

RADIO BROADCAST  
APRIL 18, 1960

WBF: . . . . . This week Senator Kuchel has been obliged to leave Washington on an emergency trip. In his absence, Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois has generously agreed to pinchhit for his colleague. Senator Dirksen with whom Senator Kuchel is closely associated in conducting affairs of the United States Senate is a long-time veteran of Congressional service. He now is the Minority Leader of the Senate and is serving his second term in that body. Before coming to the Senate he served in the House of Representatives for 8 terms. Senator Dirksen, Senator Kuchel is very grateful to you for substituting on this occasion.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: It is a delight to be able to help him and I was quite grieved over the fact that what you call an emergency absence was really a bereavement in the family of which I am terribly distressed and so I am more than glad to be of assistance if I can.

WBF: As you know, the Senate has been on sort of a slow down while he has been away so he has not missed any important roll calls or any significant business.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is quite correct. After that long tour de force we had on civil rights which went for 8 solid weeks it is now necessary, of course, for the committees to get busy and build up other legislative matters that command importance. In due course we'll be busy all over again. I have an idea the Senate will take on an accelerated tempo that will mean long sessions if we undertake to get out of here by the time the first convention convenes in Los Angeles on the 11th of July.

WBF: Senator Dirksen, I refer to you as a close association of Senator Kuchel, you and he work quite intimately together on a lot of scheduling of legislation and things, don't you?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is necessarily so. He is a part of the leadership team. He sits in on all the White House conferences from time to time and I rely very heavily upon him because among other things he makes certain that the members are about when important roll calls come along and also the purpose of hearing the discussions that are pertinent to some of the issues that are of vital interest to the whole country.

WBF: Senator Dirksen, Senator Kuchel thought that you would be in a particularly good position to comment on a subject of great interest and importance in California, that is the prospects for world peace and disarmament. As you can appreciate being on an exposed Pacific slope looking to the West, the people out there are naturally quite apprehensive. What is your guess about what may come out of the Summit Conference.?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: First of all, as a general thing, let me say, that there is no more important challenge before the whole wide world and certainly no more important challenge before this country than this whole question of disarmament and a continuing durable peace. I thought of it over the weekend in connection with the recollection that next month we will be observing the 15th anniversary of VE Day. It seems almost incredible that hostilities ceased and the guns were silenced 15 years ago next month in Europe. And yet here we are standing on the pinnacle of 15 years looking back,

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armament expenditures become heavier and heavier. We talk about cold war; there is talk about economic penetration and the difficulties we had from time to time to persuade the world that we have no interest ~~except~~ except to maintain peace and lift this awful load of armament from the backs of humble tax payers, not only in this country but elsewhere. Now I might inject a parenthetic thought there, our budget this year, as it has been for the last several years will run in the neighborhood of 41 thousand million dollars. That's 40 billion for a single year. If you add the expenditures for mutual security, sometimes mistakenly called foreign aid that would bring it up to about 45 billion. I see that in context when I think of the gross appropriations for all purposes of government when I came to Washington in 1933 because we ran the whole business for less than 4 billion dollars and today for armament alone it is 11 times that much. That is why this is a challenge and I am hopeful that if any degree of good will and tolerance at all is brought to the Summit Meeting by all the leaders of the countries that will be represented there we will get somewhere. I think I see some signs of moral fatigue, as I call it. We've been bothered with it so long that people everywhere, and I suppose that goes for the Soviet Union as well as any other place are wondering whether at long last, we can say that an era of durable peace is on hand and that gradually we can reduce this armament burden. I doubt very much whether it will come over night but surely the destructive force of nuclear weapons can not help but impress people everywhere so that if there should be another conflict there will be no victory because it will mean co-annihilation.

WBF: Senator Dirksen, you've just touched on a thing I wanted to ask you about. In your position as Minority Leader and because of your long service, you have watched closely I know, the preparations of the United States to go into the space field, into satellites and new devices. How do you feel in view of the constant debate whether we are keeping up with the Russians?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: From the very outset when I had <sup>one</sup> ~~seen~~ discussions on the Senate floor about this, it was my contention that we keep up with them and the standpoint of balance, I think we are well ahead of them. Now when we talk about space, perhaps we didn't have a moon shot and perhaps some of our vehicles or instruments that have gone into space were not as large as theirs but I think the last summary will indicate that in a 3-year period we had 23 orbital shots as against 8 on their part, as far as we know. And of this number there are 14 US instrumentalities still in orbit as against 2 for the Soviet Union.

WBF: Senator, that was before last week's shot out there at Vandenberg.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That's right and then, of course, the new instrument that is taking photographs and sending them back is at once one of the most entrancing and one of the most revealing things that has happened in this whole field. I think it ought to bring a great degree of confidence to our people as they take note of our achievements in this field.

WBF: Senator Dirksen, you are well aware that water as a commodity is tremendously, pricelessly, important in the western states. You have been out on inspection trips and visited projects in California and other states of the arid west. It is important this year that we get some indication whether we are going to get any water legislation that will benefit our people at the present session of Congress. Could you say anything about that?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Well, first let me say this. I suppose I never appreciated what water meant to the West so much as after the first trip I made out there in 1944. I covered a good deal of the area and then some years later went back and at that time I saw that great Central Valley for the first time. It was at once one of the most revealing and most impressive things I ever saw but I discovered the worth of water to the western domain. And I think I can say without being offensive at all to my colleagues from the midwest or the east that unless they go out there and look themselves they cannot fully appreciate and fully understand what water and water conservation really means to the West. Look at the gravitation of people toward the Pacific Seaboard. Those states are growing as no other states and I venture the opinion that within a few years, the chances are that population-wise, California will probably exceed New York. You have got to make provisions for people and that means that when making provision there has to be a subsistence. But if the soil will not yield water then the great challenging question is from what source shall you obtain water. That is why it becomes at once so important. And I have seen what water will do that thirsty soil out there - it will make it bloom as the rose. I can understand and that is why I have shared that interest with Senator Kuchel and I was quite glad when the Budget Bureau put the seal of approval on the San Luis Project and it passed the Senate. There was a good deal of spirited debate but it passed by a very very substantial majority and is now pending in the House of Representatives.

