

WSM Broadcast
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Good Morning, Friends:

The reconvening of Congress on last Monday was a signal for a ^{flood} ~~lot~~ of speeches ~~throughout the week~~ on domestic affairs and politics. Throughout the week various Members have made the Welkin ring. The favorite topic of debate ^{also} has been the wave of industrial strife, wage disputes and strikes, ^{and demobilization}. Labor leaders and strikers have been both roundly denounced and defended. ~~Meanwhile, a week has passed and Congress has taken no action whatsoever to relieve the disturbed state of affairs. And meanwhile Washington is virtually without meat to eat.~~

There are, of course, two sides to the controversy. As I once stood beside a saw mill and watched the old sawyer guide the log ^{into the whirling circle} saw to rip from ^{it} ~~the log~~ a thin, uniform plank, I said, "That is sure sawing them thin." He said, "Yep, but I never ^{yet} sawed one ~~yet~~ so thin that it didn't have two sides."

The high cost of living is undoubtedly one of the prime causes for the unrest of industrial workers. All one has to do to realize the high cost of living in a large city is to just try his hand at filling the market basket or go to a store to buy a shirt, ^{or a handkerchief.} ~~that is if you could find a shirt~~

~~for sale.~~ In the cloak room of the House of Representatives, there is a little sandwich counter where Members can buy sandwiches and cold drinks.

Over the Holidays the sandwich vender raised his prices. The price of ^{a roast beef sandwich} two slices of bread and a piece of meat sliced so thin you can almost see through it is 35¢.

A day or two after getting back to Washington I went ^{with my wife} to the grocery store and among other things ^{we} bought a little sack of apples -- not a very large sack, just 8 or 10 apples. ^{ordinary} that I could put in my coat pockets. ~~When I paid~~ The bill for the apples ^{was} they were 75¢.

One big cause of the high cost of living is that there is too much difference between the price a consumer pays at the grocery store ~~for~~ apples and other commodities and ^{the} price received by the man who produced it. ~~This is the old story, of course, about too many middle men.~~

Members who made speeches defending the actions of organized labor cited figures on the increase in the cost of living, ~~and cited~~ figures on the reduction in labor's take-home pay since the ending of the war, and ^{they talked, too, about} the right of ^{free} men to quit work if they want ^{about} to quit. On the other hand, labor leaders and the excesses of labor organization and the abuse of power by labor unions were thoroughly denounced. One fellow said that labor leaders are generally suffering from the delusions of rapidly swollen authority gained by political influence, ---

While this debate was going on, strikes were multiplying and industrial warfare becomes ^{ing} more serious and threatening by the hour. The failure of President Truman's efforts to settle ^{the} steel wage controversy was an ominous sign. It was a sign, I think, that big industry has chosen to fight a last ditch stand in resisting wage increases beyond what they allege is their ability to pay.

As I see it, the country has been gradually drifting toward an inevitable crises with respect to the power and the action of organized groups. Following the enactment of the one sided national labor relations act, there has been an unprecedented growth in labor ~~within~~ organizations. This growth in and of *itself* ~~industry~~ should not be condemned. On the contrary, the development of peaceful organizations within a society should be a mark of sociological advancement. The difficulty arises ~~with~~ out of the fact that along with this growth in numbers there has been a tremendous upsurge of political and economic power but no corresponding development of responsibility. As a matter of fact, many of the operations of labor organizations and ~~leaders~~ of these organizations are beyond the ear and eye and arm of the government. In a government by the people, for the people and of the people there must always be borne in mind that the will and wish of any person, ^{subordinate} group or organization must be subject to the will of the majority and that the public welfare must always be paramount. *Elsewise, how can the Gov. keep groups subordinate.*

Whether recognized or not, the fact stands that these fundamental concepts of a democratic society are not observed by many labor leaders in the exercising of their unnatural and inordinate power. Through the closed shop, leaders have the power to say who can and who can not work in the country's basic industries -- the coal mines, the steel mills, the automobile factories, the packing houses, on the ships, on the railroads, in the nation's leading factories.

