

all too many that selfish question "What can I get out of it?" Until we get to the point as a Nation, that our question is "How much can I do, what else can I give?," we will not have achieved anything like the all-out cooperation that is absolutely necessary.

It is somewhat easy to account for the state of mind in which many of our people find themselves. Steps are being taken to correct the condition that has militated against general participation by all our people in the war effort. In the weeks since Pearl Harbor many of our older people, and many women who have passed the age of 35, have been most anxious to offer their services in one way or another, and quite generally their efforts have come to naught. We hear at the State House almost every day, for instance, from some women who have been attempting to secure employment in war industry and have been unsuccessful. After applying to the Employment Service and to several industries, they become disheartened and feel that there is no place for them. Then, when they read in the newspapers of the great need for additional manpower they become bewildered at the situation.

Yet there is ample need and plenty of room in industry for all, men and women, who want to work. Again, we have a state of mind that is changing and that must be changed much more completely before we attain maximum war production. In England they tell us that 40% to 50% of the airplane workers are women. Here in our Country one plant has approximately 15% women workers; a monster airplane plant has about 5% women workers, and many of the other plants have none at all. It is being recognized fully, however, that in many types of precision work particularly, women are much more efficient than men. Paul V. McNutt, recently appointed Chairman of the War Manpower Board, has announced that 1,000,000 additional women will be required in industry this year. So we may look, without any doubt, to a tremendous change in the balance between male and female workers in the war plants before many months have past.

In coming before a PTA group, such as yours, it would seem in order to discuss some particular functions and responsibilities of parents in this emergency. Not only do they have a tremendous responsibility, but also they have the tragic role to play in that they will be called upon to send their loved young men into the Service, and many of them may later hear the sad news that their loved ones have made the supreme sacrifice.

Parents, in such a time as this, have an opportunity to influence to a tremendous extent the attitude of the young people of our Nation and to direct this attitude into correct channels. The young man who is called into Selective Service, for example, will go to his duty in the proper frame of mind if those at home, particularly his parents, adopt the sensible, patriotic attitude. When this young man has arrived in camp, the spirit with which he enters into and performs his duties there will depend to a great extent on the news he hears from home and the inspiration he is given by his parents and family.

On the home front, the question of cooperation in necessary war regulations will depend too, in large measure, upon the parents. As a case in point, reference is made again to the necessity for conserving tires and gasoline.