

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I know you will all miss Lowell during his short absence, but I want to say how pleasant it is for me to greet you again ~~on~~<sup>in</sup> this program.

Now for the news.

## WAR PROFITS

During the lush years, everybody and his brother were out to "get" the government. Pressure from high ranking Army officers, lobbying by special interests, and weak federal laws, cost Uncle Sam untold millions.

All this comes from none other than the Comptroller General of the United States, Lindsey C. Warren. He told the Mead Committee that officers who tried to protect the public purse from extravagance, were taken off their jobs time after time and sent to the sticks. Then there was a War Department lobby, a lobby which the Comptroller General describes as "terrific". This lobby made waste paper of the law for renegotiating contracts, which might have saved untold millions.

Then again, no fewer than four important officers left the Army to take jobs with companies whose accounts they had handled while they were in the service. There is an old law on the books, passed in Eighteen Seventy-two and never repealed, which makes

it an offense for any federal official to hand claims to the government for two years after he has retired from the government service. But officials of the War Department succeeded in breaking that down.

*(change)* Warren said further that his own office, created to be the watchdog of the Treasury, was so hampered in auditing war contract negotiation, that his men were not allowed to question either a  favored firm nor an extravagant price, nor a dubious undertaking.

*(change)* The Comptroller General also declared that more than Sixty-five Billions in cancelled war contracts have been settled already. That closes the door forever on any chance of the government's recovering excessive payments. In other words, the money has gone down the drain.

*(change)* Also, it was a rule for certain high government officials to accept entertainment, cocktail parties, and have hotel bills and all expenses paid by contractors. These favors they accepted while they were drawing travel and expense money from the government.

TRUMAN

The United States Senate today had a grand chance for a come-back at President Truman, in retaliation for unkind remarks he has made about bills passed by the Senate. The occasion was a measure to establish a national memorial in Jackson County, Missouri. It was introduced January Sixth, Nineteen Forty-five, by the Senator from Missouri, Harry S. Truman. To get the bill considered, it was necessary to have unanimous consent; just one objection would have blocked it. So the democratic leader, Senator Barkley, rose at his place and said he wondered whether the author of the bill could explain it. There was a chuckle all around, and Senator Barkley sat down. Needless to say, the author was not there.

Then up jumped Senator Taft of Ohio. You may remember what Mr. Truman said about the Taft amendment to the first O.P.A. Bill. Taft pointed out that if he wanted to, he could in effect veto that bill to establish a national memorial in Jackson County. But, he decided to be magnanimous, he would



not do it.

After a few moments of innocent merriment, the Senators heaped ashes upon the head of the President by passing his Bill unanimously.

## CONGRESS FOLLOW TRUMAN

But the ladies and gentlemen of the House were not so kind to the President, ~~—~~ not by any means. They are in an extreme hurry to wind up the Congress by the end of the week and go home, where they have the serious business of persuading the voters to reelect them. Consequently, they were in no mood for tackling knotty problems which would require a lot of debate.

Foremost among those is the President's housing bill, and there is much difference of opinion about that. So they decided it was nothing to start squabbling about during the hot weather. ~~They~~ pigeon-holed it; held it over for the next Congress.

The Senate has already approved it by a coalition of Republicans and Democrats. The sponsors of the Bill are democratic Senators Wagner and Ellender, and Republican Senator Taft. It would establish a long term program to build one million, five hundred thousand new dwelling units every year for the next ten years.

Political observers are questioning the wisdom of the representatives in leaving that job undone. The housing situation, as they point out, is nothing short of terrific. And there is no part of the country in which there is not a crying need for homes. However, the Banking Committee of the House, to which this bill was referred, flatly refused to report it. That means that in the next Congress it will have to be introduced all over again, and the work the Senate has already done on it goes to waste.

## CONFERENCE

At the opening of the Paris Peace Conference, French Foreign Minister Bidault, welcomed the Representatives of the United Nations, with a statement that his government was convinced the conference would bring the heavy task which lies before it, to its successful end.

That takes rank as ~~about~~ the most optimistic statement of the year so far. Experienced observers point out that the Foreign Ministers at Paris cannot possibly establish an European peace because they are not even going to consider the most important problem, such as that of Germany and Austria. The insistence of Soviet Russia that those questions ~~be~~ excluded from discussion renders the conclusion of any definite peace out of the question.

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However, the State Department reported today that Secretary Byrnes and British Prime Minister Attlee, in private discussions, have achieved one progressive step. They have agreed in principle on the procedure for merging the American and British



Occupation Zones in Germany. But of course that progress concerns only America, Britain, and a portion of Germany. Not only Russia, but France, are obdurate against merging the zones. At any rate, this Anglo-American agreement would save British and American taxpayers a lot of money and expenses. It has been costing us about two ~~hundred~~ hundred millions a year to occupy our zone in Germany, while British expenses are slightly higher.

## INDIA

The "fat's in the fire" in India again.