No one man should have ^{the} enough power to tell the country that it can not mine coal and yet John L Lewis has that power under existing circumstances. No one man or small group should have the autocratic power to return the American people to the horse and buggy days, and yet for weeks and weeks the nation's leading automobile factory has been closed by the order of one man. No man should have the power to say that American school bands shall not play the national Anthem over the radio and yet the dictator of the American Musicians Union, James ^{Cezar} ~~Ezar~~ Petrello, not only has that power but on numerous occasions has exercised it. A recent case occurred at the ceremony commissioning the new battleship ~~the~~ South Dakota. Plans were made for an outstanding high school band of the State of South Dakota at to play ~~in~~ the commissioning ceremony. James ^{Cezar} ~~Ezar~~ Petrello objected and the band was not allowed to play. ^{for another case} Last Armistice Day, ceremonies were held near the Quantico Marine Base in ^{commemoration} ~~commemoration~~ of the heroes who gave their lives in the first and second world wars. The Marine Band stationed at Quantico was asked to play at this ceremony in commemoration of their fallen comrades. ^{again} ~~John~~ Cezar Petrello objected and the ceremony proceeded without the services of the American Marine Band. More recently, Petrello has extended his dictatorship into international fields by issuing an order prohibiting any musical broadcast over American radio stations that originates in foreign countries. These are only a few facts regarding ^{again} ~~John~~ Cezar Petrello's dictatorship over the American radio and national musical programs. Many more could be cited, but even these facts, are perfectly appalling. When you ~~can't~~ come right down to thinking of it, one wonders just how it could happen in a free country -- that one man who occupies no official status whatever in the people's government, who has no ^{legal authority or} responsibility ~~whatever to the people~~ can say and make it stick that the American people should not hear over their radios music played either in a foreign country or by ^{their} ~~our~~ own high school bands.

It is equally astounding that Congress would sit sublimely by and permit such a thing to happen without long since having done something about it. The situation is not without hope, however, because a Committee of Congress is expected to report out a bill within the next few days dealing specifically with the power and abuse of privilege of ^{James} John Cezar Petrello. I believe the Congress will eventually pass a bill regulating these abuses. The dealing with ^{James} John Cezar Petrello, however, is only a small part of what needs to be done. ~~As a democracy~~ If the democracy we know is to survive, Congress must come to grips with the whole problem raised by the concentration of economic and political power in the hands of large organizations and their autocratic leaders. Congress, which through legislation has placed the leaders of organized labor on a privileged pedestal not enjoyed by ordinary citizens, must now come to grips with this Frankenstein of free society and fix definitely and positively in the organic law of the land not only rules of fair play but assurances that the general welfare is always paramount above the desires and wishes of any subordinate group -- no matter out large or how small or what may be the color and complexion of its motivations.

President Truman's proposal for fact finding committees and cooling off periods are good insofar as they go, but I do not think they go far enough. The House Labor Committee has promised to act one way or another within the next few days on the President's mild suggestion.

Second only to the industrial strife in the minds of the returning Congress are the problems of demobilization. On the second day after Congress reconvened General Eisenhower and Admiral Nimitz came before us and gave lengthy statements on both the performances and the future plans for demobilization. The record of performance which they cited is good. It will be recalled, however, that both the Army and Navy started demobilization at a distressingly slow pace and that

they were goated into a speed up by pressure from Congress and the people. The pressure was so great that the Army and Navy, particularly the Army, moved ^{with} /it even greater speed than even their optimistic promises. For instance, last September General Marshall told us that by November the rate of discharges would be between 7 and 9 hundred thousand per month. Actually the rate reached was over a million, and the total number of releases has exceeded the schedule by 1-2/3 million. General Eisenhower said that this exceeding of the plans was the cause of the present slow down in the rate of discharge. General Eisenhower said quite frankly that the rate of replacement was not adequate to permit continuation of the rate of discharge which the Army had reached. General Eisenhower made some specific promises and Americans who have applauded General Eisenhower's magnificent record will have confidence in his promises. By April 30, he said, all soldiers with 45 points or $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of service will either be discharged or on ship on their way home and by July 1 all men with 40 points or 2 years service will ~~will~~ either be discharged or on their way home.