

Senator Theodore Bilbo Campaign Speech (Pontotoc)

May 7, 1946

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
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ANNOUNCER: The following paid political address is brought to you by the Lee County friends and supporters of Senator Theodore Gilmore Bilbo, candidate for reelection to the U. S. Senate subject to the will of the Democratic voters in the July 2, 1946, primary. Senator Bilbo's speech originated in Pontotoc, Mississippi, Saturday afternoon, May fourth and was wire recorded by station WELO. And now, Senator Bilbo.

BILBO: Ladies and gentlemen and my fellow countrymen. Personally, I see no use in making a speech, and I'm frank to say that in 25 years of public life, I've never had a better introduction than the very kind, magnificent address of my young friend Senator Raymond Rayburn. Nothing else left for me to say. You said it all. And I appreciate it. And I want to give expression to these splendid reports from my friends from other sections of the state on this occasion. I trust that all of these reports are true, and they are the words of the [inaudible] there that no one will deny. Your presence on this occasion is indicative of that keen interest that you have in the further solution of the problems that confront the American people in this transition period called the Reconversion Period.

As this great nation, with its 12 million soldiers winning the greatest war of all the ages, tries to pass from the war status to that of peace and happiness and prosperity on every hill in Mississippi. And, in turn, these are the most dangerous times, and, in times like these, no one should be placed on the job to solve these problems unless they're trained, experienced, reliable, patriotic and whose ever heart beats in sympathy for the great rank and file of the people of this country. For the boy 15 years of age on my father's farm, and my friend, Senator Raymond Rayburn stated correctly, I had an ambition and a dream to dedicate my life to the service of the people of my state, but possessing, at least, a modicum amount of common horse sense, I knew that I was not the best and, up until I was 30 years old, I worked my way through two southern universities and one northern university preparing myself and adding to and enlarging, expanding and embellishing whatever natural ability of intellect God Almighty had endowed me with. Now, on this occasion, when I come seeking reelection to the United States Senate for a third time, as I will have 27 years of service on the first of January 1947, I am humbly grateful for the fact that, that through this to your [inaudible] confidence and support of the people of Mississippi that I have been honored as no other Mississippian living or dead in the 129 years of the state's history. You have elected me time after time, and I am grateful. And I come asking for reelection on this occasion, not that you haven't done more than have for any other citizen, but I ask for the opportunity to continue the job that I have started in Washington. There's some unfinished business, and I seek the opportunity to finish myself my feelings and pleasure, possibly, I would retire, as Ross Collins wants me to

do so bad, and go down to my home beneath the mumbling pines of South Mississippi and there realize another ambition that I have and that is to write three books before I die. One of those books will not be published until after, because it'll be a history of Mississippi politics as I have seen and known the game and I propose to tell the truth. Of course I wouldn't live long after that book was published. My friends, I have kept the record straight. Amidst all the trials and temptations, I have kept my eye on the North Star of truth and integrity and faithfulness to every public trust. Many times the road has been rough and treacherous and stormy, and the opposition has been ruthless unmercifully, but, with the support of a grateful people, it takes determination and convictions high, holy and patriotic, I have been able to come this far. I have fought the good fight. I have kept the faith, and, today, I am stronger in mind and body and ready to carry on the unfinished work for the sole interest and welfare of the people of my state and my nation. The very majority of the white Democratic men and women of this state, in the face of the same invalid vindictive, slanderous attacks hurled at me in the second primary of 1934 by the same man in this race who had been defeated in the first primary (that's Ross Collins) and who is today going up and down the highways of Mississippi denouncing, accusing and misrepresenting our selection as your United States Senator in 1934.

When I reached Washington in 1935, I was compelled to make a great and vital decision, a decision that would determine my course and career as long as I served the people in this great office. A great hoard of lobbyists of every type and character was hovering over the beautiful, federal city of Washington there on the banks of the historic Potomac, the center, the heart of this republic. Smooth, oily, smart, well-dressed, well-fed, well-kept, men and women tugging away at practically every Senator and Congressman as they fought for special privileges and special legislation by the passage of laws that would result in enriching a few and robbing the many, the rank and file of this country. Great crowds of men and women were flocking in from the North and the East and the West urging the passage of crackpot legislation, the special advantages and special interests of many groups, nationalities, and races. Many of these proposed laws and policies were alien ideologies that violated every principle of our free American institutions and system of government, the American way of life. Groups and minorities were urging socialistic and communistic legislation that were...that would undermine the very foundation of the great American scheme of government. And they are still at it. The interests of these lobbies and minority groups were sponsored, in many cases, by a subsidized press, newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasts and so forth. They were a constant threat and intimidation to the members of the Congress and Senate, because many of these nationalities, groups, and minorities held the balance of power back in the states and congressional districts. To defy them and to cross them, to oppose them in any way, in many cases, meant the defeat of

the members of the Congress back in the congressional districts and states where two parties, white American Republicans and white American Democrats, were evenly divided. Now, to oppose these minorities meant that you bring down upon your head the sneer, the condemnation and denunciation of much of the press and, also, the radio. The very life of the republic and the people's rights and freedom were being jeopardized and destroyed just as the little foxes destroyed the grape in the vineyard. Now, to go along with this destructive and corrupt contaminating influences, one could become a hero with them and enjoy the flattery of the press, the compliments of the radio. You would be the happy recipients of banquets and richest food and choicest drinks. You could drift with the tide and draw your pay if you knew that, day by day, the [old shepherd's stake?] was being punctured with holes and eventually would go down and socialism and communism and mongrelization would destroy the white race and white civilization and our scheme of government which has been responsible for making the greatest nation of the freest people in all the world. I could have taken this road, as many men have taken it before me, and if I had known where the criticism would have been hurled against Senator Bilbo, no matter how long I stayed in the Senate, I could have served the purposes of the special interests, minorities and the great papers and magazines and radios and special interests that are today spending money without limit, that are printing articles of lies and millions of lines from Maine to San Francisco, from Chicago to Pascagoula (or should I say Greenville) to defeat me would, today, be hailing me as the great Senator from Mississippi. If I decided to take this course or travel this road, I would have been betraying the trust and confiding confidence of the patriotic men and women of this state. And, if I had been covered with the halo of glory by the press and radio and lauded and praised as the great liberal Senator from Mississippi, I would have still been a traitor of the deepest die. Yes, I would have gone down to my grave lead the choicest phrases and glorification, and banks of flowers would have been heaped upon my coffin, and maybe for 100 years or 300 years, the people would have never known that I had betrayed them. But I would have been a traitor just the same, guilty of almost treason against the greatest scheme of government that was ever conceived by the human mind. There was another road open to me; a road of thorns and abuses and denunciations and castigations and sneers and even picketing my home for six months at a time by Negroes and Communists and the scum of the earth, but they weren't picketing me alone. They were picketing you, who believe as I believe, but the fallen tide the road would have just as the tide would flow on and I would have to fight and I would have to plan and I would have to speak, sometimes days upon days, but, in the end in the days to come, a grateful people would appreciate the sacrifices, humiliation, hard labor of 15 or 18 hours a day and would someday you would have realize... and someday you would realize that I dared to fight for our constitutional government and American way of life, white American civilization, integrity of the blood of my white race...

