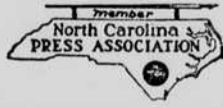


THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST
TABloid NEWSpaper

By Mail — \$2. Yearly — In Advance
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA
THE LARGEST NEWSPAPER IN HALIFAX COUNTY



CARROLL WILSON, Owner and Editor

Entered as Second Class matter April 3rd, 1914, at the post office at Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, under Act of March 3rd, 1879.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
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EDITORIAL

THE HOUR HAS COME

I

● ● The hour has come when this nation must face the facts. We can no longer evade the full demands imposed upon us by Hitler's threat to our liberties.

Step by step over the past twelve months the meaning of the world conflict to our existence has become clear to the American people.

We know that free institutions cannot be secure on this continent if annihilated on every other continent. Even if we could maintain our physical security, life would be a nightmare of industrial regimentation, conscription, taxation and eventually war.

To permit Britain to go down, China to be subjugated and the blackout of civilization to occur everywhere but in the Western Hemisphere would be not only stupid but indicative of a complete loss of moral values. We cannot allow the defense of Great Britain and her allies to be overwhelmed. To assure its success, we have enacted the Lend-Lease Law to convert our nation into the arsenal of democracy.

But recent events have brought home to us one further realization: our civilization can be made secure only by engaging the full strength and power of the United States in the common cause. With all of our resources the threat to our way of life and our liberty can and will be halted.

This ultimate issue can no longer be avoided. Each week of delay aggravates our peril, brings the war closer to our shores and will take its toll of American life and property. The issue should be met now, without evasion or reservation and with prompt action. We must assume our share of burden and sacrifice in the united defense of civilization.

II

To this end the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies now urges that the American people call upon their President and Congress for the immediate enactment of the following measures:

1. The declaration of a full state of national emergency.

2. Employment of the naval and air forces of the nation to safeguard the lifeline between the Western Hemisphere and the British Isles. Specifically we support use of American armed forces for police, convoy or in whatever way is most effective to insure delivery of our goods to those nations resisting aggression.

3. Cooperation with Great Britain and her allies for the employment of our united military resources to safeguard the North Atlantic, the South Atlantic and the Pacific against further Axis aggression.



4. Effective aid to China. Rigid embargo against Japan. Clear indication to Japan of our determination to prevent a conquest of Singapore and the Dutch East Indies.

5. Freezing of Axis assets. Control of subversive propaganda and sabotage emanating from Axis consulates by whatever measures may be necessary, including severance of diplomatic relations.

6. Declaration of the intention of the United States to take its full responsibility in organizing enduring peace on the basis of political, social and economic justice. The American people must now prepare themselves to face this responsibility.

III

This course may lead to armed conflict. From Hitler's point of view we are already enlisted with his enemies. If it does not suit his purpose he will not attack us, no matter what the provocation. If it promises to advance his cause, he will attack us whenever and however he chooses. To those who stand in the path of his designs, the choice is never war or peace. It is submission to his will or resistance to the death.

This course may bring to us, as it has brought to other peoples who are enlisted in the cause of freedom, blood, toil, tears and sweat. It will unify the will and mobilize the resources of our own people. It will demand of us and win from us sacrifice and resolution. It will make possible control of sabotage and subversive conspiracies in our midst. It will hearten our Latin American neighbors in the common defense of our American heritage. It will have a demoralizing effect upon Axis morale. It will bring unmeasured strength to the heroic defenders in the first lines of our common cause at this hour of their supreme trial. In the souls of men enduring subjugation under tyranny, it will kindle new hope and resistance.

Let no one deceive us into believing that the hour is too late, that the cause is hopeless, that victory is already lost. The full strength of this nation joined to those already committed in the common defense embraces the human and material resources of three-quarters of the peoples of the world, controls the oceans of the world, commands three continents and the large part of Asia and Africa. That strength can be invincible. United in common purpose, steed in the knowledge of the right, made strong by the inescapable claims of duty, fired by the cries of millions now suffering under the Iron Heel, assured that we work not alone for our own safety but for the great essentials for all humanity, this cause which is our cause will triumph.

Our Patriotic Songs

● Much is being said, and a good deal is being done, to improve civilian morale in the United States as an integral part of the national defense program, but little attention has been given to one of the most obvious and simplest ways in which the will to resist un-Americanism could be strengthened. We refer to the learning and singing of patriotic songs.

If American patriotism were to be measured by the enthusiasm with which we sing songs like "Star Spangled Banner," "God Bless America," "My Country 'Tis of Thee," etc., then we are ripe for conquest. Everyone can recall dozens of gatherings in which an attempt has been made to sing these songs, but it would be difficult for the average person to name an instance in which any song has been carried through with vigor from end to end. Usually only the "first and last" or "first and second" stanzas are sung, and these only half-heartedly, with part of the crowd not cooperating and others slurring over some of the words. Such depressing exhibitions are due mainly to the fact that a large part of the American public has not learned the words of our patriotic songs, even in the verses not omitted, and also, to the tendency of many people to become bashful, to run out, or just to clamp their mouths shut, when a proposal to sing is made.

Almost every country on earth has a patriotic song which it sings earnestly and fervently—that is, all but the United States. "God Save the King" is sung with deep emotion in churches and other public places throughout England and the British empire. The Germans have the "Watch on the Rhine" and whatever fanatical songs Nazism has taught them. The French have "The Marseillaise" and all other important peoples their national anthems. And they sing them!

Nothing could improve morale more in this country than for Americans to begin studying our patriotic songs in their homes, churches and schools, becoming familiar with the words, and then to learn to sing them. (Sanford Herald)

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