



1941

The Fight for Freedom Committee, 1941-1943

Fight for Freedom Committee

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THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM COMMITTEE

1.

The American people have recognized that the war abroad involves our destiny just as much as it involves the destiny of Britain, Greece, Yugoslavia, France, China and the other victims of totalitarian aggression. We have recognized that an Axis victory would be a threat to our nation and to all the principles of life in which we believe. We have abandoned neutrality and determined to help bring about a defeat of the Axis by making ourselves into an arsenal and a larder for the forces of democracy.

But we still are largely blind to the fact that there is no lasting choice between war and peace. We still think in terms of keeping out of a war in which we are already engaged in every sense except armed combat. We have too long left the main burden of winning a victory to other people. Thus we are in the immoral and craven position of asking others to make the supreme sacrifice for this victory which we recognize as essential to us.

2.

The time has come to assume our full burden. As the blockade tightens around Great Britain, the importance of our part must grow.

Hitler cannot allow our goods to get to Britain; if he does -- he will be beaten. We cannot allow our goods to be sunk in the Atlantic; if we do -- we shall be beaten. The problem is simple, and the answer is a willingness to do whatever is necessary to insure a Hitler defeat. This means accepting the fact that we are at war, whether declared or undeclared. Regardless of what we do Hitler will attack us when he feels it is to his advantage.

Once we accept the fact that we are at war -- even though it may be undeclared -- we shall at last find a peace within ourselves which can never come as long as we seek safety at the cost of others' sacrifice. No longer assailed by doubts and fears, we shall forget our personal interests; we shall operate -- until the emergency is passed -- for complete victory. We shall have no hesitation or delay in leadership, no holding back from unremitting and unselfish effort anywhere throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Once we accept the full burdens of the war we shall be in a position to work effectively for the only real peace we can hope to hand down to our children -- not the precarious peace of nerve-wracked neutrality in a world torn by war -- not an Axis peace of slavery enforced by fire and sword -- but a peace based upon justice and human freedom.

Such a peace means far more than the mere defense of the world order we have known. It means the development of a new world order -- not Hitler's "new order" of tyranny and fear, which is in fact the oldest order man has known -- but a new order in which political, social and economic democracy may develop its full meaning, in which man may at last attain the full stature of human dignity, and in which all peoples, free from fear, may live in freedom to build those foundations of righteousness and justice upon which a lasting peace must rest.

But whatever our ultimate peace objectives, the first immediate step must be the winning of a victory. We the undersigned American Citizens believe that the time has come for the vigorous use of our full resources. We must win the battle of production. We must use our shipping, our navy, and our air force to help safeguard the transportation of vital supplies across the ocean. We must throw our full weight now into the fight for freedom, knowing that if this means war, it also means the surest and swiftest road to peace.