

Estes

WHAT PART SHOULD THE UNITED STATES PLAY IN THE WAR?

Anderson. (breaks in at end of announcer) I don't agree with you at all.

St. Clair. Well, for one thing, we do agree that America is in an awful mess. Just think what would happen to us if Hitler would win this war!

Felger. Well, what would happen? I just get so furious with these hysterical paranoids who keep screaming that once Hitler will win the war, he will immediately come over, bombard New York City, and then march up Fifth Avenue, mowing down the people right and left, board the New York Central and conquer the hinterland as fast as a 20th century stream liner can carry him to the various parts of the country and as fast as his super bombers can level cities like St. Louis to the ground.

St. Clair. Yes, Dotty, I agree. Ideas like these are sheer hysterical nonsense. But, there are many ways by which a victorious Hitler could make life pretty miserable for us.

Felger. For instance!!!

St. Clair. Lots of for instances.

Estes. Well, I should say so!! Hitler could easily put the squeeze on our country by tightening economic screws on us, by stirring up all the little tin-hatted mustachiod would-be Hitlers to raise Cain in our country, by taking over Latin American countries and establishing bases there, and by provoking Japan to attack us.

Anderson. That's right, Maurita, if he could do all this, we'd be ruined. But, could he do it, that is the question?

Estes. ^{Elaine} Sure he could, ~~Kay~~. If he gains control of Europe and all the European colonies, he can, first of all, block almost all our necessary foreign trade and many of the raw materials so necessary for our industries ~~will probably become inaccessible to us~~. Then much of our business would be ruined and a serious depression might result. This would pave the way for little American would-be Hitlers, directed from Berlin, to make a spirited attempt to overthrow our government and establish another "Quisling farce" in its place.

Lindsay. And Kay, if the axis could do all this if victorious, it is almost certain that Hitler and Company would be able to get a foothold in South America.

Anderson. Why, Peggy? Please elucidate!

Lindsay. Shucks, Kay, that's easy to explain. Since the very existence of several Latin American countries is dependent upon the European market, Hitler could easily apply the most disastrous economic pressure on them. And the Nazis have always followed economic pressure with political pressure.

Anderson. (Somewhat disgusted). But Peggy! Wouldn't our country do something to prevent this. I just can't feature our government just settling down to after luncheon yawns like students in one o'clock classes and do nothing to fight the Nazis in their economic war.

Lindsay. But Kay, can't you see that we would have little to say about it? Remember, the United States alone can not and does not buy enough from some of the key countries of South America to save the economies of these countries. We have a surplus of many of the same things that these countries so. If Hitler is victorious, these countries will simply have to sell to Germany at her own price or else commit economic suicide. If Hitler ever gets an economic foothold in Latin America, it will be a simple matter for him to take over political control of these countries, especially since a large percent of the population of many South American countries is pro-Axis.

Felger. And listen, Kay, if Hitler ever gets control of South America, he will have possession of some excellent naval and air bases to use to attack the United States.

In fact
Estes. The Nazis wouldn't even have to get control of Latin America in order to swing a club at us.

Anderson. Why? Don't be another one of those alarmists!

Oh yes
Estes. Kay, have you ever read many of Hitler's writings?

Anderson. Well, I've read some. But I can't see how this has anything to do with the discussion at hand.

10-24-56
Estes. It has plenty to do with it. Hitler has many times boasted in the propaganda which he has put out for people to consume that he can produce a revolution in the United States any time he wants to.

Anderson. ~~Yah!~~ I'm glad you said boasted. Hitler also boasted that he'd be in London by last July 15th. Is he there yet? No!!! And I don't see how he could ever produce a revolution in the United States either.

Estes. Oh you don't, ^{Clair} Kay! why I think it would be quite easy, if Hitler wins the war in Europe.

St. Clair. I do too, Kay. For years the Nazis have prepared the way for such revolutions. ~~France, Denmark, Poland~~. The secret Nazi penetrations in Norway, France, Denmark, Poland, and other countries, did much to pave the way for the conquest of those countries. These are also many secret Nazi organizations in America today. First of all, these are the openly pro-German organizations such as the German-American Bund, but much more dangerous than such organizations are groups that masquerade under some high sounding patriotic American name.

Lindsay. Such as, for example?

St. Clair. Well, it has been estimated that there are over 800 such organizations in the United States. All of them are violently anti-Semitic, allegedly bitterly anti-communist, and, although, for propaganda purposes, they find it unwise to admit it, very anti-democracy, and, in my opinion, certainly decidedly anti-American.

Felger. That's appalling! What are the names of some of them?

