

tremendous, well organized, thoroughly mechanized army as that unleashed by Hitler against the Poles, and the French, the Belgians, and the other unfortunate countries of Europe.

Even with all the developments in Europe, it took us a long time to awaken to our own danger, and an even longer time to begin to organize the many forces that were necessary to tie into an integrated defense-program.

We needed an Army of tremendous proportion, and we had a comparative handful of men. We had, most fortunately, a Navy comparable to the best that could possibly be brought to play against us. We were deficient, however, in modern airplanes, in anti-aircraft defense, in heavy armament, and in the thousand and one necessary implements of a modern defense force. Gradually it began to dawn upon our people generally that there was a tremendous job ahead of us to perfect an organization and to regiment our industry so that we could, before it was entirely too late, begin to turn out the tanks, the guns, the planes, the rifles, the clothing, the trucks, that would be necessary to assemble before we could hope to put an effective army in the field.

While our Navy is at an all-time peak strength, nevertheless we must accept the fact, too, that if Great Britain were to lose and its fleet be destroyed or taken by the Axis nations, the naval power of the dictator nations would far exceed anything that we could oppose to it. Talk of the two-ocean Navy is very heartening, but even after the money is made available, even after the keels are laid, months and even years will elapse before this two-ocean Navy actually becomes a reality.

Our shipyards, geared to peacetime needs, must be expanded in great degree; our skilled workmen trained, and all the armament and munitions, and other necessities required on modern battleships must be produced and assembled before the Navy will be ready to take its place on the firing line.

It is no secret that Hitler must crush England and end Democracy there if he is ever to have any hope of keeping the conquered peoples of Europe in subjection. While the people of England are free, and more specially while the people of America preserve unsullied the individual rights and liberties that ever have made this the outstanding land under the sun, conquered down-trodden people of Europe, even the regimented workers of Germany itself, will never entirely accept the peonage that has been thrust upon them.

Yet, with a full knowledge and realization of all this, there are still people in this Country, many of them honest and well-intentioned, who think that we have no concern with the present world struggle, and who honestly believe that we can achieve peace and security by refusing to interest ourselves in their defense.

Fortunately, our responsible public officials, the responsible businessmen and women of America know that this is a delusion. They know that the only way to prevent our ultimate subjection to the forces of might is to prepare ourselves so thoroughly for defense, to guard our possessions so completely with all the most modern weapons of defense, that even the most militaristic and greedy of dictators would be afraid to attack us.

There is a further dangerous state of mind among some Americans. While