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Lowering our standard of living, raising our standard of life, 1942.



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LOWERING OUR STANDARD OF LIVING  
RAISING OUR STANDARD OF LIFE

WRHS AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES  
Thoughts on President Roosevelt's Drastic Proposals for  
a National War-Time Economy

By  
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

At  
The Temple

On  
Sunday morning May 3, 1942



My dear Friends:

All mankind is now engaged in a war that reaches not only to the farthest ends of the earth but reaches down to the lowest strata of society. That, of course, is the meaning of total war. Total war means not only the organization of the life of a people to the projection of war but the complete recasting of the economy of the people to processes of war, the employment of each weapon as agencies for war. It also means that everyone is mobilized. Everyone is a participant in it actively either militarily or civilian. Everybody shares the danger of war. Everybody pays the cost of war. There have been more civilians killed in England since the beginning of the war from air-raids and bombing than soldiers dying on the battlefield.

In the type of war in which mankind is engaged there is no Front, no Fighting Front. The one Front -- production. The smooth function of industry, business, conservation and frugality in the home -- all these things are as with important as the weapons/which soldiers fight. They are the force and striking power in the war. They provide the morale and endurance for the war. In the last hundred years war has steadily moved away from the status of a professional army by government, to the democratic type of war when all men are either asked to serve or are drafted into the service, to the present kind of war when all men and women are organized in an all-out war effort. We in the United States thought that we could help free nations win this war merely by giving all-out aid short of war, by lending them or leasing them the wherewithal to prosecute it. We discovered, last December, that this could not be done. This isn't that kind of a war. The Axis nations are out to conquer, subjugate the world, including that part of the world represented by the United States of America...

Of course they have less resources than the free nations have. What they have, they have bent most skillfully and single-mindedly to the processes of war.



Potential wealth is not actual power. It is what you can bring to play at the decisive moment on the fighting sector that determines whether you win or lose, not potential wealth behind you. Of course in the long run, resources, potential wealth do count. But the kind of war in which we are engaged there may be no long run -- the war may be lost.. we were late in getting started, and fortunately, not too late. We realized not too late that in order to win this war it would be not enough to provide other nations with the wherewithal to fight but that we ourselves will have to fight with every ounce of our skill, faith, courage. In the last few months, the American people have tried to catch up for many lost years. One area after another has been pre-empted for war purposes. The war has reached out and taken over so many of our plants, factories, jobs. The war has reached out and taken millions from their homes, professions and transplanted them to military camps, battlefields. The war has imposed upon us rationed priority of all kinds. The war has already touched us in a hundred different ways.

And now new measures have been announced by the President of the United States far more drastic and revolutionary than any before which will touch, finally, every phase of our life in prices, profits, wages, taxes, debts. There will not be a home in these United States that will not feel the impact in a real sense from now on. It will be manifest in our food, in our clothing, in our homes, in our comforts, in our travel in many deprivations and self-denials that we will have to make. That which Great Britain has had to put up with for two and a half years now, the people of the United States will now have to begin to put up with. It is quite clear that the war will make us do with far less than what we civilians are accustomed. It is quite clear that material will be withdrawn, and labor withdrawn from the production and manufacture of consumers' goods, that there will be much less to go around for all of us not only less of luxuries, less of comforts, perhaps also of necessities.



That, of course, means a lower standard of living for all of us. The President of the United States took occasion to tell the American people of the cost of the war. The war costs today one hundred million dollars a day. Before the year is over, the war will cost us two hundred million dollars a day -- figures beyond the grasp of anyone. Two million dollars a day for war cost means practically one and a half dollars a day for practically every man, woman and child a day. These huge sums can not come out of the pockets of rich only. There are not enough of them.

It has been pointed out that the total income, the aggregate of all incomes of \$25,000 and over is less than four billion dollars and the government already takes from twenty-five to eighty percent of these incomes. So the cost of war will not be able to come out of the pockets of the rich alone. Of course the cost of war will not be paid in the next few years. That is clear. It will probably take generations to pay what this war will cost. But all that will be spent during this year. That means that billions of dollars will pour into the pockets of people. That means vast expansion of purchasing power at a time when less and less of consumers' goods are available to purchase. That, of course, means a sharp spiraling. Competition forces the prices up. Inflation sets in and in turn of course brings the value of the dollar down to a vanishing point. That, of course, is the disaster of inflation which over-takes a people which cannot rally price with cost. Purchasing power -- that which is available for purchase -- that leads to economic disaster for everyone -- rich and poor alike. That means panic, collapse. That means being driven to ultimate defeat. That means spending a hundred million marks for a postage stamp.

