

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight we have President Truman's long expected message to Congress on the vital issue of whether the Army and Navy should be merged, into a single department of national defense. ~~The answer is-~~

he is for it. <sup>said Pres.</sup> "I urge it," ~~Mr.~~ Truman ~~said~~ to the lawmakers. <sup>Then he goes on:- "I urge it</sup> as the best means of keeping the peace."

~~And that puts an end to all official expressed~~

~~opposition on the part of the Navy~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~one~~ <sub>1</sub> half hour

after the President's message was read to Congress, the Navy directed all its officers to refrain from opposition except when called as witnesses before committees of Congress.

"Further studies of the problem would serve no useful purpose," said <sup>the President.</sup> ~~Mr. Truman~~ <sub>1</sub> And he added:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "A grave responsibility will rest upon Congress, if it continues to delay this most important and urgent measure."

Any future war, he pointed out, will break out more suddenly and more violently even than the last one. And our own country most probably will be the first target. Therefore, the most effective insurance we can contrive will be to unify the services. Only thus can we show the world that we really mean business, that we are going to be at least prepared for the next conflict.

The President proposes a seven point program, beginning with a single department of national defense, charged with the full responsibility for armed national security, to be composed of all the armed and civilian forces now included in the War and Navy departments. At the head of this he wants a civilian cabinet member, a Secretary of National Defense. To help him will be a civilian Under-Secretary, and several civilian Assistant Secretaries. This Department of National Defense will comprise three branches, land, naval, <sup>and</sup> air, with an Assistant Secretary for each. The Under-Secretary

and Assistant Secretaries are to be available at all times for assignments <sup>on</sup> ~~at the~~ orders of the President or the Secretary.

In addition, the President and the Secretary of National Defense will have power to set up central coordinating and service bureaus in the armed services. These <sup>to</sup> ~~will~~ have principally to do with procurement, to reduce costs and eliminate the duplication that exists at present.

The President then wants <sup>A</sup> ~~the~~ Chief-of-Staff for the over-all department, with subordinate commanders for Army, Navy and Air. And there will be an Advisory Board to the President and the Secretary, composed of the Chief-of-Staff, and those three commanders of Army, Navy and Air.

Now for the other momentous request in President Truman's message. He wants peacetime universal training, calls it an essential of this program. He dismissed with quiet emphasis the suggestion that unification of the services would

give too much power to one man and might lead to militarism. He said there is no basis for such fear, provided we have civilian control of the military

establishment. Actually, that control would be

strengthened when the services are unified.

*TP The President*

pointed out that if there is another war it will take place simultaneously on land, sea and in the air,

~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> with weapons of infinitely greater speed and

range. ~~And he~~ <sup>he!</sup> Said, "Although strong opposition has been

expressed by outstanding senior offices and civilian

leaders, I can assure the Congress that once

unification has been decided as the policy of this

nation, there is no officer or civilian in any service

who will not contribute his utmost to make unification

a success."

*TP Several millions young men, and older men too, will be thrilled to learn*

~~You will have noticed that he puts the Air~~

*that the President puts the Air*

Force on the same level as the Army and Navy. *TP* "We should

organize to provide parity for air power," said he.

And he added: "Air power has been developed to a point

where its responsibilities are equal to those of land and sea power and its contribution to our strategic planning is as great." So it begins to look as tho the dream of Billy Mitchell, Hap Arnold, Tuohy Spaatz, Jimmy Doolittle, and all the others, may come to pass!

The President feels that the Marine Corps should remain a part of the Navy.

And finally, he declares that our military policy should be completely consistent with our foreign policy.

## -CONFERENCE

The most significant news from Moscow, where the Big Three Foreign Ministers are in conference, is that Secretary Byrnes went to the Kremlin today for a session with Stalin. The Soviet Chief also received British Foreign Secretary Bevin, but not at the same time as Byrnes.

At Byrnes' audition, Foreign Commissar Molotov was present, likewise Ambassador Harriman. We are not told what they discussed; but we may assume that the subject of China came up during the conversation, likewise Iran.

And by the way, there is an authority on that part of the world in the studio with me tonight.

THE "AZERBAIJAN INCIDENT"

L.T. As we have watched the revolt in Northwestern Iran pass through various stages to include the forming of an ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ <sup>autonomous</sup> government, I have been thinking of my friend, Dr. J. Christy Wilson, who lived for over twenty years in that part of Persia -- in Tabriz. Dr. Wilson came in from Princeton on this stormy day. So, let's hear what he can tell us about this political storm in Azerbaijan. Or is it too near Christmas to introduce <sup>an</sup> Azerbaijan note, Dr. Wilson?

