

WSM Broadcast  
November 11, 1945

Good Morning, Friends:

The arrival in Washington of Prime Ministers Attlee of Great Britain and Mackenzie King of Canada <sup>To confer with P. Truman</sup> points up two matters of vital interest to America. ---

One, the control of atomic energy and two, the state of international relations particularly as between the Anglo-American powers on the one side and Russia on the other. <sup>+ the world</sup>

Although the announced purpose of the conference between President Truman and Prime Ministers Attlee and Mackenzie King is on the atomic bomb, it is a safe assumption that our President and the British Prime Minister will have earnest discussions about our relations with Russia which have steadily deteriorated since the victory over Germany.

The awful destructfulness of atomic energy has brought new conditions into international relations and it has wiped out many old values as well as creating many new ones. I have been very wary of talking about the atomic bomb and its implications. I have, however, been studying and inquiring into the whole subject and the many new problems and new prospectives which this scientific fruition has created.

A few nights ago I had an experience in which I think you who listen to this regular Sunday morning program would be interested. I was invited to the home of former Governor Gifford Pinchot to have dinner with and spend the evening in discussion with eight of the scientists who created this greatest instrument of destruction yet drawn from the forces of nature by mortal man. We talked, or rather the rest of us mainly listened to the scientists, until



midnight. It was as provocative and as challenging an evening as one could imagine.

First, the scientists, far from being weird, mysterious appearing creatures from <sup>inaccessible</sup> tombs of Alchemy, were all normal looking young men, most of them in their thirties. Only one outward mark would distinguish them from any other group of <sup>young</sup> professional men -- they clearly bore the marks of intensive, long concentration and mental effort.

What did they say? Well, first off, they dashed to pieces the notion that there is a lot of scientific secrecy about the splitting of the atom. The <sup>theories</sup> fundamental scientific ~~theory~~, they said, have been known to leading scientists throughout the world for several years. The first actual laboratory demonstration was made by two German scientists in 1938, one of whom, incidently, is said to be now a Russian captive.

Early in the war Germany undertook to make or harness atomic energy into a weapon of war which, according to the scientists, is an industrial as well as a scientific undertaking of magnitude and magnitudinous technicalities.

Spurred on by the German scientists! actual demonstrations in ~~their~~ their laboratories of the scientific theory, American scientists went hard at work on laboratories where they, too, demonstrated the practical <sup>application</sup> ~~approach~~ of the theory which, according to them, had been known to scientists for a long time. The secret <sup>war</sup> information that Germany was endeavoring to make atomic bombs frightened American leaders. The threat and its meaning was taken to President Roosevelt. He ordered an intensive effort to make atomic weapons--and quick.

In great secrecy, our best scientists and industrial minds turned to the



unprecedented task -- Great Britain and Canada joined the effort. In laboratories the scientists poured over solutions, theories, and tests. In the hills of Tennessee the construction of a huge production plant was undertaken with all haste. In the state of Washington, in New Mexico, in the laboratories of our leading universities and chemical industries, people talked in whispers but worked in great haste.

I remember that during the time that the plant was being built at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, General Somervell, head of the Army Supply System, said to a small group of Congressmen that the Oak Ridge plant was a revolutionary undertaking, the nature of which he could not discuss, but that it was a race of production with Germany; that Germany had the same formula and was undertaking to produce a similar product. Fortunately for us, Germany was not able to perfect the weapon before she was crushed by Allied might. I say "fortunately" because the Germans had perfected ahead of us the rocket. The combination of the rocket and the atomic bomb is undoubtedly the most fearful instrument of which man has yet conceived. I have seen the German rockets zooming through the sky at tremendous speed -- huge missiles looking for all the world like a racing model airplane with a long streak of fire blasting and trailing from their tails. Not a human being was ~~able~~ <sup>able</sup> about this contraption but they raced through the sky headed by for some allied city and they usually got there. <sup>with awful results. The results,</sup> ~~Yes, it is indeed fortunate~~ <sup>however, would have been much more fearful if the</sup> ~~for us, that the atomic bomb was not perfected by the Germans,~~ <sup>rockets had had an atomic war head.</sup>

We did not make the atomic bomb in time to be used against Germany and only two were used against Japan, but these two not only hastened the



surrender of Japan but ~~they have~~ frightened the humanity of the world.