Now, to avert this disaster the President of the United States proposed a seven-point all aggressive and comprehensive program which which you are acquainted. The total program will avert a disastrous rise in cost of living. It will keep the purchasing power on an even keel. It will impose heavier taxes. Personal profits



will be limited. Corporate profits will be limited to a reasonable low level. No one should object to that. No one should grow rich out of the war. No one has a right to amass a fortune out of this tragic emergency. The President of the United States suggests that no income during the war should exceed, after all taxes are paid, the sum of \$25,000 a year. I have heard men say -- why that restriction, that drastic restriction will curb initiative. Any man who needs that kind of initiative in these kind of times to do his duty by his country in war time is unworthy to be a citizen of the United States. Young men have enough initiative to offer their lives for their country for twenty-one dollars a month. It isn't the twenty-one dollars which is their initiative. It is a sense of duty, patriotism, love of country....

The President proposed a ceiling on prices and rents. He proposed the stabilization of wages. Workers will have to forego higher wages for the duration. It is clear that there is no ceiling put on prices without at the same time putting a ceiling on cost. And cost involves the cost of labor. Wherever, of course, sub-standards still exist among working people, whenever inequalities that can be and should be cleared by the war emergency should not be exploited by labor to force labor increases. That hurts. That does not benefit labor. Since the war began, labor has gained certain advantages. These advantages can be retained provided that prices can be stabilized so that the normal value of wages will correspond to the real value of things. The President suggests the stabilization of farm prices. He suggests that we have large-scale saving on the part of the American people investing whatever we can spare from necessity in war bonds. That takes that much money out of the competitive purchasing market. The President suggests the rationing of all essential commodities which are scarce, and finally the discouragement of all installment buying, the discouragement of contracting new debts, the paying off of old debts.

This is the program to save our economic set-up from disaster during the



war. I suppose that this detail or that detail may be open to criticism. Economics is not an exact science. There is too much of human element, too many unpredictables for the wisest minds, for the most scientifically trained economist to devise an economic arrangement which will be perfect. One will question this detail or that detail in the program especially ~~if~~ as the President suggests, those who find that one or another of the proposals step on their particular toes. But the proposals are clear and sound and to the advantage of. If they are found wanting, I am sure they can be corrected.

What is indicated is the full cooperation, ungrudging cooperation of the laborer, the farmer, the businessman, the public, you and I. What the President has proposed involves definitely sacrifice, hardships, inconvenience. There is no use denying the fact that it will bring about a lowered standard of living. There is nothing to be said for a lowered standard of living, certainly for the masses of people. They could well afford a higher standard of living. The American people, as a whole, have a long way to go before they will reach the desirable standard of living for free men in a great land such as this. The masses of the American people have just come through a cruel economic wilderness of more than a decade, a period of depression, of unemployment, impoverishment. They have suffered much. They can stand from now on more of the necessities of life and a few more of the comforts of life. They are entitled to them. But unfortunately war can not give it to them. War is not national income. It is national expense. It doesn't create wealth. It destroys wealth.

This war has been forced on us. And it must be fought. Because if we lose it we, the American people will lose far more than a few degrees in our standard of living. We along with all other free peoples will lose a standard of life which we have held to be dear and precious ones. The world is struggling today to save for mankind a way of life, a standard of life, a civilization which is built on concepts of human freedom, rights of the individual, good will, peace,



justice in the world. And unless we can save that way of life, why mankind will be hurled back into medieval feudalism where the working man will not<sup>be</sup> reduced in his standard of living, but reduced to actual serfdom. There will be forced labor for the benefit of the elite, the master race.

This war is being waged for civilization. As the President stated: "The price for civilization must be paid for in hard work and sorrow and blood. The price is not too high. And so it is against this larger background of what is involved, against what we are fighting for -- the kind of a world we would like to save and safeguard for our children. When we do so they dwindle in size. They disappear, for the things for which we are asked to sacrifice men throughout the ages, men today are laying down their lives.