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BILBO:

...and you will appreciate the importance of what I am saying now as I go on with the facts in this speech. Yes, I made the decision. I've paid the price. And I'm paying the price today. And every man and woman must pay who must fight and oppose wrong, no matter whether it's in private life or in the church, in the political life or the governmental life, if you oppose wrong you've got to pay the price of opposition. I've noticed since I arrived here the ground is covered with a little white piece of paper with a lot of rot on it. Low, dirty, contemptible rot paid for so much. . .[inaudible]. In 1934, when I asked the people in Mississippi to elect me to the United States Senate, I announced a platform, as you remember, of 27 planks, 27 separate and distinct promises, as they were things which I believed and things which I would try to do if the people elected me. I wish I had time right here to read these 27 platforms this afternoon, but, of course, I will not and many of you remember them. But I am glad to say that I have lived to see the major part of my platform of 1934 become enacted into law.

When I went to the Senate, I sought appointment on two major committees. You'll understand that, in the Senate, each Senator is entitled to a seat on two major committees (that's the important committee) and I selected agriculture and forestry and commerce, because these were the two committees that would handle every question of legislation affecting the welfare of Mississippi, a great agricultural state and a state that's interested in flood control. I am, today, the fourth ranking member of agriculture and the third ranking member of commerce. And, by being on these committees I have been able to bring about the enactment of legislation that really meant something to the people of my country and my state. You remember, when I went to the Senate in '34 and we were feeling the effects of the panic and we were giving a shot in the arm to every industry and to the farmers and everybody else, trying to give them relief in those days, and we were giving subsidies to the farmers, all of which I knew was only temporary, because the day would come when we wouldn't pay subsidies. We wouldn't pay to terrace the land or to ditch the farm. And I can see, and I, for three years, I spent propagandizing and proselytizing my colleagues in the Senate to pass my great conception of solving the agricultural problem in the long run so curmudgeonish of scientific research, thus, converting to science the farmer's crop that's grown on the fields of America into marketable and sellable by-product, and, thus, enhance the value of the crop that you grow in the field. And, when I introduced this bill into the Senate after three years of proselytizing, I'm glad to say that it passed unanimously. There wasn't a vote against it. And, on this occasion, I want

to read you just what one man said about it. Senator Vandenberg of Michigan. Now, he was the leading man on the Republican side, and he was one of the most intellectual men we have in the Senate. He's the man who has been a member of the Commission to set up the world peace organization. He's now in Paris negotiating the terms of a peace to be written later, and the other day, he was awarded by Collier's as the one outstanding man in the Senate who had rendered the greatest service. That's the type of man he was. Here's what he said when I offered this bill. Said, "Mr. President I will speak briefly to supplement the observation which has been submitted by the Senator from Mississippi." I'd just made the speech on the bill. "In my view, he has the most constructive contribution to the possibilities of farm relief that I have heard among...in this amazing debate and since it's been running. I know nothing about the mechanics or details of the amendment submitted by the Senator from Mississippi, but I most emphatically approve his objectives and I congratulate him on the contribution that he has made to the agricultural life of the state." And so on. Now I followed this bill to the House, got it through the House, the President signed it. The four laboratories were located, the money was provided (\$1million apiece for each one of them), they were equipped, and we had 1,000 chemists at work in these four great laboratories; one at Peoria, one at Philadelphia, one in San Francisco, and one in the deep South in New Orleans. But the war came on about this time. Of course, the efforts of these 1,000 scientists in these research laboratories were devoted to the war effort to help win the war. And, as my friend mentioned a while ago, it was in Peoria, Illinois, that Dr. Coghill made the discovery that has saved millions of lives already and will save tens of millions in the years to come and reduce our casualty list in the present war to about two percent (two or three percent) in the number of lives that was saved by the treatment through the penicillin process. A doctor over in England discovered penicillin several years ago, and he carried his discovery to the University Hospital at Oxford, England. And they turned him down and said your process of making it is too slow and too laborious and too costly. It's not feasible. And then he came over to the United States and, when he went to Peoria, Illinois, and explained it to Dr. Coghill who was the mold specialist (that will show you how we worked for the farmer through these laboratories). This man, Coghill, had 800 different kinds of molds that he was studying, that he was growing. Molds that will destroy your flour, and destroy your wheat, and destroy your corn, and your potatoes, and so on, your apples. And the doctor from England explained his process of making penicillin and, in less than 30 days, Dr. Coghill had discovered the method to make the penicillin synthetically. And today we have 23 factories in the United States and three in Canada making enough penicillin to treat all the people of this great country and the rest of the world, most of the world. And it's saving us millions. Now, if I hadn't done the one thing in my 12 years, just the one thing, inaugurate the campaign to build these hermetic laboratories in which one who made this great discovery of this wonder

medicine of the ages saving millions of lives, I'd feel like I'd be entitled to stay in Washington as long as I wanted to. Hope you feel that way about it. Now, I wish I had time to discuss the many other discoveries they've made. For instance, down in New Orleans, they have discovered by experiments how to treat yarn, cotton yarn, and prolong the life of it from two to five years. You know you can take a sack made out of cotton and get out here and bury it in the ground, out in the field, and in a few weeks the sack is rotten. You can buy some awnings to put on your home and, in a little while, the awnings are rotten. And you can have a fish net, and it won't last anytime at all. But we have discovered a method to treat the threads, the yarn, before the fabric is made or woven, and it will prolong the life anywhere from two to five years. Why, the doctor in charge of this said he buried some in the ground, the damp, moist, ground, and it la...and he took it up two years afterwards and it was as strong as the day he put it in. Now over on the Mississippi levee, it means much to those people, because they have to have the sand sacks, and, when they fill the sands... the sacks with sand and put them on the levee, they don't last very long. They have to throw them away by the tens of thousands. And this is another discovery that means so much to you, and to the farmers of the South, it means millions and untold millions which is the value of your cotton. Well, there was another discovery up in the laboratory in Philadelphia. The apple growers of that section of the country (and that's about all some of them do is grow apples, great apple country in that area) they didn't know what to do with the culled apples. When they pulled the apples from the trees, possibly a third of them would be culled. So the laboratory got busy on that problem, and they discovered how to make apple honey. And apple honey was a substitute for glycerin in the making of cigarettes and tobacco. And the old growth cigarette people, they don't use anything else, just apple honey. That's from our [inaudible] laboratory over at Philadelphia. Now, my friends, as a member of this committee, I was in a position to do many things, and I just want to enumerate a few of them for you, to show you that I've been on the job. All these laws and all these elite measures since you good people have been receiving since 1935 through the Congress of the United States, as chairman of the committee...as a member of the committee on agriculture, I was sitting in there day after day helping to formulate these laws and provide for the relief of our people in the days when you were having your trials before the war came on. You all remember that. We provided funds for the study made of the naval stores industry, in the Yazoo Flood Control Program, for the aid of public schools and colleges, extension service, [inaudible], crop insurance, soil conservation, loans and subsidies and government-regulated prices for farm products which meant better prices especially for cotton. I supported 100 percent the administration program for federal preparedness and national defense and every act of the successful prosecution of the war. I have fashioned Choctaw Indian bills through the Senate which will benefit 6,000 Mississippians. The President vetoed this bill, but we're going to pass it

