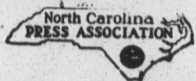


PERSON COUNTY TIMES



A PAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1941

End Of Unreality

— I —

On Monday afternoon the Congress of the United States, with the exception of Representative Jeanette Rankin, of Montana, gave whole-hearted approval to a declaration of war against Japan, a declaration made necessary by previous action of that nation in attacking Pearl Harbor and other Pacific outposts belonging to the United States.

Swift change from State Department negotiation to military action occurred within less than forty-eight hours after the apparently premediated instigation of hostilities by the Japanese: this is the end for Americans of that period of unreality that in September 1939 loomed large after two decades of so-called peace.

Put away in the national hope chest, smothered in historical moth balls, is that tolerance of the American mind which has permitted Lindbergh, Nye and Wheeler to speak freely in advocacy of an isolationism that never existed. Now at an end is whatever tolerance there was for strikes in defense industries. The United States of America must again be what its name implies and must now finish a business that came to a head in an obscure German beer hall in 1933, a business that began then but that had its seeds of origin in political ineptitudes, American no less than British, French, Italian or German, that were rampant at the signing of the treaty of Versailles in 1919.

The President of the United States has spoken in the only mood acceptable at the moment and in so speaking he has been supported by cheers in keeping with majority sentiments, but he knows, as all thoughtful citizens must, that totalitarian methods must now be appropriated by our democracy in our fight against dictatorship.

— II —

Not yet clear are details of the attacks on Pacific possessions of the United States, but already in the House suggestion has been made by one man, Rep. John D. Dingell, Democrat, of Michigan, that there should be court martial proceedings against at least five "top Army and Navy commanders" alleged to have been responsible for what is already being called the Hawaiian "Naval Debacle," it being supposed by Dingell that our military commanders at Pearl Harbor were asleep at their posts because they were not forewarned and ready to cope with the Japanese attack.

At any other time than the present it might be possible to say that Rep. Dingell has a patriotic mind, that his sensibilities are outraged over the unnecessary slaughter of American civilians and soldiers, but plainer thinking must remind us that realities of war cannot now be side-stepped by Congressional investigations. The ideology against which the United States is now in active combat allows no time for slow-moving, democratic processes and the lesson of speed, with planning, must be learned no less in Washington than in the hinterlands.

It is useless for us to further deceive ourselves. War was once an affair of a certain dignity, to be conducted within rules and to be glossed over in the end with glory. It is not now conducted with dignity, there are no rules and the glory has worn thin, so that the only elements left are self-protection and belief in a cause. Americans must come to this realization before they can fight successfully any one of the series of battles they are now confronted with.

— III —

There is no doubt that Americans will see more clearly than they have the cause of freedom in which they must believe and that they will come to this belief without an unseemly hatred of individual German, Italian and Japanese citizens, who are in the irony of circumstances being taught that their own ideas of domination by force are the only ones acceptable to a world that has preached freedom and practiced force. But there is serious doubt that Americans will at once accept the idea that in this war self-protection and self-defense are as real as they ever were in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, the only wars fought up to this hour on the American continent.

Greatest danger still will come from the few Americans who will be uncooperative and from foreign agents busy in defense of their own cause. There is in this conflict a possibility that fighting will be more than writing checks and sending a comparative handful of

soldiers across. No one can say how long the conflict will last and no one can say that victory will be easy.

And a proper conditioning for what must be faced must begin here, in Roxboro and in Person County, as quickly as in San Francisco and New York. There will have to be an end of all petty criticism of the Selective Service system. There will have to be in evidence that morale hitherto more talked about than observed and there will have to be on part of the civilian population more of an ability to do without luxuries and more than an offering of lip service to patriotic and to semi-military organizations.

To be a patriot now is a hard task, but honorable. If the proposed army camp comes to Person, as it most probably will, it must be accepted and the men who come to it must be made to feel that they are at home. To do this and to protect as much as possible of the Person way of life may become a part of the war-time job accredited to Roxboro and Person County, and there is no reason to believe there will be failure at this point or in the necessary financing which must be done, as Sherwood Brockwell told Kiwanians, by ever-increasing purchases of Defense bonds.

— IV —

The end of unreality is at hand and so there comes a time for action. For more than two years the people of the United States sat by the bed-side of the sick world, mixing curses with cures and vainly hoping that recovery would not require an American cure that could not be paid for in dollars and cents. It is too late to blame others for evils now reaching a climax.

It is too late to say that economic toleration could have saved the situation. It is too late to look fondly back at the ghost of the League of Nations, a ghost made pitiful by American neglect. It is too late to blame Germany, or England, or France, or least of all Japan, where the fruits of civilization called Western and Christian have come to strange flowering.

And what must now be done cannot be accomplished by waving flags and singing, "God Bless America." Now, if ever, is needed a re-consecration of resources and abilities, with full recognition that no war is ever a holy war, although the imperfections of humanity make necessary the employment of war techniques if peace is to be enjoyed in the future.

matter badly needed by most soils. Turning under or killing all cotton stalks before frost is an important factor in boll-weevil control, but to remove them from the land is a serious drain on the fertility of the soil.

"Where only the lint and seed are removed," the State College man went on, "a bale of cotton removes a total of only 70 pounds of plant food, as compared with 95 pounds for 60 bushels of corn, leaving the stalks and fodder on the land, 100 pounds for 30 bushels of wheat in straw, and 115 pounds for 50 bushels of oats in straw."

Burning Cotton Stalks Proves Costly Practice

Burning cotton stalks will cost the average North Carolina farmer just about \$5 an acre, says Dr. E. R. Collins, agronomist of the Experiment Station at N. C. State College.

In a warning against this practice, now commonly employed after the crop has been harvested, Dr. Collins pointed out that cotton stalks on an acre of good land contain approximately 27,150 to 2,000 pounds of organic

pounds of nitrogen, pounds of phosphoric acid, and 36 pounds of potash.

At present prices for these fertilizer materials, the State College agronomist explained, the farm would have to pay around five dollars an acre.

He said the amount of plant food removed by raking and burning the stalks would be equal to 400 pounds of a fertilizer analyzing 6.75 per cent nitrogen, 1.75 per cent phosphoric acid, and 9 per cent potash.

"What's more," Dr. Collins continued, "burning destroys from



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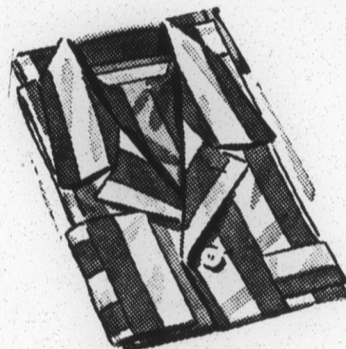
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