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Do We Need a Second Front?

Both here and in England millions of people seem to consider themselves completely qualified experts on military tactics and strategy. They know precisely what is wrong with the United Nations' High Commands, and they are convinced that they could remedy matters in short order if they were put in charge. That widespread attitude underlies the aggressive demand that the British and the Americans immediately open a second front in Europe.

In theory, the second front would be of immense benefit to the Allied cause. It would divert men and machines and suplies from Hitlers' Russian and African offensives. It would give the conquered people of France their opportunity to rise up against their conqueror and help destroy him. It would mark the start of a real effort to break Axis power at home—where Axis power must eventually be broken.

So much for theory. In actual fact, opening the second front now would be one of the most hazardous opertions in all military history. According to all reports, the Germans have done wonders in fortifying their continental positions. In France alone, they have about 300,000 seasoned troops which have been rigorously trained in preparation for an Allied invasion. These troops have abundant equipment of the first quality, and they have plenty of air suport. Their supply lines are secure and they lie across land, not across water. The Germns have massed a gigntic mount of heavy artillery, much of it taken from the MaginotLine along the French Coast, and every possible invasion point is a fortress.

As military history proves again and again, an over water invasion of enemy-held territory is the most difficult of all martial operations—even after their complete victory at Dunkirk, when British military power was all but destroyed, the Nazi generals didn't feel confident enough of success to make the attempt. The enemy positions must be "softened" first by days and perhaps weeks of artilley fire—and guns do not exist which can adequately shell the German positions from the British side of the Channel. As a substitute for artillery, dive bombers would have to be used—and their losses would be enormous.

The losses in men which would follow when the stage of landing operations was reached, is also staggering. Without artillery support, the landing troops would have to advance against completely shielded defenders with a vast superiority in firepower. Writing in Collier's, Quentin Reynolds,one of the best informed of war correspondents, draws a vivid and probably accurate picture when he says: "Let those who shout the loudest for the immediate establishment of a second front in France. . . . . visualize for a moment the cost, in equipment and life. Let them visualize the waters of the Channel running blood red under a white moon, and let them visualize the bodies of thousands of British and American soldiers floating in those waters. If the persuasive eloquence of the second front brigade is followed, no other result is possible."

This does not mean that a second front is impossible. To the contrary, every really informed military man is convinced that one will be opened in time. But it cannot be opened until everything is ready. That means that, first, there must be many more bombings of Germany and the Continent on the Cologne scale. It means that Allied troops must be given more and better equipment than they now possess. And it means that ways must be found of causing distracting trouble for Germany at home.

Some experts believe that airpower alone may create a second front. They look forward to a time when three, four, five thousand major bombers will be used nightly in raids against the Axis. Major de Seversky is the most eloquent exponent of this doctrine and his recent best seller,"Victory Through Air Power," is a convincing work. The problems involved here are those of production, supply and coordination—and the last two are even more important than the first. We are producing planes on an ever-increasing scale. We have not yet solved the difficulties that lie in taking them, their fuel, their crews and their parts to the battlefronts and keeping them flying.

In any event, many of those who demand a second front at once are terribly un informed. The High Command has not opened a second front simply because it knows that the time is not yet ripe—and because it also knows that the United Nations must not be subjected to another defeat of the Dunkirk, Singapore, Philippines, and East Indies variety. A great amount of groundwork lies ahead before we can really start a sustained offensive drive of any kind against either Germany or Japan.

NOT TOO HOT — NOT TOO COLD

The Case of the Eight Saboteurs

In times of war the purposefulness and worth of our actions should be judged by only one standard; namely, to what extent does such an action aid (or hinder) our war effort. With this criterion in mind it is more than disappointing to watch the almost farcial turn that the protracted trial of the Nazi saboteurs took.

These eight sinister messengers of underhand war sneaked unto our shores in the dark to perpetuate wholesale destruction and murder. They were well provisioned with most ingenious and deadly weapons; they were caught red-handed disguised in civilian clothing. Justice should have befallen them swift and exemplary so as to impress all of us at home as well as the rest of the world that we are in a grim war up to our necks and that we mean business.

As matters stand now, what possible useful purpose could this extended judicial spectacle serve?The argument that we want to impress the German people with the sort of justice meted out in our country as compared with Nazi justice is absurb. We all know that there is no possible way for them to find out about it till the war is over and then they will have other things to worry about.

This super-generosity and broad-mindedness to an enemy who aims to conquer and enslave us may be dangerous folly. We persist in fighting a gentlemen's war with brigands; we hope to stick gorillas with kid gloves. Perhaps we had better throw etiquette overboard and nail our punch?

Back Yard Saboteurs

The enormous importance of fire waste in wartime can be very simply illustrated. It is a serious loss when, in action, the enemy destroys a few United Nations tanks, planes and ships. The loss is infinitely greater, infinitely more beneficial to the enemy, if the fire blocks production in the plants which make those tanks, planes and ships. This is a war of machines, a war of unprecedented production. The home front, with its producing factories, is the heart of the war effort.

