Today's speech to Congress revealed the broad development of the Administration foreign policy to meet the changing situation abroad. It was obvious that because every word from week to week has been so unpredictable that the President didn't dictate his message until the last day or so. He was solemn and frank, presenting as fully as he could the facts with which, better than anyone else, he is in a position to know, both as to the status of England and our own home defense.

On the subject of "all-out" aid to England, Mr. Roosevelt neither straddled nor sidestepped. He made plainer than ever before that he thinks England's fight is our fight and that he thinks the Adminstration has recognized that a Traffic Problem exists in Boston! Now, gentlemen, when we get stuck, we shall be stopped in no ordinary jam; rather, we shall be held up by an Official Traffic Problem. That such a condition must have existed since Paul Revere left Charlestown is the point. Now our waiting shall no longer go unnoticed but will have the omniscient eye of the city fathers.

However, that Mayor Tobin, detecting the situation, wants to eliminate it disturbs us greatly. For years we have sped across Harvard Bridge at one foot per minute; it is highly likely that he will urge Congress to enact additional taxes specifically to meet the defense program.

The President's stand on the nation's finances is suddenly the quintessence of optimism and idealism. Through additional taxes it is now possible, he asserts, to raise enough money not only to balance the sky-high budget but to pay for the whole armament program within seven years. It will entail sacrifices, it is conceded, but it will not break the taxpayers' back, interfere with business, or impoverish anyone. On the contrary, it should be welcomed by those who are able to pay, because it is the certain way of avoiding the inflation bugaboo, of keeping the public debt in hand and the government solvent.

That has been the presidential attitude since the return from the Southern waters cruise following the election. It sounds like the Roosevelt of 1932. It doesn't sound like the Roosevelt of the last two years, who had avoided the use of the word economy and who had forgotten the necessity of balancing a budget.

But is it a waste of time to dwell on past attitudes? What is done now is what counts. If, as is now indicated, the president in his fiscal speech comes up with the kind of financial support he is talking these days; if he means what he says about reducing government expenditures and increasing taxes, he is certain to find a sympathetic, long-lost Congress and an overwhelmingly favorable public opinion.

SHADeS OF PAUL

We note with the deepest of interest and concern an item in last night's papers to wit, that Mayor Tobin has recognized that a Traffic Problem exists in Boston! Now, gentlemen, when we get stuck, we shall be stopped in no ordinary jam; rather, we shall be held up by an Official Traffic Problem. That such a condition must have existed since Paul Revere left Charlestown is the point. Now our waiting shall no longer go unnoticed but will have the omniscient eye of the city fathers.

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