MOBILIZE FOR PEACE

War is no longer coming. It is here. In Europe the conversation of statesmen has yielded to that of cannon. The day that seemed as though it would remain always a tomorrow has at last dawned—and become now a yesterday. It is hard to get used to this one awful and fundamental fact: War is here.

War is here and in our midst. Not simply as scare-headlines, tensed radio voices, and fantastic news-reel images. It is the transforming energy that has caused industry to speed forth panting like a greyhound after orders. It is the wild buoyancy of stock markets and the suddenly cavernous demand for wheat and corn and cattle and all other products of our agricultural states. And already its line goes through the counter to snatch its extra-penny toll from daily necessities. War is here hungrily in our midst.

We May Not Want War. But...

We may not want to go to war. But with a speed eclipsing that of trans-Atlantic clippers war has come to us. It has come with no thunder of shellfire, no mutilated bodies, no bloody horrors. Not at all. Rather, it is here with gold in hand and the whisper and swelling rumor of more to come. And to this first wanton beckoning we who hate war have responded with blind rapture.

The warehouse wheat that could not feed our hungry, the storage cotton that could not clothe our ragged, the unused materials that could not house our slum-dwellers, the stagnant capital that could not employ our idle manpower—all these things, as though touched by wonder-working magic, are astir with new life. They are on the move. And they are preparing to move beyond our borders.

Thus subtly, within a few days' time, has our economy been transformed. The monopoly-frozen industrial structure that for 10 years has resisted the most urgent needs of our own people has melted before the first fiery breath of war-born markets. It is alertly responsive once again. Ready to serve. Not our needs but those created by destruction over-sea. The war-boom has begun. The war-drift has begun. We may not want to go to war. But we have embraced the war that has come to us.

... We Have Joined Up

Nor are we to be neutral in this conflict. By the time this editorial is in print the drive to amend the Neutrality Act will be in full swing. Congress will be in session for the express purpose of repealing the arms embargo clause. It is perfectly evident that the motives for reestablishing what President has called "true neutrality" are far from neutral. For example: "Senator Austin of Vermont," reports the N. Y. Times of Sept. 10, "endorses a return to the 'ancient' concept of neutrality. He wants all our power, both moral and economic, put behind France and Britain." And for example: The President, reports the Times of Sept. 11, has moved to limit Congressional debate on neutrality revision lest it "have an adverse effect on the morale of the Allied powers."

So it goes. Once again, with a swiftness putting the years 1914-17 to shame, America has hitched its wagon to the Allied star. Once again has the unholy alliance between world-saving crusaders and armaments-profiteers been consummated. We are rushing headlong down the old, old road to war even as we announce that we shall stay out. Let there be no mistake about this. We have joined in the war and actively taken sides in the war.

Not Our War

Meanwhile an overwhelming majority of the American people don't want to go to war. Certainly not to this war. It isn't our war. Sure, we hate Hitlerism. But the lilly-white banners of France and Britain are splotted with the blood of Republican Spain, smeared with the mud of Munich. These standards offer no promise of a world-order for the achievement of which we should willingly lift a finger. Crush Hitler—and then what? To this question Chamberlain and Daladier have no answer.

If we want to keep American blood from being shed in this war, we must recognize why we have allowed ourselves to drift so dangerously close to it. The danger that we may be finally pushed over the edge comes from inside and not from outside our boundaries. It is a danger familiar that we are unapt to associate with war.

Where the Danger Lurks

The danger? It lies in the millions of Americans prevented from assuming enough to keep our captains of industry and themselves fully employed. For behind these millions are the millions who own and utilize resources and energies so rapidly and easily set in motion by the demands of war.

If we would keep out of war we must first of all be in a position to control our production for both home and overseas markets. We must keep our economy from being geared to the war markets abroad. We must be more socialized and less industrial. We must ensure that the production should be developed to meet the needs of home consumption. By gearing our production to the market we can keep it from being sucked into the war market. We must mobilize our economy for peace and for the preservation of our nation.

The Road to Peace

Mobilization for peace means the mobilization of our resources for a new and greater and richer America. It means resolute forcing open of American markets for American goods. But this involves a final declaration of war against the enemies of the American people. A declaration of war against those financiers and monopolistic owners who too long have choked American enterprise in a grasp and who have held the fruits of American industry beyond the eager hands of the American people.
Europe's long armistice is ended. The "white of desperate diplomacy, nerve-shattering and unresisted conquests has become the black cloud of the world economic crisis. The beginning of military action does not mean the real war. It merely opens an accelerated and more terrible phase in the relentless advance of imperialist powers that has absorbed much of the world for more than a generation.

Naziism—Child of Versailles

The Nazi drive to dominate Europe has prepared the conflict. However, this aggressive drive has been the creation of the policies of the British and French governments for more than twenty years. The period from the end of the last World War to the beginning of the world economic crisis saw France dominate Europe. The represen-
tations embodied in the peace of Versailles were the already unstable ec-
notations of most of the European peoples. Conditions, maintained throughout a generation of British and French force and diploma-
tics, Germany and other nations in a state of economic collapse and political turmoil. These conditions formed the immediate cause of the outbreak of the war.

The outbreak of war put Italy on the spot. As the slaughter begins, the announced aims of Britain and France in this war are to stand by Poland and to overthrow Hitlerism. These stated aims must be criticized as decided by the parties of German fascist and its allies in the Entente at the time of the Munich agreement. They demonstrated the illusory character of the appeasement policy. And they resulted in the sudden hardening of attitudes on the part of both the British and French rulers.

The Allies are embarking on war better prepared than they were last year in two respects. Britain has the advantage of years of war and the resources that come with them. The war is likely to take place on Italian coasts and in the Mediterranean, with the support of the British and French forces.

Mobilize for Peace

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of our people. In no other way can we come to control our economic destinies.

The core of a realistic program against war must be to gear American consumption with American production capacity in an expanding economy. Only when this has been undertaken will we be in a position to decide consciously and wisely our relations with other nations. For only then will we be in control of those unseen factors which today are controlling us. In this grim light of war may we come to see those domestic tasks which too long have remained undone.

The time is short.