

### 'Equality' of Sacrifice

By Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker

The symbol that has made America great—inspired throughout the generations by our forefathers, and which has woven its way through the history of these great United States like a golden thread—is comprised of imagination, individuality, self-reliance, initiative and, last but not least, eternal but simple faith in the Supreme Being.

As all of you have either heard or read of my Pacific mission, there is little need of my dwelling on that subject with the exception of stating that after visiting with General MacArthur's boys in New Guinea—Port Moresby—Buna and Gona—I returned to Australia, and then through the Fijis to Guadalcanal, a veritable hell-hole—as the rainy season had just started.

Henderson Field runway is a metal strip that has been bombed and shelled for months, and is also the airplane graveyard of the Pacific, not only for enemy planes but our own as well.

Dugouts were filled with mud and water. Men were working in jumpers without shoes or socks. Marines and soldiers were in the fox-holes with millions of mosquitoes. Malaria was prevalent, as was diarrhea.

Here you will find a Catholic priest, Protestant preacher or a Jew-rabbi—all preaching the simple faith to Catholics, Protestants and Jews alike.

Oh, men and women of America, if you could only understand what our boys—your boys and mine—are doing in those hell-holes throughout the Pacific and the burning sands of Africa, that your way of life may be preserved, and the character that has made this nation great may be carried on, you would not worry about eight hours a day—overtime—or double time for Sundays and holidays, for this is a life and death struggle for the welfare of this nation!

Without victory—social security, old age pensions, wage and hour bills will mean nothing.

France had her slow-down and sit-down strikes—had her social legislation, which I am not against—but they failed in the realization that without work and without producing something of value, they could not last.

Today, they are serfs and slaves of Hitler's hordes. Millions of men, women and children are starving. That goes for Holland, Belgium, the Scandinavian countries, Bataan, Corregidor, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines.

Accept your responsibilities with the privileges that you are enjoying—Remember patriotism without service is a hollow word.

Do not let these boys come back from their graves in these hell-holes scattered throughout the Pacific, and other parts of the world, and from the depths of the seven seas—do not let them come back and plague you for having failed in your obligation on the home front to give them more and more of everything that is needed to hasten a final victory.

For we have the need to conduct ourselves now so that we can look those others in the face when they come home again—those who live to come home.

I know you realize that I have said—and I say again—we have in the past several years spent billions of dollars to destroy self-reliance, initiative, imagination and individuality, trying to plan the lives of 130,000,000 people by a superior few.

Now we are spending billions to recreate self-reliance, initiative, imagination and individuality.

As I have said before, if necessary to make us appreciate our duties, bring back the troops from the hell-holes of the world, place them in the factories—take the war workers, particularly those single men without dependents—from eighteen to thirty-eight years of age, and place them in the fox-holes with the filth, vermin, diarrhea, malaria and the Japanese, and I will guarantee you that our production will be increased, and much of it doubled—within thirty days.

We would have no more feather-bedding—no more slow-downs—no more restrictions on effort.

The perpetual slow-down in war industry caused by absenteeism—particularly in the aircraft industry, where it exceeds an average of ten per cent—is probably the most flagrant abuse of our obligation since Pearl Harbor.

In the Boeing factory alone, the day following Christmas, twenty-six per cent of the employees were absentees, and our aviators in those hell-holes are crying their eyes out for only a few more Flying Fortresses.

In the Douglas plant there was an absenteeism of eleven thousand employees the day after Christmas—a shocking and deplorable condition.

It is not the loss of individual man-hours that is so deadly, but the accumulated loss of thousands of hours

on the production line of other employees caused by individual absenteeism which, during the past year, has run well into hundreds of millions of man-hours.

Cut this absenteeism in half and our fighting forces throughout the world will be grateful, as it will add sufficient planes and parts and other weapons for their use to hasten final victory, and save the lives of untold thousands of our boys.

There is no absenteeism in the fox-holes in the jungles of the Pacific or the burning sands or mudholes of Africa, for if attempted there the absentees would get a bayonet in their bellies from their buddies.

Why should not our Congress show the common sense and intestinal fortitude now and clarify our labor laws so that millions of innocent men and women will have the same protection from our Government as do the racketeers?

Let America come back to the fundamentals that made it great.

Let us all be realists instead of emotionalists, sentimentalists or selfish, greedy human beings in this hour of our country's need.

