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AMERICA'S SECRET WEAPON

Mr. Donald M. Nelson, United States War Production Chief,  
in a broadcast to the Labour-Management Committees of the  
United States said tonight:-

The army with the most and best machines at the front has the overwhelming  
advantage today. Fighters with the best industrial system behind them will  
win this war.

Industrial America did not start even in this race. Germany and Japan had a  
headstart amounting to years of war production.....much has been done in the  
nine months since Pearl harbour... as I view it. As far as production is  
concerned we've finished basic training.

Many services have been performed by your committees..... one involves what  
we call our secret weapon - the initiative and intelligence of free American  
workmen.

We can properly call this our secret weapon because it cannot be made to  
serve an enemy whose craftsmen toil under the slavedriver's lash.

Contrast the attitudes toward their work of enslaved labour of conquered  
lands with those of the workmen of our great democracy. The strength of our  
secret weapon then becomes apparent.....

The skilled workmen at bench or lathe knows more about his work than the  
man who designed the machine he operates. He knows **shortcuts that save time  
and material.** He knows ways to get increased speed. We need his ideas today  
for the millions of new workers we have placed behind the new wheels of the new  
machines.

This rich vein of experience is being mined. Through questions systems,  
it will be brought to the surface.

Already some magnificent things have been brought to light. Men have  
made contributions which now are closely guarded military secrets.

No order has yet gone out from my office in Washington to any production  
drive committee commanding anybody to do anything. If the idea doesn't work,  
out in any plant, it is because labour and management don't care enough to make  
it succeed. If it fails anywhere in a democratic system which we are fighting  
to preserve, I don't believe it can be made to succeed by Hitler's tactics of  
force.

But the committees are working. There have been hundreds of reports which  
told of production going up and up..... the soldiers of productions are going  
into action along with our army and navy ..... to win total victory and final  
peace.

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION