

WSM, SEPTEMBER 16, 1945

Good Morning, Friends:

The most pressing problem in Washington continues to be demobilization.

The pressure which the people are putting on Congress and which in turn Congress is putting on the Army and Navy has already brought about some very tangible results. In testifying before a Senate Committee, General Henry ^{3 days ago} ~~testified~~ ^{said}

~~during the week~~ that about two million men and women who were in the Army on the day Japan surrendered will be demobilized by Christmas. He promised also that the number of points by which servicemen ~~would~~ become eligible for discharge ^{will} ~~would~~ be lowered very shortly.

The present Army plans call for a discharge of all but approximately two and one-half million men by July 1 of next year. The latest plan is the most accelerated plan of ~~demobilization~~ the Army has ^{yet} ~~given~~ and they have been giving a new plan or statement about every two or three days since Congress was called back into session.

Congress is still a little skeptical, though, of the performances of these promises because most of us remember that a few months ago Congress was placated by one ^{rotation} plan after another, ~~of rotation~~. There were plenty of rotation plans but only a few men were ever actually rotated back to the United States under these plans.

It's a fine and healthy sign of democracy that the halo around the heads of admirals and general before the war was over has dissolved and they ^{are today just plain men, frequently called} ~~stand today before the Congress and country as brass hats.~~

On last Friday an Army spokesman indicated that the estimate ^{of} size of

the forces to occupy Japan have been reduced. This followed by only a few days a statement from General Eisenhower that the number to occupy Germany would not be as great as originally planned. There was never any need for the large occupation forces about which the Army has been talking and planning. Why do I say that? I say it because I have been in Germany and I have seen the occupation of a part of that country. These things have happened.

German
The ~~army~~ army has been disarmed, and disbanded. Their leaders have been imprisoned. Public meetings ~~and secret societies~~ are forbidden. So the vaunted German ~~army~~ army is no longer in being.

Then ~~what have our forces done~~ *passed by civilians* They have ordered that all fire arms, daggers, and dangerous weapons, be turned in with heavy penalty against an offender who disobeys the order. But they have not stopped ~~at~~ *at* issuing an order ~~that fire arms be turned in~~, they have searched thousands of German homes in every town, city, and village throughout the part of Germany which the United States forces occupy. So you see, the people are without weapons, without ammunition, without means of organizing, without factories to make more weapons or ammunition. They are whipped, they are cowed, and ~~xxx~~ for the most part, they are meek and docile as milk cows.

So it is not going to take an army of one-half million men to be safe against an uprising of the German populace. As long as we control their

factories and keep from them weapons, they are powerless and defenseless *against* ~~them~~ *the mechanized might of our forces, machine guns and air force planes*
at our disposal and hundreds of air forces.
Then, what about the government of our part of Germany? Well, in the first place, we are not governing Germany, we are dictating the government of Germany.

Our military government men are not sweeping ~~the~~ out the city halls, they are

not collecting the taxes and teaching the schools. German civilians who have been approved by our military government officers are doing the detailed work of government and civil administration. It does not take one-half million supervisors to supervise the government of a ~~rather~~ land smaller than the state of Georgia.

Not having had the privilege of being in Japan, I cannot speak as familiarly about the problem of occupying Japan, ^{proper} but I was in Okinawa, ~~one~~ ^{of} the Japanese islands, only a few weeks ago and on that island there were nearly one-half million Japanese people. They, too, had been disarmed and rendered helpless before the might of our armor on the ground and in the air. They, too, were taking orders from American ~~army officers~~ ^{soldiers}. They, too, were working under the direction of American officers at whatever occupation and at whatever wage our forces willed.

I do not mean to leave the impression by this that Germany and Japan should not be occupied, ^{and occupied for a long time.} Quite to the contrary, our safety demands that these countries be occupied ~~in order~~ ^{and} to insure that they do not rearm, ~~that they~~ ^{and} ~~do not~~ start another war in another generation. But to do so, certainly does not require a regular peacetime United States army of two and one-half million men, which the army ^{now} indicates they have in mind. If we keep two and one-half million men in the army in peacetime and add to that an air force and another million ^{men} to man the more than one thousand fighting ships which the Navy says they want to keep, we would have approximately four million men in the ^{peacetime} armed forces ~~of~~ the United States, ~~Army and Navy~~. We should have

an adequate force, an army and navy, an air force and most of all we should have an adequate program of scientific research and keep pilot plants geared and tooled so that we can speedily, in case of need, convert our industry ^{and great} ~~to~~ ^{productive capacity to} the making of the latest and most effective weapons of war.

Recognizing this, President Truman recommended to Congress during the week that a federal agency be setup to encourage and direct scientific research. This is a far reaching plan and one to which Congress should give immediate attention because this war has shown that maginot lines are no good, ~~They have show~~ that all sorts of rigid lines, stationary fortifications and immobile concentrations are ~~wix~~ out of date. Suppose when we had a million men massed along the Rhur and Rhine rivers that Germany had had 25 atomic bombs to have ~~dropped~~ [?] upon them? We must be secure, yes, and there must be no doubt of it, but the problems of security must be rethought in terms of the scientific developments that has come upon the earth, fearful and awful as they are.

It seems to me that strategy ^{must now be viewed in terms of} ~~is not one of~~ space, speed, ~~and~~ ^{realization that the} bases of deployment, mobile ^{ity} and flexible ^{ity} and, most important of all, the only real defense now is the ability to strike our ^{potential} ~~enemies~~ ^{ies} more devastating and quicker ^{ly} than they can ever strike us.

General Jonathan Wainwright came home and was greeted ~~ix~~ as the great hero which he is. He was received in the halls of Congress and made a brief speech. General Wainwright's face was drawn and taut. He clearly showed the effects of the terrible strain he has been under. In honoring

him the Congress and the nation was honoring all those who suffered captivity by the Japs. It was not only General Wainwright who was patured on Corregidor, and who suffered but there were many little men -- captains lt., and many privates, sgts., and tho their names be not heralded, tho' they are not acclaimed, as ^{made} major heroes, many a person in Washington and New York and other places where General Wainwright has been applauded, had in mind that he was symbolic of the suffering of all our men of Corregidor. ^{Q +}

The army announced that they were releasing for sale a large supply of army goods. For instance, ~~the~~ army winter clothing. There was a lot in the newspapers last year about the Artic clothing that was going to be given to the troops suffering in the snow, slush, and ice on the German front. When did it get there? ^{after spring had come.} I know becaase I saw it being delivered to our troops over there. ~~It got there after spring had come.~~ The overwhelming bulk of this fine Artic clothing, the artic sleeping bags, wool lined boots, fur jackets have never been used at all. But, of course, the easiest thing to do now is to critize what was done. Undoubtedly the army tried to get these artic clothing upped + shipped to the soldiers on the front in time to ~~relieve~~ relieve their suffering from the bitter cold of the Western front.

The nation did not act ^{with} in perfection during the war. Many mistakes were made but the war is won and now the government with all of its debt needs to salvage and sell its surplus for as much cash as possible.

Well, Congress passed a bill to restore the regular time. There wasn't a vote against it and when the President signs the bill we can all change our clocks one hour ~~back~~ ^{reg} to the ~~old~~ standard time, which so many people ^{particularly farmers whose cows had to be milked about the same time} have called God's time.