

IN A TOTAL WAR, THERE IS NO CEILING ON THE DUTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN. YOU, AS MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS DEFENSE GUARD, HAVE EVIDENCED YOUR AWARENESS OF THE REALITIES OF THIS WAR; AND YOU, BECAUSE YOU REPRESENT SUBSTANTIAL ELEMENTS IN YOUR RESPECTIVE HOME COMMUNITIES, CAN RENDER STILL FURTHER SERVICE TO YOUR ~~COMMUNX~~ COUNTRY.

BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN TO AN ACTIVE FRONT -- AND RETURNED -- I AM A FORTUNATE MAN. I SAY FORTUNATE BECAUSE A TRAVELING COMPANION AND CLOSE FRIEND WAS SHOT DOWN BY JAP ZEROS, <sup>Fortunate because</sup> WHICH THE PLANE IN WHICH I TRAVELED ESCAPED, ~~ONLY BECAUSE OF ENGINE TROUBLE A FEW SECONDS BEFORE THEY SPOTTED US;~~ FORTUNATE BECAUSE WHEN I CONTRACTED A TROPICAL FEVER, <sup>and pneumonia</sup> I HAPPENED TO BE AT A BASE WHERE HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL FACILITIES WERE ADEQUATE.

THIS GOOD FORTUNE I MENTION TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAS BECOME WITH ME ALMOST AN ALL-ENGROSSING INTEREST: THE DETERMINATION TO DO ALL WITHIN MY POWER TO SEE TO IT THAT OUR FIGHTING MEN, <sup>EVER</sup> WHERE THEY ARE STATIONED AT THE EARTH'S FOUR CORNERS, SHALL HAVE ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT.

GUNS AND PLANES, WEAPONS OF EVERY KIND, IN THE HANDS OF AMERICAN FIGHTERS, <sup>in quantity + quality</sup> SHOULD EQUAL OR SURPASS THOSE OF ANY OTHER NATION. SO LONG AS THERE IS ANY DOUBT ON THAT SCORE, NONE OF US AT HOME ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> REST. WE HAVE THE BEST FIGHTING MEN IN THE WORLD. BUT NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE FIGHTING MAN MAY BE, HE IS INFERIOR TO AN ENEMY WITH SUPERIOR EQUIPMENT.

THERE IS NO NEED, OR DISPOSITION, TO RECOUNT PAST MISTAKES. THE ~~BURMEX~~ BARUCH COMMITTEE WELL SAID THAT IT WAS CONCERNED WITH THE PAST RECORD ONLY INSOFAR AS IT CAST LIGHT ON PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE. BUT, THE COMMITTEE ADDED, WRONGS OF THE PAST CANNOT BE

BE CITED AS A DEFENSE FOR MISTAKES OF THE FUTURE. THOSE STATEMENTS SHOULD APPLY NOT ONLY TO THE RUBBER CRISIS, ABOUT WHICH THE BARUCH COMMITTEE WAS TALKING, BUT TO THE WHOLE WAR EFFORT. WE MUST FIRST FACE THE FACT THAT GRAVE MISTAKES HAVE BEEN MADE; MISTAKES THAT COST LIVES. THEN WE CAN DETERMINE THAT THOSE SAME MISTAKES, AT LEAST ARE ~~REPEATED~~ <sup>not</sup> REPEATED.

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT FROM THOSE WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF OUR WAR EFFORT -- THOSE ON THE FIGHTING FRONTS AND THOSE ON THE PRODUCTION FRONTS -- THAT THEY SHALL DO THE JOB. BUT MORE THAN THAT MERE RIGHT, THERE IS A <sup>cap</sup> DUTY UPON US TO DEMAND THAT THEY DO THE JOB. WE'VE ALL BEEN DEALT A HAND IN THIS GAME IN WHICH THE STAKES ARE UNIMAGINABLE HIGH -- <sup>cap</sup> LIFE AND FREEDOM.