again and one the new President will not veto. I've stayed behind the Natchez Trace and kept funds available in order to keep that work going, and we're going to finish it now. I engineered getting the money to build two bridges across the Mississippi River, one at Greenville and the other at Natchez, and untold millions for the building of roads in the state of Mississippi, and I've kept up a constant fight for old age pensions for my proposition to make the government pay our old people \$30 a month from the federal government. No one in the Senate has worked harder for the Veteran's Administration veterans legislation for the soldiers in both wars. I've stood unflinching before thousands of veterans at the Veteran's Memorial at Jackson. I've been the uncompromising friend of labor, and I'm in favor of labor being compelled to protect the lives of all the people. This they can do without fear of harm to their unions and rights as they have attained. I have worked ceaselessly for protection of the TVA and the REA. It was my pleasure to lead the fight to establish our world aviation industry on a regulated competitive basis instead of a monopoly. And I have a friend...I've been a friend to the cause of education for a long time. On the Commerce Committee, I have been able...I was able to pass one bill that meant millions to people in the Mississippi Delta section, and that was a taped commercial on the burden of building [levees?], buying right-of-ways, and building dams. And, under my bill, this burden was passed on to the federal government, because these were public and federal projects that should be borne by the government in Washington instead of the people locally. My friends, I have been called upon and have filibustered the anti-poll tax and the anti-lynching bill a couple of times, and I'm ready to do it again.

14:56-15:00 [Audience Applause]

BILBO: And the beauty of it, I know how to do it. I make the standing proposition if I couldn't speak 30 days and stay on the subject, I'd resign. And, you know, it's rather a hardship for me to make this speech on this occasion, because I'm in the habit of speaking two or three days at a time. But, if you'll stay with me, we'll get to Ross Collins directly.

15:40-15:51 [Laughter and shouts from the audience]

BILBO: Now, my friends, I...

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BILBO: must stay close to this manuscript and note that I gave the newspaper

people a copy of my speech, something I rarely do, and I've got to stay with this speech in order to synchronize with what they put in the newspaper. And that makes it difficult, because I never wrote a campaign speech before in my life. I just don't write 'em. I speak 'em. You know, Ross Collins has been going around over this state and having much to say about Bilbo's activities and the [inaudible] FEPC. Now, the reason for that is that, in 1945, (and we all made up our minds we were going to kill the FEPC) I took the lead and took the floor and filibustered two or three days. And, as a result, we got a compromise. We cut the appropriation from \$599,000 to \$250,000, which was enough of a cut to take. We had a meeting of our all our subject senators and we all agreed that that was the thing to do. And it was done. Now, Ross Collins comes around and said, "If Bilbo had kept his mouth shut, the bill would have been killed". Now, I've been trying to find out whether Ross Collins is just downright ignorant or whether he's just lying, I don't know which.

01:49-01:53

[Laughter from the audience]

BILBO:

Of course, Ross Collins has never been in the Senate. He knows nothing about the rules of the Senate. He's been in the House. They have a different system of operation over in the House. Different rules. Different control. And when that statement was made over here in Meridian, I was still in Washington. I showed it to some of my colleagues here in the Senate and showed it to them and asked them what they thought about it. They said, "That man's crazy." We all know what you did. We all know that you filibustered and filibustered until the opposition was willing to give up the fight and compromise on \$250,000 instead of \$699,000. And every member of the Senate knows that if they know anything about it. Now, my friends, these are very unpleasant tasks. And I, before I take up this, we had two filibusters on the FEPC. The second filibuster was [this spring?]. And when it became necessary to carry on this filibuster, we had a meeting of the 22 southern senators, and we elected Senator Russell of Georgia because of his seniority and his ability and he's a very fine character, very able senator [inaudible]. We elected him as chairman of our [opposition?] organization. And it was his duty to man the speakers and keep the ball a'rollin'. So I went to Dick, I said, "Dick, last summer I did all the speaking. Now I want to stand aside and let these other boys from the South speak". Because, as a result of my filibuster in 1945, I've been smeared from Maine to San Francisco and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, been called everything in the world and some of these [inaudible] ladies would get together in their little church meetings and say "Bilbo's a bigot and he's [all about?] prejudice [inaudible]. He's not even a Christian." Well, I'm afraid some of them have got more churches [inaudible] than they have Christianity. For instance, they had been going on for two weeks. Senator Mead of New York came to me and he said, "Senator, why aren't you speaking this time. You did all the speaking last time." I said "I am standing aside to let my

