

Radio Broadcast,
March 7, 1943

Good Morning, Friends:

The most important happening in the world during the week was our marvelous feat in the total destruction of a Japanese convoy by air off the New Guinea coast. Its importance far transcends the number of Jap ships sunk. It demonstrates the utter devastation which land-based planes can ^{work}~~bring~~ upon surface naval vessels, which makes timely, I think, a brief discussion of our production program. In doing this, I must, of course, be very guarded in the use of definite figures and shall not use any which will give comfort ^{or}~~and~~ aid to the enemy.

It can be said that the United States is now producing more planes than Germany, Italy, and Japan combined; that Great Britain alone is producing more than Germany alone. It can be said that at last our ship production is ahead of submarine sinkings, that tank production is on schedule. Indeed, the production program as a whole makes one feel very confident of victory. And I make these summary, though general, statements to you after having had the privilege, along with a few other Congressmen this week, of having a full and detailed, though ^{highly}~~though~~ confidential, report by the War Department of our entire production program. Further, I make it in the light of my experience within the last few days of visiting some of our largest production factories. F

For instance, I spent half a day in the Krysler tank arsenal in Detroit. It is incomprehensible to the lay mind what is happening out there.

Of course, I can not give you the production figures of this tank arsenal. The figures are large and they could be larger. The fact is this factory is turning out as many tanks as the army wants them to turn out at this particular time. The managers of the factory told me that they could easily turn out 25% more per month. Their production capacity is in readiness to be put into action any time the army gives the order to step up the schedule. Perhaps, the reason for the full tank production capacity of this and other factories not being used right now is the urgency for concentration on plane and shipbuilding. It does no good to build tanks which can not be transported. Ships, ships, and more ships, as I have said on this program repeatedly, is the crying need of our program. ^{right now.} And ships are being built at an unprecedented rate. Also to the good, submarine sinkings have diminished during the last three months.

But before leaving the question of tanks, I would like to tell you that I put on a helmet, goggles, and coverall equipment and rode in one of the tanks during its test run over the rough testing field just outside the Kryslar plant. Of course, I knew that I was thousands of miles away from a German or a Jap gun, but I must say that after clinging down into the turret and ^{literally} pulling the hole in after me, I had a peculiar feeling. The powerful motor started, the driver shifted ~~the monster~~ ^{to} in gear, and ~~it~~ ^{the monster} lurched forward. The only way to ~~say now~~ see out of the closed tank is through a periscope. As the huge dreadnaught plunged, dipped, and climbed

over the ditches and embankments, I think I could imagine the utter resignation of our tank crews when going into battle to kill, or be killed. There they are, closed inside 35 tons of steel. When in battle, it would likely be instant death to open a hatch and look out. They can only see where they are going, the whereabouts of the enemy and how to shoot through the periscopes installed for ~~this~~ purposes. I must say, however, that the vision through these is remarkably good. They can know, ~~however~~ ^{through}, that they are protected with steel of enormous thickness. The turret is rounded so that shells of even very large caliber will hit and glance off. And the motor is really a honey. To a person who enjoys looking under the hood of a new and powerful automobile, there would come a much greater thrill to hear the powerful and synchronized hum of these tank motors. They are armed with the latest guns and technical devices, both for protection and for striking at the enemy. There is room inside for the driver and assistant driver, who takes over in case the driver becomes wounded, the commander, the gunner, and two helpers who load the guns. The latest battle-front reports say these M-4 tanks are the ^{finest} ~~best~~ fighting tanks on any battle ^{field} ~~front~~.

