

NBC ONLY

PRODUCTION NOW!

MARCH 17, 1942

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and Gentlemen, you have tuned in this station expecting to hear Fibber McGee and Molly. Tonight, their sponsors, the makers of Johnson Wax, have given this time to your government. What you will hear in the next thirty minutes is urgently important. It concerns you. We respectfully ask you to listen.

(CUE: NETWORKS JOIN HERE.)

(METRONOME BEAT...SLOW)

NARRATOR: This program is about War -- and Time.

(ORCHESTRA FADES LEAVING.)

(METRONOME - ONE SECOND BEAT - FOR FIVE SECONDS)

NARRATOR: Time and the war at home, where the fighter wears overalls, and the factory whistle blows reveille. The total war in which everyone is a soldier.

(ORCHESTRA. . . SLOW 4/4.)

NARRATOR: It used to be men using weapons did the fighting. Now machines using men are the fighters.

(ORCHESTRA. . . THE MUSIC OF LONELY DEATH.)

NARRATOR: The soldier without a gun is a dead soldier. The flier without a plane is pinioned to earth. The sailor without a ship is a waterlogged corpse.

(ORCHESTRA RESOLVES DEATH MUSIC.)

2ND NARRATOR: This program is about our war at home -- our job making the gun and the plane and the ship.

-2-

VOICE: The biggest job in the history of the world. For this year, the soldier needs twenty thousand anti-aircraft guns and forty five thousand tanks.

The sailor, eight million tons of ships. And the flier - for him we must make, in 1942, sixty thousand planes.

NARRATOR: And in 1942 there are left only two hundred and eighty nine days. (PAUSE) This program is about you -- and Time.

2ND NARRATOR: (METRONOME EMERGES OUT OF ORCHESTRA)

2ND NARRATOR: And Time is Short!

(METRONOME HOLDS FOR FIVE SECONDS)

VOICE: Two hundred and eighty nine days!

(METRONOME UP)

NARRATOR: Twenty thousand anti-aircraft guns?

2ND NARRATOR: That's one every half hour!

(METRONOME HOLDS)

NARRATOR: Forty five thousand tanks?

2ND NARRATOR: One every twelve minutes, day and night.

(METRONOME LOUDER)

NARRATOR: Sixty thousand planes?

2ND NARRATOR: A plane every eight minutes, day and night, every day including Sundays and Holidays.

(METRONOME UP FULL...ECHO CHAMBER)

NARRATOR: Time IS short!

NARRATOR: And tonight there are factories and mills which are dark -- shut down as usual when the five o'clock whistle blew. Won't be open until tomorrow morning at seven. Business as usual. Shut down at night as usual, fourteen hours out of the twenty four. In those fourteen lost hours we could have produced:

VOICE: Seventy tanks.

SECOND: Ninety eight planes.

NARRATOR: Seventy more tanks might have held Singapore.

2ND NARRATOR: Ninety eight more planes might have held Java.

(CRACK OF RIFLE...SUSTAINED RICOCHET OF BULLET)

SOLDIER: (CHOKING GASP)

NARRATOR: An American soldier has just been killed.

2ND NARRATOR: The bullet you heard was made in Japan a year ago.

VOICE: It was fired from a gun made in Germany in 1936.

NARRATOR: The tank that might have saved this American boy's life was made in America -- too late.

(ORCHESTRA SHORT ABRUPT CUE. . . .)

NARRATOR: The soldier without a gun is a dead soldier...

VOICE: But when Johnny gets his gun, his tank, his plane... the story's different...and short.

FLIER: Sighted Sub. Sank Same.

(ORCHESTRA. . . SHORT CUE. . . .)

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(ORCHESTRA. . . SHORT CUE. . . .)

(ORCHESTRA IRONIC CHORD.)

2ND NARRATOR: In the Navy, the watches are four on and four off. You learn to live that way. Four hours sleep at a time. Sundays too, with death grinning from the skies above and the waters beneath.

(MINOR BUGLE CALL)

2ND NARRATOR: There's no double time for holidays in the Philippines.

