Cleveland-Spring Conference
2019

Position Papers for:

CRISIS War Cabinet
Francis B. Biddle - Attorney General
Represented by: North Olmsted High School

The Position Paper for the 1941 Cabinet of the United States

Today, the most pressing issues relate to ideologies that are subversive to American principles. Fascism, fueled by the governments of Italy and Nazi Germany has ensued chaos in Europe and potentially beyond. Communism in the Soviet Union and China continues to spread like an infection. Imperialism lies in the heart of World War II, as it conquers both countries and the minds of their citizens.

While America has been successful in avoiding direct military affiliation with the war, its evil spills into our borders. As Attorney General, I have begun to identify a Soviet presence in America including in the American League against War and Fascism as well as the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. America should also be alarmed by the rise of the Communist Party of the United States, as well as the Socialist Party of Eugene V. Debs. In 1912, Debs even won 6% of the popular vote in that year’s presidential election, running on a platform representing anti-corporation sentiments and draft dodging. He relied on inciting anarchy and attempted to persuade young men to avoid servicing their country in the World War I effort.

He joined Charles Schenck and Elizabeth Baer in this effort, and all of them eventually faced prison under the Espionage Act of 1917. The Schenck case, in particular, played a pivotal role in defining speech and American subversion, and I am honored to have contributed to the decision as an assistant under Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Thus far, we’ve kept the country in order in large part by avoiding war intervention. We have instead reaped economic benefits through the defense industry in supplying our allies. However, tensions have risen due to the recently placed oil embargo on Japan in response to their conquest of French Indochina and stakes in Manchuria. Moreover, Nazi Germany’s holdings in Europe leave the rest of the world helpless, thus threatening the end of western civilization. Americans have grown more and more staunch on intervention into the war.

At the moment, our nation is holding steadfast against the proprietors of war overseas. However, it is questionable how long American citizens can hold this position. Hostility is growing not just between nations, but between citizens. After withdrawing oil trades to Japan, the nation is growing frustrated as its oil supplies dim. Stateside, citizens are growing angrier with the descendants of warring nations, especially the Japanese. With this hostility towards other peoples comes an increase in American war support. However, no nation should wage a war based on the hatred of people. If we do, we are no better than the aggressors in Europe and Asia. War may also destabilize the United States. Our great nation has just come off the worst economic depression in our country’s history, with much of the effects still lingering. Such issues include a staggeringly high unemployment rate as well as inflation if the USD. Entering the war either on the Pacific or the European front may affect us in varying ways. Unemployment will certainly decrease with the job market soaring due to an increase in the production of military supplies. However, for obvious reasons entering the war also provides drawbacks, with the most obvious
being a risk of losing American soldiers overseas. If we truly wish to enter the war it is of utmost importance that we gain support from citizens first.

In regards to affairs in Europe, the Third Reich has invaded several nations primarily to its west. Their nation has not yet invaded further than Poland. The non-aggression pact currently in place with the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany is a very concerning agreement. The ideals radiating from each nation poses a threat to the United States, its ideals, and its sovereignty. Nazism and socialism are both anti-democratic and need to be stopped. However, if the American public is not on board with the United States entering the war, there is unfortunately little that can be done.

In this crucial time, the United States must do what is necessary to keep the nation both stable and just. We cannot allow ourselves to throw out American beliefs of equality of opportunity and competition to appease the enemy. Some Americans have mistakenly resorted to racism against the Japanese, the Germans, and the Jews. We must identify our true enemies, the figureheads of fascism, socialism, and more broadly, imperialism. We must protect ourselves from those who threaten our internal order by the use of Espionage acts, the courtroom, and the Constitution. And if intervening in the war is necessary to guarantee our security, we must diligently prepare our population for the effort. The United States of America will not back down from threats to democracy when our very way of life is in peril.
The Cabinet of the United of America in May 1941 is facing the difficult decision of engaging in a second World War or continuing America’s policy of isolationism. The Chief Justice, Harlan Fiske Stone, is dedicated to serving president Roosevelt through this time of hardship.