If once we can make secure our world and our standard of life, our conception of life, then we may be able to proceed to build up and improve the standard of living for the masses of the world.

And perhaps this very enforced war time regime to which we are submitted, this over all control will teach us a few things that will benefit us in peace time. Perhaps we will come to welcome what now appear to be restraints from cycles of anarchy, chaos and misery in life. Certainly our pre-war free economy was far from perfect. You recall the decade after the last war -- the inflation -- fifteen thousand American multimillionaires, the run-away markets, gambling, speculation, then the panic and the ruin and the closing down of shops and factories, sixteen million unemployed and the misery which stalked this fair land of ours, the soup kitchens and the dole and the bitter strikes, the industrial conflicts. Surely there must be a better way, a juster way, a more profitable way in a land which God has filled with all the things men need to live.

Perhaps our experience in this war will teach us through this process of trial and error to know how good is social control, how much of it should be applied, where it should be applied and where not applied, where individual



enterprize should be encouraged. Perhaps this war will prove to us that we can really get along without millionaires in this country, the few that are surfeited while the many want. Perhaps this war will teach us why in war time people can find jobs and in peace time they have none. Perhaps we will learn to realize the irony, the ghastly, bestial irony of raising our children and educating them and giving them best kind of upbringing only to consign them at the ages of nineteen and twenty to enforced idleness because there is no work. Perhaps we will learn during this war under this new economic regime forced upon us, that when we talk of liberty for ourselves and others in the world, we must in the same breath talk about economic justice. There is no liberty without economic justice.

And so the wise American will look forward with a certain amount anticipation to this rigorous economic regime and social control to what it will teach them, the American people. And also in the generation of the war, we will remember if we are wise, what the wise men of all times have tried to teach us.

There was a wise Greek by the name of Epicurus who once said: "If you wish to make a man rich, do not add to his store of money, but subtract from his desires." Many centuries later, another great philosopher said: "One is ~~not~~ not rich by what one owns, but more by what one is able to do without."

This is good counsel for any time. It is excellent counsel for times such as these, times when days are as big as years, fateful times, The Rabbis called New Years Day Rosh Hashana -- the day in which the world is born. This is the time. Worlds are born, worlds are destroyed....

At such a time/<sup>it</sup> is good for men to remember that only those are poor who are poor in spirit. Poverty in these times is the lack of vision. It is narrowness. It is selfishness of spirit. That is catastrophic poverty in these times. In these times only he is rich who is rich in faith, in hope and loyalty,



in good will in his eagerness to share, to give. We read in that lovely chapter this morning: "Who is rich? He who rejoices in his lot". Not only in material things. That is only a small part really. Who is rich? He who rejoices in his opportunities in an hour such as this to build to help in his humble way to affect history, a man who realizes that he lives in an hour of destiny, in a significant hour and that he has the opportunity for whatever service he has to make to do something significant. That man is rich.

There are times, my friends, when we are to furnish our lives, and other times when we are able to fashion our lives. There are times when we have an opportunity to furnish our lives, to embellish them, gain more comforts and greater security. The moments are rare for individuals and nations when they have an opportunity to fashion, to mold, to determine their lives. This is such a time. This is a time when we can raise the standards of lives for ourselves and for the future. And the price is the temporary lowering of the standard of living. And that is small enough a price to pay. To quote the words of the prophet: "This is the day of the Lord in the Valley of Decision". And at such a time, says the prophet: "Proclaim ye among the nations, Prepare War! Beat your plowshares into swords; And your pruning-hooks into spears. Let the weak say: I am strong!" The vision of the prophets, Micah, Isaiah was that they were looking forward to the timewhen men would beat their swords into plowshares and know war no more. And then cost of war wouldgo into the cost of peace. The millions and billions we have spent on war materials, tanks, explosives would go into the production of better food, better clothes, better educational opportunities, better security for the aged. That is the dream of the prophets. That is the dream of the builders of this country. But we will not be able to realize this dream until the gangster is driven from the earth, until that threat to civilisation is destroyed. When that comes, we shall ~~not~~ be able to do



what our hearts prayerfully yearn for today. In order to destroy that threat, we shall have to convert our plowshares into swords and our pruning hoods into spears, our comforts into war necessities, our standards of living into standards of life. I am confident that we shall not be found wanting.