(FACTORY WHISTLE)

NARRATOR: Business as usual is out. Industry must go to war too. Three full shifts a day, seven days a week -- the machines working every minute. That's the goal of the Production Drive announced two weeks ago by Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board.

DOUBTER: Another government gag, I'll bet. How's it work? What'll it do? What is it?

VOICE OF WPB: Well, the Production Drive's as American as apple pie. It's the old booster spirit tied to the tail of a dive bomber --

You know -- the convention spirit, the football spirit, the community sing ----

It's Main Street and Broadway and Hollywood Boulevard learning new slogans.

It's Yankee Doodle played on a three ton drop forge -- we've been through drives before. You remember.

- VOICES:
1. Be Kind to Animals Week.
 2. Mother's Day.
 3. Fire Prevention Week.
 4. Buy a Poppy
 5. Michigan Cherry Week

VOICES:
(CONT.)

6. Father's Day.
7. Boy Scout Week.
8. Mobilization For Human Needs.
9. Wisconsin Cheese Week -

VOICE OF WPB: Yes, we've been through all this before. But the Production Drive is different.

DOUBTER: (SIGNIFICANTLY) Sure - we have a year to put it over.

VOICE OF WPB: We had a year. There are only two hundred and eighty nine days left.

(ORCHESTRA: METRONOME THEME. .)

NARRATOR: Yes, two hundred and eighty nine days. (PAUSE)
We can go over the top for cherries and cheese, and plums. We can beat the quota for the new parish house, and oversubscribe the new country club. Can we meet the quota in this drive? Can we beat the quota? Our future and the future of our children and their children after them will be determined in these next two hundred and eighty nine days.

2ND NARRATOR: It's the toughest, hardest campaign the American people ever conducted. And we haven't got any choice. We can't let George do it. We've got to do it --- or else.

(FACTORY WHISTLE)

(MACHINE SHOP SOUNDS)

VOICE OF WPB: The Production Drive means: At least a twenty five per cent boost in output of all existing war plants.

(MORE)

VOICE OF WPB: (CONT.) It means every critical machine in every factory in every city town and village working every hour of every day in every week.
 Three full shifts. No time off machines - Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays.

(METRONOME: FASTER TEMPO)

NARRATOR: (QUIETLY) According to the schedule of the Production Drive another plane should have been finished in the eight minutes since this program began.

(METRONOME FADES)

VOICE OF WPB: The Production Drive calls for team-work. For joint committees of labor and management working in close co-operation to turn out a better job faster -----

(MACHINE SHOP SOUND FADES IN)

MAN: I been thinkin' Joe -- If we turn the work bench around this way, I can hand the job on to you quicker -- put it right into your hand -- so there'll be no time lost.

NARRATOR: No time lost! No time to loose!

VOICE OF WPB: The Production Drive means posters in the plants, and boxes where workers can drop suggestions for improving the job. It means bringing the worker closer to his job by displaying pictures of the weapons in action.

(MACHINE SHOP...DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)

WORKER: Look a there Mike - that's what I'm makin' for Uncle Sam. That there thirty ton tank.

2ND WORKER: (LAUGHING) Biggest thing I ever saw you handle was a two inch shaft.

WORKER: Yep, and that shaft's got to have a tolerance of two ten thousandths of an inch, or the tank don't roll. And my shafts don't vary beyond one ten thousandth.

(SOUND FADES OUT)

VOICE OF WPB: The Production Drive makes the workman realize he is a fighter in overalls -- a production soldier --

BOSS: I am proud to award this efficiency medal to the crew of shop four for exceeding your week's quota by two hundred units.

VOICE OF WPB: The Production Drive provides information to take home and show the family ----

WOMAN: (SLIGHT FADE) Which one, John?

JOHN: Here -- this one -- the twin motor job.

WOMAN: (IMPRESSED) Gee, it's big. Look Junior, at what Daddy makes?

JOHN: Well -- I -- I -- did have some help Nancy.

