

# LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

## To Protect American Interests Should Be Our Only Business

Some of the distrust that appears in various parts of the United States in regard to a post-war policy of collaboration with other nations is due to a misunderstanding as to the purpose of our participation in the war.

Contrary to the opinion of some people, this nation is engaged in war for the sole purpose of defending the United States. We went into the conflict only when attacked and in self-defense.

If the United States participates in any scheme of world organization, after peace comes, it should be for the same reason: the protection of the United States. We have nothing to do with a reordering of the world through a form of super-government.

It seems to us that if the people of this nation thoroughly understand that the argument for collaboration is based exclusively upon the interests of this nation they will be willing to make a joint contribution and assume joint risks.

Our people, who now doubt the wisdom of cooperation with other nations, should be instructed, very plainly, in the purposes behind collective security and other activities of a joint nature with other powers. The only purpose should be the protection of the rights and liberties of the people of the United States.

It is easy to understand why some folks object to a crusade to establish prosperity in far-off lands or the use of armed strength to force the four freedoms, or any others, upon half-barbaric and under-prepared peoples.

The fact is they should support intelligent cooperation with other nations to set up a world order that can keep the peace. This should appeal to their self-interest. It provides compensation for the contribution that we make in the new order that, we hope, will prevent further wars.

## 15,000,000 Unorganized Workers Suffer Under War Economy

The clerical, white-collar and unorganized employees of the United States, including those in this county, have had little or no increase in salary and are without ability to take advantage of any formula for adjusted wages.

Louis Stark, writing in The New York Times, says that this class includes fifteen million heads of families and that they are at a disadvantage when compared to approximately twelve million organized wage-earners.

The plight of the white-collar group was called to the attention of the country by President Roosevelt on July 2, 1943, when he pointed out that many consumers were without surplus purchasing power or the high earnings enjoyed by some workers. He listed four million wage workers earning less than forty cents an hour and other millions whose incomes were almost as low.

Mr. Roosevelt said that four million families had not had an increase of more than five per cent in their incomes during the eighteen preceding months and millions of salaried, white-collar workers—the school teachers, clergymen, the State, county and city officials, the policemen, the firemen, the clerks—were having their living standards slashed by higher food prices while their salaries remained low.

Another class, mentioned by the President, were those with fixed incomes—the dependent mother of the soldier boy with her scant \$37 per month, the widow living off the proceeds of her husband's insurance policy and the old-age pensioner.

Concluding, the President told Congress that "these unorganized millions must not become the forgotten men and women of our war economy."

Reviewing the situation, Mr. Stark says that virtually all employees in manufacturing industries have received wage increases totalling 15 per cent between January, 1941, and May, 1942. This increase was designed to make up for the rise in living costs in that period, but, with some exceptions, no similar increase came to the white-collar group.

The Government has set up machinery for the adjustment of wages but the bulk of the changes are initiated by trade unions. Beginning proceedings under either the Fair Labor Standards Act or the regulation of the WLB, the organized groups present their wage disputes for adjustment. In many cases, employers and employees agree on wage adjustments which are approved by the WLB.

Mr. Stark reports that employers may start wage increases by applying to WLB and says that about 75 per cent of the requests for such adjustments now come from employers themselves. Some of these may cover clerical and white-collar employees, who without organization support, are unable to obtain increases through their own economic means. Where employers, however, refuse to consider increases, the organized employees is without a live remedy.

The National War Labor Board many letters from people dissatisfied with their wages, but it is

not able to deal with them as individuals. Chairman Davis says, "There are just too many individuals and not enough WLB's." Consequently, where organization is lacking, white-collar employees are apparently discriminated against.

## A Free Press Necessary To Preserve World Peace

The public should not overlook the important fact that the governments of the United States, Great Britain and Russia, as a result of the agreement reached at Moscow, included a free press among the freedoms to be established in Italy.

Edwin L. James, writing in The New York Times, says that the President, in his message on the Four Freedoms, defined them as follows:

- 1—Freedom of speech and expression.
- 2—Freedom of every person to worship God in his own way.
- 3—Freedom from want.
- 4—Freedom from fear.

It is probable that the President included the freedom of the press in the term "freedom of speech and expression." However, Secretary Hull is given credit for specifically listing a free press as one of the fundamentals for the Government of Italy.

One can hardly over-estimate the importance of a free press throughout the world if future warfare is to be avoided. The shameful manipulation of the news in dictator-controlled countries makes it possible for the government to misrepresent facts and relationships to its people.

To permit a government to restrict the information of its people is to give to the government the absolute control of their thoughts. It is impossible, under such circumstances, for the people of any controlled country to form a free or just opinion as to international questions.

## Non-Political Foreign Policy Recommended By Secretary Hull

The people of the United States will do well to pay attention to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who asks them to accept the Moscow Pact as a basis for a non-political foreign policy.

It is well that the Secretary denies that the document has secret commitments. The pact had hardly been signed in Moscow before the suggestion was made, in this and other countries, that the announced agreement did not reveal all that was accomplished. It was hinted that the three powers had secretly entered into understandings regarding other vexatious problems.

Mr. Hull's appeal for a foreign policy outside of politics, if heeded, will be of inestimable value to this nation. For many years, our relations with foreign countries have been clouded and disturbed by uncertainties as to the permanence of American foreign policy.

If both parties could unite upon a declaration, establishing our foreign affairs upon an unequivocal basis, the peace of the world would be enhanced to the benefit of the United States and all nations.

## Battle of Bougainville Expected To Determine Course of War In The South Pacific

The battle of Bougainville will loom large in the consciousness of Americans, regardless of whether the island becomes the scene of heavy land fighting, similar to that at Guadalcanal last year, or the surrounding waters stage a decisive engagement between the fleets of the United States and Japan.

Our objective is Rabaul, the main Japanese base on New Britain, but the strategic purpose behind the American drive is to break through the defensive arc of islands which protect the vital sea routes by which Japan hopes to defend and maintain her Asian empire.

Rabaul is about 660 miles from Henderson Field, on Guadalcanal, to the southeast. Bougainville is about two-thirds of the way to Rabaul. It contains about 4,000 square miles, being about 100 miles long and from 30 to 50 miles wide. It is mountainous, with two active volcanoes, one of which rises to a height of over 10,000 feet. The island is well-wooded and densely populated.

The landing of Japanese reinforcements on Bougainville indicates a determination to fight for the island. The fight will not be conclusive of the war in the Pacific because our offensive is merely the start of a series of blows that are designed to force the Japanese backward to the basic defense of their home islands.

General MacArthur, not long ago, suggested that the air strength of the enemy in and around Rabaul had been practically destroyed. There is every reason to believe that the warships available to Admiral William Halsey are sufficient to meet any fleet that the Japanese risk in the campaign, even if it includes the bulk of Japanese battleship and carrier strength.

The battle of Bougainville will not be won by aircraft or warships or ground forces. Victory will come through the expert coordination of all forces. Each branch of the service will contribute to the successful conclusion of the attack and the entire

absence of either would almost inevitably involve defeat.

The battle of Bougainville will duplicate the bitter-land fighting of Guadalcanal if the Japanese are able to reinforce and supply their troops. If our warships and aircraft can successfully dominate adjacent waters and prevent Japanese ships and barges from approaching Bougainville, the Japanese troops on the islands will have the choice of starvation or surrender.

It should be obvious that if the Japanese fleet establishes complete control of adjacent waters, our forces must be evacuated or surrendered.

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Herewith is another list of contributors who helped to make the Perquimans United War Fund a great success. The final list will be published next week.

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