

*Answer*

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

( We don't need any change in the Constitution, we require no new amendment at this time to solve our problems. That was the dominant note in President Roosevelt's first message to the Seventy-Fifth Congress.) This, although several Congressional leaders had been broadly hinting that a Constitutional amendment was necessary.

Here's what the President said exactly, as you may have heard if you were listening in:- "There has been a growing belief during the past year," he declared, "that there is little fault to be found with the Constitution of the United States as it stands today. Difficulties have grown out of its interpretation, but rightly considered, it can be used ~~as~~ as an instrument of progress and not as a device to prevent action!"

( However, he added that it should be interpreted liberally.) Therein lay ~~is~~ the next most vital and significant

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feature of his message. ( Though he did not mention the Supreme Court by name, there was no mistaking what he meant. )

Every reform he and his administration want to achieve, can be brought about within the limits of the Constitution. But always -- and he ~~re~~ inferred this in several passages -- provided the Constitution is interpreted in broad-minded fashion.

Here are his exact words:- "The vital need is not an alteration of our fundamental law, but an increasingly enlightened view with reference to it. " His entire message was shot through with repetitions of this thought, as when ( he said: - "Means must be found to adopt our legal forms and our judicial interpretation to the actual present national needs of the largest progressive democracy ~~ex~~ in the modern world." )

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Tonight interpretations differ. Some take the President's speech as a plea to the judges, for what he termed "an enlightened view." Others interpret it as an implied but distinct threat. For example, in these words when he said:- "It is not to be assumed that there will be prolonged failure to bring legislative and judicial ~~l~~ action into closer harmony." ~~speaking~~

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Speaking this with the greatest election mandate in American history, the President may have meant it as a direct warning to the courts, specifically the Supreme Court: a call for them to change their attitude or else they might wake up some day and find themselves with clipped wings. However, to my ear his tone was one of asking, making a plea with these words:- "The judicial branch is asked by the people to do its part in making Democracy successful."

In one aspect his speech was an eloquent defense of our form of government contrasted with Dictatorship. To my ear the most eloquent part was when the President lashed out at Dictators.

Another high spot in his message referred to the N.R.A. "Its broad objectives were sound," said he. Adding, "we know now that its difficulties arose from the fact that it tried to do too much."

Then he went on:- "The Statute of the N.R.A. has been outlawed. The problems have not. They are still with us."

## ELECTION FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

Before he read his message there was a little surprise party for Mr. Roosevelt. The purpose was to inform him that he'd been elected President of the United States. From all accounts, the news didn't astonish him, ~~much~~. He took it so calmly there's reason to suspect that someone must have tipped him off in Advance.

Before either chamber of Congress assembled at noon two of the Senate's huskiest pages staggered into the House of Representatives carrying boxes that smelled strongly of fresh shellack. These they put on the rostrum. Thereupon Vice President Garner and Speaker Bankhead portentously produced keys and opened the boxes.

Senators and Representatives gathered around as curiously as though the Vice President were Santa Claus and the boxes contained Christmas presents. Actually they contained nothing but envelopes, enveloped<sup>s</sup> plain and fancy. In them were the electoral votes. In the crowd of solons clustering curiously around the rostrum were a number of Republicans.

# RETAKE

You can't have decent conditions and adequate pay for labor through simultaneous action by the forty-eight states," said he. And he applied the same to agriculture, monopoly, unfair trade practices, and speculation. Federal laws to supplement state laws, he insisted. ¶ I listened in company with Jack Pearl -- Baron Munchausen. He was bursting with admiration for the President's technique -- the way he had bright lines without ~~xx~~ emphasizing them too much.

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Concerning the immense Congressional applause Lew Lehr remarked: "It was like a dress rehearsal before your relatives." That's how much Congress was with him.

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Instead of just opening up the envelopes, adding the votes quickly and announcing the result, it had to be done with the utmost formality. As each envelope was opened a teller said to Mr. Garner, the presiding officer: "Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Alabama seems to be in regular form and authentic. And it appears that Franklin Delano Roosevelt of the State of New York received eleven votes for President and John Nanc<sup>o</sup>~~r~~ Garner of the State of Texas received eleven votes for Vice President."

