

LET'S FACE THE FACTS

No. 12

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Address to the Men and Women
of Canada

BY

MR. LAWRENCE HUNT

over a national network of
the Canadian Broadcasting
Corporation, Sunday night,
Oct. 6, 1940, at the invitation
of the Director of Public
Information for Canada

Text of Lawrence Hunt's address over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation national network Sunday night follows:

Friends and neighbors of Canada:

I shall talk to you tonight in a spirit of gratitude and hope. Gratitude—because you are giving the best that is in you to save our English-speaking civilization, while we in America prepare to do our share as a decent, freedom-loving neighbor and partner in that civilization. And hope—because now I know and you must know, and even Herr Hitler knows, that Americans will do their share—do it in the American way, “down the line”—as Americans have always done when conscious of their duty and their danger.

Last April, when I had the privilege of speaking to some of you here in Toronto, most of us Americans, like many of our neighbors in the English-speaking world, were not facing the facts. Perhaps we glanced at them nervously out of the corner of one eye, but for the most part we looked at “anything else but.” That was a mistake, a tragic mistake. But it was not entirely surprising. The world then, as it seems to us now, was very different. The innocent peoples of Holland and Belgium still cultivated their gardens in the twilight of a peaceful if precarious neutrality. The flag of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity still waved proudly and serenely over the most civilized nation on the European Continent. War, many good Americans thought, was of course a terrible thing, but as wars go it would be a comfortable one; we could all settle down very snug and safe behind the Maginot Line and the British fleet and wait until the German army got tired of the war, or the German people revolted against their hated masters, or Hitler fell downstairs and broke his neck, or something else happened that would end it all very nicely. So we lived in a fairyland of wishful thinking which adults seem to crave as much as children when reality gets tough.

Our attitude toward the Allies then was simply and sincerely “We want you to win.”

DISASTER CHANGED VIEW-POINT

Well—you know what happened. Suddenly there was no Maginot Line. America came down to earth with a bang. There was Dunkerque. “A colossal military

disaster.” True. But also an answer to the prayers of liberty-loving men and women throughout the world. In that night of defeat and disaster a tiny star of faith and hope was born. England could “take it” as she had always done. My fellow citizens began once again to feel like Americans. Free men still knew how to fight for freedom. We were getting “fed up” with our whining, pseudo-intellectuals, the political pimps negotiating for the alien vote, the Communist isolationists, the hysterical pacifists, and all those “passive barbarians” in our midst who give a fawning acquiescence to ruthless power. We knew as a matter of plain decency and hard sense that we must help the rest of our neighbors in the English-speaking world. We said — “Stop Hitler Now.”

And what's important, we began to do something about it. We went to work. Slowly, inefficiently, confusedly, to be sure—but purposefully. Today, the sober, determined voice of America says, “Hitler must go.”

We are beginning to speak the only language the Nazi understands.

You do understand, don't you, Herr Hitler? Or are you too deafened by the frenzied cheers of the people you have debauched to hear what we, the men and women of the British Empire and the United States are saying to you. Let me tell you a little bit of what we say.

HITLER WILL LOSE

You have preached pure evil for many years and you have the solitary merit of practising what you preach. You have debased the mind, and corrupted the hearts of the German people, especially the young, whom you have crazed with the lusts of cruelty and power; you have tortured and driven into exile men and women of the Jewish race, partly no doubt because of your maddening sense of inferiority to them and partly because your evil genius told you that a sure way to the dark chambers of the soul of man is the path of intolerance; you turned the German nation into the mightiest and most efficient criminal force in all history, and decent men, free men, honest men, kind men in your own land and everywhere on earth feared and despised you. And yet, Herr Hitler, you will lose.

You conquered two nations with your lies and then, when your other peace-loving neighbors

began to face the facts, you struck them down while they groped too late and in vain amidst treachery and confusion for the means to ward off and to return the blow. For the moment they are in your power. Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, Holland, Belgium France. They are in your power. But, according to the clock of history, only for a moment—two or three years, perhaps. Because, Herr Hitler, you will lose.

