

Let us see for ourselves. The Burma Road is virtually closed, the Mediterranean is no longer, (by Mr. Churchill's own admission) a safe passage for British convoys.

Where else can China's embattled people look for supplies except to America? Australia is under seige. Where else than from America can the reinforcements to come?

Russia is girding herself against the inevitable Spring offensive which Hitler must make. Where can the Soviet armies get the tanks, the planes, the ammunition they will need in stupendous quantities, save from us?

With our great industrial citadels, with our vast pool of manpower, we are the only hope for our Allies in China, Australia and Russia. And, likewise, we are the one big threat to our enemies in Japan and Germany. They know that. They will act accordingly. We must expect that the Axis will use every conceivable means of blocking and destroying our output, both in men and supplies.

How then shall we combat these forces—how shall we fight back against their threatened encirclement? Well, there is such a thing as an aggressive defense. It is the very opposite of passive resistance, the very antithesis of the sit-and-wait, the grin-and-bear-it policy. Largely it is a matter of attitude. The spirit of aggressive defense is in the worker who puts that extra ounce of effort and diligence into his job. The spirit of aggressive defense is in the taxpayers who, instead of grumbling at wartime increases, says "Here's another dollar to go where it will do most good." That same spirit is in every citizen who says in his heart—"This is my fight, too. Let my Government ask what it will of me, and I shall not fail to respond."

There are many, many ways in which we can respond. One means of so doing is to open and to maintain a counter-offensive against propaganda and defeatism. The Axis-inspired rumor which goes into your ears but not out of your mouth, is one that has backfired on the enemy. Information regarding the sailing of ships or the movement of troops is valuable to our foes. It is valuable, that is, if it reaches them—it is our business to see that it does not. Living here, as you do, this close to our National Capital, you are bound to hear some over-spilling of confidential talk. It will not hurt you to hear it, but it may hurt us all if you pass it along.

And then there are the several phases of civilian mobilization. The blackouts, in particular; the rationing of foodstuffs and means of transportation; the rearrangement of traffic and time schedules. By their very nature these things, while not spectacular, are important phases of fighting the war; and they require, above all, the cooperation of every citizen.

I wish it could be impressed upon the people of America, that the blackout is not altogether a measure for saving the lives of the people who perform it. Blacking-out a town or city means obscuring the vision of the enemy. It means denying him the advantage of a landmark. Baffle your enemy and you have robbed him of the initiative. You have given him a vanished target at which to shoot. A bomb that misses its mark is a bomb wasted. If we can make Axis