I visited Ford's Willow Run bomber plant at Ypsilanti, Michigan.
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The ~~sight~~ of this largest manufacturing plant in the world was only 18 months ago wooded and pasture land. Now, there is not only a factory which covers hundreds of acres under one roof and one of the finest airports in the country, but 30 some thousand employees are turning out huge liberator bombers in mass

production fashion. I found some interesting things there. For one thing, this plant is not yet producing up to schedule, though its rate of production is rapidly increasing and it is hoped that it will increase much more. I asked Mr. Edsel Ford what was the principal difficulty. He quickly replied that it was workers. Then, he went on to say that they had thirty some thousand employees but needed more than twice that number. He said that the factory was employing practically every able-bodied man or woman who came there seeking employment. And, yet, in the month of January, they had a net loss of employees. He said that 5,000 trained workers had been drafted into the army out of this ^{one} bomber plant. Think of that! And, mind you, this is typical of what has happened in other war plants. It shows that farm production is not alone in being ^{plagued} ~~reduced~~ by the draft. These 5,000 ^{trained} men taken from this bomber plant has very materially cut down on production.) But even this is being whipped. How? Well, I saw how as I went through the plant. I saw that nearly half of the workers were women. I asked Mr. Ford about this, and he said "yes, ^{we are} ~~they were~~ increasing the number of women employees all the time, ~~that~~ in the beginning 3% of ^{are} ~~their~~ employees were women, and ^{to day} ~~the day~~ I was there, 40% of ^{are} ~~their~~ employees ^{are} ~~were~~ women." And they were doing good work, too. In fact, on many of the jobs, particularly the delicate jobs such as inserting small rivets and dealing with intricate instruments, the work of the women is superior to that of the men.

I asked Mr. Ford if the change in design of planes had slowed up his production. He said that this, of course, complicated matters but that it was nothing strange to industry, because during the production of every model of automobile, numerous changes were made as defects in the model appeared. I had been led to believe by some things I had heard and read that manufacturers resented the army making so many changes in their plans. At another airplane factory, I asked the Vice-President of the company about this. He said, "Yes, the army comes to us with one change after another. But, listen, when they look me in the eye and say your boy may be flying in these planes and I ~~know you~~ want him to have the best, the best and the latest development which has come from experience and scientific invention." ~~The~~ big burley executive said: "I have no complaint to make." "We will make all the planes we can and we will make every change that will ~~make~~ them better."

Friends, what I am trying to say to you this morning is that this great nation has unloosed its strength and genius. We are really going to town now with the production program. We ^{are making} ~~will make~~ enough stuff to crush our enemies wherever our full strength can be brought to bear upon them. That is how we are going to win this war. ^{but still} ~~We face~~ terrific problems, ~~though~~.

^{most urgent right now} The ~~first~~ is transportation of these war materials to the point where they can be concentrated upon the destruction of the foe. ^{Then, there is} ~~Second~~, the manpower problem. This manpower problem is divided into three urgent components.

First, we must keep enough boys in the factories to keep the tanks, the planes, the ships, the guns, the ammunition, rolling out in ever-increasing quantities. This modern war can not be won with pop guns. Our soldiers must have the best equipment in the world and have enough of it to overwhelm the enemy. Suppose, for instance, that in every battle our boys could have twice as many planes, twice as many tanks, twice as many machine guns, and twice as much heavy artillery as the enemy, then victory would be assured. Not only would victory in the battle be assured, but the number of our boys killed would be greatly reduced. So, it is absolutely necessary to keep the material of war rolling from our factories.

Second, we must have an army large enough to use this equipment which our factories make in winning this war as quickly as possible. The more quickly we can win it, the less it will cost us in suffering and death. How large the army should be, I do not know. I think I know one thing. It should be large enough. We can not afford to have ~~it~~ not quite enough to win.

Third, there must be enough people working on the farms to produce the food to feed not only our nation and our soldiers but our allies. So, ladies and gentlemen, although I have reported to you the things upon which I base my confidence that victory will be ours, we must not forget the tremendous problems yet ahead. We are getting in shape to win this war, but it is yet to be won. There are dangerous pit falls ahead of us. Wise

leadership and supreme effort will be necessary. I hope that before this Sabbath day is over, everyone who hears me will pray that this nation's faith in God be strengthened and that by that faith God will strengthen our arms and armor and inspire the wisdom of our leaders.