



# America First

WERE it not for the *America First Committee*, the messages in favor of peace—messages delivered particularly by Senator Wheeler and Colonel Lindbergh—would not have been broadcast to our nation.

No other spontaneous organization in the entire history of this country has contributed such substantial and needed service during a crucial period.

Recently this Committee has been the object of attack—both from within and from without.

From within, by individuals who joined the Committee for the one purpose of sowing seeds of dissension.

From without, by individuals and groups who are bent on hurtling the flesh and blood of America into a war designed to save the British pound sterling and those who control it; by those who love compromise more than courage, Caesar more than God and the international bankers more than the poor, exploited, misguided Americans.

We rejoice that a most representative group of Protestant ministers in America openly campaigned for peace and for America first.

In the days of the aftermath, they will receive their reward both from God and from the disillusioned, awakened American people.

We rejoice that Cardinal William O'Connell, the dean of the American Catholic hierarchy, has given the *America First Committee* his benediction—and this is a benediction that cannot be nullified by carping criticism emanating from other quarters.

From time to time, the *America First Committee* will make mistakes. It does not pretend to be a divinely guided institution.

But at all times the *America First Committee* is, as its name suggests, for America first, last and always.

Because the *America First Committee* is merely a human organization, it would be unfair for us to strain at the gnats of mistakes which some of its members commit and swallow the camel of pro-Britishism and pro-warism identified with opponent organizations.

In this struggle on the part of the majority of unrepresented and misrepresented Americans to keep this country

out of Europe's wars, the *America First Committee* must be prepared to suffer the slings and arrows identified with name-calling.

Honest men recognize that to be for America First—as opposed to being for Britain's Bank of Englandism first—does not identify the members of the Committee as "pro-Nazi."

And courageous men likewise recognize that, though they lose all, it is their duty in these tempestuous times, to write a record of opposition to the current war-mongering clique and their satellites, lest the children of the next generation should think that all their forebears had deserted both them and the principles of Christian peace and nationality upon which was built the structure of our country.

If, in labor unions, Catholic and Protestant, Socialist and non-Socialist, can stand shoulder to shoulder to demand their God-given rights, *a fortiori* in this national union represented by America First, Catholics and Protestants, Socialist and non-Socialist must stand side by side—without contentious bickerings—to save this country, its *Constitution*, resources, wealth and manhood, from being dissipated and dissolved.

Let no group of Socialists, Catholics, Protestants, Germans, Irish or Italians endeavor to use the *America First Committee* for the advancement of selfish aims.

Let all groups, as well as all individuals who support the *America First Committee*, submerge, momentarily at least, their motivating objectives to the one grand objective of keeping this country out of war.

No other interest should engage our common mind.

No other interest will, even though, perchance, the chief spokesmen for the *America First Committee*—Senator Wheeler and Colonel Lindbergh—unintentionally and accidentally commit an error.

It is understandable why millions of our fellow citizens will not join the *America First Committee*. They are the quiet individuals who are not addicted to joining any organization.

It is not understandable, however, why other individuals greedily grasp an opportunity to flay the *America First Committee*, thereby letting themselves open to the illogical but inevitable charge that they are supporters of some "British First Committee"!

## Read the Editorial in This Edition on Father Coughlin's Silver Jubilee