

Planning and organization

The plans which are being put into effect to keep our economy in balance and to control the cost of living are only a part of the complicated task of planning and organizing our effort for total war. One of the most important elements in effective planning is timing. We must act at the right moment--not too soon and not too late--if we are to achieve the maximum results. For example, if we restrict or prohibit the production of consumers goods too soon, we merely impose unnecessary hardships and weaken morale; if we impose them too late, our war production will suffer or men will not be readily available for the armed forces.

One of the greatest dangers to our war effort is undue emphasis on one phase, for example, recruiting for the armed forces, which, if not kept properly in step with the development of war production, will throw the whole effort out of balance. Do not misunderstand me. We need recruits for the army, and we need the support of all our people in our recruiting campaigns; but nothing is gained, and much may be lost, by allowing enthusiasm for one aspect or another of our war programme, or some hypothetical programme concocted by amateur strategists, to destroy our perspective of the war effort as a whole.