colleagues from the South 22 of them, let them speak first. I want to convince your minority groups in New York and New Jersey and Pennsylvania, that Bilbo's not the only son of a gun in the South." Now, when the fight was over, Senator Russell sent me this letter. Said, "Dear Theodore, now that this [vicious?] FEPC legislation has been laid aside for five weeks at least, I am writing to express to you my appreciation for the fine part that you played in preventing the passage of this ill-conceived measure. And, having been charged with the responsibility of seeing that we had a speaker available for every moment during this long fight, I wish to thank you for being ever ready and available to speak against this measure and to point out its inequities. In the three days that you did speak against the bill, your remarks showed a splendid grasp of the entire matter, and your attacks on the measure and the forces promoting it were most effective and unanswerable. I particularly enjoyed your historical discussion of the facts played by the filibuster at the beginning of the Congress. In the event that the proponents of this measure carry out an attempt to bring it up again, I know that you will be, as always, in the forefront of the battle. With every good wish, I am yours Richard E. Russell, Senator from Georgia." Now, that ought to be enough to satisfy any doubting Thomas, that Ross Collins doesn't know what he's talking about, and that he's wrong about. And I want to say to you good people of Pontotoc County and adjoining counties that it's a very unpleasant task for me to engage in that type of speech that's necessary to answer Ross Collins. As I look over this audience this afternoon, the largest I've ever spoken to in North Mississippi, I see friends of many years as attorney general that remembers when I took Ross Collins in my car, [I mean?] in my buggy or surrey, and hauled him all over Mississippi and gave him 45 minutes of every speaking engagement I had to deliver that little speech that somebody wrote for him down at Meridian. And it's funny, when ambition starts, what some people will do. I've never understood it.. And, of all men in Mississippi that ought not to be throwing stones, it's Ross Alexander Collins. There's an old saying that the man who lives in a glass house had better not throw stones. And I know that Ross Collins' house is made of glass. Yeah the foundation's made of glass. The whole damn thing is glass. He said down in his speech in the [opening?] the other night, and, by the way, have you heard about that [opening?] down there?. There are 45,350 people in Meridian, the town where he says he lives and where he spent his life and where he represented in Congress for 20 years. He had a great opening and after two weeks advertising, everybody was there except 45,000 of those people. There were only 350 present. And about 100 of those were [inaudible] people who had just come to see what he had to say. Ross has been in the Senate for 20 years, I mean in the House for 20 years and I have searched his record from beginning to end, I've got it here in my portfolio, and I haven't found but one bill, one name, that he sponsored, introduced, and got through the Congress of a national nature. Gentlemen, all of these little bills to build a bridge across some stream you understand or some relief that grandpa got,

that's chicken bits. And the only bill he ever got through the Congress was that bill to appropriate \$1,500,000 to purchase 3,000 books from a slick, sleazy, oily German propagandist by the name of Dr. Otto Vollbehr and is known in history as the great incunebulous swindle of the American Congress. This slick German agent came over and he lobbied with the Congress. He wrote letters all over the United States. He got school people interested in it. And he played up the importance of the Gutenberg Bible. Now 2,999 of these books could have been bought in any second-hand bookstore in Europe for a dollar to two dollars apiece. But the Gutenberg Bible as a relic, that's all, as a souvenir, and that not one person out of a million can read it. Ross Collins can't read it and he educated his two children and they can't read it. Not an "I" The commercial value that because of the scarcity of those volumes among rich people and libraries, but, I'll be fair, about \$300,000. They are really worth about two dollars apiece. And, yet, they put the bill through the Congress to appropriate \$1,500,000 for this bunch of junk. And it was rumored in Washington after the bill was passed and old man Vollbehr had gotten his money that he and Ross Collins went on a trip to Savanna...Havana, Cuba, so I sent an agent down there the other day and inspected the records and I found in the records of the steamship company ticket office where they bought the two tickets and they went to Havana, Cuba, and the last I heard of them they had their feet on the brass rail at Sloppy Joe's. You ever been there? Yet, Ross Collins has got the nerve, and, by the way, this same Vollbehr testified before a House committee about three years after he got his hands on this money and said he spent it in the interest of propaganda in this country and in the interest of the Nazi Regime and Hitler. See, that was when Hitler was in power in Germany when all of this took place. Collins says, Bilbo must be retired. But I wasn't excited this campaign. You know Ross Collins and unfortunately I hate to make a reference to a man personally, physically. He has the grayest hair of anybody I ever saw. It was so gray. It was as gray as white as this paper. And he went and dyed it [hollow pink?] and then went out and said, "Bilbo's too old to go to the Senate." I kidded him so much about it until he's letting it grow out now. As a matter of fact, Ross Collins and I are about the same age about a year and a half difference. Well, he's older than I am, because I have taken better care of myself. He says retire Bilbo. Well, if there's anybody in Mississippi that knows anything about retiring and retirement and retired, it ought to be Ross Collins. Because, after I took him in my car and my surrey and hauled him all over Mississippi and gave him 45 minutes of my speaking time at every engagement, we ate together and slept together and smoked together and dreamed together and talked together, we were like Jonathan and David, Damon and Pythias, darn near [stopped?] me when I was attacked by three armed men who came right on the train with their pistols out [fixin'] to maim and kill me. What did my traveling companion, what did my pal, my fellow traveler do? He ran, and he hid in that little compartment on every coach and locked the door and nobody but his mama will ever know how

scared he was. He retired! And down there on the depot down at Jackson, when he ran against Spence Hudson, the Attorney General, the great crowd on the depot platform, Spence Hudson walked up and called him every kind of a son of a “b” and ugly name on the earth and cleared his throat and spit in his face and he, he, he retired And he said he believed that General Hudson was mad. Mad as any red-blooded he Mississippian letting a fellow clear his throat and spit in your face and then not fight him. I’d fight him even if it was Joe Lewis. And in 1919 in the Governor’s race, remember he ran for Governor, and the people retired him. In 1934, when Senator Stephens and I were having a nice little race down here for Senate, he came rushing down from Washington with a pocket full of money and got in the race went into my campaign headquarters and hired a man that had been in my campaign for a year. Paid him \$75 a week in expenses. Took him right out from under me.

END OF PART 3

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BILBO:

But the people, in 1934, retired him. And in 1941, he came again down from Washington with his pockets full of money, and he ran for the United States Senate and he was retired again. In 1942, he came down the second time running...the third time running for the Senate and again he was retired. And on July 2, 1946, with the help of the good people of Mississippi, we’ll retire him again. Let’s see something about some of his charges. Ross Collins and Walter Winchell has published throughout the nation that United States Senator Theodore G. Bilbo hasn’t reported and paid but \$72 in income tax in 33 years. Well now, there’s two ways to answer that charge. One is to call it the kind of lie that it is. The other is to show that it is a lie. I’ll do both. Well, I’ve got some figures here for you. You know, I’ve made it a rule my entire political career, and that’s the secret of what little success I’ve had. I’ve never gone on the stump in a campaign making a speech making statements that I couldn’t back up. I’ve thought a thousand things, but I don’t say it until I know what I’m talking about. Now, I think this is the rawest charge that Ross Collins could have made. If he’d had any sense, if he’d had any thought or any consideration, he would have known that it was untrue. And I made him a proposition. I made him a proposition that if the records in the Internal Revenue agent’s office in Washington doesn’t show that I reported and paid in one year 14 times \$72, I’ll quit the race. And, if I do show it, he must admit that he’s a liar, and he ought to quit the race. Before leaving Washington, I asked the disbursing office to give me a statement of the money. You know, since 1943, they collect income tax at the source. They don’t wait for you to make a report and pay it. They take it before you get your salary, and it’s hit some of us pretty hard. And I went to the disbursing office and asked them