After talking with these scientists the other night, I could hardly sleep. Remembering the fearful things they said was like having a gruesome nightmare. They said, for instance, that instead of the atomic bomb being tremendously expensive, it could be made more cheaply than any other weapon of war of comparable destructi<sup>veness</sup>on. It has been said many times, you know, that it cost two billion dollars to make two. That statement is indeed misleading. We spent two billion dollars all right, but this was largely for production facilities. It <sup>also</sup> costs an enormous amount, for instance, to build Ford's Willow Run Bomber plant where liberator bombers were made. It would have been misleading to have said that the first two bombers which came out of that plant cost, say, four hundred million dollars each. The same is true of the statement that two atomic bombs cost two billion dollars. We have the production facilities and according to scientists, more bombs can be built rather cheaply. Furthermore, they said that the expense of the production facilities was much greater than <sup>would</sup>

<sup>have been</sup> ordinarily necessary for two reasons -- one, because it was built at such great haste and, two, because we were taking no chances and they undertook to make the atomic bomb in four different ways; and the amazing thing is that they were successful in making the atomic bomb <sup>by</sup> ~~in~~ four distinct <sup>different processes.</sup> ~~ways~~. They expressed the opinion that there might be several more processes by which atomic energy can be concentrated, controlled and released. One scientist~~s~~ said that the amazing thing to him was that someone had not by chance found a comparatively easy <sup>way</sup> of doing it.

All of this means, according to the scientists, that a small country like



Belgium, or Argentina or Norway could make enough atomic bombs to destroy, overnight, all of the principal cities of the world. They went on to say that rockets had now been perfected so that they could be set off from any point of the world and aimed at any part of the ~~world~~<sup>earth</sup> and that they travelled with remarkable accuracy.

In other words, they said <sup>that</sup> some nation in Europe or Asia or South American could build rockets with atomic war heads and set the dial mechanism to guide the rockets to the cities of America <sup>or any other country</sup> and that these rockets could all be released simultaneously with the pushing of a button; and that in a matter of minutes

and seconds an awful, obliterating destruction would fall upon our country, <sup>or some other.</sup>

~~And there would be no~~ <sup>no defense is</sup> ~~defense~~ <sup>nor will there be any</sup> against it, they said. Now, it is an ~~ordinary~~

old military maxim that for every new weapon of offense, a defense is perfected.

Before we accept that as irrefutable dogma, we had best contemplate that ~~there was~~ <sup>there was</sup> a defense against bomber planes ~~was perfected~~ in the form of anti-air craft <sup>guns,</sup>

barrage ballons and fighter planes, but these weapons of defense did not

prevent the destruction of the production centers and cities of Germany

and Japan. The scientists positively say that there is no defense against a

rocket carrying atomic bombs except to prevent its manufacture or <sup>to</sup> ~~control~~ <sup>the</sup> use <sup>of atomic energy.</sup>

More over, these scientists said that ~~the~~ parts of atomic bombs could be smuggled into any country in small parts, placed in their strategic centers by saboteurs <sup>and</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>to</sup> be detonated from a distance. Against this, too, they said there is very little defense other than to control the manufacture and use of atomic energy.