The trouble comes once more from the Moslem League, and this time they are making fight talk. Mohammed Alī Jinnah, President of the League, told his followers the League's Council had rejected every proposal made by the British; both the short term plan for an interim government, and the long term plan for a permanent constitution.

Jinnah threw all moderation to the winds and made an impassioned speech, which the listeners cheered to the echo. He announced in so many words that the Moslems have bidden good-bye to constitutional methods and are going in for direct action. It is hopeless, he declared, to try any solution of India's problem by peaceful and friendly means. Britain, he shouted, must go, and if she wants war, she can have it.

*(Change)*  
All this appears a bit strange to us, since we've heard that all the British want to do is to get out of India. They went through quite a bit of hard fighting to get in and, if the Moslems are to be taken

by their word, they will have to do even harder fighting to get out. The weird part of all of this is that intelligent Indian Moslems, in private conversation, are perfectly willing to admit that if the British did get out, withdrawing all their troops, the Moslem minority, although a pugnacious lot, would have a singularly hard and sanguinary time of it. But now they're talking war and promising to call upon Moslems all over the world to help them. There are four hundred million Moslems in the world, all told, and probably more.

## CHINA

U.S.A. On a Chinese train, running from Tientsin to Peiping, was a unit of some hundred of Uncle Sam's Marines. Midway between the two cities, near a place called Maping, a large force of ambushed fighting men opened fire on the train, wounding several Marines. Naturally, the Leathernecks returned ~~several~~ crashing volleys. The train came to a halt, and the Marines gave battle. According to a dispatch from Peiping, the battle may still be going on at this moment.

(Leave) As the news comes from Kuomingtang sources, we hear that the Force which fired on the Marines was composed of Chinese Communists. But even the Nationalists admit that the Communists possibly did not know American Marines were on the train. They had been attacking the railroads all over the place in that region, although a truce was declared in June. Reinforcements of Kuomingtang Troops were rushed to Peiping to help the Marines.

So now we have the spectacle of American fighting men in a small but open battle against what are supposed to be Communist Forces, *coming back to the*



*U. S. A.* This news happens to be particularly interesting to me for in Nineteen Twenty-Seven at that very place, Maping, with two members of my expedition we had a lively fight with maurading Chinese soldiers while enroute to Peiping in a motor car.

## MISSING WIFE

The mystery of the pretty wife of a veteran who disappeared during a picnic near North Conway, New Hampshire, last Thursday, became less mysterious today. There was a great to-do about Mrs. Barbara Walker, with ~~the help of~~ ~~the~~ ~~State~~ ~~Police~~, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~F.B.I.~~ ~~all~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~lost~~ ~~for~~

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But today the F.B.I. and the State Police dropped the case. They say their investigations show that Mrs. Walker did not vanish, she just left and flew to San Francisco.

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The explanation of the Investigators is that Mrs. Walker strolled away from the party that was picnicking at Echo Lake, saying she was going to her car to get a box of peppermints she had left there. Then she changed her clothes in the car, and threw her shoes, handbag and her hat on the ground in such fashion as to convey the idea that there had been a struggle. Then another car pulled into those picnic grounds, Mrs. Walker got in it, and was driven away. While it was rolling, Mrs. Walker threw away her blue

slacks, which Officers found yesterday.

Friday morning she registered at the Y.W.C.A. in Boston, and Saturday afternoon boarded a plane for Chicago, ~~traveling under another name and announcing that she was bound for Sacramento. Before she went, she made a person to person call to a man in San Francisco, where she had lived for a few months while her husband was in the Army.~~

The Investigators were sure Mrs. Walker was alive when an envelope came by mail with a Boston postmark, addressed to her little, two year old son. In it was an airline insurance policy made out to the little fellow.



## TRUNK

Here's a sad story which recalls the legend of Bluebeard and his inquisitive wife. James W. Bowden of Portland, Oregon, had a suitcase in the cellar of his home which he warned his wife and two daughters never to touch. Saturday morning Bowden went off on a fishing trip. Naturally, that was the chance for Mrs. Bowden to see what it was her husband was concealing from her in that suitcase. She went down into the cellar and, like Pandora, she opened it. There was no bluebeard secret in that piece of luggage, but something even more unhealthy. For it exploded, blowing Mrs. Bowden into small fragments. And today Mr. Bowden was arrested on a charge of possessing explosives unlawfully.



Later in the day, Bowden explained that he had deliberately constructed a bomb in that suitcase, not to kill his wife but to dispose of his rival. He explained that she was running around with another man, and he decided to "get" him. After he made the bomb, he became afraid of it, didn't know how to dispose of it, so he padlocked it with a combination lock and just left it there, warning his wife and their daughters, not to touch. During the war, Bowden was working in the Aleutians as a civilian steam-fitter. When he returned home, he found Mrs. Bowden had squandered the five thousand dollars which he had sent her during his absence, and last month she filed suit for divorce.

*And now Goodnight*