to give me a statement of the amount that he'd been taking out of my salary since 1943. I have his signed statement here. I don't know if it's convenient to put it on much of this stuff. Here it is, here it is. And here's what he says, "Dear Senator, In response to your request, the following amounts have been withheld for income tax purposes from your salary. Calendar year, 1943, \$1,068.02, 1944, \$1,875.24. In 1945, \$2,049.60. And he says it'll be \$1,708.80 the next year. Well, now, on some of those, I got some returned, because I have legitimate, legal, honest and honorable deductions to make from my income reports. You know, the law lets you take credit for all the money you spend for insurance, fire insurance. Not life, but fire. And then you can take credit for all the taxes you paid. And, then, you can take credit for your charities, churches and one thing and another. And, then, you can take credit for the interest on what you owe. Yeah, you know I didn't pay no income tax. Now, so, when I make out my income report, what do I do? I take out my taxes, runs from \$1,200 to \$1,500 a year. And my fire insurance which runs about \$1,400 a year with what I have in insurance on my property. And then I carry...take charity...I mean, the church. I've been educating a preacher in the Southwestern University. I wouldn't have mentioned this if this hadn't of come up, for four years he finished. The preacher. Good investment. I didn't have time to preach myself, so I got me one educated. So. And, then, I take credit for the interest on what I owe. Well, then other things, cut a whole lot of it out, but, when I reached that item, there wasn't much left. Interest. I've been in debt for a number of years. I don't mind telling you how much I owe. I owe, right now, \$35,000. And I hope, during this next term, I'll be able to squeeze out enough of my salary and save it so, I'll be able to pay myself out of debt, and, then, I can retire and write the books. Now, let's see, what about my friend Collins. What's he been doing about his finances? Ross Collins has been in public office luckily he and I have been in public office the same number of years, 28 apiece. When I was in public office, let's see just how much I drew. I have drawn, I should say. I've got it here somewhere. It'll shock you. During my public career as a public official, I have drawn for the first four years...I drew...I can't find it. I know what it is, though. I drew \$400 a session as a member of the State Senate. That was my first office, you remember And, then, I drew about \$750 for Lieutenant Governor for four years. And, then, the four years I was...the first time I was Governor, I got \$5,000 a year. Mighty sorry pay for a job of that kind. I came out about \$14,000 in debt. The job was so expensive. Luckily, my friends loved me enough, they gave me a banquet and made me a present of \$10,000, and I didn't owe but \$4,000 then. And the second time, I raised the salary of Governor. While I was Governor the first time, I raised it to \$7,500. Then I had to run for Governor again, so I had to this is Jan. I can't understand what he said. I drew \$7,500 for the second term. And I will have been in...will have been in the Senate for 12 years. Now, put all that together and it amounts to \$180,000 I've drawn in 28 years. Well, what did my friend, Collins, draw? He was Attorney General for eight years, he drew between

\$25 and \$40,000. And, then, he went to the Congress for 20 years and that was \$200,000. And \$10,000 for mileage. So that helps you a little bit, you see. He's drawn about \$250,000 since he's been in public office against my \$180. Of course, when I serve these next six years, we'll be about even, don't you see? But, what did he do with the money? What did I do with mine? Every dollar I've made holding office and practicing law. You didn't know I was a lawyer, did you? Good one. I've had 11 murder cases and never lost a case. It's none of your business how I got them out. But I got 'em out. That's a military secret. In my law practice and by holding office, I've spent that money in my home state, in my home county, in my neighborhood. I bought land, I farmed, I open farmed, I built tenant houses, I built me a nice home. I've got a nice home. Took me 21 years to build it. It's the nicest home in Mississippi. I'm proud of it. Come down and stay all night with me. It's got 27 rooms in it. I slept 32 people one night. Put two in a bed. It's the house by the side of the road. I built it as a memorial to my family, to my father and mother, a place to entertain my friends. I added to the sum total of the taxable values of my county and my community and my state. And, as a result, I obtained ad valorem taxes of about \$25,000 out of this \$180 that I've gotten through the years. This supports the schools of my neighborhood. I had no children, but I pay more taxes to my local, consolidated schools than anybody else. But what did Ross do with his \$250,000? Since he's been a member of the United States Congress, he's never bought and owned a cent [inaudible] of land in Mississippi. He's never owned a home in Mississippi. He's got 220 acres of vacant land that he inherited, but he didn't buy it with his money. Well, what did he do with his money? He took it to Washington. He took it to Florida, and he built him a winter home at Coral Gables, Florida. Some style. And then, he bought...

12:11-12:37

[Dead Noise]

BILBO:

right off Embassy Row [inaudible] in Washington. You know, I brought a picture of that thing along. There it is. There it is. Four stories. And he sold it January, 1946. He sold it. But all these years he's been paying his taxes somewhere else besides Mississippi. He doesn't even live in Mississippi... in Meridian, Mississippi anymore. After he was defeated last time, and, after the last election down there for Governor, I believe, he went over to Jackson. He's now a Jacksonian. No longer a citizen. Now, that's how... I merely mention this to show you the difference in the way we handle the funds that we've gotten from the people's pocket. That's the difference. And I dare him to make a report on 19... for the last year as to how much income tax he's paid. He's been charging over this state that Bilbo had the President appoint the Reverend Marshall L. Shepard, the big Baptist nigger preacher from Pennsylvania as Recorder of Deeds in the District of Columbia. He said that Bilbo did it. And he said Bilbo went around and double-crossed his committee and got the proxies and voted those proxies

and reported that nigger to the Senate and had him confirmed. Well, Bilbo must be somebody in Washington. But you watch him. In the next breath, he'll say Bilbo is considered useless. He can't do anything. He's got no pull with his colleagues. He's got no influence. All that kind of rotgut. If Bilbo doesn't amount to something in Washington, if I am not in somebody's way, if I'm not doing something, why in the devil do they keep raising [so much] hell about me? Why are they to send \$1 million into Mississippi in order to accomplish my defeat if I'm not in somebody's way? If I don't matter, then I'll [just sit there and die?].

