

# THE BIG JOB

## BASIC MAGNESIUM NEWS LETTER

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DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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### LET'S NOT BE FOOLED ABOUT THIS WAR

#### A PATRIOTIC SECRETARY

In an office at BMI there is a secretary, who, like many of the rest of us is worried about the war. Reading one of the excellent editorials on the progress of the conflict in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, she puts on paper the thought that The Big Job might well devote some attention to the awful consequences of American defeat and the crying need for a greater spirit of sacrifice and co-operation among Americans in order that certain and complete victory will be gained.

#### A DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

The major purpose of The Big Job is to acquaint workers at the plant with the size and significance of this great project. It is not our purpose to be preaching at you. But the letter from this secretary gives us a little pause, so we digress in this issue to adopt her suggestion.

#### WE CAN LOSE THIS WAR

The war is not going well for our side. In Europe, in Africa, in the Middle East, in China, on the Atlantic the enemy holds the initiative. In the Pacific, despite the resounding victories in the Coral Sea, at Midway, and our successful forays in the Solomon Islands, we are in no sense ready for the great assault by land, sea, and air which must be launched before the Japs are driven from the territories they have conquered.

#### UNITY - - NOT INTERNAL STRIFE

Unity—a people cemented together as one in spirit and work—unity alone can furnish the equipment, train the armed forces, and build the ships necessary to guarantee that we shall not be enslaved by the Nazis and the Japs. The kind of unity we mean is the kind that built the BMI administration building in 148 hours after it was destroyed by fire. Must the enemy be on our shores before we quit squabbling?

#### BLACK OUTLOOK IN RUSSIA

The outlook in Russia is bad. Dispatches from Moscow—passed by the censor—declare that the war on the European continent can be lost in the next months. If the German advance continues for 30 days as rapidly as it has progressed since the opening of the summer campaign, Russia will have lost 80 per cent of her oil producing lands, and a great bulk of her industries. Even though these resources be scorched and for the time become only a potential asset to Hitler, the oil and goods which they are now producing for Russia will be lost to the Allied cause. This would be a terrific blow to us. Only three routes are open between the United States and Russia. One is the northern water route, subject along a thousand miles to attack upon our all-too-scarce ships by German planes and submarines. The other is from the middle east, where rail facilities are meager and which is even now threatened by the German advance into the Caucasus. The third is by way of Alaska and Siberia—as yet almost completely undeveloped. If Hitler gains his objectives in Russia, depriving Stalin of vital sources of supply, the war may last years longer before we can win the victory. Let's not fool ourselves!

#### WE NEVER QUIT IN THE PINCHES

The concern of the BMI secretary is justified. Still it is not the American way to go limp and give up just because the going is tough. We didn't do it at Valley Forge nor in either the North or South in the black years of the War between the States. We didn't do it in the dark days of the Spring in 1918. We met those crises with courage and a united will to win. That's what we need now—with a lot less grumbling and a lot more sacrifice; a lot less bickering, and a lot more unity; a lot less fighting among ourselves, and a lot more co-operation.

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## NOT SO GOOD IN CHINA

China has lost her whole seacoast. She is literally fighting to survive with her back against her mountains. We can deliver her supplies now only by air over the most hazardous air route on earth—above the blizzard-swept Himalayas. Despite the courage and almost unbelievable flying skill of the India-to-China ferrying command, the flow of supplies to our allies in China is little more than a trickle.

## LET'S GET MAD AT THE ENEMY

In the face of the next to insurmountable task of making enough war equipment in the United States and then getting it to the right places in the world on time, we, as a people, have not yet seemed fully to realize that every word and action that spreads suspicion and disunity at home brings smiles to the faces, and comfort to the noses of Hitler and Hironito. Fighting among ourselves helps the enemy. If we must be mad, let's be mad at the enemy and not at each other.

## FEW ROSY SPOTS FOR US

It shouldn't be necessary to dwell on the rest of the picture—the danger to Suez, the possibility of a meeting between the Japs and the Germans in the East, the now apparently improved, but still none too happy a situation in the submarine campaign against our ships in the Atlantic.

The total scene is not good. We are now one of the "have-not" nations. Japan has most of the rubber and tin producing regions of the world. Essential copper is getting critically scarce. Though we have been, and are building ships at a rate never before approached, we are no further ahead than we were when Japan swooped down on Pearl Harbor.

## IT'S TIME TO GET WORRIED

Meantime—and we repeat it again—there is too much dissention at home. Charges and counter-charges about this and that; about the strategy of the war and the production of materials fly back and forth. The worry of the BMI secretary is no doubt based upon the all too complacent attitude of altogether too many of us; and the disunity which prevails because of inner strife.

## HISTORY'S HARDEST TASK

You and I at BMI, you and I in Nevada, Louisiana, Illinois, New York and Maine—and all the other regions of the United States, have got to tighten our belts and get ready for a long, hard period of self-sacrifice. We've got to brace ourselves for heavy casualty lists. We've got to buckle down to the biggest job that ever confronted any nation in the whole history of the world. We've got to quit squawking. And that doesn't mean the other fellow, either. It means you and me—the whole kit and kaboodle of us.

## YOU AND I AND OUR FIGHTING MEN

Every nation that Hitler conquered in Europe was split with dissention before the German troops moved in. Every rift in our ranks in the United States now impedes production of war materials, delays the day of the great attack and helps the cause of the enemy. When we battle among ourselves, we make it harder for the boys in Europe, tougher for the troops in Australia, and more difficult for our men in China, the fleet on the seven seas, and worse for the lads on the Solomons.

## THEY'RE COUNTING ON YOU AND ME

The Flying Tigers of China, the boys who were on Bataan, the grim gunners in the Coral Sea and at Midway—now do you think they like the news of squabbling and backbiting at home? The wounded Ranger carried from snore to snip at smoking Dieppe—now do you think he reacts to word that too many folks in the United States are standing on petty prerogative and seeking personal preferment?

## SIGN IT THE NEXT TIME

Yes, you BMI secretary, we're in a tight spot nationally—and maybe we've got to get more worried and scared before we quit knifing each other. Thanks for your patriotism and for the suggestion as set forth in your letter signed just "A BMI Secretary."

And by the way - - - H. P. Eells, Jr., President of Basic, responding to you through us writes: "If possible, will you please acknowledge for me through the columns of The Big Job, and incidental thereto, mention that there was certainly no reason for not signing the note."