

"Confidential"

Washington---9-27-39---7 Pm..

To---W. D. P., R. Z., & L. B.,

From---Mayne

Subject---Neutrality & etc... Literature---Dr. Thorkelson

"A"---Considerable speculation was evidenced on The Hill to-day, privately of course, as to the outcome of the differences between Secretary of War, Woodring and Louis Johnson, Asst. Secretary---There really is a difference of opinion between these gentlemen, as to whom IS THE SECRETARY ---Entering into the difference was, injected, a book written by Leo M. Cherne, "Adjusting your business to War", the title, and Louis Johnson contributed the foreword---The President in his press conference allegedly panned the author, thereby taking an indirect slap at Johnson, which in the opinion of several persons, was not intended, he having, thus far (Roosevelt) played the game with Johnson, and went along with him on his War Resources Board---Entering the disagreement, also was the statement from The White House to the effect that the War Resources Board headed by Edward R. Stettinius Jr. of The U.S. Steel, would report shortly and DISEMB---From this (War Board) one would and could gather that the Baruch visit to The White House on or about 9-14 th., had something to do with the reorganization of War Resources Board -----The News Scribes have it "That either Woodring or Johnson will be liquidated, and are betting that Johnson will succeed Woodring, or stay in the picture, it being concluded that one or the other MUST go in order that harmony must again be resumed in that department"---It would be a Hell of a War (if we get into it) with The Secretary and his office in a state of hostilities.---Baruch does not like the present "set up" and Roosevelt will make changes favoring his ideas---

"B"---During a somewhat lengthy interview this Pm. with The Doctor expressed his pleasure in having had the interview of Monday, having as he said, been reassured that you would get out the pamphlets on "Speeches"---The first two are "vows", and have been recognized by State Department, that Department having called his office regarding the source of his information, as to who shot who during the world war, who paid for the job in POUNDS---He is really getting attention these days,

as well as the proper type of recognition-----I believe that in him there is a man who may be depended upon,in what is to come,and I am positive that he is the friend to depend upon if an hour of need should come...

To-day he requested me to be "on deck" for aspecial reason,there having been calls from questionable parties -----He is writing a "whiz-bang" which he hopes to get into circulation to-morrow morning-----As a message to you,he wishes to inform you of the importance of getting speeches into print and circulated,and his appreciation of your efforts in meeting and offering a constructive program mutually beneficial. Further than that he appreciates your thought in sending the books to him.

*****Will be busy,as he suggests,in keeping in touch with him,and with the hill,in other quarters,also suggested by you-----To-morrow I will outline a plan which may be used to find out "just who is talking to whom" here,which if used,may bring on another "law suit"..

With kindest personal wishes to all,and feeling that we have two strikes against the local team here, I am,

Respectfully and sincerely at your service,

Mayne