt.} in an advisory capacity throughout this war, being a confidant ~~to~~ of both President Roosevelt and President Truman, ~~Mr. Baruch~~ criticized the revival of some German industries on the basis of expediency, for instance, the use of the Ford Motor Company factory in Cologne to make trucks for our army's use and the use of the Krupp works to ^{produce} ~~make~~ steel for ^{our forces.} ~~them~~. Mr. Baruch said that if they were permitted to continue on the basis of expediency now they might

be retained permanently. ~~Perhaps~~ Mr. Baruch could have added that Europe ^{will} ~~could~~ need everything the factories of Germany ^{could} ~~could~~ make for the next five years so that if we began yielding to expediency, ~~and the revival of the German industry~~, the period of expediency would be so long that a permanent revival of her productive capacity ^{might} ~~would~~ result.

General Eisenhower is soon to return to Europe where he will sit as ^{the} United States' Member of the Allied Control Council that will govern Germany. His task is a difficult one even if he had a definite policy to follow, but there is mounting evidence that even between the United States and Great Britain there is a lack of agreement as to definite policies to be followed in the occupation of Germany. There is even more pronounced lack of agreement as between the four occupying powers.

^{Well} The Senate ^{finally} passed the Reciprocal Trade Agreement bill without the crippling amendments which it appeared for a time might be adopted. This provides the Administration not only with a bargaining power required to give the program vitality, but it also ^{victory} symbolized a decisive ~~factor~~ for the principal of international collaboration. The tariff question has been a traditional issue between the Republicans and Democratic parties and the fact that the partisan opposition to the program was split in the Senate on final passage is a tribute to the skill with which the program has been administered as well as to the soundness of the policy.

The Senate will soon be put to another ^{test} ~~task~~ on international cooperation in the ratification of the ~~Senate~~ San Francisco Conference Agreement.

the Passage of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements bill by a substantial majority bodes well for *the* coming decision~~s~~.

The House spent most of the week debating and voting upon a bill to extend the life of the OPA for one year. The Republicans in Congress centered their fight for two amendments, (1) ^{it} to limit the extension to six months instead of one year, and (2) ^{and} to transfer all decisions affecting food except rationing to the Department of Agriculture. There is enough confusion in the country with respect to prices now without having the additional confusion which would result from only a six months extension of the bill. It seems to me the bill should either be extended for the customary one year period or it shouldn't be extended at all. The OPA has made many mistakes and most of us have been not only disappointed at its mistakes but aggravated by the restrictions and regulations which it has imposed upon our lives. We should remember, however, that these restrictions and regulations have been imposed not out of any bureaucratic desire to interfere ^{with} ~~in~~ the private affairs of citizens of this country but by the hard necessities of war. Without some rationing and without some control of prices, I wonder what a good automobile tire would now be selling for, or what would be the price of meat, shoes, refrigerators, sugar ^{or any one of} ~~as well as~~ many other items which ^{Extraneous as the cost of war has been, it would have been much, much greater with control of prices.} are scarce. I saw cigarettes selling in Paris for two dollars ^{per} pack. They tell me that in China an ordinary pair of shoes will cost from five hundred to one thousand dollars. We have been spared such a disastrous inflation but it could only have been avoided by drastic governmental action.

~~Unpopular as it has been, the OPA is the government agency which has borne~~

~~the brunt of this fight against ~~our~~ wild, running away inflation.~~ Farmers,

particularly, have objected to much of the OPA program but even their leaders,

such as Mr. Ed. O'Neal, President of the American Farm Bureau, ~~recommended~~ ^{suit telegrams}

^{each} ~~to Congress~~ ^{was recommending} that the OPA be extended for another year without amendments.

