

Washington Farm News

Wickard Says American Farmers Have Stake In Outcome Of War

Below will be found excerpts from a recent address by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, entitled, "The Farmers' Stake in a Democratic World."

Secretary Wickard's entire speech, but we believe the selections below will give our readers a new understanding of the world situation which confronts American agriculture.

Every American has a stake in the present world struggle, and the stake of farmers is as great as that of any other group. How then shall we decide what to do to protect that stake?

There is but one answer to that question. Regardless of sentiment, we must do the thing that seems best for the United States of America. We should not let emotion rule our

actions, but should decide upon the basis of our own interests, our selfish interests, if you please.

A decision upon the basis of our selfish interests does not mean a shortsighted decision. It means a decision with all the factors carefully weighed and the alternatives studied thoroughly.

But what, someone may ask, does Hitlerism in Europe have to do with the freedom, liberty and safety of the average American farmer? It has a lot to do with it. Long ago, Abraham Lincoln said that this Nation could not exist half slave and half free. It is equally true that the world cannot exist half democratic and half Nazi.

In this tremendous struggle between systems, the Nazis have certain definite advantages over democracy. In a totalitarian state, decisions can be made swiftly. The state is master and its citizens exist to serve it. All the power of a nation can be concentrated by the will of one individual.

The Nazis gain their advantage at the expense of human liberty and human freedom, but they gain it just the same. If Hitler defeats Great Britain, for example, how are we to cope with this ever-growing power—a power that will have the resources of Europe, Africa, and perhaps Asia at its command?

Why am I so certain that a Hitler victory in Europe means that the United States will be in jeopardy? Hitler's deeds and words are reasons for my belief. By Hitler's own words he aims to conquer the world. As we know, his pledges to other nations are worthless. The little nations in Europe who believed his promises are conquered nations today. Hitler has said:

"The first condition of success is the unceasing and unending use of force."

Does anyone think that Hitler would hesitate to attack us tomorrow if he thought he could whip the United States? Does anyone think that the downfall of Great Britain would lessen the danger of an attack upon us by the Nazis? Hitler is not at war with us today because he hopes to deal with us after he has finished Britain.

Let us be realistic about this world situation. The United States has very few friends left now on the other continents. The nations of this continent are our friends but they are not strong military nations. The totalitarian nations are our enemies and they are likely to continue to be.

The defeat of Britain would not lessen the danger of war for the United States. It is likely, however, to transfer the actual theater of war. It is likely to transfer it from over there to over here.

Germany, victorious in Europe, would concentrate first on Latin America and the Latin American market. The natural market for a large part in Latin America's agricultural commodities is Europe. In turn, Europe would sell Latin American manufactured goods. Trade between Latin America and Europe is natural and desirable. The difficulty is that the Nazis use their trade to further their political ideas. The Nazis might find it easy to spread Nazi influence all over Latin America—right up to the back door of the United States. Already they have their agents at work, from Argentina through Mexico. A German victory would greatly speed up this existing Nazi penetration in Central and South America.

The British, if the Empire survives, are going to trade with Latin America. They'll compete with American products and they'll drive the best bargains they can. But the British aren't out to conquer the world. They're trying desperately to hold on to what they've got. Furthermore, we know we can live in peace with the British. We've done it now for over a hundred years. England believes in, and has a democratic form of government.

Even if a victorious Germany didn't attack us right away, we couldn't afford to take a chance. We'd have to arm to the teeth and stay armed. A Nazi victory in Europe means that we must maintain a huge army and navy for an indefinite period. That means never ceasing taxes, privation, sacrifice and possibly, a militarized nation.

Even if we assume that a German victory would not bring war to the United States, the stake of agriculture in a British victory is very great. If the Nazi win, we might as well kiss our export market for farm products goodbye. That means sweeping readjustments in agriculture. The changes will be immediate and drastic and they will mean complete regimentation and government control for all agriculture, and all farmers. Taking the most optimistic view possible, a Nazi victory means that hard years and lean years—and a good many of them—are ahead for American agriculture.

For twenty years all of us have lived under the pall cast by the last World War. The economic and political consequences of the short-sighted peace treaties after that conflict have destroyed our farm export market, and bred the new World conflict of today. If Nazism is frustrated, we can—with vision and determination—see to it that the peace is a fair peace and a lasting peace. By taking the realistic economic and political steps we can establish conditions of peace and opportunity for all countries and all peoples. Farm ex-

ports can expand, world trade can flourish, and the trade rivalries, economic warfare, and chronic unemployment of past years can be forgotten. We face a completely different prospect if Hitler wins.