And so on through the alphabet until they came to the letter "m". Then the teller had to change his lyric and say: "Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Maine seems to be in regular form and authentic. And it appears therefrom that Alfred Mossman Landon of the State of Kansas received five votes for President and Frank D. Knox of the State of New Hampshire received five votes for Vice President." Thereupon for the first time in the proceedings a cheer arose from the Republican side, *a loud cheer.*

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And then *when* <sup>the</sup> President ~~Roosevelt~~ appeared at the capitol the first

thing he learned was the startling news that he had received  
five hundred and thirty-two votes against eight.



A couple of months ago James Roosevelt, eldest son of the President, startled the correspondents on the South American trip by appearing in the uniform of a colonel of the U. S. Marines. He had been commissioned to that rank by his father, thus enabling him to serve as a military aide during the President's visit to Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Then another instance gave rise to a wide rumor that the President was grooming his son to follow in his footsteps in a political career. Tonight that's no longer a rumor. ( It was announced from the White House that Colonel James Roosevelt is now added to the list of the President's secretaries. Since the death of the late Louis McHenry Howe there have been only two of them, Marvin McIntyre and Steve Early. Now once again there are three.) This is another Rooseveltian smashing of precedent. Never before, I believe, has any President of the United States appointed ~~his~~ one of his sons as his secretary.

The rumors about James Roosevelt began to fly a year ago when he first went to Washington. It was reported that he would work for his father merely as an advisor, without any title.

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When reporters asked him about it James Roosevelt said: "That's news to me, I'm still in the insurance business." He must have done pretty well ~~xx~~ at that as he wrote one policy alone for two million, five hundred thousand dollars. ~~As a politician he is already earned the name for being exceedingly direct and outspoken.~~

NEUTRALITY

(Congress certainly lost no time meeting the first of the President's wishes. That was for a joint resolution enabling him to stop war supplies being sent from America to Spain.)

Barely one hour after Mr. Roosevelt had made his formal request to both Houses the Senate whipped it through with practically no debate. It would have romped through the House just as

swiftly but for a new <sup>member,</sup> ~~number.~~ As a rule all that is expected from new members of Congress is what the first mate demanded

of the new sailor when he said: "All we want out of you is silence, and durned little of that." But radical legislators

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don't care for rules. ~~Mr.~~ Bernard of Minnesota, a ~~former~~ Farmer-Laborite, objected to having this resolution disposed of in

such short order. He thought the House should take time to consider it. He got help from an unexpected source. ~~My neighbor,~~

~~Mr.~~ Hamilton Fish of New York, demanded that there should at least be some debate on the subject. So they debated one hour

on the resolution, five minutes on every amendment that was proposed. But the amendments weren't many and soon after five

o'clock the House concurred in the Senate's action. (So the

President will be able to <sup>place</sup> ~~claim~~ an embargo on all shipments

of war supplies to Spain as soon as he pleases. ) |

The affair culminated in an amusing race between Congress and the would-be exporters of war supplies. ~~Our friends,~~ The

Vimalert Company, had a ship loading at Brooklyn with ~~some~~ <sup>almost</sup>

three million dollars worth of <sup>second-hand</sup> planes, rolling kitchens,

foodstuffs and other supplies for <sup>Madrid.</sup> ~~the Spanish government.~~

The rolling kitchens were also second-hand, bought from

Uncle Sam's army. As the news came from Washington the officers of that ship started driving their ~~ex~~ crews might and main.

The freighter finally put to sea with the planes on the deck, but not lashed down. Extra forces of stevedores were sweating, hoisting and tugging. Meanwhile relays of messenger boys kept

bringing telegrams urging more haste. One plane of the New York police department and another of the Coast Guard service hovered

overhead watching. As the ship ~~steamed~~ <sup>steamed</sup> out into the channel

the Coast Guard Cutter ICARUS ~~steamed~~ <sup>raced</sup> after her in pursuit.

Just before she reached the three mile limit outside of Sandy

Hook the cutter overhauled the freighter. The cutter's officers

announced that the United States Marshal had a lien on part of

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the ship's cargo. Meanwhile there were feverish radio communications between the cutter and Washington. After a hurried conference it was decided that Uncle Sam had jurisdiction over the cargo but not over the ship since she flew the Spanish flag. So, after many an anxious hour the Vimalert Company won its race with the United States Congress, and the ship is on its way.