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DR. W: Quite the contrary, Lowell. Christmas is just the time to talk about Azerbaijan. The three Wise Men, the Magi, are reputed to have come from there with their Christmas gifts, to the infant Christ, on that first Christmas. The tomb of one of the Wise Men is still pointed out in a city west of Lola Urumia. Azerbaijan was a part of the great kingdom founded by Cyrus and Darius, which the first verse of the Book of

Esther tells us comprised <sup>an</sup> hundred-and-twenty-and-seven provinces and extended even from India unto Ethiopia.

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L.T.: But the present, what about it?

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DR. W.: Day after day, recently, the name of my home town, Tabriz, has been in the headlines. However, I doubt whether correspondents, commentators or editorial writers have grasped the full significance of what is going on over there in Azerbaijan.

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L.T.: All right, Doctor, you tell us the story behind those headlines.

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DR. W.: The point of main importance is that just as the war in East Asia and the Pacific may be traced straight back to the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in Nineteen Thirty-one, so if Azerbaijan is taken from Iran I am certain it will cause trouble for a long,



long time to come. There is a striking parallel between the "Manchuria Incident," and what is taking place in Azerbaijan. One would think the diplomatic technique might have improved since Nineteen Thirty-one. But, here we find it happening again; the installation of a so-called "autonomous" puppet government.

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L.T.: Well, what to do? The new government in northwestern Iran is in power.

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DR. W.: There may still be time. America, Britain and Soviet Russia have all signed a solemn pledge to guarantee the territorial integrity of Iran. Soviet policy still could be changed. Surely it would be best for Soviet Russia, in the end, to act in the spirit as well as the letter, of her agreement, and leave Iran, a loyal ally in the war, leave her the integrity of her borders. Allow her to have her political freedom.

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L.T. How about that oil the Soviets want?

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DR. W. I guess I'm no politician! But I do feel that if the foundation of peace and world order is begun with such an injustice as the separation of Azerbaijan from Iran, then that foundation will ~~crumble~~ crumble. The situation out there is a veritable political atom bomb. It could blast all hope of world peace and order. That pledged word of the Big Three, given to Iran months ago, should be like the laws of the Medes and Persians of old. It should stand. It should not be tampered with!

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ADD U.N.O.

The other day India raised the demand that the permanent home of the U.N.O. should not be in any American city which draws the color line. Today Great Britain added its voice to that demand.

And at the meeting today in London, a British delegate, P.J.Noel-Baker, objected to the suggestion that the United States should be considered the host state. "The United States," said Noel-Baker, "is not going to do more nor pay any more than any other United Nation. " And he added: "We will not be asking the United States for large free gifts."

That certainly is a novel statement to come from abroad.

AMEBY

This morning, in the yard of Wandsworth Prison, outside London, the son of an old and distinguished English family paid the penalty for treason. According to the sentence of the court. Outside the prison gates a woman wept quietly in a car that was stalled. It was believed that the woman was Una Wing, his wife, an actress.

Last night his father, a former Secretary of State for India, with his mother, said goodbye to him in the death cell.

## TREATY

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The government of Great Britain is about to sign a treaty with the Kingdom of Siam. Today comes word from Washington that Uncle Sam has asked the two governments to hold off the signing of that treaty until we have been consulted.

There is no official explanation for this move. Unofficially, we learn that Washington is anxious that the independence and strength of Thailand be preserved. There are rumors that the British are asking pretty harsh terms, such as censorship controls and trade concessions. These are interpreted as an infringement of the independence of Siam.

The British, of course, look upon Siam as an ex-enemy country. But the United States never recognized the declaration of war from Bangkok, considering that the regime in Thailand at that time was a puppet government. Hence, we always considered the Siamese as secret allies.

The news was broken in Washington by Acting

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Secretary Dean Acheson, <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ told newspapermen that he hoped both the British and Siamese diplomats would permit our government to complete its discussions with London before the treaty is concluded. The United States has considerable interests in Siam.

MARSHALL

News ~~comes~~ from Chungking today that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek will meet General George Marshall, our new Ambassador to China in Nanking. Chiang is now in Nanking, and ~~his Chinese~~ Foreign Minister, ~~Mr.~~ Wang, left Chungking by plane today to ~~attend~~ join him at Nanking. General Marshall <sup>has</sup> arrived at Manila and will take off early tomorrow morning for China. He will probably stop first in Shanghai to confer with American commanders.