St. Clair. Well, some of them frequently include the names "Christian," "Liberty," and "American" in their title. I frequently get quite suspicious when I see the name of an organization with such words in them, although, to be fair, we must admit that many legitimate and patriotic organizations also have such names in their titles.

Anderson. Yeh! But Mary Helen, you still haven't given any specific names.

St. Clair. Ah shucks! Some people always try to pin me down, but I'll forgive you this time. I mean such groups as the Knights of the Silver Shirts, the Knights of the White Camelia, the Christian Front, the American Mobilizers, and American Patriots, Incorporated, and-----.

Estes. Oh stop! That's plenty. I don't want to hear any more. Whenever I do it simply makes my blood boil.

Felger. It does mine, too, Maurita. But come, the way American opinion is now opposed to fascism, I don't see how these organizations can ever become dangerous.

St. Clair. Probably not right now, Dotty. But don't forget that a ruthlessly organized and armed minority, no matter how small, can cause considerable trouble. Remember, the Bolshevist party only numbered 100,000 in a population of 180,000,000 at the time they took over control of the Russian government late in 1917.

Lindsay. Then, too, although ~~the~~ membership in these organizations is now quite small, what would happen if the Nazis won in Europe. Nothing wins more easily than success. If the Nazis win, I'll stake my reputation on predicting that in a very short time the membership of our American fascist organizations would increase by leaps and bounds and that all these organizations would suddenly leap out from the dark to try to impress themselves upon the public mind.

St. Clair. Yes, Peggy, and if Germany could produce a bad economic crisis in this country, all sorts of reasonable people, in the depths of despair, would make a mad rush to join these organizations. The depression did a lot to help the Nazis to get control of Germany.

of Clair
Estes. Yes, that's possible! But while we're talking about these "ifs" we're forgetting about another way I mentioned in which the Nazis could make it "hot" for us if they win in Europe. I think it's much more important than what we've just been talking about.

Lindsay. Sorry, Maurita, but we've blabbered about so many things since then that I'm afraid I've forgotten what it was.

of Clair
Estes. Tush! Tush! Peggy! And here I thought it was so important! Well, although I'm almost broken-hearted, I'll forgive you and and mention it anyway. It's ^{the} danger that Germany may get Japan to attack our interests.

Felger. Why Japan could never sail across the Pacific Ocean and attack us!

of Felger
Estes. Of course not, at least not at first. I didn't mean that. But Dot, we're dependent upon the Dutch and British East Indies for almost all our rubber and over ninety percent of our tin. If Japan takes this over, where will we be? And how would we ever be able to defend the Philippines?

Felger. Well, what good are the Philippines to us anyway?

every word I'll tell you
Estes. If the Japanese would ever attack them, try to convince most Americans of that. Then, too, if Germany could get bases in Latin America and control of the British fleet and be able to put the Panama Canal out of commission, a joint invasion attempt against the United States from all these directions could be very dangerous.

Felger. Yes, Maurita, I guess there is a possibility of this, but it seems to be a danger so far in the future dependent upon so many "ifs."

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Estes. (excitedly and disgustedly). Yes, Dotty! But Baldwin and Chamberlain, and their contemporaries in all Europe, also said that beginning way back in 1933, ~~and 1934~~ (when the Nazis first began to

to rearm Germany) until late in 1938, after the Nazis has crushed Czechoslovakia. By the time the British government saw the light, it was too late. Until 1937 the British and French could probably have prevented war by standing firm. After their failure to make a stand over Austria and Czechoslovakia, a long war with the odds against them proved to be inevitable. The Nazis have always planned their moves long ahead. Isn't there a great danger in their doing it against the United States while we are also sleeping in a bed of "ifs."

Anderson. I certainly don't think that that's the danger for America. Our danger is the opposite: that we'll get so hysterical that we'll plunge into an unnecessary war, or that we'll antagonize Hitler even more than we already have and force him to declare war on us.

Lindsay. But Kay, we're already in the war in a moral and economic way. We've already turned over 50 over-aged destroyers, guns, merchant marine, etc. to Great Britain. We've frozen the credits of countries overrun by the Nazis and kept much of our navy in the Pacific to warn Japan to behave. We've sent England a lot of airplanes and other material to England, for cash of course until recently, and now we've passed the Lend-Lease Act and appropriated 7 billion dollars to make it effective.

Felger. Yes, Peggy, but hasn't the extent of our aid been exaggerated.

Lindsay. Yes, Dotty, I believe it has. For instance, although since the very beginning of the war some enthusiasts have talked about ~~10,000~~ tens of thousands of planes to England, my records show that by the end of February of this year we had only sent about 3,000 plans to England. But this aid is constantly increasing, and by June of this year, I am told, it is hoped that about 800 plans will be sent a month.