NORMAN

Even the most ardent New Dealers realize that sooner or later somebody was bound to take a legal crack at the Social Security Act. And, sure enough, it has happened. In the Federal District Court of New York appeared a citizen today complaining with a loud voice and a pound or so of legal papers:- Said he:\* "The Social Security Act violates the Constitution of the United States."

The complaining gentleman is Norman C. Norman of New York. He has objected to almost every Roosevelt measure that came along. His first crack was made at the N.R.A. The jewelers, like everybody else, adopted a code. When they asked Mr. Norman for his hundred dollar assessment for the administration of the Code, he told them to go plumb to ---. He even wanted to go to Washington and make a test case out of it. That was his first adventure on the front pages of the newspapers.

His next essay made legal history and resulted in a most important decision from the Supreme Court. When the interest on a thousand dollar gold bond of the Baltimore and Ohio that he held fell due, he demanded his dividend in gold. That is, he wanted thirty-nine dollars and ten cents in Roosevelt dollars instead of the twenty-two and a half which the Company offered. His

suit became a test case and, as everybody knows, the United States Supreme Court turned the professional objector down.

I was talking with him this afternoon at the Waldorf and he said to me: "I guess I must be just a natural scrapper." And then he added:- "I'm against anything that takes away liberties and makes things compulsory."

STRIKE

The outlook in the strike situation is pretty bad. The news from Detroit is that Uncle Sam's mediators have had no luck. Unable to bring the leaders of the Union and the heads of General Motors together. In other words, so far no truce in the walkout; fifty-three thousand men are still out, Homer Martin, President of the Union, today gave out the warning that the strike was about to spread to other factories. Alfred P. Sloan, President of General Motors, stands pat. "Let the Union pull the workers out; that's the only way I have to find out how strong the union is," said he.



KIDNAP

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There's no news of kidnapped little Charlie Matson, and that of itself is the most ominous kind of news. Twelve days have elapsed now since the ten year old boy was snatched from his father's home. And still the lad's agonized parents are unable to get <sup>either</sup> word or sign out of the kidnapper, though they have made every effort in good faith.

It's being pointed out that in the last three years, only five kidnapped victims have been held so long before being returned. The principal ray of hope for Dr. and Mrs. Matson is that little June Robles in Arizona was held prisoner nineteen days, and then turned up safe and sound.

It may sound ironic that this case should be in everybody's mind just as Attorney General Cummings reports to Congress that there has been a gratifying decrease in kidnappings. Of course the Attorney General's report covers the year ending June Thirtieth, Nineteen Thirty-Six, and of course it is perfectly true. As J. Edgar Hoover records in his part of the Attorney General's report, thirty-nine kidnappers were convicted during that year on evidence gathered by G-men of the F.B.I. All the

more distressing is it that the sure, swift punishment that overtook all other kidnapers failed to deter the perpetrator of this latest crime.

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Mr. Cummings in his report repeats a plea that all police officers have made to Congress in vain for years. There should be a law to compel the registration of all revolvers, pistols, light firearms of any kind. Already machine guns have to be registered. But, said the Attorney General, that isn't enough, and every police chief in the country agrees with him.

## EUROPE

- So much history was being made in America today, that we can do no more than cast a glance at Europe. No important change in the situation over there except that John Bull is shifting his fleet of warships around the coast of Spain; and, France is talking about moving troops to the Pyrennes. The number of German Nazis massed in Spain they say constitutes a menace to French safety. That's the word from Paris today.

General Franco's trawlers seized another Russian steamer off Gibraltar. And Moscow professes to have information that Hitler is about to come out into the open with a strong force to help the Fascist rebels in Spain. This report from Moscow is discounted throughout the rest of Europe. The belief in other capitals is that Hitler has notified Franco that if he doesn't achieve some spectacular success, immediately, he will withdraw his help. That's supposed to be the reason for the renewed and terrific aerial bombardment of Madrid. This latest battle has raged now for three days. The belief that Franco <sup>is</sup> making a desperate effort to capture the capital and show that to the world as an accomplished fact.

That's our brief glance at Europe and --SO LONG  
UNTIL TOMORROW.