

WSM SEPTEMBER 23, 1945

WSM Broadcast

Good Morning, Friends:

We have witnessed in Washington a week of rapid developments bringing cabinet changes, government agency shifts, an appointment to the Supreme Court, strike troubles bearing down upon the Capitol, passage of important bills in Congress and, most important of all right now, the army, through General Marshall, Chief of Staff, ^{gave} ~~is giving~~ Congress assurances that the army demobilization program would be greatly accelerated.

I remember when I was a boy seeing another boy place a coal of fire on the back of a terrapin. The dry land terrapin, as you know, is slow, cumbersome and awkward, but when this coal of fire got ~~hot~~, he really got ^{going} ~~to moving~~. This ^{is about like what has happened} ~~reminds me of what is happening~~ to the army ^{& Navy.} And it's a good example of democracy in action. It shows once more that this is ^{still} a people's government. The people have made their wishes known to Congress in no uncertain terms and Congress in turn, ^{so to speak,} ~~so to speak,~~ placed the coal of fire ^{on} the backs of the army and navy and, like the ^{slow} terrapin, they have got moving and have brought us a greatly accelerated program of demobilization.

To join with me in a discussion of these important happenings of the week, I have with me this morning one of my favorite colleagues, the distinguished and able Congressman from Alabama, John Sparkman. Congressman Sparkman is one of the leaders on the House Military Affairs Committee and, as such, he has taken a leading part in bring about a speed^{ed} up of the demobilization program.

It was on last Thursday that General Marshall appeared before Congress and announced the army's program. Congressman Sparkman, if you will permit me

I will address you in my customary way by calling you John. What is your impression of the demobilization program announced by General Marshall?

SPARKMAN -- Well, Albert, I think General Marshall did a great deal to convince Congress that demobilization is moving and is going to continue to move just as fast as it can be done consistent with the welfare of the men themselves. Let me explain what I mean by this. I served as service officer of my own American Legion Post at Huntsville, Ala., for five years. I ran into hundreds of cases where the veterans of the first world war were discharged without adequate records being made. It was almost hopeless to try to get their claims through regardless of how meritorious they were.

Early in this war Congress passed a law requiring the armed services to give every man prior to discharge a thorough physical examination and to make certain that his records were ~~kept~~ complete. To do this takes time and that is what I mean when I refer to it being done consistent with the welfare of the men themselves.

GORE -- Do you think it wise that the army and navy have yielded to the wishes of the people as expressed through Congress in speeding up the program?

SPARKMAN -- Well, of course, Albert, I think every Member of Congress and the people as a whole all want our boys out of uniform just as quickly as it can be done.

GORE -- General Marshall told us that the number of points which would entitle

men in the army to discharge would be lowered to 70 points on October 1 and then to 60 points on November 1, and he further said that as men were demobilized the points for discharge would be further reduced. I wonder, John, since you are so familiar with this program, if you could give us some of the figures on the speed up of demobilization since the surrender of Japan.

SPARKMAN -- At the time of the surrender of Japan we were discharging approximately 4200 per day, ~~but~~ by September 1, we had jumped to 9600 per day, and ~~today~~ ~~we are discharging 17,000 per day~~ there has been a continuous increase in the number until today we are discharging about 17,000 per day. This number will continue to rise until in December we shall hit about 25,000 per day. That is the maximum number we can expect to do with the limitation in shipping and the time element necessary for the men to go through the separation centers.

GORE -- In speaking of these separation centers, John, I wonder if you won't tell us just what you and your Committee are planning to do in an effort to further speed up the time involved for a man to go through the separation centers.

SPARKMAN -- Well, Albert, the Military Affairs Committee has divided into several sub-committees to visit practically every separation center now in operation in the United States. The first group went out Friday to visit some in the New England and ~~East~~ Eastern section of the United States. Other groups will leave tomorrow, some Tuesday and the others within the next few days. I personally am taking a group to visit Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Camp Fannin, Texas, and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. We are leaving Tuesday and

plan to spend a day at each separation center observing the work and trying to discover any method by which it can be speeded up still more.

GORE -- How many separation centers are there?

SPARKMAN -- Well we have about two dozen in actual operation today. It was the plan to use 26 following V-E Day. Now that Japan has ~~folded~~ folded up, we have stepped that up ~~at~~ till within the next couple of weeks we will have 181 in operation.

GORE -- What are some of the things which the army, under the laws which we have passed, must do for ^a soldiers at the separation centers before ^{he is} ~~they are~~ ^{his} ~~their~~ discharge?

SPARKMAN -- One of the most important things is that he must have a thorough physical examination, and records must be completely filled out. Another is that he must be advised of the various rights that are secured to him under the law as he returns to civilian life. He is paid his first installment of his muster out pay. All pay accounts, including travel home, savings account, financial records of every kind, must be checked.

