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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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BALANCE SHEET FOR COURAGE.

We stand on the threshold of another year. Like Janus, ancient god with two faces from which January gets its name, we must look back for inspiration and forward with courage. Only 6 years ago - in 1939 - war was stalking the world but it remained for Jap bombs in 1941 to bring us into it. But six years ago, we were showing our strength despite a long-drawn-out depression and amazing changes in our national life. For in that year, SNOW WHITE was the biggest movie success of all time, the Auto Show in New York was a blaze of color, Joe Louis was a champion, LaGuardia was a front-page mayor, radio had 774 stations and 26 million potential listeners, the Chase Bank reached 3 billions in deposits and could not find enough outlets for its money, Roosevelt was breaking tradition with a third term, Willkie made a meteoric rise with his doctrine of strength and freedom, we were still at peace and did not quite know our strength and power.

CAME CONFLICT.

Came conflict and witnessed America girding her loins for battle. An almost fantastic estimate for bombers and fighters was reached and exceeded. Tanks, trucks and cars poured from production lines. Unbelievable weapons like fast-firing anti-aircraft guns, radar, automatic rifles, PT boats, proximity fuses and what not began to weigh in the balance. Young Americans made history in the dark corners of the earth. Came a two-billion-dollar gamble on the atomic bomb and we won. Conflict ended and demobilization buttons began to appear by the millions.

CAME PROBLEMS.

Not unlike the period, immediately after World War I came problems on the home front. Prices pushed up. Labor was restive. There was need for relief in foreign lands to stay the rush of that arch Communist-Hunger. The curve of unemployment rose with war cutbacks. Veterans needed jobs and homes. Foreign lands came to supplicate for loans. Russia became an enigma. The four freedoms became a forgotten formula. FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover predicted a crime increase and greater social irresponsibility. There was an insistent demand for sumptuary legislation. There was talk of applesellers and another depression just around the corner.

WHY DESPAIR?

Stand on the highest mountain with a notebook and look down on America, The Beautiful. What do you see? Six million farms with more than a billion acres, untouched by shells and bombs. From them come more corn and wheat, rice and cotton, pork and beef than we can normally eat. Here you see farms with machinery and homes with electric power. The cash income of these farms was more than 20 billion dollars last year. You see factories - more than we ever had before - with more machines than we ever had. You see coal mines, hydro electric power plants, oil wells tapping the rich resources of the good earth. You see people who own more savings than any other people on earth, enjoying the highest living standards, who have the best schools, the free-est churches, the most freedom, the least fear of any people on earth.

WHAT DO THEY NEED.

Their needs are many - and they have money to supply that need. That need, when translated into the production of clothes, machinery, food, houses and a million other things spells prosperity. But there is a greater need - a need which is the key to our future. It is a need for courage, for faith in our future, for forbearance, for unity of purpose, for determination that the fruits of victory shall not be lost, for a determination to remain free. These needs are of the spirit. No act of Congress, no directive from a government agency, no proclamation by the President, no ukase or edict from Washington can fulfill that need. It must come from within. The balance sheet on the corporation which we call the United States of America justifies courage on the part of the stockholders - namely, we the people.