

our first line of defense. No more were battleships scrapped. Our Navy became our strongest aim of defense.

Today the interest of every American is directed to the battlefields of Europe, to the skies above Great Britain and to the vast reaches of Asia. Americans today are conscious of the fact that their whole being, their government, their Nation, even civilization itself, are on trial more than three thousand miles away. We are vitally interested in the foreign policy of our government. Isolation does not exist and can never exist for us.

We have been forced to realize that three thousand miles of ocean do not provide security for us. While formerly it was felt that the United States occupied a house of isolation, the shocking fact is that modern aircraft has exploded that theory and the cruel depredations of bombing planes have all too convincingly shown that no land is too far to reach and to bombard.

No wonder then that the American people feel that issues which, in ordinary times, might have been important, now are definitely over-shadowed by the threat to our peace and our security. Tomorrow the greatest peace-time effort for National Defense will find expression in the registration of millions of men between 21 and 35. Henceforth this Country will continue its effort to *prepare for peace*—lasting peace—by preparedness of a kind that will convince any aggressor nation that it dare not attack this Country.

Who is best equipped to "carry on" a program for preparedness of a kind worthy of the name? Should it be the party which failed to prepare adequately or should it be the party with its standard-bearer, the present Chief Executive of the Country, who has manifested a grasp of this complicated and far-reaching problem?

I said above that we are preparing for *peace*. How can we be sure that, under a continuation of the present administration, peace will be our aim. The best proof is that, for seven and a half years, our President has guided the destinies of this Country when international conditions unprecedented in the world's history existed. Everywhere war has been the preoccupation of nations. Everywhere except America. He has carefully guided the ship of state despite the fact that all along the course have been dangerous obstacles placed in the way designedly by nations which either hope to involve us or defiantly took steps that would lead us into the conflict.

This much can be said without equivocation or fear of successful contradiction—that today America is respected by every nation in the world, respected even by the powers that hate us. They respect the strength, the resourcefulness, but above all, the courage of this Country, and the man who has represented to them all these qualities is the President of the United States. He has been our spokesman. Defeat him and observers abroad may well contend that his pronouncements on foreign policy have been repudiated.

The American people must realize that, should there come about a defeat of the present administration, there will be a period of transition between administrations that may last many months. Poland was crushed in 27 days; France in less than two months; time is vital, every day is important. The dictators of Europe would want just such a situation to develop and would be delighted to see National Defense bogged down by a change in administration.

We are asked to exchange seven years of experience, a lifetime devoted to public service, experience that is priceless in times of crisis, and exchange