GORE -- General Marshall, you will remember, told us that at first it required 18 days to process a group of men through one of these separation centers or discharge camps, but that it had been stepped up to about 24 hours. Now, John, let's go back a little. The bulk of our men are now overseas. The mere physical job of transporting them back home over thousands of miles of ocean water will necessarily require a period of months. How does our

program of home shipment now differ from the program the army had after ~~the~~ world war 1?

SPARKMAN -- Following the last World War it was possible to bring our forces back in whole units. In the first place, we had only two million men overseas and all of them in one area, whereas now we have about six million scattered all over the world and in literally hundreds of islands.

Due to the fact that we started this movement while we were still at war and due to the ~~highly dignified~~ bigness of it, a system of priority is used now so that those men with the longest and most arduous service are given preferential priority in being brought back home.

Another factor, Albert, in the last war we left only a handful of men as an occupation army, ^{whereas} ~~whereas~~ this time everyone recognizes the necessity of our staying in the conquered countries ^{with} more than a mere token force.

ALBERT GORE -- Well, I gather from what you say, John, ^{that you} ~~like me~~ ^{as I} feel that both the army and navy have finally developed a much more satisfactory program than they had when Congress reconvened three weeks ago. Of course, there have been some extreme speeches made on the floor of Congress. Some men have demanded that every body be discharged ^{almost overnight} ~~immediately~~ but, by in large, Congress has taken a sane position; that position being that since the war ^{is} ~~was~~ over and there ^{is} ~~was~~ no longer any need for the retention in the service of ~~several~~ several million men, demobilization should be speeded up and men discharged, as you said a moment ago, just as rapidly as it can be done

consistent with the welfare of the men themselves.

Well, John, when we started ^{this program broadcast} ~~out~~ I hoped that we could discuss the appointment of Senator Burton to the ~~Supreme~~ Supreme Court, the retirement of Secretary of War Stimpson and the appointment of Judge Patterson in his place, as well as the Senate passage of the unemployment compensation bill and the House passage of the voluntary enlistment bill, but I find that you and I are about like our people at home seem to be -- the biggest thing on our minds.is.demobilization.

SPARKMAN -- May ~~me~~ I butt in to say as well as the volume of mail on our desk.

GORE -- You are exactly right and that is the news of the week from Washington as we see it.

THE END

G. M. Friends: Sept '45
Pres. Truman's ~~came before Congress and~~

~~made a strong plea for enactment~~
~~of a uni. Military Training Law.~~
~~His message set Congressmen thinking~~
and started letters coming pro and con
pouring into Washington. ~~from the~~
~~The Pres. message was coolly rec'd~~

The mess. was coolly received
by Congress, but this ~~might~~ might
be misleading. It is not an issue
that ^{a supporter} ~~can~~ can joyfully shout about. ~~The~~
question asked most often is
"Is it necessary?" That is the question
paramount in the minds of many
members who have not made up
their minds — and the majority
are in that category. There are some
who are strong advocates and
others who with equal vigor
express opposition. But most have
a show me attitude.

The preponderant sentiment
in Congress ~~appears~~ seems to favor
coupling military training with
schools. So the second question
people are asking is "What kind
of training will it be?"
Surely we will

1- "A Program for Nat'l Defense"
Peace

~~The force of Law~~ ^{force} has ~~always~~ been more ~~persuasive~~ ^{is} when the law ~~is~~ supported by sufficient power to enforce it. It is regrettable ~~of course~~ that we must spend so much of our money for law enforcement — policemen, sheriffs, highway patrol — but the alternative to law enforcement is anarchy, the rule of the ~~teeth~~ ^{claw} & the fang.

~~The world has paid heavily~~ :

The price of international anarchy is high & twice already within my lifetime the world has paid heavily ~~in~~ its substance & life as well as in a sacrificing ^{of the} arts, monuments & cultural achievements of the ages & an atrophy of the ~~whole~~ ^{moral} fibre of civilization. Now ~~this can be~~ we can save ourselves from a repetition of this ~~madness~~ ^{madness} ~~distraction~~ engages the attention of citizens great & small.

2.

Perhaps we can learn from experience.

We know that law & order in all Governmental units from the least local political entities to the greatest & sovereign nations is ~~reached safe~~ not alone by moral sanction but by that degree of ^{power} force & strength necessary to impose it. ~~upon any & all~~ Law by force, etc

~~we have seen the tragic results~~
②? why should we expect international law & order to come by miracle alone? ^① mankind's journey to civilization has been long & arduous, not by accident.

not by accident, but by a long & arduous journey has mankind arrived at his ^{national} civilizations. why should we expect international law & order to come by miracle alone?