# Appendix

## The President's Address EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF HON. J. PERCY PRIEST OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 1942

Mr. PRIEST. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I am including here the magnificent and comprehensive address of President Roosevelt delivered to the Nation April 28, 1942:

It is nearly 5 months since we were attacked at Pearl Harbor. For the 2 years prior to that attack this country had been gearing itself up to a high level of production of munitions. Yet our war efforts had done little to dislocate the normal lives of most of us.

Since then we have dispatched strong forces of our Army and Navy to bases and battle fronts thousands of miles from home. We have stepped up our war production on a scale that is testing our industrial power and our engineering genius and our economic structure to the utmost. We have had no illusions about the fact that this would be a tough job—and a long one.

American warships are now in that in the North and South Atlantic, in the Arctic, in the Mediterranean, and in the Indian and South Pacific. American troops have taken stations in South America, Greenland, Iceland, the British Isles, the Near East, the Middle East, the Far East, the Continent of Australia, and many islands of the Pacific. American war planes, manned by Americans, are flying in actual combat over all the continents and all the oceans.

### RUSSIANS KILLING MORE THAN ALL OTHER ALLIES

On the European front the most important development of the past year has been the crushing offensive on the part of the great armies of Russia against the powerful German Army. These Russian forces have destroyed and are destroying more armed power of our enemies—troops, planes, tanks, and guns—than all the other United Nations put together.

In the Mediterranean area, matters remain, on the surface much as they were. But the situation there is receiving very careful attention.

Recently we have received news of a change in government in what we used to know as the Republic of France—a name dear to the hearts of all lovers of liberty—a name and an institution which we hope will soon be restored to full dignity.

Throughout the Nazi occupation of France, we have hoped for the maintenance of a French Government which would strive to regain independence, to reestablish the principles of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity," and to restore the historic culture of France. Our policy has been consistent from the very beginning. However, we are now concerned lest those who have recently come to power may seek to force the brave French people to submission to Nazi despotism.

### UNITED NATIONS TO KEEP AXIS FROM FRENCH LANDS

The United Nations will take measures, if necessary, to prevent the use of French terri-

tory in any part of the world for military purposes by the Axis Powers. The good people of France will readily understand that such action is essential for the United Nations to prevent assistance to the armies or navies or air forces of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

The overwhelming majority of the French people understand that the fight of the United Nations is fundamentally their fight; that our victory means the restoration of a free and independent France—and the saving of France from the slavery which would be imposed upon her by her external enemies and her internal traitors.

We know how the French people really feel. We know that a deep-seated determination to obstruct every step in the Axis plan extends from occupied France, through Vichy France, to the people of their colonies in every ocean and on every continent.

Our planes are helping in the defense of French colonies today, and soon American flying fortresses will be fighting for the liberation of the darkened Continent of Europe.

### MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN FIGHT HITLER'S NEW ORDER

In all the occupied countries there are men, women, and even little children who have never stopped fighting, never stopped resisting, never stopped proving to the Nazis that their so-called new order can never be enforced upon free peoples.

In the German and Italian peoples themselves there is a growing conviction that the cause of nazism and fascism is hopeless—that their political and military leaders have led them along the bitter road which leads not to world conquest but to final defeat. They cannot fail to contrast the present frantic speeches of these leaders with their arrogant boastings of a year ago and 2 years ago.

On the other side of the world, in the Far East, we have passed through a phase of serious losses.

We have inevitably lost control of a large portion of the Philippine Islands. But this whole Nation pays tribute to the Filipino and American officers and men who held out so long on Bataan Peninsula, to those grim and gallant fighters who still hold Corregidor, and to the forces which are still striking effectively at the enemy on Mindanao and other islands.

### SOUTHWARD ADVANCES OF JAPS CHECKED

The Malayan Peninsula and Singapore are in the hands of the enemy; the Netherlands East Indies are almost entirely occupied, though resistance there continues. Many other islands are in the possession of the Japanese. But there is good reason to believe that their southward advance has been checked. Australia, New Zealand, and much other territory will be bases for offensive action—and we are determined that the territory which has been lost will be regained.