You have caused much suffering and destroyed much beauty in the Mother Country of the English-speaking nations. Your bombers have carefully maimed and killed old men and women and children, the innocent and the helpless. They have marred or ruined venerable churches, great buildings and ancient landmarks which for centuries have been the physical evidence of the spiritual things we cherish most. And you will cause more suffering and do more damage to our friends and kinsmen across the sea. Even so, Herr Hitler, you will lose.

You tried to kill the spirit of America. You wanted to take from us our moral manhood so that we would feel a cold indifference toward right and wrong. For a little while, here and there, you were horribly successful, partly because you enlisted some kindred spirits amongst us, some pseudo-economists and shyster historians, some scheming Communists and gullible business men, and, most pathetic of all, some honest, well-meaning folk who seemed to think, as did good folk five centuries ago, that the earth is flat and that the world ends at the ocean's horizon. You appealed to our Pontius Pilates, who told us to wash our hands of the “mess”. Your agents sobbed about the “Crime of Versailles” while you bombed and enslaved nation after nation. Some of our whining intellectuals pleaded, like you, for “justice” toward your “rightful claims,” while thousands of honest, free-thinking men and women writhed in the torture of your concentration camps. You have left no stone unturned, no trick untried to confuse our minds and to harden our hearts. And even at this eleventh hour you are still trying, ingeniously, desperately trying, to kill the American spirit. But, Herr Hitler, you will lose.

MUST DO OUR SHARE

Friends and neighbors, I think we know now at least some of

the reasons why Herr Hitler will lose. I don't mean that we can indulge in false hopes of sudden victory or easy triumphs. Quite the contrary. You in Canada and we in the United States must steadily face the plain, grim fact that both of us must do our share with every bit of our strength and skill and courage, just as the men and women of Britain are doing tonight. If we don't, well, then we'll want to die. But we will do our share.

So let's look at some of the encouraging facts. You are now hitting your stride. We are still warming up. Some of you may still have doubts about America doing her part as a comrade-in-arms in this war. To ye of little faith I can only say that although some minor facts may disturb you, the major facts show that America is on the march.

It's true that we are unprepared. We always have been unprepared for war. That's part of the steep price we pay for democracy. It's also true that our timid and, in some cases, unscrupulous politicians still play to the fears rather than to the courage of our people. But the politician has a rather well developed instinct for self-preservation, and when he can no longer fool the people he will quickly follow them. The cringing intellectuals on the campus and in the newspapers still whimper and whine for peace without honor and without freedom. But their influence is rapidly diminishing. The goods and wares they have been selling us for twenty years look rather shabby, almost indecent to us, now that we are face to face with the eternal values. Their cries grow more and more shrill as we pay them less and less attention. They can whine all they like in a democracy they won't fight for. But we plain, ordinary people have work to do, Hitler to beat, a war to win and a better world to make.

FACING THE FACTS

Let's face the big facts and the little facts will take care of themselves. The American Congress has authorized the expenditure of more than ten billion dollars for armament—and that's a mere starter. Ten days from now more than sixteen million men register for training and service, as needed, in the armed forces of the United States—and that's the first "peace-time" conscription in our whole history. The wheels of American industry are gathering speed. In eighteen months from

now we shall have produced thirty-three thousand planes, fighters and bombers, for England's forces and our own. Don't those facts seem more impressive than some of our puffing politicians and morally emasculated intellectuals?

Several weeks ago Britain and America made a deal—destroyers for naval bases. It was far more than a deal. It was the most significant and far-reaching act of co-operation in Anglo-American history. No false pride, no face-saving devices, no flag-waving phrases—just a practical example of friendly, English-speaking neighbors working smoothly and effectively together. John Bull and Uncle Sam are pulling together as never before. And they are an unbeatable team.

We are working with you night and day on military and naval problems relating to our common defence. No alliance, no secret understanding, and no grounds for misunderstanding, just another practical example of how we neighbors and partners in the English-speaking world are working together. It means the weakening of no ties or loyalties. Quite the contrary. It means the strengthening as never before of those spiritual and material interests among the peoples of the British Commonwealth and the American Republic which will guarantee our freedom and mankind's salvation from tyranny.

CANADA DOING A JOB

Now then, what do these huge appropriations, this vast conscription of men, this gigantic organization of industry, these practical working agreements with our British and Canadian neighbors—what do they really signify? Simply this: America means business. And that means Hitler must go.

