

WSM, SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, 1945

Good Morning, Friends:

A House and Senate Conference Committee which has been dead locked for more than a month finally reached an agreement on amendments to the G.I. Bill of Rights. This conference report will be acted upon by the House and Senate about next Wednesday or Thursday. It broadens the benefits which veterans may receive under the bill and seeks to make the loan provisions of the G.I. Bill more workable. Perhaps by next Sunday Congress will have taken final action on this bill and if so, I will undertake to give a fuller analysis of its provisions.

As usual, Congress is head over heels in work just before the time of adjournment. A month and a half ago Congress was doing practically nothing, but for the last two weeks both the House and Senate have had their noses to the grindstone with sessions beginning early and running late. We still have another busy week ahead of us in order to clean the slate before going home for Christmas.

The House finally came to grips with employment legislation. You will recall that many weeks ago President Truman called upon Congress to enact a full employment bill. The Senate wrangled over it for a long time and finally passed a watered down employment bill and now the House has passed even a weaker bill. The bill suggested by President Truman would have declared it a national ^{that} policy ~~to provide~~ every man and woman, able and willing to work, ^{would have} with the opportunity of having a job where he could earn a decent living. The President's proposal would also have set up

machinery by which a national inventory of employment would be made and plans for making necessary increases in public employment would be made and submitted to the President who in turn would submit it to Congress. But a majority of the Senate and also a majority of the House did not like this legislation. They said it smacked too much of socialism; that the government was going to try to take care of the people, so they have finally passed a bill which amounts to practically nothing except that it does reaffirm a principle which actually needs no ^{re}affirmation -- that we believe in private enterprise and individual initiative. There is one saving feature of the bill as passed by the House -- that is, that it sets up a commission to make continued study of employment and the prospects of employment. At least this will give to the President and to the Congress the benefit of a serious study of ^{the} fundamental problem of jobs.

I had a letter this week from a veteran in Putnam County which I would like to read to you.

Harley Hicks - Cookeville - filed "Putnam"

From this letter, which is typical of many others I am receiving and other Members of Congress are receiving from all over the country, you can see that the problem of jobs is staring the country in the face now -- not five years from now. It certainly is an indictment of our civilization that it takes a war to give people jobs and sufficient income to have at least some of the better things of life.

It was said a long time ago that money is the root of all evil. Whether it is a lack of money or whether the love of money so blinds us to the actualities of life that we are unable to see that it is our master instead of our slave that causes us to be so stupid, I do not know; but to say the least of it, the fact remains that we have the richest country on earth ^{are} where there ~~is~~ plenty of things to work with and plenty of things that need to be done -- more roads need to be built, more homes, more schoolhouses, more churches, bridges, air fields, automobiles, refrigerators, clothes -- there are a million things that need to be done, a million things that would improve the lot of humanity if they were done, and yet Congress will not even declare a national policy of full employment. ^{and nearly a year ago we were returning from the war only to face unemployment} Perhaps we ought to ^{basic} get down to bed rock and ask ourselves some questions. Let us discover our ills and then make our system work in peace with the same efficiency and drive that we have had during the war.

H. M. Bonds:

The O. H. invsr. received a severe

set back when the com. counsel
Gen. ^{William D.} Mitchell, former republican attorney
Gen. of the U. S. under former Pres. H.
resigned. Although Gen M.'s statement was
quite mild there is no secret
that he was fed up with the
partisan tactics of Republican members
who have taken up so much time
in questioning and cross examining all
witnesses - After four full weeks of
hearings the com. has heard only
8 witnesses, with sixty waiting to be
heard. At that rate, hearings would
not be completed until next
fall and the com. is supposed to finish
the study and report ~~by~~ ^{by} Jan 3.
Gen Mitchell's resign focuses attention
on the partisan, political flavor ~~of the~~
that the investigation has ^{taken} although
both Dem. & Rep. have protested their
non-partisan motives. Another incident
~~going~~ During the week tended also
to ~~the~~ emphasize partisanship in the
investigation - ^{the} revelation that ~~one of~~
a man who has been prompting
and assisting Sens. Brewster and
Hoyt was a recent employee of the
Republican natl. com. This, however, wasn't so serious,
but ~~the~~ ^{Gen. M.'s} resignation is a serious blow - Sen. Barkley said it was tragic
and ~~this is~~ ^{not} unfortunate turn
(over)

~~and~~ may seriously mar the
com's work. So far, the investigation
has brought about no startling
disclosures but some ugly
rumors have been set to rest.
~~In any event, the people are~~
~~entitled to know the truth,~~
~~developed fairly and unbiasedly.~~
~~Example, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000~~

Since former Sec of State Cordell Hull
testified that there was no way
to avoid war with the Japs other
than to back ~~down~~ away from our
firm policies and be comrades, the
effort to blame Franklin Roosevelt
for starting the war with Japan
has collapsed.

The American people are
entitled to know the full story
of Pear Harbor - told ~~without~~
fairly and without bias. If this
investigation is turned into a political
side show, it would be best if
we had never had it.

~~But I am~~ Labor legislation
~~has~~ had a serious set backs during
the week - The Senate Labor Com

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

postponed further consideration
until after Xmas, and this
action was taken only one
day after Pres Truman had told
~~expressed confidence in~~ that he had
a press conference ~~meant~~
confidence that Congress ~~meant~~
enact legis before Xmas.
The House of Rep refused to
consider a ~~bill~~ drastic bill
until the House Labor Com
has had time to act on the
Pres' request - Meanwhile
the House of Com has been
holding hearings but with
no prospects of reporting ~~on~~
a bill before some time in 1946.
Prospects of any legis have faded.
It may be, though, that the ~~strike~~
situation will be so bad ~~after~~ early
in 1946 that ~~any~~ will be forced
to take action. The strike at S. M.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Continues on a strike in
steel and alum plants has
been called for Jan 14. The
nuclear recon program will
be shot to splinter if we
suffer a prolonged national
mass of strikes.

The pres. we, though, have
met with ^{strong} opposition not
only from ~~these~~ ^{labor advocates} who want
no legis what ever but also
from those who want
stronger