

your regimental barracks and headquarters—who says—“What crisis are you talking about? There is no danger. This is no emergency. Relax, my friend, and take it easy.”

Now, these men may be quite sincere. Many misguided people are sincere. But, nevertheless and notwithstanding, these men are a menace. They are working against, their own interests—and heaven knows they are working against our interest—the interest of all Americans. They are a monkey wrench in the machinery, a cork in the bottleneck.

No, we cannot shut them up by recourse to law. There is no statute on our books to say that the objector be not allowed to speak. But there is an old American maxim which will serve as an answer to such men. It runs as follows: “If you are not for us, you’re against us.”

Next, is the type of interference that we might call the prehistoric type. I mean by this, the man who is still rattling the old skeleton of peace-time domestic policies. He is prehistoric because old issues—in fact any issue except the one major issue of national security—are as dead as so many doornails.

Yet, incredible as it sounds, there are people at large today who are opposing the policies of 1941 on the issues of 1932. Their arguments would be unobjectionable if there were not so much at stake. Let us be quite frank about it. Our Ship of State is out at sea and there is a storm going on. There is, and there can be, only one Commander. This is a time when all things are magnified by reason of a crisis. A petty jealousy now takes on a dangerous size. Mere obstruction, quite permissible in times of peace under a democracy, becomes a tool for the enemy when that same democracy is preparing against (and I use that word advisedly)—is preparing *against* war. Yes, whoever willfully, by act or word, obstructs the Nation’s effort to prepare—that person is a menace to us all.

And, finally, there are the Sophists in our midst. A sophist is defined in Webster’s dictionary as a “Fallacious reasoner.” He is a man who puts forth false but trickily-worder arguments. You have heard him talk. He says: “The President is forcing us into war.” No, he does not even mention Hitler. He says: “We shall lose our liberties if we fight.” No, he does not mention Britain, which has kept her liberties simply and solely because she *did* fight—and kept on fighting. He says: “We can’t beat Germany. Let’s make a deal with her.”

He has conveniently forgotten that there was once a deal made at a town called Munich, and by men who were called appeasers. He says: “This is not our war. Let’s keep out of it.” The Belgians, the Dutch, the Norwegians—in fact every nation now under the iron heel—thought it was not their war. But the sophist is never stopped by plain example and logical argument. He only stops talking when he is confronted by a deaf ear.

No, it is not enough to have military valor, great leadership, brilliant invention and skilled production. Solidarity at the core! Unity of purpose! There is our strength—that is our salvation. Any one who works for it, is working for America. Anyone who hinders and obstructs it, is aiding Hitler and toward the possible downfall of this citadel of human liberty and decency.