KID: Gee Pop -- wait till I tell the kids -- Can I take the pictures to school Pop -- (FADING) Can I maybe after, Pop --

VOICE OF WPB: The Production Drive means score-boards where the men may watch the progress of their work -- some of them are unexpectedly unusual -- That's right -- come closer and look hard -- in bright yellows and reds there on an American plant wall -- a huge picture of Hitler. So big and bright and loud, that if it were music it would sound like this:

(BLASTING RASPIING DISCORD)

Why Hitler? Well as the guns come off the assembly line, one after the other -- something happens to Ugly Adolph up there. Somehow he disappears.

(ORCHESTRA. . THE DISCORD DISCORDANTLY DIMINISHES)

VOICE OF WPB: That's it, you've got it -- little by little --
gun by gun -- he's rubbed out.

(PAUSE)

The Production Drive will bridge the long gap between
the man behind the machine and the man behind the gun

MANAGER: (ON P.A.) I have asked you men to meet here this
lunch hour to hear a communique we have just received
from the front lines. I quote. We are pleased to
inform you that the tank battalion which won such a
brilliant victory in yesterday's fighting, consisted
exclusively of medium tanks produced by your plant.

(CHEERS FROM MEN)

(ORCHESTRA. . VICTORIOUS THEME. .)

NARRATOR: That's what the Production Drive is. Simple, American,
Democratic.

2ND NARRATOR: But everyone of us is a part of it -- not just the
plant manager and the worker.

VOICE OF WPB: Can you imagine a team with one hundred and thirty
million players?

SECOND: And the stands filled with the conquered peoples of
the world, their feeble cheers croaking from starved
throats.

VOICE OF WPB: You're a member of that team, whether you drive a tank
or a turret lathe; whether you buy a bond - or do
without that second teaspoonful of sugar.

NARRATOR: Listen please, to a pound of sugar.

(MACHINE GUN BURST (46 IF POSSIBLE))

A pound of sugar made the alcohol that made the
powder that fired those forty-six bullets.

2ND NARRATOR: And here goes a lot of candy bars and ice cream --
(BIG NAVAL GUN)

NARRATOR: That took three hundred and twenty five pounds of
sugar. See how it ties up?

VOICE OF WPB: Of course, sugar and tires are just the beginning --
We'll have to do without a lot more things to put
the production drive over. And some of the things
seem so unrelated to war, we American's don't see
the connection. You remember the story we all
laughed at as far back as six years ago - it was a
story out of Germany --

RACONTEUR: Stop me if you've heard this one. There was a little
man who worked in a baby carriage factory. When his
wife had a baby, he decided to make a baby carriage
for the kid. Each day he swiped a part from the
factory, and each night he brought it home. When he
had enough parts he took them down to the cellar
to assemble the baby carriage. He worked all evening -
he worked until way past midnight - but finally had
to give up -- and he tried to explain to his wife this
way --

GERMAN: I am sorry Emma, but I just can't make it
work out. No matter how I put those baby carriage
parts together, it comes out a machine gun.

NARRATOR: We split our sides at that one six years ago --
and now we're up against the hard reality of turning
plow shares into swords -- Conversion we call it.
Conversion of peacetime industry to wartime
production. American ingenuity has already
accomplished some pretty weird changeovers --
FIRST: Freight cars into ship.
SECOND: Motion picture projectors into aircraft precision
tools.
THIRD: Compacts into cartridge clips.
FOURTH: Cork products into wing-tips.
FIFTH: Refrigerators into propellers.
SIXTH: Textile Machinery into bomb fins.
SEVENTH: Metal handbag frames into machine gun chargers.
VOICE OF WPB: This is Conversion and this is part of the Production
Drive, a part that is affecting you and will continue
to affect you more and more.
DOUBTER: Is it worth it?
VOICE OF WPB: Mister, if you think you're making sacrifices, meet
this Frenchman. He's a worker, just like you.
FRENCHMAN: Before this happened, I was a diemaker in the Peugeot
works in France. Now I am making tanks in a factory
near Berlin. I work eighteen hours a day, under guard.
They feed me --- well --- just enough to keep me going
--- My family? --- I do not know -- I have not heard
from them since the Nazis marched me here. What else
can I do? They don't even shoot you for slowing down.
They torture you first ---

