

I.

THE ISSUES.WHY WE FIGHT.WHAT KIND OF PEACE WILL FOLLOW VICTORY.

If we are to win this war, Americans must be ready to sacrifice comforts, necessities, and life itself. Public opinion polls indicate that some confusion still exists as to the issues for which this war is being fought. Unless every American clearly understands how much he has at stake, the nation cannot gear itself to the all-out effort necessary for victory.

The motion picture should be the best medium for bringing to life the democratic idea. We practical-minded Americans can easily grasp such tangible programs as sugar-rationing or pooling of cars to save rubber. It is a challenge to the ingenuity of Hollywood to make equally real the democratic values which we take for granted.

WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

1. We are fighting for survival as a nation. Some people do not realize that the actual existence of this nation as a politically independent state depends on winning the war.

This generation of Americans has come to realize with a present and personal realization, that there is something larger and more important than the life of any individual or of any individual group -- something for which a man will sacrifice, and gladly sacrifice, not only his pleasures, not only his goods, not only his associations with those he loves, but his life itself. In time of crisis when the future is in the balance, we come to understand, with full recognition and devotion, what this nation is, and what we owe to it.

---President Roosevelt, Radio Address,
February 23, 1942.

2. We are fighting for freedom and against slavery. -

for -

- 1) freedom of speech,
- 2) freedom of religion,
- 3) freedom from want,
- 4) freedom from fear.

We must make the Four Freedoms live and breathe. They must not become mere trademarks. Each individual must know how these Four Freedoms affect his individual life, his everyday affairs. Few of our people have any real grasp of what life would mean to them as individuals if the Axis were to win.

The realization must be driven home that we cannot enjoy the Four Freedoms exclusively. They must be established on a world-wide basis, - yes, even in Germany, Italy, and Japan, - or they will always be in jeopardy in America.

We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms -- freedom of speech and expression, freedom of every person to worship God in his own way--everywhere in the world; freedom from want--which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants; and freedom from fear, meaning a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor--anywhere in the world.

--President Roosevelt; Annual
Message to Congress, January 6, 1942.

3. We are fighting for a New World. We are fighting for a more decent world - a world free from force and militarism. We are fighting not only to maintain for ourselves the gains we have made in the past, but also for the right to build a new and better life "for all people and for future generations." We are fighting for democracy among nations as among individuals, for a world community dedicated to the free flow of trade, ideas, and culture.

We are fighting today for security, for progress and for peace, not only for ourselves, but for all men, not only for one generation, but for all generations. We are fighting to cleanse the world of ancient evils, ancient ills.

--President Roosevelt, Annual Message
to Congress, January 6, 1942.

Here are a few aspects of the war issues which need dramatization:

A) There are still groups in this country who are thinking only in terms of their particular group. Some citizens have not been made aware of the fact that this is a people's war, not a group war. For example, small segments of agriculture, labor, and industry still think in terms of themselves. By all means, they are good Americans and want to win this war, but inevitably their own particular interest colors their thinking as to the way they want to fight this war. We must emphasize that this is a people's war, that we must hang together or we shall all hang separately.

This great war effort must be carried through to its victorious conclusion by the indomitable will and determination of the people as one great whole. It must not be impeded by those who put their own selfish interests above the interests of the nation.

--President Roosevelt, Radio Address,
April 28, 1942.

B) We must emphasize the American heritage, the historical development that has made us what we are. What is the American way of life? It is a 1942 version of 1776. We have developed into a complex socio-economic system, but it is all based on the framework of the doctrine that has lived since its promulgation in Independence

Hall in Philadelphia.

Down the years, the people of the United States have moved steadily forward in the practice of democracy. Through universal education, they now can read and write and form opinions of their own.....They have learned, and are still learning, the art of self-government.

--Vice President Wallace, Radio Address (Free World Association), May 8, 1942.

C) Some people may ask what the underprivileged, the uneducated, the oppressed minorities - even in this country - have to fight for. Can we not portray on the screen the fact that under the democratic process the underprivileged have become less underprivileged? For example, the Negroes have a real, a legal, and a permanent chance for improvement of their status under democracy and no chance at all under a dictatorship. We are clearing our slums, we are establishing electric lines to out-of-the-way farmers, we are abolishing vicious tenant farming, we are improving the lot of minorities.

When we begin to think about the significance of freedom from want for the average man, then we know that the revolution of the past 150 years has not been completed, either here in the United States or in any other nation in the world. We know that this revolution can not stop until freedom from want has actually been attained.

--Vice President Wallace, Radio Address (Free World Association), May 8, 1942.

D) We must emphasize that this country is a melting pot, a nation of many races and creeds, who have demonstrated that they can live together and progress. We must establish a genuine understanding of alien and minority groups and recognize their great contribution to the building of our nation. In this war for freedom they fight side by side with us.

For all our faults, more people of diverse origins and races and creeds live in freedom and dignity here than anywhere else now or ever before in all the sweep of history. Our beginnings, our culture, our reason for existence, our hope for victory are all founded in this concept. It is essential, demanding, transcendent.

--Lt. Oren Root, Jr. U. S. Navy
(Address at banquet of Associated
Industries of New York State -)
February 19, 1942.

E) What then is our stake? It is liberation from fear and want, liberation from duress and force. We don't want to push anybody around, and we don't want anybody to push us around. The premium we must pay for this "life insurance" is to work, fight, and understand.

No compromise with Satan is possible.
We shall not rest until all the victims
under the Nazi yoke are freed. We shall
fight for a complete peace as well as a
complete victory.

--Vice President Wallace, Radio
Address (Free World Association)
May 8, 1942.