The Japanese are pressing their northward advance in Burma with considerable power, driving toward India and China. They have been opposed with great bravery by small British and Chinese forces aided by American flyers.

The news in Burma tonight is not good. The Japanese may cut the Burma Road; but I want to say to the gallant people of China that no matter what advances the Japanese may make, ways will be found to deliver airplanes and munitions of war to the armies of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

We remember that the Chinese people were the first to stand up and fight against the aggressors in this war; and in the future an unconquerable China will play its proper role in maintaining peace and prosperity not only in eastern Asia but in the whole world.

### ENEMY FEELING EFFECTS OF HEAVY LOSSES

For every advance that the Japanese have made since they started their frenzied career of conquest, they have had to pay a very heavy toll in warships, in transports, in planes, and in men. They are feeling the effects of those losses.

It is even reported from Japan that somebody has dropped bombs on Tokyo and on other principal centers of Japanese war industries. If this be true, it is the first time in history that Japan has suffered such indignities.

Although the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor was the immediate cause of our entry into the war, that event found the American people spiritually prepared for war on a world-wide scale. We went into this war fighting. We know what we are fighting for. We realize that the war has become what Hitler originally proclaimed it to be—a total war.

Not all of us can have the privilege of fighting our enemies in distant parts of the world.

Not all of us can have the privilege of working in a munitions factory or shipyard, or on the farms or in oil fields or mines, producing the weapons or the raw materials which are needed by our armed forces.

### EVERYONE CAN HELP ON THE HOME FRONT

But there is one front and one battle where everyone in the United States—every man, woman, and child—is in action, and will be privileged to remain in action throughout this war. That front is right here at home, in our daily lives and in our daily tasks. Here at home everyone will have the privilege of making whatever self-denial is necessary, not only to supply our fighting men, but to keep the economic structure of our country fortified and secure during the war and after the war.

This will require the abandonment not only of luxuries but many other creature comforts.

Every loyal American is aware of his individual responsibility. Whenever I hear anyone saying, "the American people are complacent—they need to be aroused," I feel like asking him to come to Washington and read the mail that floods into the White House and into all departments of this Government. The one question that recurs through all these thousands of letters and messages is, "what more can I do to help my country in winning this war?"

To build the factories, and buy the materials, and pay the labor, and provide the transportation, and equip and feed and house the soldiers, sailors, and marines, and to do all the thousands of things necessary in a war—all cost money, more money than has ever been spent by any nation at any time in the history of the world.

### WE ARE NOW SPENDING HUNDRED MILLION DAILY

We are now spending, solely for war purposes, the sum of about \$100,000,000 every day in the week. But, before this year is over, that almost unbelievable rate of expenditure will be doubled.

All of this money has to be spent—and spent quickly—if we are to produce within the time now available the enormous quantities of weapons of war which we need. But



the spending of these tremendous sums presents grave danger of disaster to our national economy.

When your Government continues to spend these unprecedented sums for munitions month by month and year by year, that money goes into the pocketbooks and bank accounts of the people of the United States. At the same time raw materials and many manufactured goods are necessarily taken away from civilian use, and machinery and factories are being converted to war production.

You do not have to be a professor of economics to see that people with plenty of cash start bidding against each other for scarce goods, the price of them goes up.

#### RESTATES SEVEN POINTS IN ECONOMIC POLICY

Yesterday I submitted to the Congress of the United States a seven-point program of general principles which together could be called the national economic policy for attaining the great objective of keeping the cost of living down.

I repeat them now, in substance:

1. We must, through heavier taxes, keep personal and corporate profits at a low reasonable rate.
2. We must fix ceilings on prices and rents.
3. We must stabilize wages.
4. We must stabilize farm prices.
5. We must put more billions into war bonds.
6. We must ration all essential commodities which are scarce.
7. We must discourage installment buying, and encourage paying off debts and mortgages.

I do not think it is necessary to repeat what I said yesterday to the Congress in discussing these general principles.

#### EACH OF SEVEN POINTS DEPENDENT ON OTHERS

The important thing to remember is that each one of these points is dependent on the others if the whole program is to work.

Some people are already taking the position that every one of the seven points is correct except the one point which steps on their own individual toes. A few seem very willing to approve self-denial—on the part of their neighbors. The only effective course of action is a simultaneous attack on all of the factors which increase the cost of living, in one comprehensive, all-embracing program covering prices, profits, wages, taxes, and debts.

