

WSM, June 13, 1948
Rep. Albert Gore

Good Morning, Friends:

There have been so many developments during a week in which the Congress is holding day and night sessions in an effort to adjourn before the Republican National Conventions that it will be impossible for me to discuss all of them in detail in a short broadcast. *I will just try to give you a current over-all picture of this political vortex.*

The Republican leadership seems to be in a great quandry as to whether to quit and go home on next Saturday or come back after their Convention and resume consideration of problems before the country and the Congress. There is no possible way that Congress can finish its work by next Saturday. If Congress adjourns sine die, it will leave unsolved several major and *many* minor problems. Therefore, it is a political decision which the Republican leadership must make. If it does quit without acting upon these problems then the Democrats will condemn them for doing so, calling it a do-nothing Congress and its leadership quitters.

On the other hand, if the Congress resumes after the Republican National Convention the Democrats will take up the Republican platform plank by plank and measure it with the past performance of the Republican controlled Congress and then ask the Republicans what are they waiting on. *One statement would be made to the effect that here is the Republican platform and here also is a Republican controlled congress in session,* *The Devil would say,* if you mean what you say in your platform, why don't you practice what you preach?

There is a difference of opinion among the Republican leaders as to *political dilemma* *for instance,* how this *problem* should be met. On last Monday the Senate Policy Committee indicated that they did not think adjournment or recess was possible or advisable, but the leadership of the House of Representatives insisted that it was both

possible and advisable. As of today there is still some doubt as to what the

final decision will be. I do not know. *Not only is politics between the two parties involved, but it is complicated by rivalries between Repub. Presidential candidates - particularly Sen. Taft & House Speaker Martin.* The political implications of the decision have been *further* augmented by the

constant attacks upon the present Congress and its record ~~by~~ being made almost

daily by President Truman on his western tour. The President's attacks upon the

Congress have been vigorous and in some respects extreme. On the other hand, the

replies and counter attacks by the Republicans have in ~~many~~ ^{several instances} occasions been

~~temperate~~ and of a quality ^{decidedly} not ~~to~~ reflect credit either upon the institution

of Congress or our system of government. I do not find myself in accord with

either the extreme charges of the President that this has been the ^{worst or} ~~second~~

worst Congress in our history, nor do I appreciate ^{some of} the Republican charges against

the President. In many respects the record of this Congress is, in my opinion,

quite bad both from the standpoint of commission and omission but on the other

hand, some very worthwhile things have been done. *particularly in the field of foreign policy.* The Republicans, of course,

are entitled to make vigorous replies to the President's charges. If I were

in their position I would reply and reply vigorously, but I would not refer to

any President of the United States, regardless of what party to which ~~he may~~ ^{he might} belong, as a small boy. If I did not have more respect for the man who held

the office, I would certainly ~~consider~~ ^{hold} the office itself, the Presidency of my country, in higher regard ^{than that.}

It seems to me that there is no necessity for the 1948 political campaign to ~~start~~ start out with such vigor so early. Surely it could ^a wait until the National Conventions are held.

The United States Senate finally passed a draft law making eligible for military service young men from 18 to 25. It is expected that this bill will be considered in the House of Representatives within the next three or four

days. The Senate also passed the Vandenberg Resolution advising the President to negotiate a mutual defense accord with the Western European Union. A similar resolution awaits action in the House of Representatives.

Pending in the Senate are a large number of the annual appropriations bills. After they are passed by the Senate they must go to conference for the ironing out of the differences and finally acted upon by both branches of the Congress.

The House of Representatives passed a large number of bills during the week. One of these was a bill to permit the entry into the United States of something over 200,000 displaced persons in Europe. This was a hotly fought issue. The proponents described these people as unfortunate victims of the war and of political persecution and pleaded for the United States to quickly permit entry into this country of at least 200,000. Opponents of the bill said that for the most part the occupants of the DP camps were undesirable and that besides, because of our severe housing shortage, we ~~would~~ had no room for them.

It was said, also, that other undeveloped countries such as South America and ^{now}
~~Australia~~
Africa were asking for immigrants so why not let them go ~~in~~ there or if they wanted to work, if they did not want to go to those countries then did not get there, why not let them help rebuild Europe?

The proponents had the most votes and the bill ^{now} goes to Conference with the Senate which has already acted on the bill ^{by} in a little different form.

The House Banking and Currency Committee reported to the House a long range housing program known as the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill. Likewise pending before the House or House Committee is Universal Military Training, Federal Aid to Education and I forgot to mention that the Senate has not ^{yet} acted upon the ~~new~~ reciprocal trade agreements program. So you see, the possibility of

Congress finishing its work within one week is nil. We should not even try to finish in a week. Congress could not possibly give adequate consideration to all the ~~fix~~ problems in one week's time. I think we should proceed orderly during the coming week, ~~even if~~ adjourn for the national conventions and then come back and finish our work. If as a result of ^a waging political campaign we found it impossible to develop orderly legislation, then the country might as well know it. I do not believe that it would be the case. In fact, it might very well be said that Congress would be more responsive to the wishes of the people in the face of an immediate election than after.

Oh, there is still another very import ^{ant} bill that I forgot to mention that has not been acted upon ~~and that is~~ a long range agriculture program. Apparently this, along with several other important measures, has been shelved for the current session.

*m. Chapman - discussed
bill -*