Before I talk about details, I'm going to take time out to brag a little. As you know, our problem since 1933 has been, to a large extent, a surplus problem. Bureaucratic surpluses has become almost a chronic condition. In the face of this situation, it is a real tribute to farmers and the farm programs that we have managed to feed reserves on hand today. These reserves aren't an accident. After the droughts of 1934 and 1936, we deliberately set out to store up additional reserves for the future. Our feed supply enables us to plan our increased production in an orderly way and to produce more without the soil waste that accompanied our first World War food effort.

Some people are saying even now that our principal problem is still one of surpluses. So far as our export crops are concerned, wheat, cotton, tobacco and another commodity or two, they're right. But so far as pork, dairy products, poultry, eggs, tomatoes and some other foods are concerned they're wrong, dead wrong.

This war is sowing the seeds of famine all over Europe. The Germans are living fairly well now but they are robbing other nations to do it. Foundation herds on the continent are being destroyed to feed the conquerors and the British are sacrificing their foundation herds, too. This destruction is taking away the very ability to produce for a long time to come.

I have talked to people who came through Spain. They told how people, even children, were waiting outside cafes for just a crumb that might fall to them. Now with war in the Balkans, the specter of famine moves that way.

Even though the war stopped soon, it would be a long time before Europe would be on a self-sufficing basis in livestock products. After the war, a large part of the world will be looking to the United States for food. Whether we can give it to them may decide how much weight the United States will have at the peace councils.

Las Cruces, N. Mex.—A groom complained to a priest that fifteen minutes after the wedding, his bride disappeared with \$100 of his money, \$800 worth of clothes, and a new automobile. "What he was disturbed most of all about, however, was the "waste of time" lost in his three-year courtship of the girl.

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NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE!

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust made and executed by J. R. Dupree and wife, Mattie Foster Dupree, to E. R. Merrick, Trustee, Dated September 1st, 1936, and appearing of record in Book G-37, at page 637 of the Pitt County Public Registry, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, the undersigned trustee will, on Saturday, the 24th day of May, 1941, at 12:00 o'clock NOON, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Pitt County, in Greenville, North Carolina, the following described real property:

Beginning on the East side of Main Street in the Town of Farmville at Dr. D. S. Morrill's corner, and runs thence Easterly with the said Morrill's line to the E. H. Williams line; thence southerly with said Williams line 62 1/2 feet; thence westerly parallel with the first line to Main Street; thence northerly 62 1/2 feet with said road to the beginning. It being the same land which was conveyed to Sallis Hopkins by Bettie Joyner which deed is recorded in Book Q-11 page 391, of the Pitt County Registry and the same land that was conveyed to Bettie Joyner by General May, which deed is recorded in Book V-11, page 21-22 of the Pitt County Registry, and the same land which was conveyed to General May by J. H. Joyner, which deed is recorded in Book R-10 page 89 of the Pitt County Registry, and same land which was conveyed to J. H. Joyner by R. L. Davis, which deed is recorded in Book P-7 page 337, of the Pitt County Registry.

For further reference see deed from Mechanics and Farmers Bank to Trustee of Supreme Knights of King Solomon, Book T-19, page 367 Pitt County Registry.

The last and highest bidder will be required to deposit with the Clerk of Superior Court of Pitt County 10 per cent of his or her bid to guarantee completion of the contract if no raised bid is filed.

The property will be sold subject to 1941 taxes.

This the 18th day of April, 1941.

E. R. MERRICK, Trustee.
John B. Lewis, Attorney. M-2-4t

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Looking at Washington

(Continued from page one)

Up to March 30th, the Government had committed itself for \$1,915,000,000 of new factory facilities, including plants and machinery, and a partial compilation shows that eight-six per cent of Government expenditures will be for Government-owned plants. The OPM points out that all commitments of the Government, plus private financing under Certificates of Necessity, total \$2,892,000,000. To this amount should be added the British commitments for plant facilities in this country which amount to \$191,000,000.

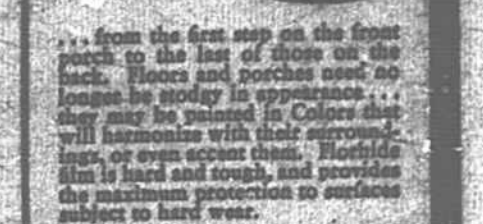
The number of Government-financed plants, as of March 31st, was 831, with an average cost of \$5,766,000. The number of privately financed plants was 904, with an average cost of \$729,000. The reader should understand, of course, that these figures do not represent the total expenditure that the Government will make for new factory facilities. The demand for defense equipment is being increased almost every day and Government financing, in the form of cash or certificates, steadily increases.

A debate would be useful if the participants were more interested in light and less concerned with the judges' decision.



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