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 INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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lets to spend taxes—but it will be a dark day for this country if politics is permitted to dominate the actual job of making our needed weapons. The wisest industrial and economic statesmanship is vital. Speed, efficiency and economy are the essentials.

**OUR DEFENSE**

**The Size Of Our Defense Program**

The President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, has requested approximately \$11,000,000,000 to build up our Army and Navy. The Congress was asked to permit increasing the strength of our Army to 1,200,000 and to provide means for obtaining equipment sufficient to outfit an additional 800,000 men who might be called to the colors.

At the present moment we have a force of 500,000 men made up of the regular Army, the National Guard, and the Organized Reserves. Under the terms of the new defense program, we will have to provide men and materials to increase our armed forces fourfold. And we have to do it in a hurry.

Now that's no simple problem. It's more than just opening the door and announcing "We would like to hire a million and a half men" and have them step right up and become soldiers. The men have to be trained. They have to become familiar with the complex instruments of modern warfare. In order to do that they have to be equipped with those instruments, and plenty of them.

A modern army needs everything from safety pins to locomotives. It needs guns and ammunition to be sure, and those guns and ammunition must be of the most modern type, to be effective. To put a modern army in the field calls for clothes, food, and medicinal supplies. It also calls for a means of getting to the battle, and means of supply when it gets there.

Modern war is total war. We must be fully prepared.

**The Job Ahead**

Accomplishing this task in the face of an emergency requires coordination of our resources of men and materials, and above all coordination of our huge industrial plant that is the backbone of the nation in peace as well as in war. Many of the supplies we are going to need are turned out every day by the nation's industries. These can be procured by the Government through normal channels of industry. But many others are special equipment needed only for defense. These must be especially built for us, some in new plants. In making these special instruments, we must minimize interference with normal requirements of the nation. But we have to have them just the same.

To see that this operation goes ahead fast and efficiently, the President appointed the National Defense Advisory Commission on May 28, 1940. This Commission is composed of men who are particularly qualified by special knowledge of an industry, public utility, of some natural resource, or are otherwise specially qualified. The Commission's task is to translate the defense program from laws on the statute books, from a blueprint, into actual supplies needed by the men under arms. Their problem rests upon three vital questions.

What do we need?  
 Where is it?  
 How do we get it?

It perhaps is the greatest unified effort ever undertaken by the American people. It has already started.

**What We Need**

The outlines of the job under way are already clear. On May 16, the President asked Congress to provide \$1,182,000,000 for defense. On May 31, he again sent a message declaring that the incredible events abroad, during the latter part of May, necessitated another \$1,277,741,170 to speed up preparation for our military and naval needs. On July 10, due to further drastic changes in the world situation, and because of the united will of the American people to defend themselves against all enemies, foreign and domestic, the President asked for further appropriation of \$4,848,171,957 for national defense.

This would provide for:  
 Equipping a navy to meet any possible combination of hostile forces.

Total equipment for a land force of 1,200,000.  
 Reserve stocks of tanks, guns, and artillery ammunition for an additional 800,000 men.  
 15,000 additional planes for the Army and 4,000 for the Navy.  
 Manufacturing facilities public and private to produce essential

One of the latest satirical barbs directed at the WPA was the suggestion that WPA workers be trained and armed provided someone would invent a rifle which would discharge automatically.

A famine in Europe while America's grain bins are fairly bursting with surplus is going to make Hitler and Mussolini all the more envious of our land of plenty.

**Borrowed Comment**

**WHO WANTS WAR?**

(Herald, Bellingham, Wash.)

It used to be said that the rich led the masses—the cannon fodder—to slaughter on the battlefields in order to make inordinate profits. But those who say "war mongers" are abroad in the land today are having a hard time putting the finger on "big business."

Although Senator Burton K. Wheeler says the "international bankers" are seeking to precipitate the United States into the European war, he is not particularly convincing. Possibly some of the "international bankers" do favor war with Hitler, but if so, they doubtless have wit enough to know that they would lose by such intervention.

Wheeler absolved everybody else, including "big business," citing a statement of Alfred P. Sloan, of General Motors, to support his statement that industry is for peace. He might have quoted others, including the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers. For modern war means, not profits, but losses.

It is noteworthy that although 14 per cent of the people (6,500,000) on the basis of the latest Gallup poll, favor intervention abroad, the upper income group is the least warlike. Here are the divisions; upper income group, 10 per cent; middle income group, 14 per cent; lower income group, 16 per cent.

Such pro-war sentiment that prevails goes deeper than any consideration of pecuniary profits, and any attempt to imply that such sentiment is inspired by a selfish few does violence to the evidence.

**HISTORIC CONFERENCE**

(Skyland Post)

Historians of the future will probably agree that the most significant conference ever held between a group of nations was the one that has been in session in Havana, Cuba, for the past several days.

Plans were formulated and approved at this conference by delegates from twenty-one nations of the Western Hemisphere, that will make it virtually impossible for Hitler and Mussolini to gain control of the new world.

Under a resolution called the "Acts of Havana", these twenty-one American nations solemnly pledge to stand together against any military or economic invasion on the part of any foreign power or powers.

Besides going to each others rescue in event of war, each nation is pledged to trade with the others. Another provision of supreme importance was the new decision that the United States or any other American nation would be given a free hand in taking over European possessions if such were necessary to prevent a threat to the peace of the new world.

This act is expected to bar Germany and Italy from ever obtaining control of orphaned American colonies of France, the Netherlands and Great Britain.

The remarkable success of this conference is due, to a large measure to Secretary of State Cordell Hull. He has certainly carved a name for himself on the pages of history.

The man of the hour spent many days and nights getting there.

