

WSM, Representative Gore
January 9, 1949

Good Morning, Friends:

Once again it has been my privilege to witness the writing of history. The convening of a new, overwhelmingly Democratic Congress, an enthusiastic Congressional reception of a President, who only a few months ago in the same chamber but by a different Congress was received coldly if not disdainfully. Yes, history in the making, the trimming of ^{our} national sales to chart a ^{new national} course for the immediate future, considerably left of center.

I first came to Congress in January 1939, therefore, served during ^{Roosevelt} years when the New Deal was coming to fruition, but I can already see that this 81st Congress is more New Deal, or if you prefer me to say it another way, more liberal, or if you prefer me to say it ⁱⁿ still another way, more to the left than any Congress I have yet served in.

In saying this, I do not mean to predict any dire consequences nor do I feel any real fears for the future of America. I believe fully that every member of the House of Representatives, ^{new + old,} every Member of the U. S. Senate as well as the new President and Vice-President have one paramount aim and that is to serve the public welfare. That men differ as to what is ^{just + is not} good for the public welfare is but natural, and that is the basis of our two party system.

I had no doubt but that ^{every} the members of the 80th Congress, which was ^{so} thoroughly repudiated by the people on last November 2, also intended to serve the public weal. It was just that the majority of the American people ^{trickle down} did not agree that the philosophy of the 80th Congress was in the interest of

the public welfare. So, out they went. That is the American way. Now if this Congress fails it will meet a similar fate. Conscious of this, No sooner did this new Congress meet last Monday than it set about

to remove the road blocks to the enactment of far reaching measures.

Of course, I was cognisant that the Democratic party had won a sweeping victory but the full scope of the victory did not quite sink

home to me until I saw the great number of new ~~members~~, strange faces, all ^{from} ~~part of~~
^{the country} enter the chamber and ~~men~~ arise to take their oath. It was also brought

home by the absence of so many familiar faces. That, of course, lended a touch of sadness. When one works day in and day out with his fellow man,

even though he be of opposite political faith, a close bond of fellowship

is ^{the} natural result. Some of my closest Washington friends have been

Republican members of Congress, ~~and~~ like lawyers who threaten to fight before

the Bar ^{only to} ~~will~~ lock arms in bonds of personal friendship as they leave the

court house, that personal tie that often exists between Republicans and

Democrats transcends the contention of partisan battles, ~~so it~~ ⁱⁿ the absence

^{so many} of old friends and the influx of new members with differing political

philosophies is symbolic of the change that was wrought in America ~~between~~

by the November election.

One good Republican friend who was successful in returning to the Congress came by and slapped me on the shoulders on opening day and

said, "Well, Albert, I guess you will get your TVA steam plant now without

a struggle." I said, "Yes, my friend, it looks that way and if we need

two we may build three." He said, "Well may be we'll take one now."

President Truman's State of the Union Message outlined a continuation

of the late President Roosevelt's New Deal. By ~~large~~, he asked for ^{the} things for which he had asked the Congress before and didn't get, and ^{the} principals and programs upon which he campaigned for the Presidency last fall. The contents of his message could have been no surprise to anyone familiar with the record of the President's ~~sh~~ fight with the 80th Congress. That he considered his own election and the defeat of the Republican Congress a vindication of his position was clearly evident. Another thing was evident, too, President Truman spoke with more confidence, with more assurance than I have ever seen him—and why not? Heretofore, he has addressed Congress as a man upon whom the crushing ^{the} burdens of ~~the~~ Presidency had fallen because a man whom the people had elected President had died. Now he speaks as Harry Truman, elected President of the United States by a two million majority of his fellow Americans after waging ^{the} almost singlehandedly, uphill, odds against whom him campaign. He speaks as a man in ~~who~~ the American people had ^{the} placed their confidence, a man whose programs and policies have been endorsed, as a man who ~~could speak and who would speak~~ with fresh authority from the American people, a man from Independence, Missouri, to whom the people of the most powerful nation on earth had turned and said, "You are our leader." So, is it any wonder that he spoke more confidently than ever before. And ^{who} you can but admire a man who made the fight that this man from Independence, Missouri, ^{with all the odds} made ~~what appeared to be~~ ^{him} against ~~all the odds~~ and won his fight.

So, Congress received him and received him enthusiastically, and the President enjoyed it.

In high, good spirits,

He returned to the chamber the next day, not to mount the

roster and deliver a state of the union message, but he quietly came into the ^P cloakroom in the rear of the chamber to shake hands with Members. After I had shaken hands with him and exchanged the pleasantries of the day, I turned to make room for others ^{only to see small} and ~~I saw a little~~ Page boy standing on a chair ~~was~~ trying to see the President. I asked him if he ~~had~~ would like to shake hands with the President and he said, "Oh, boy," and the President greeted him ^{as} ^{as if he had been} ~~more warmly~~ ^{ways + means} ~~I saw him greet~~ chairman of the ^Acommittees.

That is the kind of man that Harry Truman is, the man who can take time to treat a little boy kindly, a man who during the campaign when approached by a man on a horse, opened the horse's mouth and told the rider how old was his steed. That is the kind of man the American people elected President — not a Roosevelt, but a Mr. America from Independence, Mo., with a program — a program which he considers progressive, a program which he says is in the interest of the common man, a program which the majority of the American people endorsed.

But he won't get all of his program from this Congress. A majority will be enacted, I believe, yes, but not all of it. The President will not only need legislation for his program but he will need men of the highest caliber to help him put it into force and effect.

On last Friday he made a notable step in that direction. ^{in my} ~~in my~~ ^{Acheson} I refer to his appointment of Dean Atchinson to be Secretary of State. I have known Dean Atchinson in Washington for some time and I regard him as one of the ablest men it has ~~ever~~ ever been my privilege to know. I know that former Secretary Cordell Hull relied upon him heavily.

He is a scholar and a gentleman, but more than that he is a learned, polished, and practical diplomat. Our foreign affairs will not be in the hands of a novice while he is Secretary of State, nor will our difficult relations with Russia be handled with a powder puff, ~~I confidently predict.~~

In announcing his appointment, President Truman took pains to emphasize that Mr. Atchinson's appointment did not indicate any softening of our policy toward Russia. I am glad the President said it, but it was unnecessary to say it to those of us who have known well Mr. Atchinson and his work here in Washington.

I think it is ~~of~~ very, very great importance, particularly in 1949 and the immediate years ahead that we remain firm and consistent.

We may as well realize that the world has gradually but surely divided itself behind the leadership of the United States in the West and Russia and her allies in the East. The danger of a cataclysmic conflict is ever present. A weakening on our part might well hasten rather than avoid open conflict.

We and our allies ~~have~~ experienced vacillation and indecision and appeasement on two occasions before and we ~~as well as they~~ and the world paid the price of our folly-- World Wars I and II. So, I say to you this morning, my friends, that I am genuinely pleased that the President has designated this brilliant, stalwart, understudy of Cordell Hull to be Secretary of State in this ~~epochal~~ epochal hour.