END OF PART 4

AU 1008 – PART 5 OF 7

BILBO:

And I know the truth about the Shepard thing. Ross Collins ought to be ashamed of himself to make that kind of a charge, because Ross Collins is expecting a lot of niggers to vote in this election, and they're registering all over the state or in the city. The Mayor of Jackson told me that they registered about 200 in Jackson. And the niggers are having meetings all over the state and they've got delegates in every congressional district ready to vote [inaudible] And, then, the other day, the Negro Council in Chicago sent a telegram to Harry Truman, the President, saying to send the Army down to Mississippi and to see to it that these 100,000 niggers are gonna vote. You see, the GI boys don't have to pay any taxes, that's their basic right you know and there's 100,000 white people and about 70 or 60,000 Negroes in Mississippi. Mighty sure that Ross is figuring on getting that nigger vote. When he got out his press circulars and all his circulars he rattled the rule of a hundred years. He didn't say to the white Democratic voters of Mississippi. He said to the Democratic voters of Mississippi. And that subject was brought up at his headquarters if he needed to leave the word white in there or not, and he said cut it out. Just call them Democrats. And then when he wrote his platform and sent to all you GI boys, this is one of the planks in his platform. You know a veteran is a veteran whether he is black or white he is a veteran. He said every veteran; every veteran desiring to return to school must be given the opportunity of entering the institution of his choice. Ha, I'm waiting to see about 200 Negroes over here at Ole Miss. But Ross Collins says they must be sent to the school of their choice and if 200 nigger GIs to Ole Miss, here they go followed by Ross Collins. And he said none of them should be turned away from a school on its tooth for pass attendance or for any other reason. Alright, now he's trying to create the impression that Bilbo is the nigger lover, that Bilbo is playing to the nigger. Now, let's see whatever about this matter. The the recorder of deeds in the District of Columbia was established in 1863. Beginning in 1881, it became and was designated as the independence for the Negro race in the District of Columbia. And whether a Democrat is elected or a

Republican is elected, that job has always gone to a member of the Negro race in Washington, always. You'll also find a nigger Democrat out of Missouri by the name of Thompson and the nigger died. He was very religious. In the meantime, I had gotten sick, and I had to go to Mayo's Clinic for an operation, a major operation, a very serious operation. If I had been five days later, I'd have been an angel. Well, there's different kinds. And, during the time that I was at Mayo's and the time that I was flat on my back at my home convalescing from this operation, a serious operation, this nigger was supported, his name was sent to the Senate, it was okayed by a majority of the committee of which I am chairman, and confirmed by the Senate. I wasn't in Washington. I had nothing to do with it, except my secretary called me up, my ex-secretary, and said that the Senate adopted it at once and the administration was very anxious to have this case acted upon by the district committee. When you're not here and can't get here, they want to put it out. They want an appointment as well right away and I can't get there. I wasn't willing I have to say just because I couldn't do that. And they went around and got the okay of the majority of that committee and sent it out as the report of the Committee, with a letter from my secretary stating what had been done. The letter is signed. The job was done by the secretary, I knew nothing about it. And, now, here I am face-to-face with a charge that I had him appointed and I had his nomination brought about, and the report of the committee brought about for confirmation and Bilbo did it all and I had nothing on earth to do with it. Now, that's the kind of campaign I'm having to face. I want to be frank with you. If I had been there, I would have voted to report and to confirm the nigger, because it was a nigger job. I've always believed in giving the nigger justice and giving him what's coming to him. And that's been a job since 1881 and Frederick Douglass was the person to have it and it's been niggers all on down the years. I don't think the nigger ought to vote. He ain't qualified. Now. And, today, we send Collins and Levings all over the state saying, "There ain't no issue. There's no race issue, and it ought not to be brought into this campaign." And, my God, who's bringing it in? Ross Collins. He's trying to appeal to the prejudices that some people have against the nigger to vote against Bilbo, because he said that Bilbo was instrumental in getting this nigger this job. [inaudible] Isn't that prejudice? Isn't that demagoguery? Isn't that the race issue being dragged into it? He's the one that dragged it in. Yes, there is a race question in this country. There is a race question in Mississippi. And my views on this question, are as firmly fixed as the stars. In the study, in the preparation, for the fight against the anti-poll tax and the anti-lynching bill, I had cause to investigate the books by the score, and I am convinced, beyond every reasonable doubt, that our race is in jeopardy. Dr. Levin, professor of anthropology at Columbia University, about six weeks ago gave out a public statement that all the newspapers carried that, that if the present rate of interbreeding and miscegenation and intermarriage between the niggers and the Whites, that, in nine generations, which is only 300 years, there'll be no Whites, there'll be no Blacks in this country, we'll

all be yellow. And the only reason that you're not willing to get your gun and go fight about this thing now is because you have the satisfaction it won't happen during your lifetime nor the lifetime of your children and your grandchildren's life time. But it is going to happen. And I've got some regard respect for the integrity of our White blood. And any decent nigger has got the respect for his blood. A decent Negro, an intelligent, decent nigger, don't want a mix. It is a lie. But there's very few of them decent. And, yet, you read the magazines, hear these radio broadcasts telling about the great accomplishments and advancement of the nation's nigger. The Negro race hasn't made that progress they are talking about. Because you can take 19 out of 20 and the only one who has made any kind of record of any Congressman [inaudible] and he's a mongrel, he's a half-breed. It is the white blood in him that's operating, not the nigger. And did you know 18 states in this union permit the marriage of Negroes and Whites by law? And, in the District of Columbia? And the record shows that the average rate of marriage between Whites and Blacks in these 18 states is now over 600 a year. Ten years, it's 6,000. And think what could happen in a very few years, because that means a crop of mulattoes and the mongrels, and pickaninnies every year. Now, that don't take into consideration the interbreeding and intermixing in the other states and all the rest of the states illegally. And that tremendous rise in less than 300 years, there'll be no White people in this county. There'll be no Negroes in this country. We'll all be brown. Now, that's not demagoguery. That's sense, if you can take it. And that's what the people ought to know. I've just finished writing a book on this question. It'll be ready for distribution this Fall in which I've covered the whole story, the whole case, went back 30,000 years. And history shows that wherever the black man and the white man has tried to live side by side in any country, the end is mongrelization and destruction of both races. You've got a mongrel race in the place of it. It has never worked. Now down here in Puerto Rico, that island was inhabited by Negroes. The Spanish settled it. They wanted to explore it. They wanted to get the resources out of it. They sent great hoards of colonists, Spaniards, pure-bloodied white people. And in order to have peace between the colonists and the niggers on the island, they encouraged intermarriage and interbreeding, and they did. And, today, I am informed, there's only 12 pure-bloodied Spanish families in Puerto Rico today. They're all mongrels. Huh, one of these stylish, highfalutin Virginia girls married one of these Puerto Rican attachés up in Washington. He carried her down to Puerto Rico, and she had...her first born were triplets. She had three little ole black niggers, just as black as the ace of spades. So there. These are facts that I am giving you. And another thing that Ross Collins has been trying to create a [prejudice?] He said that I am in favor of repealing the poll tax so the Negro could vote. Now, you know me too well. You know me too well to believe a lie like that. I've been advocating for several years the repeal of the poll tax, in so far as the party primary election is concerned. But I've never said one word, but I'll always oppose the repeal of the poll tax as

