

WSM
REP. ALBERT GORE
MARCH 20, 1949

Good Morning, Friends:

The United States Senators from the South won their filibuster fight and in so doing seem to have defeated Civil Rights legislation in the 81st Congress, if not for a long time to come. This does not mean that some anti-poll tax bill or maybe some mild form of an anti-lynching bill will not pass, but these proposals *would not have any far reaching social effects and, therefore,* are not the ones which Senators from the South oppose most vigorously. The things they ^{at} will be opposed to the last ditch limit, and things which I believe the Southernns have certainly defeated for the present Congress, are any form of anti-segregation legislation or any form of Fair Employment Practices legislation, better known as FEPC.

With the filibuster over, the Senate can now settle down to a back log of work and the Senate certainly has a back log. The House of Representatives has passed a number of bills, For instance, the bill to extend the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Program for three years, several appropriation bills and then during the week the House passed the rent control bill.

The rent control bill aroused considerable feeling. It was my privilege to preside over the consideration of this bill. So for three days I sat and heard every word of debate, at times I must say there was more heat than light. The opposition to rent control, which in itself is strong, was *by several Southern* augmented ~~by quite a few~~ Members of the House who joined the opposition to the Administration out of resentment at the fight the Administration was waging to put over Civil Rights legislation in the Senate. This opposition to continuation of rent control on the part of a large number of Southern

Democratic Congressmen in turn aroused bitter resentment amongst Democratic Congressmen from the cities of the East, North and far West. In fact, about 75 of them got together and vowed that when the very next thing ~~that~~ came up in which the Southerners were particularly interested, such for instance as cotton or tobacco legislation, ~~that~~ they were going to join the Republicans and vote it down just to give the Southern Democrats a taste of their own medicine.

Perhaps their tempers will cool off before a question directly affecting the South comes up, but this serves to illustrate the fact that a deep wedge is being driven between the ~~Northern and Southern wings~~ Northern and Southern wings of the Democratic party. Perhaps that is one explanation of the action of the Republicans in the Senate with regard to the filibuster. *They appear gleeful at over the split.*

Before coming to the most important happening of the week, perhaps

I should relate that there was a loud flare up in Congress during the week about the military doing too much talking and thereby not only possibly disclosing some secrets that should be withheld, but also doing damage to our international position. The thing that seemed to arouse most ire was a statement attributed to the Air Corps to the effect that the Air Corps had already selected a large number of targets in Russia to be destroyed in the event of war.

The Air Corps has been one of the worst offenders in loose talking. Moreover, the Air Corps has been rather successfully grabbing headlines in her fight for preference over the Army and Navy. I think you will readily recall a good case in point -- the so-called Hay Lift, by which the Air Corps got a lot of publicity through the use of planes to drop hay into the snow to starving cattle. *in the West.* Perhaps you will recall a picture that appeared in nearly all of the daily papers in the country showing an air plane dropping a bale

of hay into the snow. When the bale of hay hit the snow it made such a splatter that it looked nearly like an explosion of the atomic bomb. Now, anyone who knows very much about snow and hay and livestock knows that it won't do livestock ~~much~~ very much good to drop hay into four or five feet of snow. In the first place, the hay would go all of the way to the ground and, therefore, the cattle would be slow in ~~find~~ finding it and if they did, it would be so mixed with the snow that it would be doubtful if very much would be eaten by the animals.

The futility of this operation was demonstrated on the Floor of Congress last Thursday by Representative Granger, a cattle man from the West, who

arose on the Floor to say that the Hay Lift, ^{which} ~~that~~ received so much publicity, was a dismal failure, that it did very little good though it was tremendously expensive. He said it cost the taxpayers of the United States \$100 per bale

for the Air Corps to carry on their hay lift ^{publicity} ~~publicity~~ campaign. Now, such a waste of funds is bad, but it is not nearly as bad as advertising to the world

that the United States has already ~~specified~~ and marked for destruction a

^{specified} number of targets in Russia. It is bad enough to be charged with war mongering,

as the Russians are charging us daily with being, without having some of our ~~own~~ military brass hats appear to make a plea of guilty for us.

The Air Corps and the Army and Navy have a job to do -- an important job -- but that job does not include the making of foreign policy ~~or~~ for the United States nor should they have any right to make ~~such~~ provocative statements that might ^{get} ~~involve~~ us in war. The upshot of the Congress ^{usual} flare up, and this is an example of one of the essential functions that Congress performs, was an order from Secretary of National Defense Forrestal that all of the publicity and public relations activity of all three branches of the armed services be

coordinated into one agency and he put in charge of that agency not a partisan of the Army ^{or the} ~~and~~ Navy or ^{The} Air Corps, in fact, not even a brass hat, but a civilian. I do hope this move will put an end to a lot of these costly publicity stunts, loose talk and ^{possible} ~~and~~ revelation of military secrets.

Well, the most important happening of the week not only in Washington but in the world was the publication of the proposed North Atlantic Security Pact upon which eight nations have reached agreement.