The blunt fact is that every single person in the United States is going to be affected by this program. Some of you will be affected more directly by one or two of these restrictive measures, but all of you will be affected indirectly by all of them.

Are you a businessman or do you own stock in a business corporation? Your profits are going to be cut down to a reasonably low level by taxation. Your income will be subject to higher taxes. Indeed, in these days, when every available dollar should go to the war effort, I do not think that any American citizen should have a net income in excess of \$25,000 per year after payment of taxes.

#### MUST FOREGO LUXURIES TO BUY WAR BONDS

Are you a retailer, or a wholesaler, or a manufacturer, or a farmer, or a landlord? Ceilings are being placed on the prices at which you can sell your goods or rent your property.

Do you work for wages? You will have to forego higher wages for your particular job for the duration of the war.

All of us are used to spending money for things we want, but which are not absolutely essential. We will all have to forego that spending. Because we must put every dime and every dollar we can possibly spare out of our earnings into War Bonds and Stamps. Because the demands of the war effort require the rationing of goods of which there is not enough to go around. Because the stopping of purchases of nonessentials will release

thousands of workers who are needed in the war effort.

As I told the Congress yesterday, "sacrifice" is not the proper word with which to describe this program of self-denial. When at the end of this great struggle we shall have saved our free way of life, we shall have made no sacrifice.

The price for civilization must be paid in hard work and sorrow and blood. The price is not too high. If you doubt it, ask those millions who live today under the tyranny of Hitlerism.

#### CITES SUFFERINGS PEOPLE OF EUROPE HAVE FACED

Ask the workers of France and Norway, whipped to labor by the lash, whether the stabilization of wages is too great a sacrifice.

Ask the farmers of Poland and Denmark, of Czechoslovakia and France, looted of their livestock, starving while their own crops are stolen from their land, whether parity prices are too great a sacrifice.

Ask the businessmen of Europe, whose enterprises have been stolen from their owners, whether the limitation of profits and personal incomes is too great a sacrifice.

Ask the women and children whom Hitler is starving whether the rationing of tires and gasoline and sugar is too great a sacrifice.

We do not have to ask them. They have already given us their agonized answers.

This great war effort must be carried through to its victorious conclusion by the indomitable will and determination of the people.

#### SELFISH INTERESTS MUST BE CAST ASIDE

It must not be impeded by the faint of heart.

It must not be impeded by those who put their own selfish interests above the interests of the Nation.

It must not be impeded by those who pervert honest criticism into falsification of fact.

It must not be impeded by self-styled experts either in economics or military problems who know neither true figures nor geography itself.

It must not be impeded by a few bogus patriots who use the sacred freedom of the press to echo the sentiments of the propagandists in Tokyo and Berlin.

And above all, it shall not be imperiled by the handful of noisy traitors—betrayers of America and of Christianity itself—would-be dictators who in their hearts and souls have yielded to Hitlerism and would have this Republic do likewise.

#### WILL USE FULL POWER TO CARRY OUT POLICIES

I shall use all of the executive power that I have to carry out the policy laid down. If it becomes necessary to ask for any additional legislation in order to attain our objective of preventing a spiral in the cost of living, I shall do so.

I know the American farmer, the American workman, the American businessman. I know that they will gladly embrace this economy of sacrifice—satisfied that it is necessary for the most vital and compelling motive in all their lives—winning through to victory.

Never in the memory of man has there been a war in which the courage, the endurance, and the loyalty of civilians played so vital a part.

Many thousands of civilians all over the world have been and are being killed or maimed by enemy action. Indeed, it was the fortitude of the common people of Britain under fire which enabled that island to stand and prevented Hitler from winning the war in 1940. The ruins of London and Coventry and other cities are today the proudest monument to British heroism.

Our own American civilian population is now relatively safe from such disasters. And, to an ever-increasing extent, our soldiers, sailors, and marines are fighting with great

bravery and great skill on far-distant fronts to make sure that we shall remain safe.

#### CITES HEROIC WORK OF NAVAL PHYSICIAN

I should like to tell you one or two stories about the men we have in our armed forces:

There is, for instance, Dr. Corydon M. Wassell. He was a missionary, well known for his good work in China. He is a simple, modest, retiring man, nearly 60 years old, but he entered the service of his country and was commissioned a lieutenant commander in the Navy.