provided by Section 241 of the Constitution in the November election. These primaries are a nominating outfit for the election in November. But we've got about 100,000 poor people in Mississippi, that a man and his wife living out on the hillside that they've got to pay \$8 before they have the right or privilege to vote, to select the man whose going to be the standard bearer of the party in their county, the official's county, state, and so on. [inaudible] But they'd like to know the November election [inaudible] the Constitution [inaudible]. But we, this party of ours. Why, in the old days when you had your party conventions, you all met in the courthouse to nominate you county officials. Why, you never stopped to ask the man at the door, "Have you paid your taxes?" No that was a white Mississippian and a Democrat that let him in, and he had a say so in the selection and nomination of the candidates who were going to run for office And that's the way I feel about the primary. I fight the repeal of the poll tax for Congress. Why? I know that, if the Congress ever assumes the right and prerogative and establishes the presence of walking into the states and cutting down the qualifications set up by the legislature, if they cut one down they can cut another down and they'll walk in and cut down everything that we set up and we'll be at the mercy of a bunch of folks in Washington. That's why I fight it. Well, now, I'm speaking too long and I just got started. You know, I've got a quartet running against me and they're all singing the same song. Their song is "Away with Bilbo." There's Harper-He sang soprano. In the Eleventh Man Hour, Brother Ellis, he sang high tenor. And the commander sang bass. And Ross Collins sang alto. They're all singing the same song, "Away with Bilbo", but they're carrying different parts. They've got a function to play. Now, I have nothing to say about ole Harper. Bless his old heart. His nickname, you know, is "Peach Tree." The peaches aren't ripe, so I won't pluck it yet. I have another opponent, and his name is Levings. Commander Levings. He made a speech down in Gulfport the other night opening his campaign, and he had less than 100. And his little tune was, "The time has come when we've got to do away and eliminate this dog gone it plague that's been ravishing Mississippi all these years." You know, a plague is a disease. And they look upon this Bilbonic plague as a very dreaded disease. And I had an idea that Levings had the Bilbonic plague, so I had the doctor investigate him, and, from all best reports I got, he'd died the second day of July. And I'm going to adopt the strategy of my old friend, Private John Allen, I'm going to let all of these admirals and commanders of the Navy that don't know this Levings.

END OF PART 5

AU 1008 – PART 6 OF 7

BILBO: [inaudible] And I'll take all the privates and the Marines and the GI's and non-coms you understand. Now comes my friend,

Ellis, the man who came in at the eleventh hour. I guess my friend, Tom Q. Ellis figured that there was something in that scripture that those who came at the eleventh hour got the same pay so he didn't get in until the last day. Well, he's right, he's gonna get the same pay, but he going to get the pay of Peachtree Harper and Levings and Collins. They're all four of them are going to get the same pay July the second. Now, I notice that from the announcement of my friend, Ellis, he advertises all the Masonic connections and affiliations that he has. Now, we're not gonna let him put that over. We're not going to let him run on the Masonic ticket, a fraternity, because, when it comes to Masonry, I ain't no slough myself because I belong to all of it except for a certain branch and that's the York and you Masons know what I'm talking about. So we're not going to let Ellis get in on that. In fact any decent Mason would resent anybody going out trying to run for public office on a Masonic affiliation. And I'm not going to let him get anywhere on the fact that he's a Baptist, because, when it comes to being a Baptist, I'm as hot as horseradish as a Baptist. He can't get it on that. And he's not gonna take the railroad boys away from me, because he used to be a train dispatcher. I'm a railroad man, too. While he was dispatching trains, I was at [inaudible] working my way through school. So I'm a railroad man, too. You know, Brother Ellis got a funny idea. [inaudible]. The rule has always been that we commence at the bottom and work up. But Tom Q. Ellis is starting at the top to go down. He entered school and he wants that seat in the graduating class the first day he matriculates in this school [inaudible] of political science. Now, he's a nice fellow. I have nothing to say against him. He's a brother Baptist. But, you know, Tom Ellis is going to vote for Bilbo. I know, because he came to my headquarters four weeks ago and pledged and promised his support for me for the United States Senate. And, being a Baptist and brother Mason, I know he's not going to lie to me. I'm going to hold him to it. He's got to vote for Bilbo. And his brother is my campaign manager for Calhoun County, I mean for Holmes County, and I'm going to hold him to it. He's got to manage my campaign. I may get some more of the Ellises. I haven't seen the rest of the family yet. You know, I'm sorry for Tom Ellis. Course you know he hasn't got any training. He hasn't got a college education to start with. He's got no preparation whatsoever. He knows nothing about legislative technique of business or transactions of this kind. He'd make a nice clerk, and, you know, he's no fool, because he's not taking any chance at all. He's running for the United States Senate and holding that job he's got down there. If he loses, he's still got his job. He hasn't lost anything. But this gang down at Jackson has been trying to run Bailey, Governor Bailey, and run Cecil Travis and run Walter Sillers and run [inaudible]. They've tried them all. And poor Ellis,

he's the last pea in the pot. He's Hobson's choice. And they took the poor boy up on the mountain, showed him the cattle on a thousand hills and said, "Paul, if you'll just run against old Bilbo, all these cows will be yours". But they fooled him. They put blinders on his eyes, and, instead of seeing cows, he's looking at Mack's duck [inaudible]. And, my friends, I want to spend just a minute on one act of mine in the Congress to show that, if you want to serve the people and you want to stand by the people and you make up your mind what you can do even by yourself. I make the statement, and no one will deny it, that I single-handed, filibustered and delayed a bill for 22 long months, and, by the railroads' own figures, I put into the treasury of the people at Washington \$500 million. Half a billion. Enough to pay my salary for 50,000 years including income tax. That was the land grant railroad fight. You know, the Congress made a trade with these railroad manipulators and builders that, if we, the Congress, would give the public lands to the railroad promoters, that they would haul the people's freight, the government's freight, for 50 cents on the dollar. A freight rate. And that had been cut down by an act in 1940, called the Transportation Act of 1940, that had been cut down. And it was confined only to war materials and [soldiers?] and sailors and airmen and so on, personnel. And when this war came on, as a result of that contract with the railroad, we were getting \$25 million a month for that reduction. \$25 a month...\$25 million a month. That was a quarter of a million a year. And the railroads saw that money going out of their pockets, they just went crazy. They had a lobby...four or five hundred railroad lobbyists in Washington, and they railroaded that bill through the House, and they didn't call the roll. You don't know how anybody voted on it. It came to the Senate. And when it got to the Senate...and they rushed it through the committee of the Senate and put it on the floor, and I sat there like a cat at a mouse hole day after day waiting for somebody to call that bill up. They finally called it up and I said, "Wait a minute, you can't pass it. I'm allowed to speak for 30 days, and then the bill will go dead on the calendar. That stopped it. And then, when they came back in January, they introduced it again and it came and got on the calendar again the same way. For two days I fought it and told them that I would not yield the floor unless they agreed to put off the passage of this bill until October 1946, when we'd have all the soldiers home and all the materials in place and it wouldn't be worth anything to the government. Now, when I left Washington last Saturday morning, I had just spoken two days against the British Loan Bill. Two days. I think this is the most horrible piece of legislation, one of the worst ever proposed to the American Congress. And, when I think about what it means and what is involved, it's the most horrible. England owes us \$6 billion from the other war. She's quit talking about

