WHAT OF FREEDOM

In 1940, there was a cleavage and disunity. In 1941, Jap bombs brought unity. But there were continuing differences of opinion on war aims. Why do we fight? What do we defend? What means shall be used and how do we obtain the means? These were common questions but a few years ago. There was a demand for a clarification of war aims and a restatement of national purpose. Gradually there came clarification. First came the Atlantic Charter. That was August 1941. It was a statement of common principles in the national policies to be pursued. It recited eight purposes. It embraced the four freedoms. Not the least of the purposes was set forth in paragraph Three. It reads as follows: "They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them." The whole document breathes freedom. On January 2, 1942, there was a Declaration by the United Nations. There were 26 of them. They pledged themselves to justice, human rights and freedom. There followed many conferences on strategy to bring about victory and the accomplishment of war aims. World leaders met at Casablanca on January 24, 1942. There was the Moscow Conference on October 19, 1943 which pledged sovereign equality and an organization which would be open to all nations large and small. There was the Quebec Conference on August 24, 1943. There was the Cairo Conference on November 22, 1943. There was the Teheran Conference on November 26, 1943. Finally, there was the Yalta Conference. Freedom was the world's business.

ON THE HOMEFRONT.

On the home front, we were equally busy in pursuing this business of freedom for all peoples. Republicans met at Mackinac Island in the autumn of 1943 and pledged a program of order, decent living, permanent peace, and organized justice in a free world. Congress enacted the Fulbright Resolution on September 21, 1943 by an overwhelming vote. Its end was security and freedom. The Senate enacted the Connally Resolution shortly thereafter. Noble resolve and high purpose was in the air. Yes, freedom and justice and a well-ordered world had become our business. At long last came the Yalta Conference and then the world delegations moving to San Francisco.

FOR THIS THEY DIED.

The world is dotted with cemeteries, large and small. How sacred they are! There lie the honored dead of many nations. America's sons lie there also. Many of them. The casualty list now exceeds a million. It includes 227,097 known dead. There are others. And there will be more before it's over. They died at Anzio Beach and Cassino; they died along the Arno and the Po in northern Italy; they died at Normandy Beach, in France and Germany; they died flying the "hump" to China and in the feverish swamps of Buna; they died in the islands of the Pacific. We told them it was for Freedom. For this they died. For this we taxed ourselves. For this we dislocated our economy. For this the world sweated and labored. For this the world hoped.

WHERE IS THIS FREEDOM.

Is it in India where for 25 years, there has been rioting, violence and resistance to mark the ferment of freedom? Is it in Bulgaria where 7,000,000 sturdy, healthy people with high morals and simple faith have no right of self determination? Is it in Poland, land of Chopin and Sembrich, Sienkiewicz and Madame Curie, Modjeska and Pedowicz whose representatives to a conference have suddenly disappeared? Does one find it in Iran, rich in oil, whose authorities have asked that foreign armies be withdrawn? Is it in Syria and Lebanon, land of ancient culture that knew Temorolante and Alexandor the Great, the Apostle Paul and the Crusaders - that same Syria and Lebanon where blood runs red today and where French and British troops are quartered? Is it Iraq, cradle of civilization between the Tigris and Euphrates where precious oil abounds and where by treaty, an outside power occupies strategic spots? Is it in Egypt, land of antiquity where the humble fellahin okes out an existence where troops of another nation patrol the Suez and where freedom is beset with many exceptions? Where is Freedom? It is still the World's Number One business.