

May 4, 1947
WSM

Good Morning, Friends:

We have had a distinguished visitor ^{in the Nations capital} during the week -- the President of Mexico. The United States government went all out in extending the nation's welcome and hospitality. Our government was peculiarly challenged in this respect in order to fully reciprocate the grand reception given to President Truman on the occasion of our President's ^{recent} visit to Mexico. I believe, however, that there was something deeper than ^{more} hospitality in the hearts of the thousands of citizens who lined Washington streets to view the parade and wave a welcome and give a cheer to this firstcitizen of our neighbor to the South. I believe that ^{this} something deeper was not only our genuine friendship to Mexico but also our appreciation for the solidarity and ^{the} good neighbor ^{liness} ~~policy~~ of the ^{entire} western hemisphere. By extending hospitality to the President of this neighboring Latin American Republic, we could symbolically ^{salute all Latin Americans &} express our thankfulness for the freedom from war and strife within the western hemisphere. Not a cannon can be found on the border between our nation and Mexico; no Siegfried line, no fortifications, ^{no mark of hostility.} Mexico does not fear us and in turn we have no fear of Mexico. This spirit of friendship and trustfulness, reflected as it is in the friendly relationships between all of the nations in North and South America, could all the more be appreciated this week because the return of Secretary of State George Marshall from the unfruitful conference of foreign ministers in Moscow served to draw attention to the unfortunate contrast ^{between} ~~between~~ the friendship and mutually that marks pan American relationships and the ~~state~~ bitterness, distrust, hate & deprivation that stalks Europe

Strong, consistent policies
on our part are necessary
to do so. If the U. S. is
to win out in this long
term diplomatic struggle
strong leadership will
be necessary, but leadership
is not enough. The nation
must give support,
constant support to that
leadership.

That is why I think
the quibbling and delays
in legislation affecting
foreign affairs is particularly
unfortunate at this time.

Hard on the heels of General Marshall's return, the House of Representatives cut 150 million dollars off the bill for relief to foreign nations. Many observers thought this was particularly unfortunate. Word went out, too, that the House Appropriation Committee had cut out all money for the broadcast by the United States of news and interpretation of news in support of America and American foreign policy. Those fence sitters in nations abroad who have been watching the weathervane for signs that the United States would weaken in the prosecution of its progressive foreign policies must have seized upon these two things as something definite ^{indicative} -- something more than straws in the wind.

It is said here by those who have a right to know that Secretary Marshall is disturbed about these developments and also about the delay in enactment of the ^{program to S.W.S.} aid to Greece and Turkey, ~~program~~.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate busied themselves on vexatious ^{two} problems of purely domestic import, ~~and importance~~. The Senate continued to debate a labor bill with the lines see-sawing on specific provisions, ^{but} with an apparently clear majority that wants to do something. ^{Just what they do not yet seem to know.} The indications are ^{if looks as if} that the Senate will pass some bill but ~~that~~ it will be ~~a~~ very much less rigid, ^{that it} ~~one~~ or to put it another way, will have many less teeth in it than the bill which passed the House.

^{Meanwhile,} The House engaged in a heated fight over ~~an~~ extension of rent control. The bill was finally so riddled by amendments that like some of the OPA bills last year about all that was left of it when it finally passed the House was the name, ~~rent control~~. The effectiveness of the bill had been

~~completely~~ emasculated by destructive and hampering amendments. Many of the strongest advocates of rent control finally voted against it because they considered it but a mockery of effective rent control and refused to lend their support to a hollow gesture.

The Congress has now been in session four months and very little indeed has been done; that is, very little final action in the form of legislation that has gone to the President has been accomplished. Both the House and the Senate now face a log jam on appropriation bills and expiring authorities that must be ^{ending} acted upon before the June 30 ~~end~~ of the fiscal year. This ~~very~~ ~~probably~~ means night sessions as well as daily sessions beginning early and running until late. Nobody objects to Congress working early and late, but these ^{needless} log jams result in hasty and inadequate consideration of legislation.

I have never seen it fail to happen, however. It seems that every Congress, ~~whether~~ whether under the control of the democrats or the republicans, talks and talks and does ^{too little} ~~not much of anything~~ during the early months of the session only to have to do more toward the end of the Congress than they can possibly

do well in so short a time. Well, I have often heard it said that government of the people has ^{many} ~~its~~ faults and ~~in many respects~~ inefficiencies, ^{that is true,} but as for me, ^{had} I ^{+ short coming} rather have some inefficiencies, and retain ~~the people's~~ control of their government ^{by the people} as to have the trains run perfectly on time under the dictates of a Mussolini or a Hitler.

proper criticism as obvious mishandling of important state business, members of the Board of Permanent Seat of Government grew high-handed and resentful. Surely there will be no occasion to repeat any of that sorry experience.

Mr. Marshall's Report

Secretary Marshall's ^{made a} report to the nation on the Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers ^{is that} is remarkably plain talk for a Secretary of State.

He ^{was} blinks ^{at} neither the failure at Moscow nor the reasons for hope that German and Austrian settlements may yet be achieved. If the hope proves real, he says, it will take a more co-operative spirit than the Soviet Union has ^{yet} shown. ~~yet~~ Meanwhile, Europe is disintegrating and the United States cannot permit the destructive process to go on—^{and sit idly by doing nothing but conferring and conferring endlessly}

Mr. Marshall reports that in addition to disagreements over the kind of German government to be set up, a four-power treaty, and a definition of German assets in Austria, the conference bogged down in "misunderstandings" by Russia of previous agreements on German reparations and Poland's western boundary.

By coincidence these misunderstandings are invariably in Russia's favor. Mr. Marshall is willing to give the Russians the benefit of the doubt and concede that they misunderstood on some points; on others he makes it clear enough that in his opinion the "misunderstandings" are deliberate: "... interpretation . . . which varied completely from the facts . . . as factually known by the American delegation."

The assets of the Moscow balance sheet ^{were} are presented by the Secretary of State in the same way as the liabilities—without the slightest disposition either to minimize or to maximize them. "The critical differences were for the first time brought into the light," ^{he} reports, not an unalloyedly favorable fact when it is realized that these peace negotiations have been going on nearly two years now. ^{It is an accomplishment}

Secretary Marshall ^{is} able to present also ^{are} a hopeful note Generalissimo Stalin's statement that "these were only the first brushes of reconnaissance forces" and that "compromise will be possible on all the main questions" when the conferees had "exhausted themselves in dispute" and therefore "recognized the necessity of compromise." Here Mr. Marshall observes that if so, the Russians will ^{have} to be more co-operative, and meanwhile ^{Mr. Marshall added} "action cannot await compromise through exhaustion."

The Russian leaders can hardly fail to understand from Secretary Marshall's report that they are dealing with a realist, who is not fooled by the surface appearance of things. He says bluntly that criticism of the co-ordination of British and American zones in Germany is nothing but propaganda and that they ^{Russians} have not behaved as though they want a four-power treaty at present.

Nor does the Secretary take without qualification Mr. Stalin's soothing counsel of patience. Mr. Marshall sees as well as Mr. Stalin who can afford timeless patience and who can't. As time slips by, the deterioration of Europe into chaos is bringing about precisely the kind of condition in which Communism can make the most headway. Secretary Marshall proposes not to let this deterioration continue, but to reverse the trend.