My friends, I am not sure that you fully appreciate what an effective and decisive part Canada is playing in this war. Perhaps you are too busy. I am referring not only to your military efforts, which are becoming more obvious and more splendid day by day. There is something even more important than that for us and our children. Canada has become, as never before, the mighty bridge of a better understanding and a warmer sense of kinship between the British Empire and the United States. You are bridging the gap which certain superficial differences have created between Englishmen and Americans. Yes, superficial indeed, as we

now know, but sufficient in times past to cause needless irritations and absurd suspicions. It is given to you to bring about the mightiest and most enduring friendship in the history of nations. If you can do that it will be the noblest achievement of any country in modern times. Did I say "if"? You are doing it by word and deed, by your superb and unquenchable loyalty to Britain and by your daily acts of friendship to America.

If ever a nation deserved loyalty it is Britain now. She has won such a loyalty as she has never had before—loyalty from her sons and daughters throughout the Empire, from her kinsmen and friends in America, from men and women throughout the world who want to remain or pray to become free. They know that if Britain lives, freedom lives.

PIONEERS OF LIBERTY

The British people once again are the pioneers of human liberty. The Mother Country of the English-speaking nations is leading the way to a better world. It is your and our privilege to be in her company, to share her burdens, and with her to fight the good fight.

Yes, I said "privilege," and I mean it. Because the men and women of Britain have made us no longer ashamed of the eternal values, the supreme human virtues. For a while men desperately tried to find cheap and sordid and coldly selfish reasons for their own and others' actions. The doctrine of "self-interest," the philosophy and ethical standards of the hoggens were supposed to guide us in all we thought and did. We winced under the Nazi and Communist jibes at our old faith and basic ideals.

The English have given them back to us. They have poured life and meaning into our greatest words and have restored them to their ancient primacy in our language and in our hearts. Words like Truth, Justice, Freedom, Mercy and Humility, Faith and Fortitude, Prayer and Sacrifice, Love and Duty. We know again what they mean—thanks to England. Out of their blood, tears, toil and sweat the men and women and children of Britain have made a heroic age and have restored to the world the only things for which free peoples will fight and die. Their sacrifices will spare us much of their suffering,

but at least we Canadians and Americans must give all that lies in our power. That is our duty and our privilege.

WHAT U.S. OWES TO BRITAIN

We in America can never quite repay our debt to the British people in this war. And that is not only because they are hurling back the Nazi barbarians day and night while we get ready. More than that. They have taught us again that democracy can be tough; that democracy can summon from its people a supreme devotion more lasting than a ruthless fanaticism begotten of cruelty and lies; that democracy can make a better world than any system, however efficient, which buys so-called "material progress" at the price of the Gestapo and the degradation of the human spirit.

They have taught us that we are fighting a classless war, a war of the plain people, a war of the

little homes, a war for those simple decencies without which life is not worth living. And they have taught us in America that the English and Scotch and Welsh peoples today are not our ancestors but our contemporaries, our neighbors, our friends, the same kind of men and women as we are.

And their magnificent leader, Winston Churchill, is the living symbol of the underlying unity of the English-speaking world, a unity which is the best hope for the future of mankind. A heroic people and a heroic age need a heroic leader. Such is Churchill. When America has hit her stride, as you have done, when she has taken her rightful place on the battle line of freedom, then we Americans shall be entitled to take pride that Winston Churchill is the worthy product of an Anglo-American alliance, that he is our man as well as England's.

Some people, especially the younger generation who have

been so thoroughly educated in the hogpen theories of modern thought, are amazed in a manner reminiscent of Paul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus, by the revelation of the British spirit. They need not be. It is an old story—older than Canada or the United States.

More than half a century before the first English settlers came to Jamestown and Plymouth, the great churchman, Bishop Latimer, was burned at the stake for his religious beliefs. Just as the fires were lighted, he turned to his friend at the stake next to him and said, "Play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

That, my friends, is why there'll always be an England.

And now I shall say farewell in the words of a little English child who came to us in America a long time ago—the words of Tiny Tim—"God bless us every one!"

*When you have read this speech it is suggested that
you pass it to a friend.*