

WSM March 17, 1946

Good Morning, Friends:

From ^{several} ~~two~~ men in high places, ~~President Truman and Senator Tom Connally,~~
~~Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee,~~ came reassuring notes on
the complex problems of international politics. Senator Connally, ^{et al} gave to the
Senate a report on the United Nations conference in London at which he was
one of America's distinguished representatives. In this report, Senator
Connally pointed to the United Nations, pointed to cooperation and reciprocal
friendship and mutual trust ^{between nations} as the high road to true peace. Instead of
castigating Russia, as many had predicated he would do, Senator Connally pled
with Russia to cooperate with the United States. He assured Russia of the
great friendship of the United States and although he did express some
apprehension over the drifting of events, Senator Connally expressed his
absolute confidence that ^{the} a United Nations Organization would be effective,
and that a basis of friendship and international confidence between the three
great powers ~~was~~ could be found.

Then on Thursday, President Truman said that he was not alarmed over
the international picture. Contrary to the general rule of White House press
conferences, the President permitted reporters to quote him ^{directly} when he said,
"I am not alarmed, I am sure we will work out of it."

Senator Barkley said, and I quote Senator Barkley, "It has been my
opinion all along that the situation is not as bad as the headlines would
seem to indicate."

Senator Pepper said, "I think entirely too much emphasis has been

laid on the bad side of the international situation. I think people who do so are rendering a public disservice. There is no more reason for Russia and the United States to go to war than there would be for Florida to declare war on Georgia."

Meanwhile, the crescendo of the word duel between the Honorable Winston Churchill and Premier Jo Stalin has attracted everyone's attention.

While the Senate worked on appropriations bills which have already passed the House of Representatives and on an administrative procedure bill, the House of Representatives passed a bill authorizing the Navy to use approximately 100 ~~vessels~~ naval vessels in the atomic bomb test to be held in the Pacific in May. There was some objection to this bill. Some members made rather bitter speeches against it. They objected to the sinking of our naval vessels. Some went so far as to say that the test would prove nothing and amount to nothing.

Well, in the first place, it is not anticipated that all the ships used will be sunk. It is not even known that any of them will be sunk. Some may be completely destroyed, others suffer damages -- some great damages and some small damages.

A large number of vessels is being used ~~in~~ not because the Navy or the Congress wants ~~to~~ deliberately ^{to} sink a lot of ships but because they want to use enough ships to thoroughly test the effect of an atomic bomb on naval vessels. It would be of little benefit to take one solitary battle wagon out and blast it until it sinks beneath the waves. If this test is to be of any value to the United States, it ~~will~~ ^{must} be done thoroughly.

The plan is to scatter ships out over a wide area at known distances from the center of the explosion, ^{and record the effect on all the ~~the~~ craft,} In other words, if our navy was bombed

with atomic bombs, one ship would ~~probably~~ ^{likely} not be singled out but an entire

~~fleet might very likely be a target.~~ ^{The entire fleet would be a more profitable target. Even the Japs, with ordinary bombs, sought to destroy the fleet.}

As for me, I do not see how Congress or the Navy can intelligently

plan our future naval forces, ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ the adequacy of those forces, without knowing

something of the real effect which this new and powerful explosive will have

upon not ^{just} one naval vessel but a fleet of them.

True, these ships which may be ~~damaged~~ damaged or destroyed have cost a lot of money, but we have a great many more ships than we now need -- all the ships in fact that are to be used in the test are surplus vessels.

I have never talked very much about atomic energy for the simple reason that I do not know much about it. I have had some very interesting meetings and discussions with several of the scientists who harnessed this fundamental energy and I must say that from what they have said and from what little I have been able to learn of this great scientific achievement, the harnessing of atomic energy ^{appears to be one} ~~is one~~ of the greatest events of the history of all mankind. There seems to be no question about that. Here is the transformation of mass into energy. In this, man has realized the fundamental energy of the universe, an energy that is the basic element out of which the earth and all things therein is made, ^{and has harnessed it to his purpose}

It is said that we have in our possession, ^{today} bombs that are many times stronger, many times more devastating than the bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. What is man's defense against this fearful power?

The answer is, "no one knows." The least the Congress can do is to authorize and direct ~~our military to make~~ thorough tests and experimentations because no one of mature thought will think that the United States can forever keep a monopoly upon this scientific knowledge. In the end, I firmly believe that the only way that the American people, ^{the humanity of the world} ~~or any other people~~, can be fully protected from the destructive awfulness of this and other new inventions will be by an advance in morals comparable to the atomic ^{discovery} ~~energy advance~~ in science.

There is a lot of talk about who should and who should not witness this test in the far away Pacific. If I had my way, I would want as many people as possible around the world to see this awful explosion; because if enough people could know what this great destructive force is, we might get an irresistible surge to peace. Mankind does not want to commit suicide; mankind does not want to destroy civilization; and maybe if all peoples of the world realized how grim would be the danger to every man, woman and child of the earth in another war, we could hope for a change in the dangerous drift now taking place. ^{in relations between nations.} Maybe it would cause all nations, all leaders, all citizens, ^{great & simple} all people, young and old, to begin to work and pray in deadly earnest; for people to begin to work for peace in earnest ^{brooking} ~~breaching~~ no obstacle, no barriers, no discouragement until a civilization of the world has been organized sufficiently strong to save mankind from another awful holocaust.