

Washington Post, 1^{er} avril 1917

Draw the sword of Liberty ! *Dégainez l'épée de la Liberté !*

Trois possibilités s'offrent aux Etats-Unis dans l'attitude à tenir face à l'Allemagne :

- abandonner ses droits et refuser le combat
- déclarer qu'un état de guerre existe et mener à contrecœur une guerre limitée et de fait inefficace
- déclarer la guerre et employer immédiatement toute son énergie et ses ressources afin d'obtenir une prompte et totale défaite de l'ennemi.

La première possibilité est suggérée par des pacifistes poltrons, prêts à demander la paix à tout prix, même à celui de l'honneur national.

La deuxième pourrait être à tort défendue par des hommes soucieux de défendre l'honneur national mais apeurés à la seule idée d'une guerre vigoureuse et agressive.

La troisième nous a été enseignée par un passé parfois difficile comme la seule voie à suivre.

Une infime proportion du peuple américain est actuellement assez poltronne pour souhaiter la paix aux dépens de l'honneur.

Nous ne pensons pas que ces pacifistes puissent influencer le Congrès.

Nous pensons que le Président Wilson avertira le Congrès qu'un état de guerre existe en raison des actes de l'Allemagne et nous croyons que le Congrès fera immédiatement une déclaration en ce sens, à une écrasante majorité sinon à l'unanimité.

Il y a toutefois une possibilité que de nombreux membres du Congrès et de l'administration n'aient pas pleinement conscience de l'importance de mener sans tarder une guerre agressive, avec toute la force possible.

Le danger serait de lever une armée inadaptée, de commander en quantité insuffisante équipements et approvisionnement et d'éviter des opérations militaires et navales agressives.

(...)

Du chancelier von Bethmann Hollweg au plus petit (...) pilote de sous-marin, les Allemands croient que les Etats-Unis sont un agglomérat de peuples, divisés et incapables de concentrer leurs forces dans un état de guerre agressif comme l'Allemagne a pu le faire. Ils entendent la proposition d'envoyer un régiment américain ou deux sur le front en France et ils rient avec mépris. Ils lisent les débats du Sénat et sont convaincus que le Président et le Congrès ne sont pas du même avis. Ils apprennent que les Etats-Unis ne disposent que de vingt-six avions ; que les mitrailleuses ne fonctionnent pas ; que les nouveaux vaisseaux militaires ne seront pas terminés avant trois ou cinq ans ; que le Congrès n'a pas réussi à faire passer la loi sur les crédits militaires. (...)

L'Allemagne a commis une lourde méprise en pensant qu'elle pouvait écraser la France. Elle s'est complètement trompée en imaginant que l'Angleterre refuserait de combattre. Elle interprète aujourd'hui de façon erronée le tempérament russe.

Montrons lui qu'elle a fait sa plus grosse erreur en osant essayer de chasser le drapeau américain des océans, quand elle a envoyé ses pirates et assassiné des Américains.

Membres du Congrès, ne prenez pas ces sauvages à la légère ! Ne sous-estimez pas leurs capacités

démoniaques ni leur pouvoir! Ne prenez pas contre eux de demi-mesures! Déclarez-leur la guerre et plongez le poignard jusqu'à la garde! Levez une armée, non pas une pauvre petite garde pour 6 mois, mais un million d'hommes pour toute la durée de la guerre, et levez-en un autre million en réserve. Construisez des avions, non par douzaines mais par milliers. Donnez-nous une marine marchande et soutenez-la avec des cuirassés et des navires de guerre! Augmentez le personnel de la Marine à hauteur d'au moins 125 000 hommes. Votez la loi sur l'espionnage. Donnez au Président un million de Dollars pour l'effort de guerre.

Membres du Congrès! Les mânes [*esprits*] de vos pères vous observent et attendent que vous déchaîniez les éclairs de la Liberté. Des voix ancestrales vous avertissent qu'il est temps pour vous de protéger cette nation contre les sauvages qui l'attaquent. Vous avez aujourd'hui un millier de fois la force et le pouvoir qu'avaient vos aïeux quand ils ont créé les Etats-Unis. Utilisez cette force! Employez ce pouvoir! (...)

The Washington Post.

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Sunday, April 1, 1917.

Traitorous Pacifists.

Large advertisements are appearing in the metropolitan newspapers, skillfully written for the purpose of stirring up class hatred and suspicion and thus dissuading Americans from enlisting in the war that is coming. Other advertisements appeal to cowardice, selfishness or ignorance by making false pleas for peace at any price. Huge sums are paid for these advertisements.

The hour is at hand when cowardly or traitorous pacifists will not dare to spread this propaganda of Germany. The law will seize and punish them for sedition. They are raising their hands against the operations of government.

