

HITLER AND AMERICAN BUSINESS

SOME months ago Dr. G. A. Westrick, special emissary of Adolf Hitler, arrived in this country to consult with American businessmen. Though his consultations have been curiously discreet, the New York *Herald Tribune* was able to disclose that they have been varied and extensive. Herr Dr. Westrick consults in a language which businessmen understand — the language of big orders, big profits, inside-track, ground-floor relations with the world's largest single customer: a coördinated, collectivized Europe. He can readily make his visitors see that it's good business to play with Hitler. And it is — for a few Americans for a short period. But it's bad business for American economy as a whole in the long run. It's suicidal business for the democratic American nation in a totalitarian world.

Germany is now hammering a fantastically large economic entity into shape with artillery and stuka bombers. Unless we quickly put on an armorplate of national unity, it will be able to penetrate American economic and political life, to set firm against firm, race against race, industry against industry, section against section by giving or with-

holding trade. Economic preferment has been one of the Nazis' most potent instruments in undermining the national unity of countries which have since fallen into Hitler's lap like overripe fruit. Let's act now — before influential sectors of American business develop a profit stake in Hitler's system and thus become in effect his economic vassals.

THE AMERICAN MERCURY urges that our government, and private agencies like the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers Association and organized labor, act now to make it impossible, illegal and traitorous for individual firms to transact business with *any* totalitarian nation. We must confront foreign trade monopolies with the full force of a unified American economy if we are to survive as a free nation in an enslaved world.

The totalitarians are past masters at using democratic civil liberties to kill democracy and end civil liberty. They are no less adept in using the competitive economic system to blot out competition and take entire nations in tow. We must not wait — tomorrow may be too late.

— EUGENE LYONS

OUR ECONOMIC DEFENSE LINES

By CLARK FOREMAN

MILITARY defense is not enough. Although this thought has been expressed repeatedly since "the best army in the world" was routed from the Maginot Line, it has not yet sunk into our national consciousness. The traditional ideas of war still cling to the lay mind, and not all the withering blasts of news from Europe can dislodge them. To most of us war is still a matter of battles between armed forces in the air, on water and on land. Yet in the present war not a single nation has been crushed by military weight alone. Germany's achievement has been in creating divisions of interest in the ranks of the enemy economy, so that it could not be unified even for its own defense. The bravest military and political leaders are helpless when opposed by internal economic groups eager to save themselves at the expense of their country.

In using new methods of trade to undermine their enemies, totalitarian states have a weapon for total war that can be met only

by an armor plate of total defense. Our military defenses are futile unless we can offer united resistance on the economic front. Obviously a major power with a centrally controlled, integrated economy must win in the two fields in which nations compete — foreign trade and armaments — in a struggle with powers that have uncontrolled economies. A heavy task therefore lies ahead of us if we would resist the onslaught of totalitarian control. The two considerations which must govern any plan for total American defense, the military and the economic, are inseparable and interdependent.

The natural and capital resources of the United States are tremendous. Even with the waste that has characterized the exploitation of both, we have been able to achieve for our people a standard of living which, though far short of our inherent potentialities, is still higher than any known in history. Because the human resources of a nation are its greatest asset — as well as its reason for being — the