~~Many amendments were offered, but~~ ^{Nearly all members} ~~most everybody~~, even after they

expressed dislike for the OPA, ~~did~~ ^{admit} that we had to have some regulation ^{control} ~~to save us from run away inflation.~~

Without regulation, ~~it~~ ^{things} would go wild ^{in this period of scarcity} and rationing would be according to the

biggest pocketbook, and in such a system, the poor people of the country

who spend most of their earnings in attaining the necessities of life ^{would,}

~~would not~~ ^{as usual,} ~~indeed,~~ ^{suffer most.}

~~would not~~ ^{would,} ~~indeed,~~ ^{suffer most.} be hard pressed.

William Green, President of the AFofL and Phillip Murray, President of the CIO, asked President Truman during the week to make a quick revision of the Little Steel Formula, but President Truman turned down the request and stated to his news conference that, for the time being at least, the Little Steel Formula would stand. The President's denial of immediate relaxation of wage controls came on the same day that the House Of Representatives voted to finally approve and send to the President a bill increasing the remuneration~~s~~ of each Member of the House by \$2,500 per year. Though in normal times a good case can be made for increasing the compensation of Members of Congress with all of their multitudinous expenses incidental to official duties and official life, nothing could ^{better} demonstrate the untimeliness of the increase better than the President's expressed determination to hold the Little Steel Formula against further wage increases ^{for} workers.

*Its untimeliness is further
demonstrated
illustrated by*

There has been considerable criticism of the ^{military} strategy of the Okinawa campaign. ~~Some~~ ~~there is~~ There is nothing new about ~~and~~ ~~to~~ criticism from arm chair strategists, but in this case military leaders have been debating the strategy in ~~&~~ Whisper audible to ~~many~~ many. Navy men, particularly, criticize the strategy which put so many naval vessels ~~in~~ ~~around~~ ~~the~~ island water so near to Japan that they were vulnerable to Jap plane attack. All of this ~~has~~ has led to a wide discussion of the relative merits of an all out assault against Japan and a long drawn war of attrition. Gen. Marshall, ch of staff, had his say before the ~~harm~~ ~~com.~~ ~~com.~~ of which I am ~~member~~ ~~and~~ ~~he~~ ~~is~~ ~~impressed~~ that there will be a ~~few~~ ~~grain~~

Get in Touch
with Earl Clements
about Malouzi's donation
telephone.

G.M.F.

The two most notable events of the week
in W— happened on the same day
last Mon when the H. of R. passed the
bill ratifying the Bretton W— Monetary
agreement by the landslide vote of
345-18 & when Pres. Truman app'd
Gen Omar Bradley to succeed Gen Frank
Aines as head of the Vet. Admin.
→ The Bret Woods Agreement, <sup>designed to bring about
stabilization of money,
exchange & credit in
the world,</sup> appeared
only a few weeks ago to face a
stubborn & doubtful Legislative fight.
I talked only about a month ago &
talked to members of the Legislative
Comm. to which it had been referred
& they exp. doubt that ~~the bill could~~
~~even muster~~ ^{secure} a majority of the com.
could be mustered for the bill.
The fact that the bill was finally supported

2 by such an overwhelming
non-partisan vote is a compliment
to both Democrats & Republicans. ~~But~~
most importantly & then

P.P.

The Senate Finance Comm.,
Harcourt, ^{over rode this principle} ~~passed~~ ~~little~~ ~~need~~ as it
voted 10 to 9 against ~~the~~ authority
for further bargaining power in the
reciprocal trade agreements program.
Sen. George, chairman of the com.,
predicts that the Senate as
a whole will reverse this
lamentable decision.