The U.S. stands preeminent among nations. ours is the role of leadership in establishing & maintaining a world civ. of law & order in which men & nations can work their destiny, secure in their rights, & free from war

4/ We are strong now but the

~~The~~ strength manner of our present strength ~~however~~, may be a mate as well as a boon. I fear that our army & navy hierarchy may be planting our preparedness on the basis of another world war II, just as France prepared to fight another world war I. ~~Our strength~~ ^{Our strength} must be great. The obligations & responsibilities that ~~are~~ ^{are} ours require that ~~we be mighty~~ ^{we be mighty}. Our ^{forces} ~~must be powerful~~ ^{must be powerful} but in enormity there is the danger, not only of clumsiness but of stupid ^{will} orthodoxy. ~~We must lay down ^{our} hands and arms.~~

~~It was with great reluctance after world war I that the army & navy permitted Gen. Billy Mitchell to demonstrate that he could sink a battleship with planes & even after the fact had been demonstrated many an Admiral continued in a "Jaint or" attitude. I detect great reluctance now to test the effect of atomic power on surface & subsurface vessels.~~

5. ~~and~~

varied efforts to
the numerous ~~various~~ methods of minimizing
minimize the atomic bomb are
reminiscent of the Billy Mitchell episodes.
The country must make
Congress, the country is asked by the
Pres. ~~and~~ ~~our~~ highest Army & Navy
officers to ~~make~~ ~~break~~ ~~us~~ make a sharp
break with the traditions of the past & inaugurate
a program of universal training. The
first question which comes to all of our
minds is - is it necessary. The next q.
none of us can say positively that it is or
~~will be~~ The dangers of not only unpreparedness
within ourselves but of inadequate power
to give forceful ~~sustenance~~ to our diplomacy &
to the rules of international society are
so great that some form of universal training is
^{in my opinion} necessary.

The next question is what kind of
training will it be? Surely we will

6 not perpetrate the folly of putting
having all of our young men spend a
year doing little more than silly squads
right squads left drills changing the rifle
from ^{right} to ^{the} left shoulder in exercise
picking up cig butts & saluting officers, ^{the majority of} whom
somehow ~~soon~~ come to think that their
superiority is based upon something
more than military rank. Unless the program
envisions more than this it will not only be
a waste of time for our youths & the
people's money but ~~like~~ it will foster
a dangerous sense of false security just as
France found comfort in her well drilled
army & invulnerable Maginot line. ^{your}
^{remember that it was freely said and relayed before that the Kaiser had}
^{the best army in the world. Perhaps they were the last squad left army}
^{But Hitler's modern machinery blitzed them in a few days.}
I think it should be said that in this
war which we have just won, a scandalous
amt. of service men's time was wasted
either in being nothing or in boy scoutish
close order drills & stupid military tomfooleries.
^{Most all returning service men will say so.}
~~I have seen our soldiers fight & they~~
~~didn't do it in closed rank formations~~

8 army & navy official after another testified
before congressional committees that
boys could be trained to give a good
account of themselves in battle in 17 weeks.
~~I saw men at the front facing the enemy~~
~~with less than three mo. training so~~
~~I wonder why it~~ ^{Why, now} ~~concludes it~~ would
~~not~~ be nec ~~now~~ to give 12 ^{army camps} ~~or~~ to a
boy in order to qualify him for the
reserve.

~~That 12 mo. of army training is~~

~~The real test of value the program will be~~

True it requires a long time to train
a boy in Radar electronics etc. but this
kind of training is given, not in army camps, but
in schools.

^{The value of}
The real test of ~~the~~ Univ M. Training
will be in the time boys spend in developing
technical skills rather than ⁱⁿ goose stepping.

~~If this war has shown anything~~
~~it has shown that~~

9. Some people say that the next war will be an overnight affair. I doubt if we should accept so glibly the inevitability of another war & I doubt also that if we ^{make} ~~make~~ ^{will} ~~it~~ be over quite so quickly but in any event I want the U.S. to be prepared to fight the war of tomorrow rather than the war of yesterday

One reason why Hitler's ^{Wehrmacht} ~~army~~ was so nearly invincible was that he had started from scratch & built it anew while his foes ~~consort~~ ^{boasted} with the immobility & stupidity of sterile ^{military} orthodoxy.

Plainly speaking, our training programs must maximize training & development of scientific ability & technical skills & must minimize emphasis on ~~outmoded~~ antiquated notions that bayonets & hand grenades will win any possible ~~future~~ ~~of~~ war of the future in which we might be engaged.

18. Furthermore acquired scientific skills
^{things of the head}
will last whereas mere physical
conditioning this yr will be worth
not little a few mo hence; in other
words we must have a tr. program
but it must be more of the brain & less of
the brawn. ~~The more closely it is allied~~
~~with the ^{body} the more detached~~
~~it is from it.~~ It is my opinion that ^{at least}
~~more than two thirds of the ^{12 mo} of the~~
~~yr should be spent in ^{camping} ~~camping~~~~
~~schools rather than in the routine ^{gymnastic} ~~gymnastic~~~~
~~after ^{a short period} ~~some~~ of ~~the~~ strictly basic~~
~~military training the entire emphasis~~

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