

SPEECH TO BE MADE BY  
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On the night of June 29, 1944, a meeting of military importance took place in the White House. General Marshall was there. So also were Admiral King and General Arnold. These military leaders placed in the hands of the President of the United States the first joint message they had addressed to the people of the nation since the beginning of the war. They had just returned from Normandy. They brought with them a stirring report of how the American soldier had met his enemy and driven him out of a stronghold he thought he was going to possess forever. That part of the report that related to the valiant fighting of the American soldiers was expressed with a moving pride that is always experienced by the true American officer when he speaks of a new glory that has been brought to American arms. The youth of America had met the veterans of the German army and they had out-matched them with both courage and skill, the military leaders declared. Through President Roosevelt they announced to the American people that the army and the navy are now ready for any sacrifice demanded in the name of victory. However, the report was not confined to the fighting front alone. It had something of importance to say about the home front. It sounded a grim warning; a warning, which, if ignored, will assuredly result in a delayed peace and in unnecessary casualties.

It spoke to American industry and to American labor in the forceful and ~~in~~ the truthful manner which becomes the duty of a conscientious officer when possible death faces the men under his command. In words that should be posted on the walls of every war industry and carried in the hearts of every man and woman making implements of war, they uttered the following warning -- I quote:

"The battles now in progress entail heavy losses in material which American industry must replace, and any slackening in the needed production will only delay ultimate victory.

"No effort required in the home front battle should be diverted by any element in the production machine -- whether it be ownership, management, rank-and-file workers, or those in the service of the Government itself.

"The recent favorable source of the fighting seems to have persuaded some people that the war is as good as won, and that accordingly they can throw up their war jobs and go back to civilian life. No doubt most of the men at the front would also like easier and better paid peace-time jobs; but they are sticking to the jobs they have now."

"There is still a ~~tough~~ <sup>hard</sup> fight ahead of us. Anyone can see that desertions on the fighting fronts would protract the war and reduce our prospects of victory. Desertions on the home front would tend to the same result. The

"wer is not yet won; it will be won the sooner if everybody in war work sticks to his job till complete victory has been attained." ~~End of quotation.~~

Strong men do not use feeble words in days that call for the ceaseless vigor and loyalty of a nation at war. Military leaders of character and ability do not use the word "desertion" carelessly. The soldier shrinks in dread before the sound of the word. It is the last one he ever wishes to hear. And yet, in viewing some deplorable conditions that confront the entire nation today, these observing military leaders found it necessary to use this unpleasant word. They found it necessary because war production is being deserted -- it is not up to schedule, it is delayed, it is being deserted -- it is not being delivered on time. They did not use the soft-toned word "absenteeism." That is a word that is used only in civilian life. In military life, language oftentimes is necessarily rough and tough, but it is nearly always accurate. Why should it be otherwise when all of our civilian activities are actually engaged in waging a war by supplying the weapons of battle.

War production is being held back in Boston and in all New England because of a lack of manpower. The peak of production may not be reached until the fall or winter of this year. The situation in cotton textiles is very serious. Many mills that should run on three shifts are working only one. The demand of the Navy for certain types of ships has increased. The forge and foundry industry that produces for heavy trucks, tanks, heavy artillery, landing craft, ships and planes has reached a point of under-production and a labor shortage that constitutes a real crisis. ~~The entire home front war production~~

The Navy's production program is still increasing. The last six months of 1944 will show an increase in production of approximately 10% over the first six months of this year, and the program for the early months of 1945 will be approximately 3% greater than the present rate of production.

As quickly as possible the United States offensive in the Pacific will be mounted to its full fury. Every minute a fighting ship is laid up for repairs in a yard, the full force of attack is delayed that minute. We've got to get them back out there fast. That requires additional workers in ship repair yards.

~~As we approach nearer and nearer Japan~~

~~A few days ago at a single repair yard on the West Coast 39 ships turned up suddenly for repairs to battle damages suffered in the Marianas. Obsolescence, wearing them out, is taking a heavier toll of the Navy's fighting aircraft in the Pacific than are the Japs. Success in Europe will not affect the Navy's aircraft production program.~~

As we approach nearer and nearer Japan the tempo will increase and the necessity for more and more supplies available at the proper place, and time will become more and more vital to our success. We therefore call upon all of you, regardless of peace talk and developments in Europe, to stick on your jobs -- back up the Navy and the Army -- and prepare them to pour on the Japanese the cumulative power of our fleet and our production lines. Our battle of production will end only with the defeat of Japan.

The need for heavy trucks by the Army is tremendous and is increasing. Both the Allies and the Nazis have concentrated on destroying transportation systems. Railroads near and behind the battle fronts are useless. At many points our offensive is slowed entirely by the lack of transportation. The farther the enemy is pushed back, the more trucks the Allies need to maintain their offensive, to capitalize on the disorders of retreat, and to cover the longer distances.

