

TARGET FOR TODAY

BULLETIN OF THE HOLLYWOOD DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

1585 Cross Roads of the World, Room 116, Hollywood 28, California - Hollywood 6325

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APRIL 12, 1945 We have been deprived - through the death of our beloved President, Franklin Roosevelt - of a mighty soldier in the people's war for lasting peace and international security. That means two things: that each of us must shoulder a portion of the burden he was carrying; each must give his support to President Truman, pledging to him every ounce of our energy in the battle he has taken up; every ounce of our determination to help him carry out the program he has pledged himself to work for - the people's program; Franklin Roosevelt's program.

How do we do this job? Not by thinking in terms of the glittering symbols represented by the words "Bretton Woods", "Dumbarton Oaks", "FEPC", security, health, full-employment. No one is going to hand us what these words represent on any kind of platter. We are going to have to get them for ourselves. The President is only as strong as we are strong. The nation is only as progressive as we are progressive; the peace of the world is only as secure as our determination to make that peace secure.

Legislation is a dull word. Some of its processes are dull indeed. But legislation is the solid foundation on which final victory and lasting peace will be built. And we are the guardians of that structure, as well as the workers, who help construct it. Every piece of progressive legislation needs us to hedge it round with our determination to see it considered, passed, erected into law. Since we are not legislators, we must make our representatives in city, county, state, national and international assemblies understand our needs, hear our voices, work for us all. They expect this of us; we demand it of ourselves.

Otherwise the victory that is being won today on the battlefields of Europe and Asia will be a hollow victory. Otherwise the peace, the international amity for which our sons and brothers have shed their blood - and lost their lives - will be lost to us for generations to come.

Viewed in this light do you still find it difficult to write a letter to your representatives? A dozen letters? A hundred letters? WRITE!

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NATIONAL LEGISLATION

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

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THE RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENTS ACT expires June 12 of this year. A bill for the extension of this act is now in the House Ways & Means Committee. One of President Truman's first statements urged the passage of this bill. In spite of the fact that the Republican Party Platform in 1944 pledged the expansion of foreign trade, the Trade Agreements Act is expected to be the center of the most strictly partisan fight which has been yet developed over major international legislation. Already the Republican members of the House Ways & Means Committee have caucused and decided to vote against it.

The fundamental clash over the Trade Agreements Act will be between proponents of high protective tariffs and proponents of low protective tariffs. It is believed that there is a reasonably good chance of extending the Act, but for a limited period (one year instead of three) and as a wartime measure. The big fight will come over the requests for additional bargaining power (an essential part of the Act) and over the whole question of delegation of authority to the executive.

The Motion Picture Industry has never opposed the Reciprocal Trade Agreements. At any rate, the Industry has appeared at the Public Hearings to ask for concessions which it has gotten in several cases. As a result of Reciprocal Trade Agreements, there has been a 50% reduction in the tariff on certain types of imported film (in an agreement with Belgium in 1935) and in an agreement with Great Britain tariff on the finished product was also reduced 50%. In addition, tariffs placed by Mexico upon American films have been reduced considerably.

The Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act must be extended in order to avoid the catastrophic trade conditions which existed after the last war and which led to the depression. The restoration of international trade is essential to the free flow of goods in order to avoid a ruinous trade war. This act makes Bretton Woods Agreements effective.

ACTION:

WRITE to: Honorable Robert L. Doughton, Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee and to Honorable Carl Hinshaw and Honorable Gordon L. McDonough, House Office Building, Washington, D. C. Tell them to support the Reciprocal Trades Agreement Act for the reasons stated above.

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THE BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS are incorporated in H.R. 2122 now in the House Banking & Currency Committee. Contrary to popular opinion these agreements are not of special interest to bankers only. The plans for an international Monetary Fund and an International Bank to encourage loans for reconstruction and for development of backward countries are the absolutely indispensable foundations for world peace. They are the first steps to making the United Nations an effective agency in world economic affairs. President Roosevelt said of Bretton Woods and the Reciprocal Trade Agreements that they were as essential as a "kit of tools" in building world unity. These proposals will increase enormously our potential foreign trade, on which we must rely for many post war jobs.

The Motion Picture Industry stands to gain immeasurably by the Bretton Woods Agreements. In a letter to the HDC, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau says: "Expanded and unrestricted foreign trade is very important to the motion picture industry... If the Fund and Bank are put into effect and the United Kingdom accepts membership, it will have to remove its exchange controls as quickly as possible, thus assuring freedom in the transfer of earnings by the motion picture industry... The Bretton Woods proposals will not solve all of the world's trade problems since they cover only the monetary and investment fields. They will outlaw the restrictive monetary practices of the 1930's and in this way will also lead the way to the cooperative solution of other trade problems. I believe, however, that it is equally important to keep in mind the difficulties that will confront the movie people if the Fund and Bank are rejected. We can be absolutely certain that without these institutions there will be unfair and discriminatory measures taken by many countries that will greatly reduce the income from abroad of the motion picture industry."

ACTION:

WRITE to: Honorable Brent Spence, Chairman, House Banking & Currency Committee and to your Congressman, House Office Building, Washington. D. C. Tell them to support the Bretton Woods proposals without amendments and for the reasons stated above.

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STATE LEGISLATION

FULL EMPLOYMENT

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THE McMILLAN BILL, A.B. 2136. This bill is a counterpart of the Murray-Thomas Bill in Congress. It is co-authored by all Assembly Democrats. The bill requires the Governor each year to submit either to a regular session of the State Legislature or to a special legislative committee established for the purpose, a "job budget" for the State of California. Further, if the Governor finds private industry is not able to provide a number of jobs sufficient to produce full employment, then it is the responsibility of the Governor to recommend to the legislature the construction of public works, to provide jobs for those who would otherwise be unemployed.

ACTION:

WRITE to: your Assemblyman, Assembly Chambers, Sacramento, Calif. and tell him this bill will cushion the periods of cut-back and reconversion and keep our economy developing.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

-1-

THE De MILLE BILL, A.B. 1953, is for the purpose of gagging unions in elections. It would prohibit the collection of money for supporting candidates or issues. This strikes at the heart of political action.

ACTION:

WRITE to: your Assemblyman, Assembly Chambers, Sacramento, Calif. and tell him to vote against this bill.