There has been a lot of ~~mix~~ talk about the United States being the only nation with the industrial know-how to make the bomb. Presently, this is true but the scientists say there is no doubt of the capacity of any leading industrial nation to make atomic bombs. Admittedly, the scient<sup>ists</sup> of both Canada and Great Britain worked hand in hand with our scient<sup>ists</sup> in making the bobm. Also, two scientists from Denmark, Dr. Niel Bohr and his son, worked hand in glove with our scientists in perfecting the process. I noticed in the paper a ~~short time~~ <sup>few days</sup> ago that Dr. Bohr had returned to <sup>his home in</sup> Denmark and that his country had called upon him to disclose to them the secrets of making and harnessing atomic energy. I asked these scientists the other night what Dr. Bohr knew. Their answer to me was this, "He knows about everything we know."

So, ~~As I said on this program last Sunday,~~ I question the advisability of approaching this question as if we had a <sup>top, dark</sup> secret which we could forever lock from the world.

~~Messrs Truman, Atlee, and MacKenzie King are undertaking to decide what we should do with what we know and how the awful destruction of atomic energy can be controlled. Perhaps, by next Sunday morning at this time there will be to man. May God be with them is important news from the conference.~~  
my prayer.



G. M. Friends:

Pres. ~~Truman~~ Truman finally delivered his long awaited message on wages and prices. ~~His message has been~~ saying that wages must be raised ~~but~~ that prices ~~must~~ <sup>be held down</sup> ~~except~~ <sup>where</sup> ~~price~~ <sup>cases where</sup> rises <sup>should</sup> be held down ~~where necessary~~ <sup>for by</sup> ~~made~~ <sup>are made</sup> ~~where necessary~~ <sup>neither industry nor labor</sup> wage increases. ~~Neither group~~ is particularly pleased with the Pres. message - in which may be a good sign. ~~During his speech the~~

~~pres. rather~~ During his speech the pres. ~~took~~ <sup>congress</sup> took task ~~for~~ for failure to enact full employment and Mr. Coughlin legislation. ~~That~~ <sup>Mr. Coughlin</sup> ~~speaker~~ + words flew in congress the next day. For the first time the pres. had aroused the ire of congressmen ~~to~~ <sup>publicly</sup> to cause them to criticize him. Like the first quarrel of bride & groom, this ended ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Mr. Truman~~ <sup>the honeymoon</sup> between Mr. Truman & congress.



Realizing that ~~Congress~~ by  
inaction <sup>much of</sup> Congress in  
scuttling <sup>his</sup> program and  
that he was being criticized  
by his labor friends for not  
doing ~~something~~ about it, the  
pres. undertook to swing  
the presidential big stick.  
The reaction was not so good.  
Pres. T. may as well realize  
that he cannot swing a  
big stick in the Roosevelt  
style. It is a little heavy  
for him. He has fine qualities and  
has done a remarkable job - ~~but~~ But his personality  
and talents are more suited to cooperative efforts than to  
strong ~~man~~ <sup>On</sup> <sup>national</sup> <sup>lectures</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>Natl</sup> <sup>Labor</sup>  
management. <sup>tomorrow</sup> conference gets  
under way. 36 men - top men  
of industry and labor - ~~and~~ will  
sit down together in an  
effort to reach a solution  
of labor troubles & problems  
in this topsy turvy period.



Perhaps they can reach  
a <sup>wood &</sup> general basis of agreement.  
I hope so  
This, however, would be  
binding and effective only  
if Congress enacted the  
principle or formula into  
law. Sooner or later Congress  
should write ~~a~~ a code of  
fair ~~play~~ conduct to be the  
guide in settling labor  
~~controversies~~ - The sooner the  
better.

Another conference will  
be held here soon - a conference  
between P. I. - Prim. W. & Prim. W. McK.  
the Canadian & the Atomic Bomb.



The army has again lowered  
the points by which ~~soldiers~~  
soldiers become eligible  
for discharge - ~~It is now~~  
60 points now entitles  
an enlisted soldier to  
discharge. that will

~~Master the~~

~~entitle~~

allow the discharge of  
many who are already in  
the U.S. - But there are  
many - many soldiers ~~perhaps~~  
yet over seas who have  
75 + 80 points and more.