

EASTON DEFENSE MEETING

THE ARMORY

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Easton

TODAY, we face a stern new era in American life. We, peace-loving Nation that we are, face the solemn task of transforming all our tremendous agencies of industrial production from pursuits of peace to pursuits of War. These are grim times, indeed. At last we realize fully, and beyond the shadow of a doubt, that America, leader among the nations of the world, is faced with the necessity of fighting for its very existence. The people of America suddenly and with shocking intensity, have been awakened to the fact that there is only one important objective for our Country to achieve. That objective is the successful termination of the wars in which we now find ourselves engaged, through no will or deed of our own.

Furthermore, we appreciate the imperative necessity of giving to the successful pursuit of these wars every last ounce of our National effort, to the end that the victory sought may be attained as quickly as is humanly possible, and we may thus avoid the continuing havoc and the frightful additional loss of life that would be attendant upon a prolonged struggle.

Sometimes, as we consider the problems that press upon us, as individuals, for solution; and as we contemplate the seriousness of the economic and social disturbances consequent upon our entry into war, we are apt to lose sight of the main objective. We are tempted to engage ourselves so thoroughly in consideration of one another of the lesser problems that we may fail to keep the one salient fact in mind.

Despite tire rationing, despite any or all the losses or sacrifices that may be visited upon us as a people during the coming months, we will fare ill, indeed, unless we keep steadily in mind the all-important fact that it will avail us nothing if we solve all the other problems that face us, and fail to win the war. For to lose this war unquestionably would mean that we would sacrifice, along with territorial and material possessions, some or all of those priceless Democratic privileges and institutions without which there could never be America as we know it.

It is well that in any consideration of ways and means to establish and carry on measures of offense or defense, within the State as well as in connection with the general picture of National Defense, we approach the situation with full realization of the manifold difficulties that face us. No longer, of course, are our people misled by the once all-to-general belief that we had merely to show our fleet to the Japanese to convince them that their cause was hopeless. The shock of Pearl Harbor, with its serious losses; the reverses suffered in Guam, at glorious Wake Island, in the Philippines, have given evi-