

The Trend of Events in Washington

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. E. E. COX

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 1939

COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO NEWSPAPERS OF SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend I insert in the RECORD copy of communication of present date addressed to the newspapers in my congressional district, as follows:

Conditions in the Nation and the state of affairs in the world have created a situation in which full cooperation and complete confidence between the Congress and the executive departments of government are of vital importance.

Any impression, in the Congress or out of it, that the legislative branch is working in opposition to the executive department simply to be opposing must be dispelled. Any impression that the executive department of government does not trust the Congress to cooperate in working out the solutions to the problems which face us must be eliminated.

If this Nation is to be piloted through the dangerous shoals of international diplomacy and kept free from those entanglements which may involve us in the armed conflicts among other nations, there must be the fullest confidence on the part of the Chief Executive and his administrators in the good intentions of the Congress to go along with every reasonable, sound policy designed not only to keep us aloof from these foreign quarrels and conflicts but also to build up a national defense adequate for any reasonably conceivable circumstances which may arise in the future.

If we are to solve the grave domestic problems which confront us, equal candor and cooperation are necessary between the Chief Executive and the Congress.

There is no question but that industry in this country has been given a new optimism by the fact that the Congress is demonstrating its intention to fulfill its constitutional functions instead of abdicating these duties and functions in favor of the executive department. There is no reason why the Congress, in thus resuming its full constitutional functions, cannot cooperate to the greatest degree with the executive department and do so with much greater efficiency than heretofore. Neither is there any reason why the executive department, in fulfilling its constitutional functions, must clash with or be opposed by the legislative branch if reason, justice, moderation, and a devotion to the welfare of the Nation motivate both departments.

If old frictions are forgotten and the Congress and the Executive meet on the common ground of the common good of our common country, there can be any amount of disagreement, discussion, and compromise as to particular policies or methods without producing any divisions in the parties or bringing about any stalemates between the two great governmental branches.

There is no reason why the people of this country should be caught up in prejudices or passions, frictions or fights, between the two constitutional departments of the Government. In every case we all should submerge political considerations, personal aggrandizements, or the satisfaction of piques to the one objective of restoring the Nation to safety, security, and prosperity.

There is not the slightest doubt that reasonable differences and divergences of views as to methods of achieving the solution of problems can be resolved if the desire to be reasonable is present at all times in the minds of both the Executive and the legislators.

This attitude must obtain heretoforth.

THE DIES COMMITTEE

The congressional select committee investigating un-American activities, commonly referred to as the Dies committee, undoubtedly will be given more funds by the House of Representatives and its operations continued for at least another year.

Regardless of whatever criticism has been made against the latitude the committee has allowed witnesses heretofore, the fact remains that such an avalanche of evidence of un-American activities has come to the committee that it would be unwise to try to end the committee's operations at this time.

There is a very narrow line of demarcation between communism, fascism, and other alien "isms" as political philosophies, and the actual doctrine of sedition which would advocate the overthrow of our Government by force. One might be a Communist or a Fascist within his constitutional rights of free conscience and free speech, because he might seek a change in our form of government by means of the orderly ballot; but when Communists or Fascists become active in an attempt to change our form of government by force of arms instead of by ballots, they have entered upon the ground of sedition and treason, and therefore are guilty of high crimes against this Government.

Evidence of a convincing nature and great volume has come to the Dies committee that there are working in this country many Communists and Fascists—some of them with access to high places in Government—who are seeking the forcible overthrow of this Republic, not by means of ballots but by force of arms. Clearly, all such are seditionists, and if they are aliens, they should be deported to the countries of their origin. We certainly should no longer harbor them here. If any of our own citizens, whether in high place or low, are participating in any plots or plans forcibly to seize and overthrow this Government, they should be apprehended, exposed, and punished as seditionists.

No harm can come, under a fair inquiry, to any disciples of communism or fascism who are confining their efforts to persuading a majority of the people to vote for a change of governmental form. But it is highly important that all organizations and associations in this country and all individuals as well who are engaged in propagating communistic or fascistic doctrines should be known and the extent of their activities determined.

EFFICIENCY IN RELIEF

There is every probability that the investigations into the use of relief funds for political purposes have not ended. On the contrary, the very fact that we are faced with what probably is a problem that will persist for several years, demands a thorough scrutiny of relief administration from the standpoint of making relief as efficient and economical as possible. The relief rolls should be purged of every individual who does not rightfully belong on them. The strictest economy and efficiency should be invoked in order that the greatest amount of every relief dollar will go for its primary purpose of relieving the unemployed without partisanship or favoritism having any place in the administration of the relief funds.

NEUTRALITY

Recent developments disclosing that there has been some move to build modern military airplanes in this country for sale to France in event of a European war have brought to the fore in the Senate demands for an inquiry into the administration's foreign policy.

Such an inquiry ought not to be conducted in any attitude of hostility to the administration but rather in order to ascertain the facts. Conditions have come about which require that the President give the Congress a frank and clear view of his foreign policy. No one can say with justice that the administration's foreign policy is either wrong or mistaken until the President has advised the Congress just what that foreign policy is. It is to be hoped the Chief Executive will do this, and there is no reason to believe he will not.

Any difference of opinion which might develop between the Congress and the executive department as to foreign policy ought to be frankly discussed and worked out, with the sole object in view of adopting the best possible policy on the part of this Nation to keep us free of foreign conflicts.

Meanwhile, the part of wisdom would indicate that no rash statements be made in the Congress—or even in the press—until a frank discussion of foreign policy has taken place between the proper committees of the Congress and the proper representatives of the executive department.

Lift the Spanish Embargo

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. LEE E. GEYER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 1939

ADDRESS BY HON. LEE E. GEYER, OF CALIFORNIA, JANUARY 24, 1939

Mr. GEYER of California. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I wish to insert an address given by myself at the Masonic Temple in Washington, D. C., on January 24, 1939, as follows:

Coming to Washington as a freshman Member of Congress, I bring you the message that my people in the Seventeenth District of California are united in their desire for peace. I have spoken to my colleagues in the House, and I know that from the Pacific coast to the eastern seaboard, from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, in the Rocky Mountain States, on the prairies and in the cotton patch, there is no war spirit among Americans. War in other parts of the world has intensified the devotion to peace which is traditional with our people. The spread of war has strengthened our determination to keep the United States out of war. Some people think it enough to "keep out of other people's wars." That seems to me too easy. I am concerned primarily with keeping out of a war which, by menacing our sovereignty as a