

leading → Add<sup>ed</sup> by Hon. J. F. over radio Station  
WEAN, Thurs. evening, 11/2/44, at  
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During the course of the present political campaign there has been a great deal of discussion of what are termed - sometimes rather loosely - issues. Tons of paper - and days of radiot time have been consumed in the presentation of arguments of one sort or another, but - I believe we are indebted to Rhode Island's independent newspaper for the best presentation of the all important single issue which is involved in the election to take place on Tuesday next.

We all ~~know~~ agree the thought, uppermost in our minds is to get the war over with, quickly, and get our men back home to jobs that shall be waiting for them.

Then what? We cannot afford to forget the sacrifices men have made. We cannot afford to forget the heartaches that women have borne. We can't forget that <sup>brave</sup> men fought - that brave men died - to bring a peaceful ordering of this society of ours.

To day we are the most powerful Nation on this earth. We can in large measure determine just what sort of peace will come out of this war. It is for us to make that decision on November 7th.

We come then - to the presentation of this issue as it was given by the paper I mentioned. It is <sup>this -</sup> "We believe with deep conviction that the foreign policy of the United States can be strong, continuous, responsible and effective for the maintenance of world peace, only to the degree that the United States domestically enjoys economic vitality, political tranquility and social contentment".

Just what does this mean to you and me?

To me it means there can be no world peace - no stable and secure future throughout the world - unless the United States is economically strong.

Strong in the sense that there are jobs for all who seek employment - jobs

at decent wages. Strong in the sense that there is complete freedom from gnawing the/fear of unemployment ~~and the~~ - freedom from the dread of an insecure old age.

~~Give~~ <sup>provide</sup> people jobs - ~~give them~~ <sup>provide</sup> the right and the ability to own a home - to raise a family in <sup>the</sup> fear of God and no man ~~give them~~ <sup>provide</sup> security against hunger and need - and you provide them with social contentment. A nation which has these is not only economically strong - it is spiritually strong. For these economic goods <sup>f</sup> people have struggled since the dawn of time; for their preservation against the forces that would diminish their value - or take them away - people will fight. These things are worth fighting for.

<sup>agreed</sup>  
It is ~~admittedly~~ therefore, that the Nation which is economically and spiritually strong is best prepared to assume leadership - and it is able to take care of its responsibilities in international affairs.

Let us for a moment consider some examples - these are real.

In 1931 - Japan invaded Manchuria - the opening episode in the present war. This was a violation of a treaty to which Britain was a signatory.

What did ~~England~~ Britain do? Nothing. She could do nothing even though the United States appealed for her cooperation in order to throw back the aggression which foretold the opening of terrifying events. England was economically weak. There were no jobs - and the constant cry was for a retrenchment in the National budget - It was dollars before men.

What did the United States do - having recognized the threat to world security? Nothing - and why? because the United States - under the leadership - or lack of it - of Herbert Hoover, was in the throes of a horrible depression. Men walked the streets - businesses were failing - there was discouragement ~~was~~ on every hand - and men who appealed for bread - were given treatises on reducing the budget.

We all now how Japan took advantage of the situation - we all know the price

we have paid - the price we are continuing to pay - because our Country was not strong then.

Remember 1936? - Hitler marched into the Rhineland in violation of the Locarno Treaty.

What happened? Here was an overt act - that was proof positive that war was ready to take the stage - here was aggression that violated honesty and foretold the coming of another World War. But nothing happened. France was economically and spiritually torn asunder - class was arrayed against class. Charges of communism and fascism were hurled at one another with reckless abandon. Hate was the order of the day - and there were no jobs for the working men and women of France.

Hitler knew the conditions which existed - knew Britain was unable to act - and he marched forward with ~~security~~ arrogance. France could offer no resistance. ~~France~~ was tragically helpless.

With the paper I ~~have mentioned~~ I believe - "such testimony is irrefutable in upholding the contention, that strength in foreign affairs flows from strength at home and, by the same token, a distressed economic and political situation at home enervates against a strong policy abroad."

This is simple truth. It is sane and it is logical. England and France, and the United States under Herbert Hoover could not accept the challenge - were incapable of assuming the role of leadership which was proffered them because they were in "a distressed economic and political situation at home.

Now - what about the United States - under the present Democratic administration, when danger threatened?

