

MARCH 28th, 1948
WSM
Rep. Albert Gore

Good Morning, Friends:

Following an overwhelming action by the Senate, the House, by a vote of about 4 to 1, again passed a tax reduction bill. It is now on the desk of the President for his action. Most everyone feels confident that the bill will be vetoed. It seems to me somewhat ironical that the Congress took time out from the consideration of European Recovery Bill, providing the expenditure of more than six billion dollars within the next twelve months, to pass ~~a~~ ^{this} bill drastically reducing the government's revenue. It seems to me that this is about like putting the plow in front of the mule. I wish I could have joined the overwhelming majority of my colleagues in the enjoyable luxury of voting for tax reduction but

I could not conscientiously do so and, therefore, did not do so.

On top of our \$257 B war debt, there is
In addition to the enormous
cost of the Marshall Plan, which is expected
to pass the House during the coming week, the danger to our peace and security
requires us to spend enormous amounts for an air force, for the atomic commission,
for the army, for the navy, for the Marine Corps; indeed, we are now considering
the drafting of manpower. Well, it takes dollars as well as men for national

defense. But
If this tax cut bill becomes law it means that we will have to borrow
money to pay for tax refunds. Does that make sense? I do not think so and I told

my colleagues just
that, but there was no need telling them anything. This is an
election year and come high water or the hot place, they were going to vote
for tax reduction. And so they did.

Perhaps you will recall that a big cut ^{\$1800,000} was made in appropriations
last year for tax refunds. In fact, last year money for making tax refunds was
out 800 million dollars. This was listed as the largest reduction in government

expenditures made by the Congress last year. Perhaps you will recall that some Members pointed out then that this was no ^{actual} saving, that ~~if~~ people overpaid their taxes ~~they were entitled to have their overpayment refunded.~~ And perhaps you will recall, also, that some people made predictions then that come tax paying time this year the Congress, having marched up the hill in making this big show of reduction, would quietly march back down again and re-appropriate the money. Well, ^{just} that happened during the week. ^{When Congress passed a bill} A bill appropriating 500 million dollars to pay tax refunds, ~~passed the House last Monday~~, but this will not be enough. ^{The} ~~Another~~ 300 million and perhaps a little more will have to be appropriated next month.

Representative Clarence Cannon made a speech in the House ~~criticizing~~ ^{whole procedure and spurious} ~~this procedure and ridiculing the~~ claim to economy and said it represented no more than taking two or three bites at the cherry. Well, perhaps that is an apt illustration but passage of the bill seemed to me a diet more unpalatable ^{to its authors} than cherries -- it was eating legislative crow.

Before going further ^{this morning} in this discussion of the happenings during the week in Washington, I wish to sincerely thank those of you from Tennessee and

surrounding states who wrote me so kindly about last Sunday's broadcast on the ^{I appreciate your kind messages.} world crisis.

I am glad to report to ~~you~~ this morning that Congress is responding to the crisis more favorably and more forcefully than almost anyone dared to hope. For instance, the European Recovery Program, which is commonly called the Marshall Plan, was the Number One request of the President and, as I said earlier in the broadcast, ^{it} ~~that~~ is nearing ^{final} ~~passage~~ and I feel confident that within one week it will be passed by an overwhelming majority and signed into law by

the President. Moreover, it appears ~~is~~ a definite prospect now that a limited renewal of the draft will be approved in order to bring our national defense forces to sufficient strength to do two things -- First, to give the necessary protection to our country and our country's interests and ~~perma~~, second, and perhaps even more important right now, to let Russia and the other nations of the world know that the United States is determined not to repeat the mistake she made before World Wars One and Two of remaining ^{militarily} ~~weak~~ and impotent thereby inviting ^{world} aggression and conquest by rampaging dictatorship.

At first some ~~were~~ cynics were whispering that this was a crisis manufactured by the President to pull himself out of a political hole. But even the cynics did not whisper that very loud. It is now clear to the Congress and to the Country that this world crisis is something ^{far} more sinister and menacing than a straw man whipped up by the President. The crisis is real and stark and from the letters and telegrams reaching the Congress, the country, which is usually ahead of Congress in times of national emergency, knows it full well. The Russian threat which today faces the Congress and the country and the world has been months and years in the making. The brutal murder of Czech-Slovakia and the threat of ^{over} ~~hanging~~ Italy and Finland and other Scandinavian countries brought it into sudden and dramatic focus.

From all the evidence, it seems clear that Russia thought that because of our national election in 1948 we ~~would be~~ ^{would be} ~~remain~~ ^{and remain} divided and wellnigh politically impotent, thus giving her a long period in which to accomplish her aim.

An interesting story is going the rounds in Washington of an episode that occurred in Moscow. A new Soviet Ambassador had been appointed to come to the United States, Mr. Panyuskin. Before coming to the United States, the new

Ambassador quite naturally had a talk with our Ambassador, Mr. Bedell Smith.

Ambassador Smith was undertaking to acquaint the new Russian Ambassador in a

general way with conditions in the United States. ^{for one thing,} They were discussing the

coming Presidential election. Ambassador Smith discussed several leading and

potential candidates for President. The Russian Ambassador interrupted to say,

"But you are leaving out the most formidable contentor of all, Henry Wallace."

This not only illustrates the ^{fallacious} thinking of the Kremlin but it shows us how necessary

it is to disabuse the ^{Russian} mind of Joe Stalin of the dangerous idea that America is so

weak, divided, undecided ^{that she will be} or possibly willing to appease him in his ^{satisfable} incessable

appetite for subjugation and tyranny.

That is why I ~~ever~~ say it is encouraging that I can report to you this morning that ^{your} Congress, Democratic ^{and} Republican alike, despite it being

an election year, ^{is} responding affirmatively to the crisis. As I said to you last

Sunday morning, there is grave danger in failing to ^{do so.} respond.

The President and Secretary Marshall took a grave risk in admitting to the work ^{of} that the United States would be practically helpless to resist Soviet

aggression in Europe unless Congress promptly strengthens its ~~tiny~~ military army.

But the risk was taken and now the ^{it is up to Congress to act.} Congress ~~now~~ ^{now} ~~is in the way~~ ^{is in the way} of acting.

If Congress approves the Marshall Plan, as I am now sure they will

do; if Congress votes to ~~raise~~ ^{draft} the manpower and appropriate the money for a greatly

enlarged army and aircorps, as I think now it will do, it will do so not because

of the President's persuasiveness with Congress, it will do so because of Russia's ~~deeds~~

~~and~~ actions; it will do so because Congress is confident that Moscow is determined to

extend its area of domination beyond ~~the~~ ^{the present boundaries of} iron curtain; because it is aware that

~~that we must have the~~

the United States can't bluff, ~~about our government's~~ military power to back up

~~our country's~~ ~~its~~ words or acquiesce in a silence of appeasement; it will do so because the

Congress and the country is convinced that to show our determination and

~~world aggression~~ ^{ultimate} ability to resist offers the best hope of security and peace.