Most of us have considered the grim possibility of sabotage directed against war industries. That is a definite and ever-present danger, as the recent capture of a member of enemy agents by the FBI dramatically proved. Combating sabotage is an activity which must be carried on by our law-enforcement bodies, with the full cooperation of industrial management and workers. But, while we think of sabotage we must not lose sight of the ordinary "normal" fires which can be equally dangerous.

It doesn't make much difference whether a fire is started by a Nazi saboteur or by a careless, loyal American. Either one can be equally destructive. If fire really is to be controlled, and the gigantic waste reduced, all of us must act—must learn the lessons and take the simple precautions that will eliminate most fire hazards.

What is Inflation?

Donald M. Nelson recently described "inflation" as: "A continuing chain of runaway prices," and he added, "the dangerous part about it is that what goes up must come down. It comes down faster and harder than it goes up. If our prices spiral up in the midst of this war economy, they will sooner or later come down with a terrible crash. Some day this war will be over. If we have a crash when it ends, it's going to be awfully hard to pick up the pieces. In that event, as our boys come out of the Army and Navy we'd have no jobs for them. I honestly believe we would have an economic crack-up that our nation simply could not stand."

Business on The Up and Up

The annual rate of the national income for 1938 was 64 billion dollars and the upward climb continued till the peak is now reported by the United States Department of Commerce as having reached more than 108 billion dollars a year.

On the face of the official statement business is on the upand up—but it is not necessary to tell you that national incomes is due to a very expensive war. Corporate savings have apparently increased.But the balance sheets are bogged down by the constant increase in taxation. Wages of employes in war production have been on the up and up.

The figures are too complicated to be easily understood by newspaper writers—or anybody else. However, the Department of Commerce says: "Corporate profits after about eight per cent in the first reported tax deduction dropped off quarter of 1942."

So when you read sensational reports to the effect that a few slick business men have been putting-it-over on the Government and getting more than their share for the jobs they have been doing, you may rest assured that cases like that are unusual.

Charges from the House Military Committee that the Government is doing "reckless spending" does not simply criticism of big or small business. The charge of "reckless spending" is always made in war times.

The reasons are easy to trace. Stated briefly: The Government has taken over all the big manufacturing plants in the country, and in the hurry to do the job there have been the usual number of mistakes. Wars are twice as costly as peace and that is why there are twice as many cases in which extravagance and waste have occurred.

Up to date blame for this condition cannot be definitely traced to Congress. Neither can it be laid entirely upon the Administration. It would seem fair to charge it up to these great big fellows who are legion in Washington. Just call them "Confusion."

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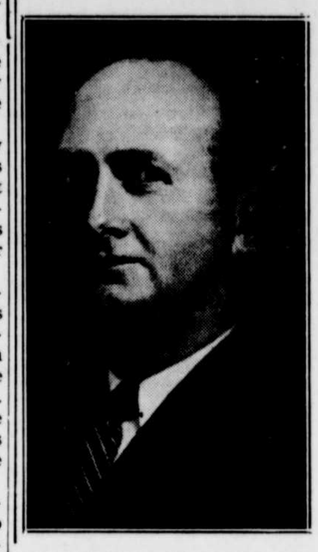

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Well suited for that important office in which he has been tried and tested for two years.

Never in this Circuit has the sitting Judge been refused the nomination for election to the Judicial office occupied by him.

By Authority of Joseph N. Wheatley, Political Agent.

A Statement To The People Of Queen Anne's County

Three Judges are to be elected this year for the full term of fifteen years. No office is of greater importance. Most persons never have occasion in a life-time to deal with courts; at the same time, no person knows when his property, his liberty or even his life, may be so involved. At such a time, the character, fitness and experience of his Judges transcends all else in importance.

Age is one measure of experince. I am fifty-five years of age, and as it happens, I am older than any other candidate or sitting Judge except Judge Evans.

I realize that age alone is only one element of fitness; but I have also spent twenty-seven years in active and varied practice in Cecil and other Counties and Baltimore City. I have prepared and argued numerous cases in County Courts, the Maryland Court of Appeals and the Federal Courts. The sum of all this is experience. It comes only with the lapse of time.

I hope these facts may have the consideration of the Democratic voters on September eighth.

FLOYD J. KINTNER

Published by authority of R. J. McCauley, political Agent.

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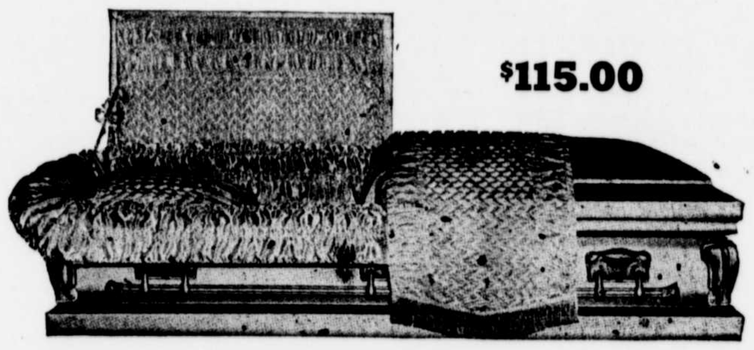

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