

WSM, April 7, 1946

Good Morning, Friends:

Draft extension, price control, minimum wages, farm prices, harmony ^{W. W.} and disharmony within both the Republican and Democratic Parties, and another tomb for another unknown American soldier occupies the attention of Washington during the week.

Somebody once said that problems of government are never settled because ~~that~~ before a pending problem is solved it merges into a new one. Perhaps some of you who read and listen about the ^{endless} controversies and the cryings out from Washington may get the impression that all we have is controversy and confusion. Perhaps some may get the impression that all is wrong. There is much that is ~~all~~ right in Washington as well as much that is wrong. Although for many years various pessimists have predicted the eventual dissolution and impotency of the Congress, the branch of the government directly representative of the people is still potent and powerful. Even when I was a small boy I read of many predicting the danger of a one man government in the United States and those predictions persisted throughout the Administration of President Roosevelt; but we still have in Washington a government of the people, by the people and for the people. The Constitution with its bill of rights ^{there is} ~~for the people~~ is in tact and ~~it is~~ neither sign nor danger of dictatorship in America.

We have a good man for our President. President Truman lays no claim to superman powers nor to infallibility, but he is a man of impeccable integrity and good morals, who is providing a sane, steady and courageous leadership through the ²troublesome period.

There is much more that is right in Washington and in America because every American can now as ^{could} ~~and~~ the pilgrims ^{who} ~~that~~ landed at Plymouth Rock worship God ~~in~~ according to the dictates of his own conscience, own his own home and defend, ^X speak his own words, think his own thoughts, work with his hands and his mind and be the master of his own destiny in so long as he pays due regard for the rights of his fellowman. ^{yes, it's a great country and a great spirit Washington is not going to fall apart.} But let us get on to a commentary of the news of the week.

What will be done about the extension of the draft is now very much in doubt. President Truman and our military leaders have requested extension of the draft as well as enactment of a universal training law. President Truman and the leaders of our Army and Navy point to the great obligations of the United States as the leading nation of the world and also our obligations in occupying Germany and Japan as justification for continuation of the Selective Service Law. Congress, however, is reluctant and has procrastinated in coming to grips with the problem. There is a great deal of sentiment in both the House and Senate against any further drafting of 18 and 19 year old boys in the Army.

Many Members feel that when viewed realistically the country's defense can be better served by keeping these teen aged youngsters in school. Many also feel that the continual drafting of these impressionable boys into the Army where they will be subjected to the hard, callosed, profane, vulgar and, in many respects, immoral influences that customarily prevail in and around an Army camp would in the long run gnaw away at the moral fiber of the

nation which must remain strong if the nation is to be strong.

This is, indeed, a vexatious problem; a problem which goes into the tender and precious threads of American home life. The price of world leadership, which America surely now has, is great and the responsibilities are equally great. For Congress to fail to provide the necessary forces with which to fulfill our commitments would be to abandon and betray our interest and the interest of all the world's peace loving people who look to America for leadership. More over, it would betray the interest of and constitute a greivous lack of good faith with the thousands of men now serving in our armed forces and whose retension in the Army would be prolonged thereby.

This, however, does not mean that Congress must take without question the recommendations of our military leaders. Neither does it mean that we must continue to have peacetime conscription. But one thing is certain, the United States must make up its mind one way or another. We should decide whether we are going to depend upon a voluntary system which might ^{prove} ~~provide~~ adequate if sufficient inducements were offered for voluntary enlistments ~~in~~ service; whether we are going to have a universal military training program; whether we are going to have a continuation of the draft or whether we are going to renege on our commitments. The men who are now in the service can not be kept there ~~anyway~~ always. It is high time, therefore, that Congress make up its mind one way or another.

The House Committee on Banking and Currency favorably reported a bill extending the OPA Act for another 12 months. The House of Representatives

is scheduled to start consideration of this bill on Monday, April 15.

On last Friday night the Senate passed a bill raising the minimum
wage for industries and inter-state commerce ~~from 40 to 60~~
from 40 to 60 ~~from 40 to 60~~ cents per hour but
they included in this bill an amendment requiring that labor be considered in
the calculation of parity on farm commodities. President Truman has said
that if this amendment were added to the bill, he would veto it. Nevertheless,
the Senate sent the Bill with the amendment to the House of Representatives
and from there we will hear more about it.

Congress took ^{enough} time ~~and~~ from
controversy to pass a bill providing
for the burial of another ~~unk~~ — an
soldier of World War I ☐ beside the ~~unk~~
soldier of World War I who sleeps beneath
a marble monument as a bill ^{in Arlington} ~~in~~ looking
the historic potomac river and Washington
which has now become the veritable
capital of the world.

The ~~story~~ ^{told in} of this bill's passage
was ^{not even} but a small paragraph
printed by ~~some~~ ^{many} newspapers and placed
obscurely by ^{many} others. There was
bigger news to print — news in
which the people are more
vitaly interested — news of
struggles of nations for power,
news of people striving with
each other in self-seeking — news
of normalcy, of profits, fears and
crimes.

For what did the Unknown
Soldiers and their buddies die?
Why! to protect a home and
a way of life of freedom, to release
the poor and down trodden from oppression, to
bulwark the ideals and idealism that are America's
glory, to make an end to war, aggression & tyranny.
To bring peace on earth and good will toward men.

HOME ADDRESS:
CARTHAGE, TENN.

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

Surely America has not
forgotten - ~~Surely we~~
let us be steadfast
and hold ~~our~~ that which
has been won by ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~Brave~~, sorrow
sacrifice + blood.

Perhaps our honored dead
have a way of knowing that
America has stood firm ^{in the U. S.} for
the rights of the smallest of nations
to ~~the~~ have righted their grievances
against the ~~greatest~~ most powerful
of nations — Perhaps they
have a way of knowing that
now, after this awful war, America
stands in the parade of
world leadership and that her
motives are good — Perhaps
they know that this time ~~we~~
the American people are determined
to ~~do~~ do their part for the peace and
security + freedom of the world. I hope
so and that in that ~~peaceful~~ ^{peaceful} ~~ship~~ ^{ship} will be peaceful.