Anderson. Yes, but look at all the help we have promised England in the lend-lease act. We haven't even asked for cash here--just that after the war they give us this or an equal amount of other material back. And ~~war~~ Congress has already appropriated \$7,000,000,000.00 to carry the act into effect. That's a tremendous amount of money to sink into a foreign war that doesn't concern us!

Lindsay. But Kay, you're forgetting that wars cost a lot of money, and that, furthermore, very little of the goods provided for in the act has yet been delivered. Lack of planning, strikes, shortages and bottle-necks here and there, and so forth, have slowed down our defense program considerably.

Felger. What can we do to speed up the flow of this material aid to Britain and her allies, notably Greece and Yugoslavia, which right now need every bit of aid they can possibly get?

Lindsay. Well, for one thing, we can outlaw strikes and lockouts.

St. Clair. Hold on, Peggy! If we don't watch out here, isn't there a chance that labor might lose all the gains it has made in the past ten years.

Lindsay. Perhaps, but I want to add that management too must be brought to line, and, I would say, see that labor gets a fair wage to enable them to stand the increase in the cost of living. Labor and management must, however, simply give up their petty squabbles and buckle down to work, or they might both lose everything.

St. Clair. Yes, Peggy, we must speed up our production of war goods as fast as possible if England, Yugoslavia, Greece, and China will not go down, but I think we must do more too. We must either send some of the goods in our own ships, convoyed by our warships, or else we simply must give England more of our navy and merchant marine. The rate of submarine sinking of British goods is appalling. If Britain's

"life-line" is broken, she will definitely be quickly brought to her knees.

Shadford
Anderson.

Yes, Mary Helen, but conveying ships is definitely an act of war. It will inevitably produce a war in which we have to send our boys into the bloody carnage abroad.

Elaine
Felger.

Ray, I want to disagree with you here. First of all, it isn't what countries have done to be neutral or unneutral that has made Hitler decide to declare war on them. It's whether or not Hitler ~~thought~~ thought he could get by with it. Certainly no country bent over backwards more than Norway, Belgium, Denmark, and Holland in an attempt to be neutral, and the Nazis invaded these countries when it was opportune for them to do so.

Elaine
Lindsay.

Then, too, Ray, aren't you forgetting that this war is not a war of men but of materials. Hundreds of poorly armed men can do little against tanks and stuka bombers. England, Yugoslavia, and Greece and China have the men, but they do not have supplies. But*the If we become an arsenal manufacturing these very necessary supplies for them, then they have a good chance of winning the war. Certainly Hitler can't attack us until he finishes up with England no matter how much he wants to do so.

Shadford
Anderson.

Yeah, but what if England loses the war? If I were Hitler, I certainly would be angry at the U. S., if we send ships and too many supplies over there* .

St. Clair.

Hitler would want to attack us anyhow, then, if he could. We are already ~~up~~ in to it up to our necks. Whether we give Britain any more help or not won't make a ~~sa~~ bit of difference as far as his feeling toward the U. S. is concerned.

Felger. I certainly do agree with you there, Mary Helen. We've committed ourselves to helping Britain, and I don't possibly see how we can afford to let Britain go down without drastic consequences for ourselves.

Anderson. You don't mean to say you'd go so far as to ~~suppose~~ advise us to go to war if that's necessary to keep England from losing.

Felger. I'm afraid I have to to be consistent, Kay. But, as was said before, I think if we give Britain all our naval and economic aid, we won't have to go to war. Hitler will crack up.

Lindsay. I think so too, but, gosh, we're taking an awful chance, Dotty.

St. Clair. Yes, I know we are, but I think that considering all the awful consequences that may possibly happen, we've got to take that chance.

Anderson. I think war is so horrible we should try anything, even appease Hitler rather than to run a risk of getting into the thick of the fight.

Why?
Estes. (excitedly and suddenly) Why, *Elaine Shadford* ~~Kay Anderson~~, honestly, that shocks me. That's just positively terrible--those ideas. Why--
I'm surprised at you
I--

St. Clair. Hold your horses, Maurita. ~~We aren't~~ Shucks, her ideas and our ideas won't get us anywhere anyhow. Arguing like this is a lot of fun, but my gosh, kids, I've got to write an English paper. I'm leaving.

Felger. So am I. Anyhow, I've got to study my religious psych course. I haven't cracked a book in there for weeks. Goodby.

Estes. Guess we'll all have to be going. Goodby.

All. Goodby, everybody.