McVAY

~~General~~ <sup>Capt.</sup> Charles McVay, ~~III~~, commanding officer of the ~~late~~ cruiser INDIANAPOLIS, ~~was~~ found guilty by the court-martial. ~~that tried him at Washington~~ ~~officially.~~ The verdict reads that he suffered a vessel of the Navy to be hazarded. In other words, ~~he is~~ guilty on only one point of the indictment brought against him. ~~He was~~ <sup>Not</sup> ~~found~~ guilty of negligence, and ~~he was~~ categorically acquitted of the charge of inefficiency. The basis of that charge was his failure to order the crew to abandon ship promptly enough. Admiral Baker, President of the Court, explained ~~that~~ this charge had not been proved.

His guilt, said the court-martial, lay in failing to order his ship to zigzag in waters where enemy submarines might be encountered.

In <sup>Capt</sup> McVay's testimony he explained that he had not ordered the zigzag course because he did <sup>not</sup> think it necessary, in view of the poor visibility. He himself and several other witnesses testified that there was no moon and that visibility was poor.



Evidently, it was the testimony of the Japanese commander, Hashimoto, that convicted Captain McVay. Hashimoto, ~~as you may recall,~~ was skipper of the Jap submarine which sank the Indianapolis, ~~He~~ told the court that visibility was excellent and that he had sighted the cruiser ~~at a distance of ten thousand meters quite clearly~~ in the moonlight.

The punishment for Captain McVay may be censure, reduction in grade, demotion on the promotion list, or dismissal from the Navy. ~~In extreme cases, it could be death, but that is not contemplated in this instance. We do not know yet what sentence the court martial recommended.~~ <sup>Now</sup> ~~Anyway,~~ the papers <sup>are</sup> ~~have~~ to be reviewed by the Secretary of the Navy, who has power to reverse the verdict of the court.

ADD McVAY

The prosecuting officer, as required by law, read in full Captain McVay's record as an officer in the United States Navy. It is a highly distinguished one, including many awards for fine service and valor. Captain McVay won a commendation from Admiral Raymond Spruance, former commander of the Fifth Fleet. The INDIANAPOLIS was Admiral Spruance's flagship in several carrier attacks on Japan.

## TAXES

Here ~~is~~ <sup>Q</sup> New Year's message on taxes, ~~not as~~  
~~promising as some people might like, still it~~ <sup>that</sup> holds out  
some hope. ~~It comes from the man most influential~~  
~~in this business,~~ Representative Doughton of North  
Carolina, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of  
the House, <sup>says</sup> <sup>^</sup> His Committee is going to get to work on  
a new tax bill in the spring; <sup>with</sup> ~~There will be some~~  
reductions in it, particularly for individuals; ~~They~~  
~~will get the best break,~~ provided business is good and  
receipts under the present laws are heavier than we  
expect. <sup>R</sup> But, there will be no substantial reduction  
until the budget is balanced. "And," added Doughton,  
"if Congress keeps on making appropriations and  
increasing peace time expenditures, nobody can tell  
when that will be."

## LEGION

A unique organization came into being at New York today. It is the Legion of the American Women Veterans. Never before in any country has there been an organization of war veterans of that sex. The Acting National Commander is Mrs. Patricia Deuse, who in private life is fashion counsellor in a Fifth Avenue shop. She expects to have nearly a thousand members by spring, and says she ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> already <sup>^</sup> applications from some eight hundred ~~women~~. No fewer than three hundred thousand <sup>so far have been</sup> ~~women~~ ~~are already~~ <sup>^</sup> honorably discharged from all branches of the service.

## BLIZZARD

This blizzard we are having in the east might be worse, but we would hate to see it. The bad news is that the Weather Bureau will not promise any end to it until late tomorrow. By that time we shall have had twelve inches of snow. The worst part of it is that it has been blown on the winds of a gale, which is piling the stuff up across highways and city streets in huge drifts. Communications are crippled in New York City, Boston, Washington and Philadelphia, plus, of course, numerous smaller cities, and hundreds of towns and villages, from Washington, D.C. to Portland, Maine. This storm is not a gift from the north. It was born, according to the weather sharks, in the great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, and it rages as far west as Indiana. Schools are closed most everywhere, so that the children may not be snowbound.

An offshoot of that blizzard on the coast struck Buffalo, New York, again just as it was digging out from the weekend storm that plunged fifty-eight inches of snow

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on the lake city. To help move railroad traffic, Governor Dewey of New York has units of the Home Guard helping the railroad men at Buffalo.

## NYLONS

Here's good news for those ladies who have fretted about not being able to procure Nylons for Christmas. A news dispatch tells of large department stores with a complete line -- all sizes and shades. Also, we are told that there are no mobs of women pushing and fighting and gouging to get close to the counters. The price, fifteen dollars a pair.

Oh yes, I forgot to say, those department stores full of nylons are down in Argentina and Uruguay. So

~~hop on that plane and head for South America.~~

And now Hugh what from you.