Or must we wait until hundreds of thousands of the cream of our youth—sons, brothers, husbands and fathers—have been slaughtered and wrecked—mentally or physically—before we recognize our duty?

Yes, I am opposed to overtime pay for forty-eight hour week during this life and death struggle.

In times like these, I do not approve of overtime pay for a forty-eight hour week with present high wages, except for those men in the fox-holes, swamps, jungles, deserts, and the frozen north of the Aleutians, and Iceland, for they are the men making the supreme sacrifices.

For there is little reason why those of us back home should not expend every effort and energy—if not for our boys in uniform then—at least—to save our own skins.

Give the millions of honest men and women in this country an opportunity to do their best—they ask no more.

And to the labor leaders who are so prone to criticize so feebly, I say petition your Government for the privileges of flying to the hell-holes of the Pacific and the battlefields of North Africa, and see for yourselves as I have—then, and then alone will I listen to you—for I have earned my right to citizenship.

And to those few scoundrel, synthetic communists in labor, commerce and Government, who are so prone to smear, I say—go back to Russia where you will find millions of men and women willing to die and starve for their country in turning Hitler's hordes from their land—there you will find how transparent you are.

We hear a lot nowadays, that in this war there must be "equality of sacrifice."

The phrase is false and demagogic—hollow mockery. With what bitter laughter it must have been greeted at Guadalcanal—in New Guinea—and Tunisia.

What sacrifice can you or I, or any man or woman in America, make that deserves to be mentioned in the same breath with the sacrifice of the boys in the hell-holes of the Solomons?

Who dares to talk of sacrifice when he reads of the bodies of our young men being crushed under the weight of German tanks into the mud of Africa?

Yes—sacrifice—by putting a little of your swollen pay into the safest investment in the world.

Sacrifice—by not taking your family out for a ride on Sunday afternoon.

Sacrifice—by keeping your home only ten degrees warmer than the homes of England.

Sacrifice—by agreeing not to strike—but, of course, you can stay away from the job as many days as you want.

This is what you read in your daily newspapers, and hear on the radio, which will have its day of reckoning when the war is over and the boys come home.

We are fighting to distribute the blessings of freedom to everyone—everywhere—all over the world.

We are in a great and bloody crusade to export four freedoms—one of which is the freedom of speech.

Yet freedom of speech at home is rapidly diminishing. It is not being forbidden by law. It is not being crushed out by the Gestapo.

No, it is being subjected to much more subtle restraints and pressures.

The Nazis and the Fascists long ago showed us the way to discourage unwelcome free speech. Strangle it by wrapping it in the flag.

Smear it to death by crying aloud that it is an attack on the Fuehrer—that it gives aid and comfort to the enemy—that it promotes disunity.

That is the modern technique for getting rid of troublesome free speech.

I am not attacking unions. I am attacking a cancerous condition in our body politic—the attempt to impose one code of conduct on the mass

of Americans—and a different—special code for the benefit of the privileged few.

The demand for real sacrifice is from the inarticulate mass of American fathers, mothers and daughters—while special privileges and licenses are granted to the labor racketeer—the labor profiteer—and the labor loafer.

I say you cannot have national unity unless the leadership of the nation sets an example of unity—and that leadership should include Industry, Labor and Government.

You cannot demand that the mass of common folk shall think only of winning the war if the aristocracy of labor unionism is thinking only of more dues and more power—and the inner clique of bureaucracy is thinking only of a fourth term.

Any administration that demands unity must begin by setting an example of unity.

Any administration that talks of "equality of sacrifice" must honestly mean sacrifice by all, not sacrifice by the many for the financial and political advantages of the few.

I speak on behalf of the millions of honest men and women in unions who want their unions to stand clean and respected before the bar of American public opinion.

I speak on behalf of the future leaders of the United States—our boys in Africa—in Australia—in Guadalcanal—in New Guinea—in the Aleutians—in Iceland—in England—in China and India.

I say that this bloody war can be won only if we at home show that we deserve to have it won. Only if we have the intestinal fortitude to throw out the profiteers—punish the shirkers—and demand that there shall be a single—not a double—standard of justice in the United States—an even distribution of sacrifice on the home front imposed with a degree of political courage at home—comparable to the moral and physical courage being shown by our men abroad.

For what price social security from the cradle to the grave—if we dig our own graves in advance?

