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The Die Is Cast

Slipping out of the night and acting without warning or provocation, Japan has attacked American life and property, challenging with the blessing of an inhuman combination our way of life and the principles upon which this nation was founded and builded. The die has been cast and the United States today after the lead of Winston Churchill can offer immediately its people only sweat and blood—and victory in the end.

With reservations for yellow Bob Reynolds and possibly a few others, the nation upon learning the treacherous attack on Hawaii by the yellow men quickly formed a unified march. The travel is not going to be easy, and many disappointments are certain to be ours during the months ahead. The struggle now underway has the possibilities of making World War No. 1 look small in comparison, for a quarter of a century ago France and Japan were lined against Germany. However, victory is possible, but to attain that priceless objective we must show a greater determination, accept greater sacrifices and do our part in every way possible. We are not to grumble and argue if we are to accomplish successfully the Herculean task that is now ours.

It is easy to sit back at this moment and condemn the acts of those isolationists who have intentionally or unintentionally traveled along with those who are now at our throats. But we are to forget all that and in a spirit of unity put our shoulders to the wheel.

Removed from the war front and the industrial center, we here in our snug little part of the world can see no immediate task that needs to be done to advance the war effort. But there is a task to be done. That task has been outlined for the mothers and others in the Red Cross production unit. It has been outlined for the farmer in the food for freedom program. It has been outlined in the humanitarian call for support of the Red Cross. There is a call for old

scrap iron to replace that sent to Japan to kill the hundreds in Hawaii on the first day of the war. There is a call for the conservation of gasoline, oil and other resources. There is a call for the purchase of defense saving stamps and bonds.

In behalf of our way of life we appeal to our people to recognize the seriousness of the situation not with panicky action, but with a willing and grim determination and to do our part in the big task that has been thrust upon us.

The die is cast. Will it be a pattern designed by Hitler and his barbarian associates? Or will it be one of our own making and in strict accord with that which is decent, right and good in the sight of God and all righteous men?

Protection In The High Places

One of the most dastardly stories growing out of the last World's War apparently is having an echo in the present struggle. After arms were laid down in November, 1918, it was charged that certain interests on both sides had carried on trade detrimental to their respective countries.

Up until a very short time ago, American oil shipments were moving into Spain in far greater volume than during peace time or even during the period when the oil companies were selling to Franco for the prosecution of his revolution. It was well established that Spain was turning over the priceless oil to Hitler for use in his air attacks on defenseless people and in his submarine attacks on American lives.

The dastardly practice recently attracted attention in Congress and Representative John M. Coffee, Democrat of Washington State, went so far as to propose an investigation. Attention was centered on Max W. Thornburg, oil adviser in the State Department. Thornburg, it was pointed out, was a high official of Bahrain Petroleum Company which is owned largely by Standard Oil of California.

Could it be that men like Thornburg and the dollar-a-year men in Washington are protecting and aiding industry in which they are interested? The bottleneck now bearing down on the neck of little business partly proves that the representatives of big business in Washington have done an excellent job for their "relatives" back home.

Coffee pointed out a few days ago that the oil companies, mentioning Standard of California among others, had world-wide investments and interests affected by national policies on oil, that they are "dependent to some degree on Hitler's good will for the recovery of these properties should the Nazis succeed in consolidating their New Order." Coffee then asked, "Is it wise to have an executive of these companies (meaning Thornburg) advising us on international oil matters?"

The United States scrapped its plow shares and old iron for sale to Japan, and sold liberally to Italy to wage war on the helpless Ethiopian. That was bad enough. But when men in the high places start promoting and protecting business when such action is foreign to the cause this country espouses then it is high time for action.

There are good dollar-a-year men in government, but isn't it possible that some are promoting their individual gains at the expense of the country and doing more to harm the march of democracy than all the strikes combined?



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