NARRATOR: Slave Labor --- millions of slave workers like that
one, working for Germany and Japan, turning out their
guns and tanks and planes. It's an efficient system,
too. Labor costs practically nothing and fresh labor
is available in every newly conquered country. Slave
management, too, taking orders from the Gestapo.
Lots of slave management available in the industry of
each conquered nation.
2ND NARRATOR: Slave labor gets no wages. Slave management no
profits.
VOICE OF WPB: There's the competition. That's what Free American
Enterprise is up against.
NARRATOR: The cards are on the table -- this is the showdown.
The production drive is the final chance of American
Enterprise --- of the American people.
VOICE OF WPB: If it fails, we're licked.
(METRONOME FADES IN)
NARRATOR: In the twelve minutes since this program started,
a new tank should have rolled off the assembly line ---
if we're up to schedule.
(METRONOME FADES OUT)

VOICE OF WPB: At the direction of President Roosevelt, Donald Nelson announced the Production Drive just two weeks ago. The response to it was instantaneous -- and daily, the voluntary and enthusiastic pledges of co-operation continue to roll in---

NARRATOR: From the Goodrich Local one nine four, United Rubber Workers of America --

SEC VOICE: We pledge full support to your plea to the American people to come to the aid of their country.

NARRATOR: From the National Supply Company of Pittsburgh.

THIRD VOICE: Immediately after your radio address, the National Supply Company began the planning of plant committees in line with your suggestions --

NARRATOR: From the United Auto Workers, Local 719..

FOURTH VOICE: Assure full co-operation our five thousand members for victory.

NARRATOR: From the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association of Newport News Virginia

SEC VOICE: This organization will do its utmost in stepping up production through this proposed committee.

NARRATOR: From the SWOC Local 2551, American Car and Foundry Co, Buffalo --

THIRD VOICE: Overjoyed with opportunity to serve with you in Production Drive.

VOICE OF WPB: The list is long. It includes names that are household words--like Studebaker and General Electric, Westinghouse and Packard; RCA and Colt. And it includes less familiar names -- The Greenfield Tap and Die, the International Machine Tool, the Ingersoll Steel and Disc. It includes the United Cannery Packing and Allied Workers of American and Local three of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, CIO and AF of L. The mighty industrial giants, and the humblest sub contracting machine shop-- management and labor alike are joining the production drive.

(ORCHESTRA)

NARR: We don't know whether that aeroplane and that tank which should have been made since this program started have been produced since everyone making war material may not yet have gotten behind the Production Drive.

DOUBTER: Do you mean to tell me there is anyone who still refuses to co-operate?

NARR: Perhaps. You see, this is a Democracy. The Government can only suggest. The production drive is entirely voluntary. It does not order labor or management to co-operate.

DOUBTER: But can't they see this is a matter of life and death for all of us.

NARR: "Business -as-usual" is not interested in all of us. "Business-as-usual" is interested only in itself.

DOUBTER: But that's ridiculous.

NARRATOR: Of course it is -- it's as silly as -- can you imagine this happening--come here --

DOUBTER: Where are you taking me?

(AIRPLANE MOTOR-INSIDE PERSPECTIVE-FADES IN)

NARRATOR: You are inside a Navy Dive Bomber, flying in formation against a Japanese objective in the South Pacific. Listen.

BOMBER: You're too close to number seven, Lieutenant. Pull her up a bit and over.

LIEUT: You mind your bombsight, chum. I'll fly the ship.

BOMBER: Okay, pal, but you're going to sideswipe number seven sure as I'm sittin' here scared to death.

LIEUT: So what if I do? I don't like the guy that's piloting number seven, see. Never have. We went to school together, and he was a jerk there and he's still a jerk. So I sideswipe him. So I crack him up. So what?

(PLANE CRASH IN MID AIR)

(WHINING OF FALLING PLANE)

(ORCHESTRA TAKES CRASH IN MUSIC BACKS FOLLOWING)

NARRATOR: That was a little absurd, wasn't it? Can you imagine the Navy taking personal grievances into battle -- or the Army? How about Industry?

DOUBTER: Just as absurd. We are at war now. We got unity in this country.

AD LIB VOICES: Have we? Are you sure about that? Listen!