Dr. Wassell was assigned to duty in Java, caring for wounded officers and men of the cruisers *Houston* and *Marblehead*, which had been in heavy action in the Java seas.

When the Japanese advanced across the island it was decided to evacuate as many as possible of the wounded to Australia. But about 12 of the men were so badly wounded that they could not be moved. Dr. Wassell remained with these men, knowing that he would be captured by the enemy. But he decided to make a desperate attempt to get the men out of Java. He asked each of them if he wished to take the chance, and everyone agreed.

#### CHRISTLIKE SHEPHERD DEVOTED TO HIS FLOCK

He first had to get the 12 men to the sea coast—50 miles away. To do this he had to improvise stretchers for the hazardous journey. The men were suffering severely, but Dr. Wassell kept them alive by his skill, and inspired them by his own courage.

As the official report said, Dr. Wassell was "almost like a Christlike shepherd devoted to his flock."

On the sea coast, he embarked the men on a little Dutch ship. They were bombed and machine gunned by waves of Japanese planes. Dr. Wassell took virtual command of the ship, and by great skill avoided destruction, hiding in small bays and inlets.

A few days later, Dr. Wassell and his little flock of wounded men reached Australia safely.

Dr. Wassell now wears the Navy Cross.

#### TELLS OF EXPLOITS OF SUBMARINE "SQUALUS"

Another story concerns a ship rather than an individual man.

You may remember the tragic sinking of the submarine *Squalus* off the New England coast in the summer of 1939. Some of the crew were lost, but others were saved by the speed and efficiency of the surface rescue crews. The *Squalus* itself was tediously raised from the bottom of the ocean.

Eventually she sailed again under a new name, the U. S. S. *Sailfish*. Today, she is a potent and effective unit of our submarine fleet.

The *Sailfish* has covered many thousands of miles in operations in the far western Pacific.

She has sunk a Japanese destroyer.

She has torpedoed a Japanese cruiser.

She has made two torpedo hits on a Japanese aircraft carrier.

#### THREE OF RESCUED MEN STILL ON "SQUALUS"

Three of the enlisted men of our Navy who went down with the *Squalus* in 1939 are today serving on the same ship, the *Sailfish*, in this war.

It is heartening to know that the *Squalus*, once given up as lost, rose from the depths to fight for our country in time of peril.

One more story, which I heard only this morning:

This is a story of one of our Army flying fortresses operating in the Western Pacific. The pilot of this plane is a modest young man, proud of his crew for one of the toughest fights a bomber has yet experienced.

The bomber departed from its base, as part of a flight of five, to attack Japanese transports which were landing troops in the Philippines. When they had gone about half way to their destination one of the motors of this bomber went out of commission. The



1/ War extends to farthest end - horizontally - meaning of Total War -  
complete recasting - all weapons - all science - every agency  
affects + requires everyone - Everyone is mobilized - all participate  
actively military and civilian - All share danger - 65.000 - Eng.  
Home Front as important as Fighting Front - only one Front -  
Production in - Smooth + uninterrupted functioning of labor, industry  
and business - Conservation + Frugality - home - build up  
Force, striking Power - Endurance & Morale  
War has steadily worked - preparation is being - Total pop. is  
organized for all-out war effort -

2/ We thought we could help others - all out and - End - France -  
Could not be! We lost - Gangster nations out to  
They are powerful - prepared - ruthless - treacherous - "after us the Deluge"  
They have less resources - but what they have they have bent  
skillfully - unflinchingly -  
Potential wealth is not actual power! What you can bring  
to the long-run, of course -

3/ We are late - but not too late! We realized not too late - have  
to fight with energy - strength - skill - courage - faith  
last few months - catching up on last years  
one area after another - prepared for -  
war reached over 1000 plants - converted - established nations  
curts, frontiers - took men - in a 100 other ways

4/ And now - new measures announced by Pres. - new drastic  
affect every phase - Prices - Profits - Wages - Taxes - Debts -  
From now on - no hoarding - 2 1/2 % for England  
Food - Clothing - Can Lab Travel - Income - Depreciation -