paying it. Quit talking about the interest on it. And, in the settlement of accounts in this war, we gave England \$25 billion worth of lend-leased goods. And President Roosevelt promised us, when we let England have these goods, that they would be paid back in goods. But, instead of that, the present administration has canceled that debt of \$25 billion. And, on top of that, we sold the English \$6 billion worth of surplus war materials that's stacked over in England for \$650 million. About six cents on the dollar. And they put in this trade of this bill they tried to pass a provision that this \$650 million should be paid \$50 million a month and that not one dollar of it would ever be spent on American soil and it had to be spent somewhere in the English empire to build roads and houses to establish education programs. We didn't get anything. And they provide in this loan of \$3,750 million they charge them only two per cent interest, and they don't have to pay interest for five years. And the interest amounts to \$75 million a year, and five times 75 is 350 million. We didn't [inaudible] the interest of 350 million to start with. And there's a provision in the bill that provides that, whenever England says it's not convenient for England to pay the interest, we'd cancel it for that year. We would give it to 'em. Wouldn't you like to borrow some money that away. That reminded me, when I was a boy just about so high, I didn't know anything about business and notes. A kid on the farm. Second grade. I had saved up about \$20, and my older brother said, "I want to borrow that from you, Theodore." I said, "Alright, if you'll give me a note." I thought a note was the same as good as a bank. He said, "Alright, I'll give you my note." And he proceeded to write out a note and give it to me and I gave him the \$20. And, after a while, he didn't say anything about paying my money back, and I went to him and said, "Listen, I want my money." He said, "Read your note." And I got someone to read it for me and it said, "I promise to pay Theodore G.. Bilbo \$20 when convenient." And that's exactly what this English bill provides...I mean, the bill, yes, trade or agreement. That, whenever it's convenient for England to pay the interest, she'll pay it. And, of course, there's \$75 million involved in it. That's the interest per year. It'll never be convenient. Now, they all know, both sides of the fight knows, England knows. These boys who negotiated the deal know. They're not fooling anybody. They know that England never expects to pay one...one red cent of that money back to America. We gonna be [fleeced?] just as we were on the \$6 billion. Now, my proposition is this. If we loan 4 billion ...400 million to the English, we'll have to loan to Russia and to China and to Czechoslovakia and to Greece and, maybe, to Italy. It'll take about 20 billion to go through with it. And we've got to go through with it if we start it. My proposition is to take the money, if we've got it and can raise it, take that money and give it to these GI boys by adjusting their

compensation by paying them \$3 a day for every boy who served in the Army on this side of the ocean and \$4 a day for every day he served across the sea... And just keep on paying them until the boys on this side will get a bonus of \$3,500 and those on the other side \$4,500 and then, if any of the boys have already gone to school, just take that out of the bill, because we want to [inaudible]. Take it out. Now, we can do that. And I tell you that the American soldier boys are as dire in their economic condition just about as bad as old England. Charity begins at home. Let's do it here. I think we're going to kill the bill. They're fighting over it now. I tried to get them to agree, and I'd cancel this engagement and stay in there and filibuster. They said, "No, we're not going to do that this time. We don't think it's fair" I said, "Alright." They said, "If you'll speak two days, we'll let you go. That's your party and we can handle it." I said, "Alright." And that's why I'm here. Now, my friends, I'm want to be referring to some of the things that I propose to do for you. You've got no right to vote for me, unless I'm going to keep the faith and do some things that you want done. I'll just give you an intimation of some of the things that I propose to do, or try to do. And I'll do by best. I find there's within five and six millions people in this country that have no right to be in it. They are foreigners without legal admittance. And I propose to start raising hell just as soon as I get back to Washington after July second to get these five or six million foreigners out of this country at the earliest possible moment. Now, if you don't like that, don't vote for me, because I think I know how to do it. And I shall continue my fight for the adjustment compensation of these veterans. And that I favor reducing the loan of every ...reducing the interest on every loan that has been made to any soldier of this war or the other war to two cents instead of four. If we can let old England, our English cousin, have our money by the billions at two per cent, why can't we let our own boys have two per cent.

14:52

[break in recording]

BILBO:

...protect labor in the gains. The gains of labor that they have at the present time. I'm for the labor man. I'm for the union. But, at the same time, I shall insist that labor shall respect the rights of individuals and the rights of the public interest and public welfare. I shall continue my fight for the farmer's [every interest?], because I am a farmer. I came from a farming family, and this is a farming state. And my whole life has been [that?]. And I shall continue to fight with all my might against the Communists, communistic and all our foreign ideas and ideologies. And, especially, I will continue to fight against the campaign that is [specifically?] being put on in this country for the social equality with the Negroes. And you just

open your eyes and look around you'll find them working like beavers. This outfit up there in Nashville, Tennessee, known as the Southern [Conference?] for Human Welfare, is nothing but a communist front. And their sole object, and their scheme and their plan is to [propagate?] the adoption of social equality with the Negro. And, so, they know that, when they do that, that will lead to mongrelization that will lead to interbreeding that will lead to the destruction of the race. They know that. That's what they're doing.

END OF PART 6

AU 1008 – PART 7 OF 7

00:08-3:44

[inaudible]

BILBO:

And I call upon you as my neighbors and as my friends and as my fellow countrymen to stand with me on election day and don't get disappointed that election is won until all the votes are in the box and counted and counted right. One of my opponents Douglas said he wouldn't run against me because if I had every vote in the state but one, that I would ride across the state at midnight to get it, and I would do it. [inaudible] I thank you.

ANNOUNCER:

The preceding paid political address of Senator Theodore G.. Bilbo, who is a candidate for reelection to the United States Senate subject to the will of the voters in the July second, 1946, primary was brought to you by Lee County friends and supporters of the senator. The speech was wire recorded by radio station, WELO, Saturday afternoon, May fourth, in Pontotoc, where Senator Bilbo formally opened his campaign for reelection.

5:30-7:30

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END OF PART 7

END OF RECORDING

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