3. The Pres. appointment of Gen Bradley presages a general shake-up & reorganization of the Vet Administration.

Complaints against the Vet Admr. have been widespread for a considerable time & recently they have become louder, culminating in a cong. investigation which is now under way. ~~It is no secret in Wash~~ ~~that the Wt.~~ For sev. months ~~now~~ it has been loudly whispered in W. that the Vet Admr. would have to be shifted ~~into~~ into a faster gear if it ~~can~~ handled the enormous job of administering the affairs of the ex soldiers of both World Wars. Generally speaking the Vet Admr. is an old organization set up soon after World War I & still laboring along with Red Tape & slow routine wholly out of keeping with the needs & problems of today. ~~The Gov~~

Gen Bradley has an injunction
 from the Pres. to modernize the U.S.
 He has ^{an enormous task} ~~a~~ ~~task~~ to handle. The S.D. Bill of
 Rights for instance has not worked as
 satisfactorily as had been expected.
 Gen B. comes to his new assignment
 with a brilliant record of military
 achievement in Europe, where he com-
 manded ^{over} ~~over~~ 1 mil. men. He is said to
 be not only a military strategist &
 field commander of renown but one
 of our ablest & strongest Generals.
 His appointment met with Gen. satisfaction
 except that many people regret that a
 man of his capacity is not
 available for use in the Pacific War.

The War Dept. however, seems now to
 have more Generals than it knows
~~what~~ ~~how~~ ~~to~~ or when to use.

~~The~~ Pres. ~~at~~ Truman
warned that it may be necessary
to ration railroad travel by
civilians for the next
several months in order to
make room for the large number
of service ~~men~~ ^{men} returning
home either with discharges or
for leaves only to be sent ~~right~~
~~away~~ to the Pacific after
30 days or so at home.

The president dropped the
remark that it would take
10 months to ~~redeploy~~ ^{transport} ~~send~~
the European forces to the
Pacific. This remark is
significant and should
~~be~~ have a meaning to the
many people who seem
to regard the war as ^{just} about
over. 10 months - ~~well~~ That
means that it will be well
up into 1946 before the bulk
of our forces can even be transported

to the Pacific theatre. Even
then, they will face a
large Japanese army of
perhaps 4 to 6 million
men. I say these things
because I see so many
people who think that
because our bombers are raining
destruction on Japan, she
will soon have to give
up. I hope she will but
we cannot afford to depend
upon it. Aachen, Duren, Cologne
Berlin were internally destroyed
by bombs ^{too} but foot soldiers
with rifles in their hands
finally had to take these
places. ~~If the the must~~
~~count in Japan~~
If Japan ~~puts up~~ fights
fanatically to the bitter end
we yet face a long and
costly war.

The End on Okinawa

The announcement that organized resistance on Okinawa has ended marks the conclusion, ~~except for the mopping up of scattered Japanese remnants~~ of what has been the costliest and probably the most desperate campaign of the Pacific war.

Approximately 90,000 Japanese soldiers, ~~preferring death to surrender~~, were killed. Another 2,565 were taken prisoner. Our own casualties have been in excess of 45,000, of whom more than 11,000 are dead. In addition, we lost at least twenty-four ships, and fifty-four more were damaged. Perhaps this is not a greater price than our commanders expected to pay for this vital stepping stone on the route to Tokyo, but it is a clear and a grim warning that a fight to the finish with Japan, and that is the only thing we can safely anticipate, is going to call for very great exertion and very great sacrifice. *(Here)*

The Okinawa campaign has taught us certain lessons which will be useful when our troops move on the enemy's home islands, ~~and this is said without any implication that the campaign was mishandled either in its planning or operational stages.~~ It has brought home to us, with added force, the fact that the Japanese soldier is a tough, courageous and formidable opponent. *was fought with* If there have been any lingering doubts on this score, they ought to be dispelled, once and for all. In their defense of Okinawa the Japanese for some curious reason elected not to meet us on the beaches. In other circumstances this might be explained by an unwillingness to face the covering gunfire, but since the guns of our naval ships could reach them at any point to which they might retire for a stand, this is hardly a tenable theory. In any event, our troops "walked ashore" when the attack was made on April 1, and they speedily overran the northern and central portions of the island against light resistance. *But* When they turned southward, ~~however~~, and came against the prepared Japanese positions, it was another story. The enemy had more artillery than our troops had ever encountered before, and they used it to ~~better~~ *brutal* effect. The enemy ground forces fought skilfully and with fanatical determination. Their suicide planes and their baka bombs were hurled against our forces in the spirit of men who were resolved to do or die. Without any doubt, the Japanese, no less than our own people, knew the importance of this island base only 325 miles from the homeland, and the character of their fight to hold it clearly foreshadows the quality of resistance we can expect to meet when the time comes to assault Japan. It will be a struggle which will command the maximum energies and the fullest determination of all of us, and it will be better if we face that fact now, *and stop teaching and acting as if the war was* ~~In this connection there may be significance in the disclosure that~~ General Joseph W. Stilwell has been