Material + labor with drawn - much less to go around (2)  
not only luxuries - but creature comforts.  
That means a lower standard of living!  
Cost of war enormous - 100 M. - 200 M. = \$1 1/2 per day  
cannot all come out of pockets of rich - not enough of  
them. Total of all Am. incomes over 25,000 less 4 B -  
+ Govt. is already taking from 25-50% of rich incomes  
not all paid in next few war years - generations -  
But all will be spent - Billions will pass - as result  
of Govt. expenditures - vast expansion of purchasing power  
at a time less & less of consumer goods - competition  
force prices up up - inflation takes - thrust dollar  
cost of living mounts spirally - wages try to keep pace -  
hard race ends in disaster -

5. To avert - 7 Point program - comprehensive, all embracing
- (1) Heavier Taxes - Personal & corporate profits - at low level -  
no one should get rich out of war! Annals of the American People  
in which millions - Net income \$25,000 - "Extraneous" \$1
  - (2) Ceiling on Prices - Rents -
  - (3) Stabilization of wages - workers will have to pay higher wages  
for duration - no ceiling on prices unless costs (labor)  
stabilized. Otherwise sub-standard - inequalities -  
exaggerated. Emergency should not be exploited - free  
wage increases - Since war, labor has gained certain  
advantages - returned. If prices are stabilized.
  - (4) Stabilization of Farm Prices -
  - (5) Savings - Billions in war bonds - (compulsory, if necessary)
  - (6) Rationing all essential commodities which are scarce -



① Disengage installment buying (debts). - Encourage paying off  
debts mortgages -

6/ Details given to contractors. - Economies will exist some will question - step on their particular toes  
Clear, sound, necessary - to ultimate advantage of all  
When found wanting - will be corrected

7/ Full, unqualified Cooperation! Labor - Farmers - Men - Women - People.  
These are sacrifices - inconveniences - hardships - no doubt all of  
Lower Standard, living for all - nothing to be said for it - Ex. Maria  
could well afford another set! Long way to go!  
Long period of econ. holderness - Depression - hardship - discomfort  
could stand more, necessities - a few more comforts -  
Their right - in this land - abundance!  
But we can't give it to them! We're that expense - not  
income! Drains away wealth - not increases it!

8/ We're faced as we - must be fought - If we lose - less now  
7 a degree or two in Standard, living - The whole Standard  
of life - collapses -  
World has to struggle to-day to save a Standard of life - a civilization  
freedom etc - unless this is done - go back to Med. Feudalistic  
Standard living, all (except a few) = serfs - forced labor -  
"The price for civilization must be paid for in hard work and  
weir and blood" The price is not too high." (Dr. J. B. Clark)  
Against this large back-ground - size of our own self demands  
demands - demands - men have died for things for which are



(9)  
If we can once make secure our world & its standards we  
can then proceed to build up & improve standards, living -

9. Perhaps this enforced war-time regimen - this over-all control  
will teach us a few things - for peace time.

Perhaps we shall come to welcome some of the restraints - for  
sake of averting our former chaos, anarchy & confusion.

Certainly our pre-war free economy was far from perfect - Inflation

Born - 15,000 Millionaire - Run-a-way market - Prices - Ruin

16 M. unemployed - Soup Kitchens & doles - Strikes -

Surely there must be - better way! how decent - secure - better?

Perhaps our exp. in this war will, then that & then, show us how  
good is social control - how much of it - how much of private  
enterprise

Whether we can really get along without millionaires? the few  
that are supported while the many want?

Learn why work can be found for all within - and in peace &

Educate - idleness! in many

Unbearable report - to work - force

Unhealthy - Justice -



# MISSING PAGE (S)









7/ There are times when we perish our lives and other times when we perish them.

This is the time - a cruel twisted time - when ~~by~~ <sup>through</sup> ~~abuses~~ <sup>abuses</sup> & ~~scandals~~ <sup>scandals</sup> & ~~deceptions~~ <sup>deceptions</sup> we are called upon to perish them - after ~~the~~ a nobler pattern - to raise the standard of our life - by lowering the standard living -  
"This is the day of the Lord in the valley of abominations"

"Proclaim ye among the nations, Prepare War!"  
{ Beat your plowshares into swords  
{ And your pruning-hooks into spears.  
{ Let the weak say: I am strong!

