

Outline of 15-minute talk praising "Democracy at Work" as
Exemplified by the Volunteer Members of the War Price
and Ration Boards.

When Hitler said we were too soft to fight, he referred to our Home Front. He knew total war required total mobilization of effort. He didn't think a Democracy could lay aside its differences and unite on a National war effort.

When Tojo attacked us he did not think we would spring into unified action to battle for land and people thousands of miles away.

They were both wrong. It was only a matter of months until we were:

Producing more war material than the rest of the world combined;

Building ships to transport this material faster than the ships were being sunk;

Training the largest army we had ever dreamed about;

Building the largest Navy in the world;

Developing the largest and finest Air Force in the world;

Building the planes that will actually and literally darken the skies over Berlin and Tokio.

While all this has been going on, and in spite of shortages in manpower and equipment, we are producing 130% more food than we did before the war. Democracy has worked in war time.

What has made this possible? Willingness - by and large - for people to do what they can to aid war effort. Exceptions of course - but when story of our war effort is written will be an amazing saga of unspectacular sacrifice, of daily drudgery, of devotion to many phases of war activity.

For example, a large part of the personal problems angle of the men in the Armed Services, has been handled by the Red Cross. While the Field Directors have been paid nominal salaries, the domestic work has functioned because of the thousands of Red Cross chapters located in each community where volunteers have carried out these detailed investigations and reports through volunteers.

Today, we are appropriately honoring another group of people who have done an amazing thing. They have carried out the operations of a vast, new war program - the program of Price Control and Rationing.

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