From a purely military view-point, there is nothing to warrant the optimism that has been displayed in New England since the news of the disturbances inside the German General staff became known. As a matter of fact, the news from the Far East is far from good. China is slowly being knocked out of the war and this means a long job for the Army and Navy.

General MacArthur needs tents badly because the Pacific advance is so fast wooden barracks are left behind.

The major shortages are in the back-breaking, body-toasting low-wage industries, where production usually falls off in hot weather. This summer it has dropped even more sharply, as good war news has sent workers into more attractive, more secure civilian jobs.

Lieutenant General Somervell is getting urgent requests from Eisenhower, Clark, and MacArthur for more and more weapons and equipment. There are acute shortages in eleven vital production fields, -- foundries and forges, artillery, heavy ammunition, electronics, heavy tires, steel plates, tanks, tank destroyers, dry-cell batteries, cotton textiles, TNT and other explosives.

There is a need for 300% more heavy shells than anticipated due to the increasing use of massed fire-power. At the same time there was less manpower in U. S. foundries and forges than there had been on May 1, <sup>1944</sup> Workers' failure to sweat it out in the toughest, most thankless war production jobs may ultimately be measured in loss to American lives.

The fighting is far from over and this is the time to put on pressure, - not to relax.

All Army Service personnel and employees in Arsenals and depots are ordered on a 54-hour work week -- 9 hours a day, 6 days a week. The Army is setting an example in keeping with its demand for increased output of war production.

This does not seem to be the time for anyone on the homefront to hold up the expectation of an early return to the ways of peace -- it is rather the time to inspire a grim determination to go forward with the War.

~~We are just in the seventh inning of this game, and we are trying to get everybody to stay in the game until it is over, as far as war production is concerned.~~

problem is one that challenges the loyalty of us all; and we must face it resolutely.

Do we at home wish to protract the war? Do we at home wish to reduce our prospects of victory? If not, then let us grapple with this menace of absenteeism or desertions from war jobs until it has completely disappeared from the entire industrial scene. And we can do it. We can destroy this menace, if we make up our minds to do so. Loyal men and loyal women can overcome and crush any menace that endangers the honor of the home front. It was with this determination in mind that the War Manpower Commission inaugurated LOYALTY WEEK. At this hour there is a serious need for an increased loyalty from the war producers of metropolitan Boston.

A feeling of optimism that has no right to exist has been sweeping over all <sup>the</sup> nation with an alarming speed, and it has filtered down into a great number of war industries. We know the reason for this optimism. It may be traced to the crushing defeats being inflicted upon the enemy in the Pacific zone and the telling blows that are deflating German arrogance and brutality in France.

The daily news that comes from all theatres of war clearly indicates that we will win this war. But there is not the slightest indication as to when it will be won. All military authority is silent when the question is asked, "When will the war be over?" They do not know. No living man knows. All that is known by those who are responsible for the winning of this war is that it is dangerous strategy to move men away from the battle areas when the enemy is being weakened and pushed back to the walls of ultimate disaster. At such a time the service of supplies becomes of first and paramount importance. As the intensity of the war increases casualties of both men and

machines increase and they must be reinforced and repaired. Human casualties are being ministered to with dispatch and with all the wonders of modern medical science. But material casualties, the machinery of war will not be replaced when they are needed if a condition of under-production and a labor shortage continues to exist in the industries of war. In this respect we have come to a crisis. We have come to a crisis in Boston. More than ten thousand war workers are needed immediately.

If we are unable to enlist this additional number of workers, we must appeal to all war workers now employed to increase their production, increase their working hours and to stay on their jobs. This is the appeal of LOYALTY WEEK. This is the appeal of our fighting men, made to the citizens of Boston through the agency of the United States Employment Service of the War Manpower Commission. If you are not now employed, go to the nearest office of the United States Employment Service and get a <sup>war</sup> job at once. If you are employed, remain on the job-- don't desert it -- ~~stick to the bitter end~~ END

The renown of Boston's patriotism is known to all the world. It has never been appealed to in vain. And now in this gray crisis let every loyal man and woman arise to the occasion. Let this be a week of zeal, of action and of surging faith with the agencies that are cooperating to make LOYALTY WEEK one of the finest and one of the most important contributions to the war effort. We cannot fail to add to rolls of those employed in war industries and we will not fail in our plan that war production be not deserted.

The merchants of Boston, our war industries, the press and the radio, the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and the splendid men and women of the show, "Shot from the Sky" are the



answer to our military leaders. This is the most ambitious war work program ever attempted in America. All Boston is proud of it. When the news of it reaches the ears of General Marshall, Admiral King, and General Arnold, they will say, "Well done, loyally done, men and women of Boston. You are upholding the noble tradition of your historic city. You will inspire all the people of our great country. You will set in motion a determination that will convert itself into a solemn resolution that this nation will work and toil until our enemies have been driven into unconditional surrender so that the noble works of civilization may be erected upon the ruins of a suffering humanity."