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America's Only Sure Defense, November 15, 1940

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Talk over WATR Watertown, Conn., 11/15/40

F. W. H. A.

AMERICA'S ONLY SURE DEFENSE

Are there any men or women listening to this radio who are not yet convinced that the United States should give all possible help to Britain? If so, I earnestly ask you, as loyal Americans, to have an open unprejudiced mind on the subject. I want to reason with you, quietly, for a few minutes.

It makes no difference whether we like or dislike the English. The question I submit to your honest judgment is simply what is the best defense of the United States. We all want to do what is best to preserve our America. We all want to keep war far away from our shores. No one is thinking of sending American soldiers to fight in Europe. We want to keep out of war. As adult citizens we all know, of course, that no one can absolutely promise to keep us out of war, because no one can foresee the course of events. We may be attacked. Or, a situation may arise where to attack may become our only intelligent defense. To illustrate, no foot-ball team could win if it always stood defending its own goal-line. We wish to remain at peace. But, even above that, is our determination to defend and preserve our country. We all want to defend America in the way least costly in blood and treasure. The exceptional security the United States has enjoyed has always depended on the fact that command of the seas has been in the hands of a friendly Britain. This is true today. Our only sure defense, the only way we can keep war far from our shores, is to see to it that command of the seas shall never pass to nations unfriendly to us. And the only way we can do this is to give all possible aid to Britain and the British fleet.

Britain means our friends the Canadians. It means the Australians, New Zealanders, and South Africans. It means North Ireland. And the Irish Free State will be at the mercy of the Germans, if Britain falls. The French are 95% praying for British victory as their only hope. So, surely,

are all the other temporarily conquered nations of Europe. Paderewski, that great man of Poland, landed at New York the other day. He brought this message to us, "Help Britain to save the world". The English-speaking peoples are the only remaining powerful champions of freedom that are still free. Only British sea-power, and growing power in the air, and the blockade of Germany by the British fleet, can defeat the aggressor. If these fail, America faces a hostile world alone. Is there any question but that we should give the British all the help they need?

Let me put the question this way. Is it better to help Britain so far as necessary to keep command of the seas from nations hostile to us, which is America's only sure defense; or, is it better to spend our money building defences for ourselves alone that will be ready too late to save us, if Britain fails? The overwhelming weight of authority is for helping Britain. President Roosevelt and Mr. Willkie, who together received the votes of practically all of us, favor more and more help to Britain and the British fleet as our first ^{defense,} (and, I think, our only sure defense.) General Pershing, Admiral Standley, Admiral Sterling, General MacArthur, the men of the highest military or naval authority, are of the same mind. So are our leading educators and men of affairs, and many of our thoughtful labor leaders, and many of our religious leaders of whatever faith.

The opposite theory is that we should send no war materials to Britain, but should keep them all here, to wait until we face a hostile world alone. I plead with these ^{who have thought this} people to reconsider their ideas. If we do as they suggest, we have vast conscription. We spend untold billions. We stagger under an unbearable burden of taxation. Our standard of living falls. We get regimented, as a democracy must, for a time, if threatened by war. And even then, if Hitler is not defeated by Britain, ^{if Hitler} breaks the British blockade, and keeps his conquests, he can outbuild ^{the} six or more to one, in ships, planes and munitions. Where then is our

Summary
U.S.

"impregnable" defense, - if British sea-power fails?

The lessons of the conquered nations are:- Beware of false propaganda and of leaders who would divide us. Be united in purpose. Be prepared. Pay no attention to German promises. Do not wait until your allies have been overcome and you have to fight alone. ^(5th Column saboteurs) Let us take those lessons to heart.

Does anyone doubt that America, with all we Americans most value, is in grave danger? A United States senator pointed out the other day that if we were not in great danger then we had been "idiotic", - I quote his word, - to appropriate untold billions for national defense. Our Government's vast plans for naval and aircraft expansion, and also the law for peace-time selective military training, were easily passed by our Congress, and with a heavy majority of popular approval. All these steps for national defence were approved by the President. They were approved by Mr. Wendell Willkie. About forty-eight million American voters, representing practically the whole American people, approved by their votes these expressed and identical policies of the two recent candidates. I have heard of no competent authority who denies that America is in danger.

And this is what Adolph Hitler has said, "We will soon have storm troopers in America---we shall have men whom degenerate Yankeedom will not be able to challenge." Of Brazil he has said, "We shall create a new Germany there. We shall find everything we need there--". His designs on Argentina and Bolivia have been made equally evident. Of a country nearer home, he has said "You could get this Mexico for a couple of hundred million. Why should I not make an alliance with Mexico?" To soothe us to sleep, ^{Hitler} he will say anything in public. These are the things ^{Hitler} he has said in private to a former fellow Nazi.

Germany's designs on Latin-America can be traced all the way back to the time of Bismarck, who called our Monroe Doctrine an "impertinence". I

myself (then in the Department of State) had conclusive ~~evidence~~ ^{proof} that before the last war Germany sought a foothold near the Panama Canal. Before the war of 1914-18, I am credibly informed, Germany was ready for a mutual guarantee of territories with the British Empire, if Germany was given a free hand elsewhere. "Elsewhere" meant in the American hemisphere. Ample African colonies did not satisfy the Kaiser in 1914. It is only into Latin-America that the Germans could move as an integrated society and find great areas, with good climate, sparse population, and rich resources. The German immigrant of today is required to carry with him his allegiance to Hitler. There are nearly a million and a half Germans south of the Rio Grande, excellent Fifth Column material, if Germany could command the Atlantic. This is prevented by the British fleet.

Does someone say, "What is Latin America to us?" Even in the days of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe it was seen that it would be highly dangerous to the United States to allow a foreign nation, with a system of government hostile to our own, to extend its dominion and its system in the Western hemisphere. Hence our Monroe Doctrine, which has endured since 1824, thanks to a friendly British fleet. If lodgment of a hostile power in this hemisphere was dangerous then, would it not be far more dangerous in these days of the fast long-range bomber and the submarine? When the Western Hemisphere was threatened by Napoleon, and later by the so-called "holy Alliance" of European aggressors, Thomas Jefferson said that, for our defense, we must "marry ourselves to the British fleet and nation." The wisdom of the founders of our Republic ought to be good enough for us.

In peaceful America some of us do not quite realize, I am afraid, that the present is probably the most tragic moment in history. So far from the scene, some of us may not have quite recognized that Nazi Germany is attempting world revolution and world dominion. The destruction of democracy

and the enslavement of the people under arbitrary dictatorship is of the essence of this revolution. We have seen that, with these, go the persecution of religions and races. Germany is now master of virtually all continental Europe. Wherever Germany has prevailed, the standard of living has fallen almost to the starvation level. There are no more labor unions, no freedom of speech, no personal freedoms of any kind. In Germany there is the death penalty for listening to a foreign radio broadcast. Workmen are sent to work wherever the government directs and for hours and at wages entirely at the order of the government. Similar conditions are imposed upon each conquered people.

The technique of this German world revolution and conquest is to promise anything and to break every promise. Lying, deceit and intrigue take the place of good faith. Force and cruelty are the rule. Religion is persecuted. Opponents are executed or put in concentration camps. ^{FF} I say to you, in deepest earnest, that the only sure way to defend America and to preserve all we value in our institutions and our way of life is to help the British Commonwealth of Nations, the rest of the English-Speaking peoples. Only so can we keep command of the seas from passing to hostile hands. And that is America's only sure defense.