Until war is declared the pacifists who are guilty of this antipatriotic agitation are immune from punishment. But they are marking themselves. They will be watched for treachery against the nation. They are showing themselves to be capable of crime against the American flag.

At this time, when the United States is on the verge of war, The Washington Post believes that the advertisements in question are an abuse of the right of free speech. It does not presume to judge other newspapers which print these advertisements, but for itself, it will not print them. It has rejected these advertisements, and will continue to do so.

Perhaps the Department of Justice is investigating the source of the money that pays for these advertisements. If it is not inquiring into the subject it should do so.

"Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort." An effort to prevent the voluntary enlistment of American citizens for the defense of their country is treasonable in time of war. It is sedition at any time. "The hope of impunity is a strong incitement to sedition," said Hamilton. The pacifists will not long enjoy impunity. If they are wise they will cease their agitation before they are legally classified as public enemies and punished accordingly.

Display the Flag!

Already there can be observed in Washington a remarkable degree of response to the appeals that have been

Draw the Sword of Liberty!

Three courses are open to the United States in dealing with Germany: It can abandon its rights and refuse to fight.

It can declare that a state of war exists and then carry on a half-hearted, partial, qualified, and therefore ineffectual war.

It can declare war and immediately utilize all its energies and resources for the prompt and complete defeat of the enemy.

The first course is suggested by the coward pacifists who demand peace at any price, including national honor.

The second course may be mistakenly advocated by men who are willing to defend the national honor, but who shrink from the thought of prosecuting a vigorous aggressive war.

The third course is that which hard facts and past experience show to be advisable and necessary.

A small proportion of the American people are actually so cowardly as to desire peace above honor. We do not believe these pacifists will be influential in Congress.

We believe that President Wilson will advise Congress that a state of war exists by reason of Germany's acts, and we believe that Congress will immediately make a declaration accordingly, by an overwhelming if not unanimous vote.

There is a possibility, however, that a considerable element in Congress and the administration will not fully appreciate the importance of waging aggressive war at once, with all the force at the command of the nation. There is danger that an inadequate army will be provided; that insufficient supplies and equipment will be ordered, and that the policy may be to avoid aggressive military and naval operations. The enemy will throw out false peace proposals, and our war policy may be halting and vacillating while we pursue the phantom of peace with savages who are merely maneuvering for an opportunity to sever our jugular vein.

The blood of American boys will be upon the heads of those who fail to throw the whole weight of this nation into the war, once war is declared. Every day of faltering will mean the useless shedding of American blood.

The quarrel with Germany will never be settled right until Germany is whipped. A makeshift arrangement with an undefeated Germany would mean another war. Germany will cease to be a menace to the independence of the United States only when she is hammered to her knees and convinced by the only argument that appeals to her intellect—brute force.

The hesitating use of inadequate force against that international outlaw would be understood in only one way—that the United States is afraid of Germany. It would encourage Germany and lead to greater exertions against us, in the hope of overcoming us. American soldiers and sailors would die needlessly in consequence.

From Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg to the humblest bomb-thrower and submarine stoker the Germans believe the United States is a mere conglomeration of peoples, divided among themselves, and unable to concentrate their strength in aggressive warfare as Germany has done. They hear of the proposal to send a regiment or two of Americans to the French front, and they laugh in scorn. They read the Senate debates and are convinced that Congress and the President are divided. They learn that the United States has only 26 airplanes; that the machine guns do not work; that the new naval vessels will not be completed for three or five years; that Congress failed to pass the army appropriation bill; that the pacifists are gathering at Washington to prevent any declaration of war, and their secret spy reports encourage them to believe that domestic violence will keep all our troops busy.

Germany made a frightful mistake when she thought she could crush France. She blundered when she thought England would refuse to fight. She now mistakes the temper of the people of Russia.

Let us show her that she made her greatest blunder when she dared to order the American flag off the ocean; when she sent out her pirates and murdered Americans.

Americans in Congress! Do not trifle with these savages. Do not underestimate their devilish skill and power. Do not take halfway measures against them. Declare war on them, and then drive the knife home to the hilt! Raise an army, not a pitiful corporal's guard for six months, but a million men for the duration of the war, and another million in reserve. Build airplanes, not by the dozen, but by the thousand. Give us a merchant marine. Rush the battle cruisers and battleships and submarines to completion. Increase the personnel of the navy to at least 125,000. Pass the espionage bill. Give the President \$1,000,000,000 for war expenses.

Americans in Congress! The spirits of your fathers look down upon you and wait for you to let loose the thunderbolts of Liberty. Ancestral voices warn you that your time has come to guard this nation against the savage that assails it. You have a thousand times the strength and power that your forefathers had when they established this Union. Use this strength! Exert this power! Call into being the forces that will smite down and annihilate the barbarians who presume to tear the American flag from the skies!