The United States over time has become a world superpower and a model nation for democracy. However, the US was not always as involved in foreign affairs. The 1930s American Isolationism movement attempted to limit America’s involvement in foreign issues. WWI forced the US into conflict, and the public at the time of the 1930s was not ready to engage in combat again, pushing the US into its seclusion policies. Despite public thought at the time, the United States could not have become the influential world power that it is without having a strong presence in the major World Wars. Even though Harlan Fiske Stone was dedicated to serving the public, by May 1941, he supported Roosevelt and had committed to entering the Second World War.

Stone as Chief Supreme Court Justice, supported the policies and opinions of President Roosevelt. He upheld the constitutionality of Roosevelt’s New Deal programs through the liberal bloc of the Supreme Court called the Three Musketeers. Stone was willing to follow Roosevelt through a war. Stone also had active and supportive role through the First World War. Stone acted on the War Department Board of Inquiry during World War I. In this position, he brought sympathy to the conscientious objectors, who are individuals who did not want to fight in the war due to religious and moral reasons, showing his dedication to protecting human rights. Even though he did have these views that people should have the option to serve, he supported the war and its purpose. He also served as Attorney General in the year 1924 and pursue many anti-trust cases, seeking to reform the Department of Justice after the corruption scandals that occurred over corporations manipulating the government during Warren G. Harding’s presidency. Because of Stone’s dedication to human rights and his anti-trust stances, President Coolidge appointed Stone as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court in 1925. Although, Stone was shown to have some ties to Wall Street despite his stances on trusts. He operated as the director of the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railroad Company. His involvement in this company also suggests his potential bias for entering World War II, as this company would profit significantly because industry of making and transporting products would increase because of the war effort. Stone was also appointed to Chief Justice by Roosevelt Stone in early 1941, furthering his dedication to Roosevelt and the war. Stone became a government office because he believed in serving his country and was willing to follow America into another World War.

Because Stone did not support the actions of the Axis powers, he was adamant about entering the Second World War. Stone was a major force in human rights in American, and he was appointed to his Supreme Court position for this reason. Therefore, the thought of letting major world powers so clearly violate human rights was unacceptable. He believed that action needed to take
place in order to restore peace in the world. Stone would have support sending troops, aid, supplies, and weapons to America’s allies in order to end the atrocities being committed in Europe and Asia. Stone believed that peace should be brought to the world again even if desperate measures need to be taken, including the destruction of whole nations if need be. The United States should put America first, but to be a world power America must end the age of isolationism.
Delegation from: Eleanor Roosevelt (FLOTUS)
Represented by: Mayfield High School

Cabinet of the United States of America--WWII Crisis

As of May of 1941, the German regime has taken over much of Europe. Many of our allies have fallen and with each passing day, this regime poses a greater threat to the American way of life. Just recently, the Luftwaffe began their devastating attacks on Liverpool causing our ally, the United Kingdom, to be thrown further into chaos. While we have not proposed going to war with Germany directly, it is becoming increasingly inevitable. For example, our recent embargo on Japanese oil exports, our tensions with Japan have risen to palpable levels. Seemingly allied with the Axis powers, Japan’s imperialist ideologies and history of self-interest seem to suggest otherwise. However, forces in the Philippines are on constant alert. Additionally, the influence and expansion of the USSR poses similar threats as agreements being made between the German regime and Soviet Union could bring about disastrous outcomes in the future. With this problem comes the increase of deaths in our world, especially with the soldiers who fought so valiantly for their countries. This tragic and dire issue must be addressed as the morales of soldiers are crucial to maintain and we can never thank soldiers enough for the sacrifices they have made. It is also important to note the numerous other issues occurring within our home country while the war rages on. The most pressing issue on the homefront is the the lingering effects of the Depression and the effects they are having on the people and economy. Unemployment rates are still below where they were before the stock market crash, causing much backlash among American industry. This, coupled with the tension of war, has caused much criticism among the public that is important it address. Furthermore, the growing scare of communism continues to spread, bringing paranoia of outside spies and culture into our ideally isolated region. Yet, even through all this war, the public does the rest as activists continue to fight for their freedoms. These individuals require attention for their efforts and must be recognized for their actions—men and women of all races alike. With all these issues occuring on the homefront and abroad, the growing concern of whether the United States should join the war grows to become a pressing issue. But, after the horrific events of World War I, it is in my best interest as Anna Eleanor Roosevelt and the First Lady of the United States that we stay out of this war unless it is of utmost necessity to the protection of our citizens and democracy.