WBF: Are we going to get any action on it this year, Senator?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: I want to express the hope that under the procedure, the Rules Committee which is really the Steering Committee in the House will give that measure a rule because I think from the discussion and from the statement from the Budget Bureau that it was fully justified and that it will be indispensable to the well-being of California in the years that lie ahead.

WBF: You referred to the fact that we are going to have to speed up the pace and the tempo of the Senate and the House to get done before the Conventions. In the moment or two remaining could you indicate what further legislation is likely to come up. Is there anything going to be as hot as the civil rights fight?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: I can speak from the Senate side and say that there are still a good many appropriations bills on which we have taken no action. Probably the most

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controversial bill that will come along will be the mutual security bill - both the legislative bill and then the appropriation to cover it. That has always been a matter of high controversy in the Senate and I presume this year will be no exception. Then, in addition this year, of course, you've seen the discussion or you have read a great deal in the public press about health insurance for the aged. There is a bill to amend the minimum wage act still pending in the Labor Committee and there is a so-called Simpson Keogh bill to give certain benefits to the self-employed to put them on a better basis and a more equal status with others who enjoy retirement and annuity rights. Those are just some of the bills that are pending and there is one other that is probably of some interest. I presume California does produce some sugar, insofar as I know. The sugar Act expires on the last day of the year in 1960 and obviously there is great interest in its extension. There is considerable controversy as to whether it ought to be extended for a 4-year period with discretionary power in the hands of the President or only for a one year period but certainly with some 22 or 23 states interested in both beet sugar and cane sugar, that's another measure on which there must be action before we adjourn for the conventions.

WBF: That is particularly important to California, Senator. The latest statistics indicate that California has the largest acreage of beet crop and the largest production of beet sugar in the whole United States.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Then I am sure it is of high interest to your people.

WBF: Senator, do you think they are going to have to come back in Congress after the conventions to clean up some loose ends?

SENATOR DIRKSEN: I hope not and I do not believe so, largely because so little is achieved in a special session and the members will want to go home and not come back to Washington and I think that is a nearly unanimous view on the part of the members of both House and Senate.

WBF: Everybody wants to hit the campaign trail but they want to get a little vacation before doing that.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: That is quite true.

WBF: You have just heard a report from Washington by United States Senator Dirksen from Illinois. He has substituted for your United States senator from California, Thomas H. Kuchel who is regularly heard on this program. Senator Kuchel will be back with you again in two weeks. We return you now to your station announcer.

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*Senator Dirksen*

WBF: Usually this program is a report to you by your United States Senator, Thomas H. Kuchel. He has been obliged to leave the Capital on an emergency trip. This week his close associate and good friend, United States Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, the Senate Minority Leader, generously has offered to substitute for Senator Kuchel.

SENATOR DIRKSEN: Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a genuine pleasure to substitute for my friend, Tom Kuchel but frankly I was quite distressed about the matter that enforced his absence from Washington. I am sure you have learned by now about the bereavement in the family, and that is always a highly distressing matter. And so I am more than glad to say a few words in his behalf to maintain the continuity of his program. I have a deep affection for Senator Kuchel or he has grown in my affection and I think that is mutual. We think so highly of him in the United States Senate. There is about him a diligence and an affability that is truly heart-warming and he makes friends as easily as any person I ever knew. As you know, he is the Minority Whip. I presume you may be a little curious about that term "whip". Well its a derivation from a parliamentary procedure in England long ago. There they called a man in the House of Commons the Whip and among his duties was summoning the members for record votes, roll calls and also to make sure that they were on hand when that parliamentary body was taking something under deliberation of particular importance. Because the duties and functions of Minority Whip are just a part of Senator Kuchel's duties, you see he serves on two of the very important committees in the Senate. One is the Appropriations Committee and the other is the Interior Committee. There was a time when all the legislative committees in the House and Senate turned in all their own appropriation bills but about ~~two~~ <sup>forty</sup> years ago when we <sup>passed</sup> had the Budget and Accounting Act, all this power was lodged in the hands of a single committee and I have often considered Appropriations as the most powerful and the most important committee in either the House or the Senate or the Congress. And then in addition, of course, he is on the Interior Committee where he can give special attention to those things that are of especial interest, not only to him but of especial interest to you, flood control, flood prevention, natural resources, water and so forth. I recall the tour that I made through the West a good many years ago. I came back and reported to my colleagues in the House at that time. I said you will discover when you go out West and stay there long enough that water is really gold and they mean it. If every member of the House and Senate could only go out there and see what water and the conservation of these natural resources really mean he gets a better understanding of a great open section of the country toward which people are gravitating in larger numbers year by year and so as Minority Whip, as a member of the Appropriations Committee and as a member of the Interior Committee <sup>dealing</sup> ~~dealing~~ with the public domain out there with flood control and prevention and resources. Then the special Committee of which he is vice chairman dealing with natural resources, you can see that he is quite a busy person and so it is a delight for me to substitute for him today and to have the privilege of addressing, what I know to be a large California audience. It's so good to visit with you. It's always a privilege. Thank you so much.

WBF: you have just heard United States Senator Dirksen of Illinois who has substituted on this program for your United States Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California. Senator Kuchel will be back with you on another of his regular reports in two weeks.