

worse than that, when the situation in Europe reached a point which compelled a recognition of a state of war, the President called for a repeal of the embargo on the shipment of arms to the belligerents, as provided for in the statute. Now, the fact of the matter is, that during the first World War, the Department of State took the position, fully sustained by international precedent, that any change in the Neutrality Law after the outbreak of hostilities would be a breach of American neutrality; nevertheless, the President forced the issue, and it is now a matter of history, that the embargo was repealed although hostilities were in progress. It is my opinion that the Administration has been unneutral; it has placed our Nation in a position where it might on a number of occasions have been brought to a state of war and unless more caution is shown in the future, we may well be drawn into war.

In pursuance of authority conferred upon me at the last annual meeting and at subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee, I threw the weight of our influence against the repeal of the embargo. Inasmuch as the embargo was repealed, we lost that battle, but, in a sense, I feel that the opponents of the repeal attained a very great measure of success not only through the educational campaign which brought home the danger of war to the American people, but also through the circumstance that it compelled the proponents of repeal to take a very definite and positive position, that they were so acting to keep the United States out of war. That is a position that they can never deny even though it is a position, I think, based on unsound premises.

I feel sure it is the sense of all the delegates to this convention that no one should profit, financially or politically, through the circumstance that the United States may be compelled to engage in war. At our last annual convention the Board passed a strong resolution against legislation which would permit the President, upon Congress assenting to the fact that an emergency exists, to assume dictatorial powers for the mobilization and socialization of our resources preparatory to the outbreak of war.

Senate Bill 1650, now on the Senate Calendar as Document Number 474, providing for the purposes set forth in the preceding paragraph, has been covered by releases of the American Coalition which have been sent to all constituent organizations, to Congress and to the public generally. A great many thousand

copies of one release on this bill have been bought and paid for by interested persons in various parts of the United States; it is understood that a publication with a wide circulation among farming people in the Mid-West, reprinted it in full.

I call this to your attention now because S. 1650 may be called up for action at any moment. Obviously if a war crisis should develop, there is grave danger that, in the hysteria of such a moment, the measure might pass and our economic system be thrown into chaos when we need the strength of the Nation to fight our external enemies.

So much for our activities in the past. Now a word as to the future.

It seems to me that it is incumbent on the Coalition to take the most definite and positive action against the involvement of the United States in war. Our foreign policy appears to me fantastic, haphazard and unrealistic. This is not the place to deal with these matters in detail. It is my understanding that the Resolutions Committee will submit for consideration by the Board at this meeting, a series of resolutions dealing comprehensively with all the matters which have been discussed in this report.

In the event that these resolutions are acted upon favorably, or in so far as they are acted upon favorably, permit me to urge you to arouse the membership of the organizations you represent and the public at large in the communities from which you come, to a realization of the fact that every citizen of the United States is a part of the Government itself. Furthermore, it is the duty of every citizen not only to select suitable candidates for high public office, but also to make known their views as to the policies which in your judgment should be pursued by the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal Government and the several States. It is only by the mobilization of public opinion in support of the policies which you may endorse, that patriotic Americans can combat the insidious and sinister programs of organizations inspired by subversive ideologies, or by foreign governments, or by both.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the constituent organizations in the American Coalition for the noble support they have rendered to our common cause in the past and I hope it is a good augury for the future.

JOHN B. TREVOR.