

our energies and attention. As new contingents leave for the training camps, the interest of so many more families is quickened. But it is only when those near and dear to us get close to actual fighting, and to the possibility of death, that we really get down in earnest and make an all-out effort.

Take the several phases of the war effort in which, as civilians, the great bulk of our citizenry can participate. War production has been speeded tremendously, and goals set a few months ago by the President, which at that time seemed absolutely fantastic, now are being attained, and in many cases even exceeded. All credit to the millions of patriotic men and women who are working on this vital war production line! We could not criticize their efforts, which, almost uniformly, have been remarkable. But it will be admitted by anyone, I believe, that if every worker in every war plant had a brother or son in the thick of the fighting, the present production achievements, extraordinary as they have been, would quickly be dwarfed.

In the matter of rationing, as well, we see evidence, unmistakable, of the lack of complete cooperation because of the absence of close personal relationship to what is going on. Automobile tires and gasoline, are almost the lifeblood of our economic and military existence. Yet how many of our people are still disregardful of the general good in the matter of these vital commodities! President Roosevelt has asked for the conservation of tires and rubber by a reduction of speed in driving. He didn't, but he might well have, called to mind the dangers and sacrifices undergone by tanker crews, for instance, to bring gasoline to our Eastern Seaboard cities. Yet every day we see motorists racing up and down our roads, utterly refusing to cooperate in this very vital matter, heedlessly wasting tires and gasoline that conceivably, in the event of a hostile attack, might mean the difference between victory and defeat for our defending forces.

We know, too, that with regard to many other items and commodities that are scarce, or in danger of becoming so, some of our citizens are rushing in to buy large supplies, larger perhaps than they can ever expect to use, and thus making it difficult for others to secure adequate supplies of such things. All of this is inimical to the public good.

Only as every individual citizen realizes that the lessened quantities of the necessities of life, food and the like, that will be possible of procurement from now on, must be available equally to all our people, will the proper distribution be possible. How desirable it is that this be accomplished hardly needs be pointed out. As Americans all, facing the same dangers, enduring the same privations, we must share and share alike as far as possible so that everybody may have some of the things that will be procureable.

If every American right now would take the same personal interest in this war that he would do if he had someone of his immediate family in the fighting forces, or that he would do if the war were being fought within a few miles of us, we would then be able to do what has to be done much more quickly, and the final result, complete victory, would be achieved that much sooner.

No one can deny that the war effort has progressed infinitely better than was the case a few months ago. Nevertheless, there is still in the minds of