People’s Will Defeated.

The Washington Post
May 13 1937
pg. 24

Berlin, May 12 (AP).—Ambassador William E. Dodd today amplified his warning against dangers of Fascist dictatorship in the United States, disclosed yesterday, with another warning against perils which would follow defeat of President Roosevelt’s recovery program.

In a prepared statement the former University of Chicago history professor cited outstanding failures of great Presidential plans, and listed “judicial vetoes” among the causes for such defeats and said, “in every case the will of the people was defeated.” The present situation, he asserted, involved “a similar and even more important series of popular decisions.”

He reiterated his warning of activities of persons of great wealth in the United States looking toward Fascist rule but disclosed no identities. Yesterday he referred to “an American billionaire;” today it was “certain great millionaires.”

Great Slump Forecast.

Calling this the most critical moment in American history since the Civil War, the ambassador predicted another great depression if there is another World War or “if speculation is let loose.”

He explained that what he said in the letter “was not due to European opinions.” There has been no German reaction to his references to dictatorship; the letter was not published here.

He concluded today’s statement with the assertion, “there is no chance of my being in Washington before the late summer.” Some readers believed this referred to suggestions he might be asked to return to explain his remarks.