HOW EACH OF US IS TO DISCHARGE THAT DUTY IS HIS PERSONAL PROBLEM. CERTAINLY EACH OF US CAN BE ETERNALLY VIGILANT; CERTAINLY EACH OF US CAN LET THOSE IN WHOM WE HAVE ENTRUSTED LEADERSHIP KNOW THAT WE DISAPPROVE -- OR APPROVE -- OF HIS CONDUCT. WE CAN KEEP OURSELVES INFORMED BY ~~THE~~ STUDYING THE REPORTS OF THE EXPERTS ON THE NUMEROUS SUBJECTS INCIDENT TO THE WAR. WE CAN LISTEN TO WHAT OUR FIGHTING MEN TELL US, AND PASS THE WORD ALONG TO THOSE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ACT ON THEIR EXPERIENCES.

THERE MUST BE UNITY IN THIS NATION TO PROSECUTE A SUCCESSFUL WAR; BUT UNITY DOES NOT NECESSARILY ~~ENBRACE~~ MEAN SILENCE IN THE FACE OF KNOWN EVILS. TO PARAPHRASE THE FIRST ROOSEVELT, THE MAN WHO NEVER MADE A MISTAKE IS THE MAN WHO NEVER DID ANYTHING; BUT TOO MANY MISTAKES ~~WILL LOSE US THIS WAR.~~ <sup>mean unnecessary & unnecessary expenditures in</sup> ~~costing~~ <sup>mean</sup> blood and dollars.

In a total War, there is no ceiling on the duty of the individual citizen. You, as members of the Texas Defense Guard, have evidenced your awareness of the realities of this War; and you, because you represent substantial elements in your respective home communities, can render still further service to your Country.

Because I have been to an active front -- and returned -- I am a fortunate man. I say fortunate because a traveling companion and close friend was shot down by Jap Zeros, while the plane in which I traveled escaped; fortunate because when I contracted a tropical fever and pneumonia, I happened to be near a base where hospital and medical facilities were available.

This good fortune I mention to explain what has become with me almost an all-engrossing interest; The determination to do all within my power to see to it that our fighting men, wherever they are stationed at the earth's four corners, shall have adequate equipment.

Guns and planes, weapons of every kind, in the hands of American fighters in quantity and quality should equal or surpass those of any other Nation. So long as there is any doubt on that score, none of us at home can rest. We have the best fighting men in the world. But no matter how good the fighting man may be, he is inferior to an enemy with superior equipment.

There is no need, or disposition, to recount past mistakes. The Baruch Committee well said that it was concerned with the past record only insofar as it cast light on problems of the future. But, the Committee added, wrongs of the past cannot be cited as a defense for mistakes of the future. Those statements should apply not only to the rubber crisis, about which the Baruch Committee was talking, but to the whole War effort. We must first face the fact that grave mistakes have been made; mistakes that cost lives. Then we can determine that those same mistakes, at least, are not repeated.

We have a right to expect from those who are in charge of our War effort -- those on the fighting fronts and those on the production fronts -- that they shall do the job. But more than that mere right, there is a DUTY upon us to demand that they do the job. We've all been dealt a hand in this game in which the stakes are unimaginably high -- LIFE and FREEDOM.

How each of us is to discharge that duty is his personal problem. Certainly each of us can be eternally vigilant; certainly each of us can let those in whom we have entrusted leadership know that we approve -- or disapprove -- of his conduct. We can keep ourselves informed by studying the reports of the experts on the numerous subjects incident to the War. We can listen to what our fighting men tell us, and pass the word along to those in a better position to act on their experiences.

There must be unity in this Nation to prosecute a successful War; but unity does not necessarily mean silence in the face of known evils. To paraphrase the first Roosevelt, the man who never made a mistake is the man who never did anything; but too many mistakes mean unreasonable and unnecessary expenditures in blood and dollars.

In a total War, there is no ceiling on the duty of the individual citizen. You, as members of the ~~Texas Defense Guard~~, *Smithville Post* have evidenced your awareness of the realities of this War; and you, because you represent substantial elements in your respective home communities, can render still further service to your Country.

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