

edition of last Sunday night, and the special edition and the radio speaker, and the only thing I can add to that is that he is a printer, not a theorist, talks our language, and knows what it is all about.

MR. E. W. PALMER: President Maher, Secretary Beatty, Treasurer King, Newly Installed, and all the officers and directors of this fine Association, as well as the membership and their ever-ready assistants, the ladies who are with them: First may I say, on behalf of your Government, which it is my honor and privilege to represent tonight in one very small capacity in connection with the War Production Board, that it is honestly and sincerely a privilege and a pleasure to be here with you, first, as already explained by your President, because primarily I am a printer, and we printers you know don't take any back seat when it comes to accepting honors, even though we are as humble as our progenitor, Benjamin Franklin; second, I am very glad to see so many ladies here tonight, not because I claim to have any particular persuasive powers with the feminine gender, but I know, as you do, that they have very able qualities as your advisors and consorts.

Whenever there are ladies present at a meeting of this sort, which smacks primarily of business and business problems, I am also reminded of that very familiar little poem written by one of, shall I say, America's greatest poets, with which I am sure you are all very, very familiar. It started off, if you remember, typifying what some of us were, alas, too many years ago: "Blessings on thee little man, barefoot boy with cheek of tan," and you remember the rest of it.

Well, we have a modern version today, which I am not exactly certain originates because of the activities of the ladies of our land in so many and varied agencies and avenues, but at least it goes like this, and to you ladies, in presenting it for the edification of your men folk, there is no harm intended. It is "The Modern Maid" if you please:

"Blessings on thee little dame,  
Bareback girls with knees the same;  
With thy rolled down silken hose,  
And thy short, transparent clothes,  
With thy red lips reddened more,  
Kissed with lipstick from the store;  
With thy bobbed hair's jaunty grace,  
And thy cocky hat set off thy face.  
From my heart I give thee joy,  
Glad that I was born a boy." (Laughter)

Now, turning from the lighter to the more serious vein, I am certain that I have correctly understood your presence here, in assuming that first as citizens of the greatest nation still extant upon the world, as businessmen, and particularly as producers of that art which is conceivably and properly called the art preservative of all arts, you are primarily interested in what the present and possibly the future may hold for your industry as a part of the great national picture which we term the national economy.

I have heard it said many times in the past two months, that the farther one got away from the Atlantic Seaboard, and particularly from that seething, whirlwind merry-go-round that surrounds a very familiar capitol dome, the less one heard and the less one felt that the public realized that there was a war, and more especially that they realized that the United States of America was in the war.

I am quite sure you will agree with me that in the past few weeks, we have only to turn back to the headlines of the special

messages that greeted us on that memorable Sunday in the first week of December, to realize that down deep in our inner consciousnesses and our veritable hearts, we have been thoroughly conscious that we are at war. And beginning what I fear may be a somewhat prosaic and certainly intended to be a very frank portrayal of certain facts to you, I want to preface it by saying that I am imbued by no desire to impart any scare psychology. I have no desire, nor am I empowered either by fact or authority, to attempt to scare you into doing anything. But as one who has been enlisted to represent this industry of which you are individually and collectively a very important part, I do want to point out to you that I think I would be derelict in my duty if I did not point out to you some very serious implications, the impingement of which during the next few weeks and few months, will have a very definite and a very positive bearing upon your industry, as it will upon the whole national economy.

Perhaps before I dwell too much upon that, I ought to give you just a brief word picture of what this war production board is, as it relates to your particular industry. Without going into detail, though most of you I am quite sure are familiar with the setting up of a quite similar war Board just about twenty years ago, on which a very highly respected and very capable Chicagoan, Mr. T. E. Donnelley, acted with great efficiency and accomplishment as Chairman. You are all familiar with the creation of the Office of Production Management. If you are not as fully familiar with the origination and its composition, I am sure you have been fully cognizant of all the criticisms that were leveled at it, and I doubt not that as you sit here, and I stand here tonight talking to you, there are very serious doubts in the minds of many of those present as to the ability and the possibility of those connected with, and the outgrowth of their activities, toward a successful promulgation of our part in the war program.

Without attempting any eloquent approach to the subject, I do want to say to you that in the few months that I have spent in Washington as your official representative, I have become thoroughly convinced that if the printing and publishing industry, America's 6th industry today, if you please, is not ready now to recognize the seriousness of the situation for its own self-preservation as well as that of the preservation of the nation, it is about time we awakened to that serious fact.

#### WAR PRODUCTION BOARD SET UP

The War Production Board is composed of many divisions. I think you are only interested tonight in the one which has to do particularly with your own problems, and has to work especially for your interests in the whole picture.

Back in the days of the O. P. M., the industrial branches were under a division known as the Division of Civilian Supply. In December we were taken out from that Division, and moved directly under the supervision of Mr. Knudsen, now moved as you know, in the new arrangement, to a lieutenant Generalship in the Army, and directly connected with war production.

When that change took place, there was created the new War Production Board, and a Division of Industrial Operations was set up, with Mr. Knudsen as the head of it, and the same supervisory organization was maintained. Mr. Phillip D. Reed, the Chairman of the Board of General Electric is our industry Division Chief. Under him, and acting as his Deputy, is Mr. Amory Holton, the head of the Corning Glass Works of Corning, New York. And then we come down to a division of these various industry branches, in which pulp and paper is one, and printing and publishing is another.