Unemployment is blamed on the machine age . . . as a matter of fact, the fault lies in the age of the machine.

Most married men think they would be rich if they had remained single.

Success demands a steady flow of new ideas.

**Harvard Thespian**

Peter Salmassell, 14, son of Gov. Leverett Salmassell of Massachusetts, makes his debut as wit, mimic and actor in the Harvard dramatic club play, "Too Late to Laugh."

**Flight Of Thy Soul**

On the last rays of a setting sun the curfew waves carried news to the country side.  
 The great demon Death has made his home.  
 His shadowy hand as far as day's friendship goes.  
 They told me friends they told me you were dead.  
 This bitter news brought bitter tears to shed.  
 I wept as I remembered how our souls had touched  
 Our philosophic thought had fired the sun and sent him down the sky.  
 And now thy art lying, my dear old pleasant friend  
 As a handful of clay, long, long ago at rest,  
 Hushed are thy gay voices, thy spirit, awake:  
 For Death, he taketh all away, but friendship he cannot take.

—Albert Minton.

**2 Young Women Seek Pilot Study**

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 3.—Two young women have applied through the Maryland Chamber of Commerce to take the civilian pilot training course for non-college students, scheduled to begin next Monday. They are Miss Suzanne Byron and Miss Mary E. Townsend.

Miss Byron is a daughter of Maj. Joseph W. Byron, a retired Army officer, and a niece of Representative William D. Byron of the Sixth district of Maryland. Several other young women, it was stated at Chamber of Commerce headquarters, are expected to file their applications.

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**Conscription**

If America should have to go to war we sincerely hope that in all fairness the soldier will not be made the "Goat" as happened during the first world war.

Although some atonement has been made by bonus and other considerations, all will agree that the soldier who received only thirty dollars per month for facing the enemy in the trenches of France did not fare as well as the hands of the government as the draft dodgers who worked in the shipyards or other government employment at from seven to twelve dollars per day.

It has been suggested and planned that in the event of another way that labor for the government be conscripted. That would be the only fair way of handling a situation wherein human resources are urgently needed at the nation's call.

**Hit-And-Run**

Calling attention to the seriousness of hit-and-run driving, Ronald Hocutt, Director of the Highway Safety Division, asserted recently that he has authority to suspend a driver's license in hit-and-run cases involving property damage only.

"The driver who damages another motorist's fender and tries to get away without reporting the accident is a potentially dangerous driver, so we are making suspensions in hit-and-run cases involving property damage only. Revocation is mandatory, of course, upon connection in hit-and-run cases involving a fatality or personal injury.

"Drivers must be made to realize the importance of stopping after striking another vehicle, a bicyclist, or a pedestrian. This is a serious offense, and the Highway Safety Division wants to do everything within its power to put an end to it."

**The Innocent Suffer**

The innocent often suffer most in this world—and that is true in the case of war. There will be a famine in Europe this winter, says the authorities, and only two powers will be comparatively immune. Those are the two belligerent powers—Germany and England.

Germany has systematically looted the granaries of the countries she has seized. And the English fleet is still adequate to keep her merchant shipping going.

Famine means plague, disease, untold misery. And if it comes, it means the collapse of the Europe we have known. It takes many years for a people to recover from the effects of even one season of starvation and malnutrition.

Question is whether this country will help if famine strikes. We have surplus food aplenty. We could sell it, give it away, or barter it abroad. Yet, looking at the problem realistically, we would thus be fattening up potential enemies. It is a problem where humanitarian considerations, and our self-interest as a democratic world power in a dictator-ridden world may prove totally opposed.

**Make Democracy Work**

The American people, fully awake to the menace to our institutions, are willing to make any conceivable economic sacrifice in the name of liberty and security. But that doesn't mean that the American people are going to be satisfied with mere bills appropriating money and raising taxes. They are going to make sure that tax money spent produces results—that bureaucratic red tape is cut—waste reduced—delay avoided.

It is one thing to appropriate billions. It is another thing to translate those billions into airplanes and artillery and fighting ships. Any run-of-the-mill politician can

equipment required for our forces.

In order to provide that equipment, we determine what the Army and Navy need, in terms of uniforms, guns, tanks, planes, and ships. This is broken down into raw materials. Provision is made for processing these raw materials. Plants are provided to convert these materials into the weapons to put into the hands of the troops. The nation is like a gigantic production line. A breakdown at any point along the hundreds of raw materials' lines might stall the whole machine. That must not happen. As fast as the men are ready, the materials must be ready. This series will explain how this is being accomplished.

**Berlin 'Plays Up' Stimson's Vision Of British Defeat**

New York, Aug. 1.—Berlin newspapers today gave wide prominence to United States Secretary of War Stimson's observation before the House Military Affairs Committee that Great Britain may be defeated in thirty days, according to a C. B. S. broadcast from Berlin.

The statement was cited by Nazi newspapers as proof of the "feeling in the United States that Great Britain cannot win."

Quiggle—Thirty is a nice age for a woman.  
 Dandi—Yes, especially if she's 40.

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**Important Notice to DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS Of Wilkes County**

I have been ordered by the Board of County Commissioners to advertise all real estate on which taxes for the year 1939 have not been paid. This advertising will start within the next few days, and sale will take place on . . .

**Monday, Sept. 2nd, 1940**

I must carry out the order of the Board of Commissioners, but I am anxious to save every taxpayer possible the extra cost of advertising as well as the embarrassment of having his land advertised. Therefore, please pay your taxes for the year 1939 during the next few days so that your property will not be included in the list.

Don't forget, payment now will save you advertising costs.

**C. T. Doughton**  
 Sheriff and Tax Collector For Wilkes County

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