



1916

Citizens Know, 1916

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Date? End of 1916?

CITIZENS KNOW

That the United States is being warred upon by Germany, supported by the other Central Powers

That ruthlessness and the doctrine that might makes right would dominate the world, including ourselves, if Germany were victorious

That our honor and security and the preservation of our institutions, our democratic ideals, and our kind of civilization demand that Germany be defeated and rendered incapable of ever again jeopardizing freedom and democracy in the world or threatening America

That German victory would spell America's downfall

That to defeat Germany the moral, material and military forces of the United States must be organized and joined to those of the Entente Allies who are fighting to that same end

That the United States can best contribute to the cause of future world peace and to the good of humanity by its most energetic action now to hasten the decisive ending of the war in complete victory of the Entente, with which we are now associated by common dangers, common aspirations, and common interests.

THEREFORE CITIZENS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW POSITIVELY

That the United States will instantly go to war with Germany in the fullest sense and put forth its full strength

That war will be ^{made} ~~declared~~ upon all the Central Powers

That war will be made in close cooperation and understanding

with the Entente Allies, the understanding to include our participation in the pledge that none shall make peace except in common with all

That a huge credit will be extended to Great Britain, which helps finance the rest of the Entente, and to France, and also, if needed, to Russia and the other Entente Powers; and that such credit will be extended by the Government of the United States to the Governments concerned, without interest, the dates and methods of ultimate repayment to be left for diplomatic adjustment after the war

That the American Government will immediately adopt measures to increase food production and accumulation

That the private owned German ships which have enjoyed asylum in American harbors will be at once seized and fitted for naval auxiliaries or transports, the question of compensation to their owners being left for determination after the war

That ships to supply food, munitions, and other necessities to the Entente Allies will be forthwith constructed and purchased

That the American Navy will exert every means to destroy the submarine and keep open the flow of supplies to the Entente

That in the case of supplies to the Entente, as well as to our own Government, manufacturers' prices will not be permitted to exceed what assures a reasonable profit

That an army of a million men and the needed officers will be promptly put in training, under a universal service law

That after recognizing the state of war the first act of

Congress will be to pass a universal military service law with a proviso for turning over to the Navy a required number of suitable recruits if necessary

That citizens of the United States will be registered in a uniform manner, through the State Governments assisted by the local authorities, in order to determine the nature of the service they can perform; and that all aliens will be registered

That all aliens of belligerent nationality will be kept under surveillance, registered, and given cards of identification

That all munitions plants and other war utilities will be amply guarded

That censorship and espionage measures will be at once taken

That no emigration from the United States to Mexico ^{will} ~~should~~ be allowed without passports and that German activities along the border and in Mexico will be carefully watched

That the Federal Government will at once systematize and standardize all these local activities, passing Federal and suggesting uniform State laws wherever the war power may fail to give the President, the Governors, and the Mayors and other local authorities the required sanction

That the great diplomatic opportunities of the United States to strengthen the Monroe Doctrine and otherwise in connection with joining the Entente, advancing funds, etc., will not be overlooked when the time comes.

These are some of the things citizens are anxious about. The President waits, it is said, for public opinion. It is for a united press, ^{and} the united preparedness and patriotic organizations to express public opinion with a unanimity and strength that will assure energy, foresight, courage and system on the part of the authorities at Washington upon whom the whole country impatiently waits.