

Defend America First

But all the while we are voting more money to prepare to defend this hemisphere against all comers, we are dissipating strength by sending huge quantities of guns, planes, and warships across the ocean. Now the interventionists are demanding that the latest type planes and tanks, our secret bomb sight, and other indispensable war material be sent abroad.

There are tragic lessons written over the ravaged soil of Europe—lessons which we must learn if we hope to escape the fate of the conquered democracies abroad. And the most powerful lesson of all is this: National defense does not consist alone of arms, munitions, and trained manpower. It requires just as much a nation and a people whose social, economic, and spiritual house is in order.

And ours is not.

Meet Our Home Dangers

We would do well to remember that communism, fascism, and nazism did not rear their ugly heads in Europe because the people of Russia, Italy, and Germany wanted to live under barbaric despotisms. This trilogy of totalitarianism came and conquered because the people of those countries were desperate, poverty-stricken, hungry, and without hope. The germs of these parasitic "isms" thrive and multiply in the stagnant pools of unemployment, poverty, and hopelessness.

How can we prepare to meet the menace of totalitarianism? We cannot do it, as we are now, by handing over desperately needed implements of defense to the British. We cannot meet the menace of dictatorship by coddling and appeasing the profiteering minority of industrialists into making guns and tanks and planes and ships for us only when they think the profits will be high enough!

The way to meet the challenge of brutalitarianism is to buckle down to the job of strengthening our own defenses, internal as well as external, social and economic as well as military.

Democracy's Duty to Man

Here in America, agriculture is entering the third decade of depression. Ten million men remain unemployed. The needy aged struggle along with a pittance which denies self-respect. And youth, the nation's most precious asset, has little to look forward to beyond enforced service in the Army.

A young man who earns thirty dollars a week will have to take a 75 per cent cut in pay during his year of compulsory military service, but some business men

are demanding and getting a higher and higher ceiling for profits arising out of defense orders. Such a distorted method of dealing with two groups in society will play a powerful fifth column role in lowering our national morale and weakening our resistance to attack.

These are problems which confront America and confront us today and *here*. They are more real, more menacing to the future of democracy and our way of life than all the propaganda scares of imminent invasion.

Build an Impregnable Defense

Our patriotic course is clear. We must set ourselves resolutely to the task of building an impregnable America with military might, economic security, and spiritual well-being.

But we cannot do these things if we allow ourselves to be whipped and buffeted about by hysteria. We cannot make ourselves strong internally by shutting our eyes to the problems at home. We cannot make ourselves strong militarily by stripping our own defense in order to support the interventionist's vague and shifting frontier in Europe. We cannot preserve our American freedom by participating in war, because as soon as we do, we will become a dictatorship just like the dictatorships abroad whose destruction would be our announced war objective.

No Half-way House on War's Highway

A subtle, diabolically clever and powerful effort to sneak up on our blind side has been going on for long, weary months. We are told in forty-eleven different ways that we can have our cake and eat it too. We are asked to believe that we can play with fire and not get burned. We are assured that there is a halfway house on the road to war. This is false doctrine. It violates every rule of straight thinking and it flies in the face of history. Unless the citizens of America wake up quickly and exert their influence to stop our progress toward war, it will come.

It is my unshakable conviction after weighing all the facts, that we must stay out of war in Europe and Asia, if government of the people, by the people and for the people is not to perish from this earth.

The people of America can still win this fight for peace and freedom. They will win if they will notify their Senators and Representatives that they are no longer fooled by trick phrases like "steps short of war," that they are committed to preserving and strengthening democracy by building an impregnable military defense and a dynamic social and economic order.