LABOR: Now get this you guys. I got the low down, and I'm tellin' you what we're gonna do. Local 721 ain't gonna get hocked in the Management-Labor Committee, this here Production Drive's tryin' to put over, see. They can't make it stick. It's the old 'speed-up'. They'll work our tails off, and no raise in pay -- and then when the war is over, they got us where they want us. It's Fascist, that's what it is. This is a free country, see, and we don't have to team up with nobody we don't like--and there ain't anybody I don't like as much as those guys in the front office-----AD LIB AGREEMENTS.

NARRATOR: Sounds like sideswiping dive bomber number seven, doesn't it? Or take the other side.

MANAGEMENT: Seriously, B W. I don't like this Production Drive at all. It sounds like Communist stuff to me. It's going to Sovietize American Industry. It definitely gives labor an 'in' on management. And you know how they are. Give 'em an inch--and where will we be, when the emergency's over?

VOICE OF WPB: (MAD) 'When the emergency's over!' This is no piddling little emergency. They're killing people by the millions They're stealing the earth by the continent. This is no emergency. This is a catastrophe--world wide inescapable catastrophe -- and it won't be over for any of us -- ever--unless all of us get together. NOW. So quit shoving, quit beefing, quit bickering -- will you boys. (GENTLE) I like America. I'd like to keep her ---wouldn't you?

(ORCHESTRA)

NARRATOR: Labor calling management Fascist. Management calling Labor Communist -- in the gravest moment of American history.

DOUBTER: I don't get it. Where do such ideas come from?

NARRATOR: Here's one source. The main source.

(SHORT WAVE CRACKLE)

NAZI: This is Berlin calling. "The North American Armament Dictator, Donald Nelson, announced today in a message to the Industrial Workers of the United States, the introduction of a special system of control in imitation of the Russian speed-up method. The United States is standing today before the greatest trial of strength in her entire history, and has to introduce a special control system in order to supervise the workers, in every factory, just as with the Soviets."

NARRATOR: Not many Americans bother to listen to the distorted and hysterical blabbing of the Berlin Short-Wave. They haven't the time these days. But the broadcasts come in clear and strong and the Nazi agents hear them and the sympathisers and the Fifth Columnists. There are plenty of them still running around creating suspicion, starting rumors, casting doubt. It is a technique made in Germany -- divide and conquer. Any American with sense enough to come in out of the rain knows better than to fall for that sucker bait.

(ORCHESTRA: METRONOME THEME)

NARRATOR: If we are up to schedule, another new plane is leaving the assembly line somewhere in America at this moment. If we are up to schedule ---

(ORCHESTRA AND METRONOME HOLD)

DOUBTER: Well how about it?

NARRATOR: Let's ask the boss --- He's standing by down in Washington. How about the schedule, Mr Nelson? How's the Production Drive coming along? What's next, Mr Nelson?

NELSON SPEECH FROM WASHINGTON.

NELSON: America today is producing weapons of war in large volume. I spent all yesterday afternoon at the Army proving grounds - there, I saw new tanks and guns tested - I want you to know I was proud of those grounds. They are the best in the world, and we are making a lot of them. Since Pearl Harbor, plane production for example has gone up more than 50 percent but this is no reason for false complacency. We are nowhere near our goals. We need more and forever more of these weapons, and we need them now. We have got to realize the value of time.

Here is what time is worth. A machine gun factory in full swing can equip a whole regiment in a day and a half.

Thirty six hours of work. That's why hours are important. Every minute counts. Yet some manufacturers have come to the War Production Board to plead for just a few extra months before going into war production. Some of them want to delay over details. Some of them argue before awarding a subcontract. I know of a case where twenty-six days were wasted just this way. You and I will not stand for that.

Then, too, I know of cases where workers in war plants have been told by other workers - by men in their own unions - to keep production down, to take it easy, not to hurry to spread the job out and make the work last. You and I will not stand for that either.

These cases are not typical. They are becoming fewer and fewer. In my opinion they simply reflect the fact that a few people just haven't got it through their heads that this is a life and death matter.

