

MARCH 28, 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 the European Recovery Bill, providing the expenditure of more than six billion dollars within the next twelve months, to pass <sup>this</sup> a 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.

<sup>On top of our \$57 B war debt, there is</sup>  
~~In addition to the~~ <sup>enormous</sup> ~~huge~~ cost of the Marshall Plan, which is expected to pass the House during the coming week, <sup>Then</sup> the danger to our peace and security requires us to spend enormous amounts for an air force, for the atomic <sup>energy</sup> 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. <sup>But</sup> 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 <sup>just</sup> that, but there was no need telling them anything. This is an election year and <sup>By Gumm</sup> come high water or the hot place, <sup>most of them</sup> ~~they~~ were going to vote for tax reduction. <sup>And so they did.</sup>

Perhaps you will recall that a big cut <sup>of \$800,000,000</sup> was made in appropriations last year for tax refunds. In fact, ~~last year money for making tax refunds was cut 800 million dollars.~~ This was ~~listed as~~ the largest reduction in government



expenditures made by the Congress last year. Perhaps you will recall <sup>too,</sup> that some Members pointed out then that this was no <sup>actual</sup> saving, that <sup>when</sup> ~~is~~ people overpaid their taxes ~~they were entitled to have~~ <sup>would have to be</sup> 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, <sup>just</sup> that happened during the week. <sup>when Congress passed a bill</sup> A bill appropriating 500 million dollars to pay tax refunds, ~~passed the House last Monday,~~ but this will not be enough. <sup>The</sup> ~~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~~ <sup>whole procedure and spurious</sup> ~~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 <sup>to its authors</sup> than cherries -- it was eating legislative crow.

<sup>This Morning</sup> Before going further <sup>I appreciate your kind messages.</sup> 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 world crisis. I am glad to report ~~to you~~ <sup>this morning</sup> 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, <sup>it</sup> ~~that~~ is nearing <sup>final</sup> 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 ~~ix~~ 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 ~~perhaps~~, 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 <sup>militarily</sup> weak and impotent thereby inviting <sup>world</sup> 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 wisper that very loud. It is now clear to the Congress and to the Country that this world crisis is someting <sup>far</sup> 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 <sup>over</sup> of having Italy and Finland and other Scandavian 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 <sup>would be</sup> ~~would~~ remain divided <sup>and remain</sup> ~~and~~ wellnigh ~~politically~~ impotent, <sup>militarily for a whole year</sup> 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. <sup>A</sup> new Soviet Ambassador, <sup>Mr. Panyuskin,</sup> 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. <sup>for one thing,</sup> 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 contender of all, Henry Wallace." This not only illustrates the <sup>fallacious</sup> thinking of the Kremlin but it shows us how necessary it is to disabuse the <sup>Russian</sup> mind of ~~Joe Stalin~~ of the dangerous idea that America is so weak, divided, <sup>that she will be</sup> undecided ~~or possibly~~ willing to appease him in his <sup>satiabile</sup> ~~incessable~~ appetite for subjugation and tyranny.

That is why I ~~forever~~ say it is encouraging that I can report to you this morning that <sup>your</sup> Congress, Democratic <sup>and</sup> ~~or~~ Republican alike, despite it being an election year, <sup>is</sup> ~~responds~~ <sup>ing</sup> affirmatively to the crisis. As I said to you last Sunday morning, there is grave danger in failing to <sup>do so.</sup> ~~respond.~~

The President and Secretary Marshall took a grave risk in admitting to the world <sup>ed</sup> that the United States would be practically helpless to resist Soviet aggression in Europe unless Congress promptly strengthens its ~~limited~~ military arm. <sup>it is up to Congress to act.</sup> But the risk was taken and now the Congress ~~as well as the country~~ is in the way of acting.



If Congress approves the Marshall Plan, as I am now sure they will do; if Congress votes to <sup>draft</sup> ~~raise~~ 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 presuasiveness with Congress, it will do so because of Russia's <sup>deeds</sup> ~~actions~~; it will do so because Congress is confident that Moscow is determined to extend its area of domination beyond <sup>the present boundaries of</sup> ~~the~~ iron curtain; because it is aware that the United States can't bluff, <sup>that we must have the</sup> ~~about our government's~~ military power to back up <sup>our country's</sup> ~~its~~ words or acquiese in a silence of appeasement; it will do so because the Congress and the country is convinced that to show our determination and ability to resist <sup>world aggression</sup> ~~offers~~ the best hope of <sup>ultimate</sup> security and peace.