

July 18, 1939

[Statement to Press - Neutrality Regulation-]

FDR Speech File

Senator Barkley said:

The consensus of opinion was on the part of those members of the Senate present ^{legislation} that no action on ^{legislation} could be obtained in the Senate at the present session, and that a majority of the Senate would favor in this ^{view} Senator McNary expressed the same belief. They agreed that a majority of the Senate would consider neutrality legislation at the beginning of the next session.

The President & the Secretary of State maintained the definite position that failure by the Senate to take action now would weaken the leadership of the U.S. in expressing its ^{policy} ~~interest~~ in the issue of ^{preparing} ~~three~~ ^{three} ~~armies~~ other nations on the event of a new crisis in Europe between now and next January.

The original statement in the President's longhand was given to Senator Barkley

Statements written by the President
in his own hand and issued to the Press at 11:45 P.M.
July 18, 1939, following discussion
with the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate
on neutrality legislation.