(more)

NEILSON: America today is producing weapons of war in large volume. I spent all yesterday afternoon at the Army proving grounds - there Issaw new tanks and guns tested - I want you to know I was proud of those grounds. They are the best in the world, and we are making a lot of them. Since Pearl Harbor, plane production for example has gone up more than 50 percent but this is no reason for false complacency. We are nowhere near our goals. We need more and forever more of these weapons, and we need them now. We have got to realize the value of time.

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NEILSON:
(CONT'D)

I pledge my word to the American people that I will knock down such indifference or interference wherever I find it. The War Production drive has been launched this week to bring us all together in one united, determined team and to awaken everyone of you to your importance in the war. During the next two weeks there are a series of regional meetings to explain the war production drive to labor and management. After these meetings, its success is up to the men and women, labor and management in the plants. It is a voluntary effort.

The plan provides for joint labor-management committees in each plant to stimulate war production. It calls for greater plant efficiency. That means if anyone has a suggestion as to how he can do our job faster, smoother and more efficiently, that suggestion must be passed along to where it will do the most good -- the most good for our country and for free men and women everywhere.

This drive is not designed to further the special interests of a group. It is not a scheme to promote company unions. It is not a device to add or to tear down power or position of any existing unions. It does not interfere with bargaining machinery where it exists. It is not a management plan a labor plan or any other plan. It is the War Production Board plan. It is a perfectly simple straightforward effort to increase production. I have said this before and I am saying it again for the simple reason that a few people still do not seem to understand it. (more)

NELSON: I am glad to say that a great majority do understand it and have accepted it in the spirit in which it was proposed. Frankly I was both pleased and alarmed to learn that the Nazis do not like our production drive. They are afraid of it. They are afraid that this nation is buckling down to the production of more war equipment and they know that means ultimate defeat for them. That is why I was glad to know that the Nazis take this thing seriously -- very seriously.

The reason I was alarmed is because I do not under rate the fiendish cleverness of the Nazi mob. They will seize every opening - they will use every argument - to try to spread doubt and confusion - discontent and mistrust. They are already trying to convince American citizens that some other American citizen is putting over a sly trick - that there are mysterious and insidious forces at play here - that the whole thing is not what it appears to be - that the American people can trust their leaders or each other - beware of the man who instills doubt in your mind. He may not be Hitler's agent, but he is doing that agent's work. Let me repeat once more, groundless fears of a few people could bog down the whole effort.

The enemy is clever at this sort of thing. He has done it successfully before. He knows that this is his crucial test. Unless he can divide this nation now - unless he can set one group against another - unless he can make us fear each other - unless he can lead us into the same pitfalls he prepared for the people of France and Norway and all the rest of them - unless he can do these things to our people, then he is licked -- (more)

NELSON: I say that Hitler cannot and will not split this great American Production team. I say that we will pull together -- not apart.

NARRATOR: That was Donald M Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board speaking to you from Washington, and leaving little for us to add here -- but this reminder -- these goals --

VOICE OF WPB: An anti-aircraft gun every half hour.

(ORCHESTRA PUNCTUATION)

A tank every twelve minutes

(ORCHESTRA)

A plane every eight minutes.

(ORCHESTRA)

Day and night, seven days a week, Sundays and Holidays included until the end of 1942.

NARRATOR: Since this program went on the air -- three planes and two tanks should have been completed, if we are up to schedule?

DOUBTER: Are we?

2ND VOICE: You know the answer Mister Manager. And you Joe Worker. How about it?

(ORCHESTRA TAG)

ANNOUNCER: You have just heard the War Production Board's Report on the Production Drive. The dramatic portions of the program were written by Dorothea Lewis and William N Robson. Tom Bennet composed the original musical score, which was conducted by Doctor Frank Black. The production was under the direction of Mr Robson..

(CUE: NETWORKS TAKE IT AWAY HERE FOR SIGN OFF)

ANNOUNCER: The program you have just heard was made possible through the courtesy of the makers of Johnson Wax, who provided the time usually occupied by Fibber McGee and Molly, so that the American People might understand clearly the vital urgency of the Production Drive.

Next week at this time Fibber McGee and Molly will be heard as usual.

(SIGN OFF)

mvh/hlt/nm
3/19/42
3:45 PM