### Melvin Kern Writes From Alabama

Following is a letter from Melvin Kern who left here about nine years ago and is now located in Birmingham, Alabama:

Enclosed please find remittance for my next year's subscription to your paper. I don't know what we would do without the paper every week from home. We get very lonesome here for the Pacific Coast, and read the paper from cover to cover, even the want ads, and houses for rent. I always enjoy *Lans' Sports Review* each and every week, although I don't always agree with him on everything.

The fishing here is not very good. We have very few streams and lakes to fish in, and generally these are located so far away that with rationing, etc., we are unable to take advantage of them.

I am enclosing a few clippings from our local newspapers which will give you an idea of the work we are doing in this part of the country, and the company I am working for, the Bechtel-McCone-Parsons Corporation, is one of the largest contracting companies in the world, and I am very proud to be able to contribute a small part to the tremendous effort that they are putting forth here. I am the construction superintendent of this big project, and at present we are working between four and five thousand men.

I have seen two or three boys from home who are stationed at Jacksonville, Florida, and I have received letters from several who are stationed in and near this vicinity.

Our family is somewhat split up. Mary is in Seattle; Lucille is in Nurses Training School at St. Louis; and Betty is here working for Bechtel-McCone-Parsons on this project. We expect to leave here about the first of June to go on another big job.

Following are extracts from the newspaper clippings mentioned above:

The mighty arm of Vulcan, Birmingham's man of steel, will be ready to reach out across the country Thursday afternoon when the first B-24 Consolidated bomber modified in Birmingham's new airplane center is given his name.

This bomber, first of hundreds of giants of the air which will rain destruction upon the Axis after they have been modified at the Bechtel-McCone-Parsons Corporation modification center in Birmingham, will be called "Vulcan of Birmingham."

Before long "Vulcan of Birmingham" may be accompanying the "Birmingham Blitz," a Flying Fortress that already has caused the Axis some headaches, even more misery.

The OWI revealed that planes used by Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle in his raid on Tokyo were bombers equipped for their special

mission by modification centers in the United States. A majority of aircraft now being used against the Axis in the Solomons, New Guinea, China, the Aleutians and North Africa are modification jobs, the OWI announced Saturday. The Japanese at Midway met disaster from modified fighters and bombers.

The modification centers are able to take outmoded American pursuit planes and adapt them for desert warfare in Libya and Egypt as highly effective strafing and light bombing planes.

### Trout Season To Open Saturday

The angling season for trout not less than six inches in length opens Saturday, April 17, in all counties in the state except ten in eastern Oregon.

The trout bag limit is 15 fish or 15 pounds and one fish in any one day but not to exceed 30 fish or 30 pounds and two fish in any seven consecutive days or in possession at any one time.

Exceptions to the general season and limit are to be found listed in the 1943 synopsis of angling regulations published by the Oregon state game commission and available now at all agencies.

The game commission again urges anglers to cooperate by reporting the results of each fishing trip on the special orange colored "Catch Report Cards" that are being distributed by license agencies, sporting goods stores, fishing lodges and boat concessions. For each fishing trip made a card should be filled out and mailed to the game commission even if no fish are caught. Information gathered from these cards will help determine the results of past planting programs as well as the future policy.

See our large display of choice pot plants at Bergen's, across highway from telephone office. Not the cheapest but the best. Phone 64.



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Woman's Club Annual May Day Dance, Saturday, May 1, in Coquille Community Building. Come and see the queen crowned at 9:00 p. m. Admission 55 cents per person. 1313



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**SHOES**—Coupon 17, Book One, good through June 15.

**VEGETABLES AND FRUITS (Processed)**—Blue Stamps D, E & F, Book Two, good through April 30.

**MEATS, FATS, ETC.**—Red Stamps, A, B, C, Book Two, good through April 30.

**FUEL OILS**—Coupon 5, Zones A, B, and C, good through September 30.

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**THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...**



"I was just tellin' my brother Fred this mornin' Judge, there's never been a time in our lives when we got to live up to that old sayin' 'United we stand, divided we fall' more than we have to today."

"How true that is, Herb. And for the life of me, I can't figure out why, at a time like this, some folks insist on raising a question like prohibition. I can't imagine anything that would tickle our enemies more than to get us folks over here taking sides against each other, arguing about an issue like that. We've got a big job on our hands to win this war and we can't be wasting our minds, our money and our strength fighting about something we tried for nearly 14 years and found couldn't work."

"I say there's a time and a place for everything, and this is no time or place to be doing any fightin' except the kind that's going to win the war."

Conference of Alcoholic Beverage Industries, Inc.