

if need be, to insure for America of today and of all the tomorrows, continued enjoyment of our American freedoms.

By now all our people finally are beginning to feel the pinch of war. Because of Selective Service, gasoline, tire and sugar rationing, registration of men above 45, and the coming registration of boys of 18 and 19, it is being impressed more and more upon everyone that this Country is embarked upon such a struggle as never before has even been visualized by military experts.

Despite what has happened already, however; despite the serious inconveniences to our accustomed mode of life caused by limitations of various kinds, there may be a tendency on the part of many of our people to believe that everything is being done that will be necessary to insure Victory in this war.

It is timely to emphasize, therefore, that such is hardly the case. There is imperative need that our people comprehend fully the scope and character of the job America has tackled, in lining up with the United Nations to challenge the onrush of the Axis powers. If they come to such full understanding now, perhaps the many and severe additional blows to our National economy and to our individual lives that will be necessary, may be softened to some degree.

In all the talk about plane and tank and ship production, do our people realize that, in setting herself up as the "Arsenal of Democracy," to quote our President's words, America has engaged to build such an Arsenal as the world never before has seen.

As we see the pictures of tanks rolling off the assembly line, or thundering into action in Libya or in Russia, it is generally understood that America is now engaged in building the world's greatest mechanized Army, greatest in both numbers and in total equipment.

The same thing applies to our building program with regard to the merchant marine. Indeed, our success in achieving this production goal may well determine, and in any case certainly will greatly affect, the amount of success to be looked for from all the vast armament and arms production. Nor have we been able to allow ourselves ten years in which to achieve these production records, as Germany and Japan did. All of this must be accomplished within 2 or 3 years. Further, it has to be accomplished without sacrificing any more than is absolutely necessary, the high standard of living that has set the United States apart from every other Nation in the globe.

As we marvel at the reports of production of fighting planes and bombers, of destroyers and cruisers and giant battleships, do we comprehend that the completion of the projected programs in these respects will give us an Air Force and a Navy greater than all the Air Forces of the world, larger than all the Navies of the world?

When it is noted how the initial chaos and bewilderment of December and January has been overcome by the genius of American industrial organization, there is no question in anyone's mind but that everything we have started out to do in this regard will be done. It will be done as *no other nation of the world could possibly do it*. But, at the same time, we must understand, and be prepared to accept the fact, that the doing of all this will cause such strains on our