

engaged in war industry. This was one out of eleven persons. To achieve the industrial production goals set by President Roosevelt for 1942, the war industries personnel must be increased to 18,000,000, and then raised again to 25,000,000 for 1943. Considering the grand total of man power in our military forces and in war industries in 1943, this will mean that seven out of every twelve men in America must be engaged on either the military front or on the production lines. If we are to accomplish needed results, America must be made to understand that no part-time effort will be accepted. The American Legion can be the spear-head in the drive for an awakened citizenry.

We have unbounded confidence in the grit and in the ultimate fighting power of American forces, regardless of whether they are engaged in combat on land, on sea or in the air. But we will be untrue to these men who are risking their lives for the future of our Nation unless we back them with every ounce of energy and with every resource at our command.

There is the most compelling reason why we should do so. Our Governmental system is the grandest conception ever known to man. Under it oppression cannot exist because the rights of individuals are guaranteed. No dictator could last under our Constitutional form of Government. Regardless of race, or creed, or color, the individual American is a power in his own right, who does not yield one inch in privileges to any other American citizen.

It was a foregone conclusion that we would be drawn into such a war as unleashed by Hitler and the other international gangsters. Their object is to dominate the world. This goal was revealed in the early stages when Europe was being over-run. To reach their goal it was necessary to subdue America, and all that remained was to decide the opportune time to strike.

We are the natural enemies of the tyrants of Europe and Asia. As a natural consequence we could not help but be engulfed in a war that is designed to reduce free peoples and free nations to slavery and to bondage. It is the National Faith of America that human beings must be free and must not be slaves. It is fundamental in American citizenship that men and women must be equal before God, and not be vassals, subject to the will of military overlords. It was inevitable, therefore, that America was compelled to be the antagonist of barbarians to whom religious tolerance and national equality mean absolutely nothing.

And let us not fool ourselves into believing that this feeling is one-sided. We, naturally, despite dictators, but that antipathy is nothing as compared with their resentment against Americans. They have long realized that while America stands, there is the hope of down-trodden peoples of the world. As long as this Nation keeps aflame the torch of liberty, there is a light to lead people out of the wilderness of bondage and of despair.

It can be understood, therefore, how desperate have been their aims against us. Their whole scheme was doomed to defeat as long as a liberty-loving Nation, with power and with resources remained as a guarantor of decency and order and liberty in the world.