destinies of what is left
and Austria. The statesmanship
quired of them is something to pray for.

Bretton Woods

The action of the House of Representatives in passing the Bretton Woods proposals affords a wonderfully heartening portent for the future. Here is an answer to all who have been wringing their hands in defeatism and despair over the chances of international collaboration. Bretton Woods presented a concrete test. It commits the United States to partnership in the management of world economic affairs. It entails important contributions by this country and in significant respects limits our freedom of economic action. Yet when the test came, the House voted to accept the agreements reached at Bretton Woods by an overwhelming majority, ~~of 345 to 18.~~

Plainly this was not made in any sense a party issue. It happened that the 18 dissenting votes all came from Republicans. But this was undoubtedly an expression of diehard isolationism, not of Republicanism. The vote reflected the powerful current in both parties—and in the country at large—tending toward full acceptance of American responsibilities in world affairs. It is a hopeful indication, ~~therefore, that international~~

men the proposals, but they
were overwhelmed in the debate and
in the final balloting.

Most encouraging of all, however,
is the plain indication that virtually
all of the members of the House,
regardless of party or past beliefs,
now accept the view that the United
States must assume the responsibili-
ties that go with its position as a
great world power. After the Bret-
ton Woods proposals have been
finally ratified, and approval by the
Senate is almost a foregone con-
clusion, the bridges of economic iso-
lation will have been burned. And
from that, it is but a step to full-
fledged participation in the political
decisions which will shape the fu-
ture of the world.

It is possible, of course, that time
and unfortunate experience may
produce a change of heart in this
country. But as of today, the Amer-
ican people, believing it to be in
their own interest to do so, are
prepared to do their part in re-
ordering a war-shattered world. And
that, basically, is why there were
only 18 dissenting votes when the
Bretton Woods plan came before
the House.

Iran Speaks Up

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Gen. Bradley's demonstrated
These qualities—organizing skill, human
understanding and concern for the welfare
of his men—could not be put to better use
now that the war in Europe is over, than
in readjustment of the care of veterans to
present-day techniques. In the 22 years that
General Hines headed the Veterans' Ad-
ministration he has served faithfully and
well, as the President fully recognized in
accepting his resignation. *But* The fact remains
~~that some veterans' hospitals have fallen~~
~~shockingly behind the march of progress in~~
~~medicine.~~ With thousands of wounded vet-
erans from the present war filling up ~~these~~
hospitals, ~~moreover,~~ a whole new program
is in order. ~~Hereafter veterans' affairs must~~
~~be geared primarily to the requirements of~~
~~the victims of World War II.~~ Veterans' hos-
pitals must seek new methods, new tech-
niques and new concepts of service. It is a
task that will challenge General Bradley's
ingenuity and devotion no less than did the
direction of our conquering armies in their
advance into Germany. ~~We have every con-~~
~~fidence that he will meet the challenge with~~
~~the same masterful but unobtrusive touch~~
~~that has already won for him the deep thanks~~
~~and affection of the Nation.~~

To The Bride!

The bride comes down the aisle this June
in all the habiliments of ~~the~~ ~~tion~~—white
tulle, orange blossom ~~oil~~. Her
attendants are ~~the~~ ~~war~~