Under the leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt - our Navy had been rebuilt - our Army had been placed on a sure footing - and the Lend-Lease program was

adopted and we became, in the words of our President - the arsenal of democracy. From our farms, mines, factories and ports - food, minerals, equipment, medicines, ships and planes were speedily despatched. Not only were we providing the best ~~for ourselves~~ and the most for our people at home - but we were providing for the needs of all Nations then reeling back before the hammer blows of a would be world conqueror.

In 1941 - when the perfidious Japs were guilty of their foul assault - what happened? Nothing? Oh No! ~~This mighty Nation~~ The people of this Nation arose as one man, under the leadership of our President, and took up the challenge. This republic flowered ~~into~~ - overnight as it were - into the mightiest military power the world had ever seen - not only did it resist this treacherous act ~~of aggression~~ in violation of its sovereignty - it threw back the would be conqueror - ~~and now pursues that aggressors to their very lair~~ - and today stands poised to strike the final blow for victory and peace. Let it be pointed out also - not one single American was found wanting when that day came - no where was there a lack of patriotism and even today, in the midst of this titanic <sup>struggle</sup> - our free institutions continue to function without interruption.

Could a Nation - wallowing in the trough of a distressed economic and political situation at home, as the paper puts it, ~~have~~ Could such a Nation have been capable of so strong a policy abroad? And was it strong? - ~~Place~~ Close your eyes and stand before a map of the world - touch it, and wherever ~~light~~ <sup>lights</sup> your finger - their flies the American flag.

~~Therefore~~, On the basis of the record - the answer is obvious. Under the leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt the United States was and is a strong working America.

is  
America ~~was~~ a strong working force because under a Democratic Administra-  
tion - the perils ~~that~~ of life that have in the past arrayed class against  
class, have been removed; Because the dread of unemployment with its accomp-  
anying heartaches has been eliminated; because the horror of insecurity in  
a cold and lonely old age, has been made a thing of the past.

And by what means have these goals been achieved - through the enactment  
of social ~~legislation~~ - guaranteeing to the working man the right to bar-  
gain for wages through representatives of his own choosing; guaranteeing  
the ~~same~~ safety of the working man's savings; guranteeing he need not  
approach his government like a pauper to beg for bread when he is without  
employment; guaranteeing him a decent place in the economic life of his  
country - guaranteeing that his government will function for him and for  
all Americans, all the time.

These things, the paper I ~~mentioned~~ <sup>are</sup> promises now - I emphasize now -  
~~are~~ "an indestructible part of our lives and economic structure" Not by  
~~chance or have they added~~ choice, ~~and they put it~~ do they accept these things,  
but as the paper I ~~mentioned~~ points out - because no one - no one - would  
dare outrage public sentiment by moving against them. This is the same  
legislation which the paper I ~~mentioned~~ <sup>is</sup> characterized - ~~back in 1930~~ <sup>as the truest of its most</sup> - ~~a~~ <sup>must</sup>  
a violation of economic sanity - and their candidate for Governor called <sup>at that time</sup>  
<sup>it</sup> a fraud on the people of the United States and of Rhode Island. <sup>GO P</sup>

To everyone it must be clear that I am in complete agreement with the  
principle which the paper enunciated - the prinivple which provides for  
a strong working America to lead the Nations of the world up the ~~risky~~  
stony and hazardous road to a future world peace.

If my conclusions are different from the Independent newspaper it is  
evident this paper accepts the fundamental principle which is truth - but

wilfully perverts it to base political use.

For a strong working America we must have a continuance of the type of leadership which has made these things possible. We cannot afford one backward step.

I am aware of the fact that GOP campaigners pose, in this hour, as all things to all men. They are willing to acknowledge the value of ~~Democratic~~ the positive accomplishments of the Democratic administration, even though while these same subjects were under debate, these same GOP campaigners held them up to public scorn - witness Dewey's horror at the Lend-Lease program which he predicted would bring an end to free Government everywhere; witness his ridicule of the President's program for building planes. Dewey said it was ridiculous - because he lacked faith in the American working man and women - because he had no confidence in the future of America. Witness the lip-service the GOP once before paid to the subject of international collaboration and ~~now~~ consider the price we are paying to-day ~~for their~~ because they ~~wrecked~~ wrecked the foundation for peace which had been built by another Democratic President.

We can not afford to scrap what has already been accomplished. We cannot afford to risk ~~the undoing of the work of those who now are handling the great problems which confront us with vigor and with competence~~ one single hour's delay in bringing this war to a close. ~~under~~ The lives of America's fighting men depend upon our actions now - their future welfare - in ~~assurance~~ an economically strong America depends on ~~us~~ the re-election of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Pawtucket Valley Daily Times,  
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