In my work with Molly Dewson to appoint more women to the Roosevelt administration, I have focused efforts on not only better programs to aid those in need whom are women, but men as well. It was and is my belief and goal to ensure that women have the ability to hold jobs despite their husband’s employment status. There should be relief programs created for men and women alike as well as to help the youth through the creation of new programs. Furthermore, while I am rather adverse to war, I do understand that it is sometimes necessary and I would not label myself as a pacifist. As for the rising threat Germany begins to pose I believe that some sort of actions needs to be taken to protect the death of more innocent citizens and soldiers - although I can not proclaim that there is one surefire method to solve this issue. During World War I, I was wholeheartedly invested in the Red Cross as well as Navy Relief, and although I was unable to prevent war, it is important to support the brave men fighting in it. For now, we must keep the morales of our people in high spirits. I have visited many different people suffering from different hardships during this tumultuous time and I believe that it is important to retain a level of personability and involvement with smaller communities. I stand firm in my beliefs and am not afraid to oppose the view of others if it for the sake of the wellbeing of the innocent masses. Although my husband’s efforts to attain economic stability have been generally successful, the unemployment is quite alarming and I have urged my husband to take more action to aid the people in this aspect. With this in mind, I have been constantly pushing for the continuation of New Deal programs to establish a sense of ease among our citizens. While I advocated for the establishment of the Child Refugee Bill, it was turned down by Congress. This move was rather alarming as it prevented the shelter of over 10,000 Jewish children refugees from fleeing to the United States, for it is my belief that restriction on immigration
should be more lax. In continuation, I believe that America must push for greater racial equality in government and the workplace alike. In term of military, African-Americans and those of all races should be treated with equal permissions to fight and serve, as soldiers are the true heroes of America--and death discriminates against no one.

Willpower, women, and the warfront; all crucial points of focus worth touching on. Yet, even with all that I have done, there is still much to do to help our citizens on the homefront. Even with the rejection of the Child Refugee Bill, I want us to continue advocating for those abroad who are being impacted by the war. While many immigration laws are in place, I am hoping that with the help and support of my cabinet members, this can be changed. Therefore, I believe we must continue to fight for all lives and provide as much aid as we can. This brings us to other pressing issues within our society--issues of racism and civil inequality. We must not forget about the lives of these independent ethnic groups and acknowledge them in their pursuit for equality. The independence of women must also not be pushed to the back burner, for both issues must be recognized and remain prevalent in the minds of the people. In addressing the two as a singular and unified issue (despite the individuality of these two topics) we may perhaps be able to reach the conclusion that they both stem from deep-seeded ideologies in need of serious update and correction. It is another objective of mine to employ more women into our workforce, especially into our defense industry. Not only would this be beneficial to potential war efforts, but aid in the recovery process of our economy as well. The workforce is crucial in supporting our allies and our nation as a whole, so the empowerment and advocation of women into this force would prove especially effective in this area. In addition, through the altruistic deeds of a good sumaritan our nation can become better as a whole, this being executed through the lens of volunteerism. Therefore, I must stress once again that we must protect our nation's citizens and democracy.
Delegation from: The Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox
Represented by: Beachwood High School

Position Paper for The Arsenal of Democracy: President Roosevelt’s War Cabinet, 1941

The United States is at a cross roads, whether to intervene or not in Europe and the Pacific as the Axis powers roll over other nations. England alone stands against the Fascism in Europe, while in the Pacific, Japan seems to get closer and closer to the Philippines. The United States must choose how and where it interferes to protect its allies and interests.

I. Current Situation

Germany and Japan have become allies by circumstance, not goals, and have expanded their borders beyond legitimate claims. Japan’s slow crawl through Asia has gone largely unnoticed, and I applaud the decision to cut off their oil. Let them run on fumes and their war machine grind to a halt. While the Japanese have an impressive military, their industrial sector is weak, and their manpower limited when compared to its neighbors. It is beyond reason to allow for them to move any further. Germany has had a lucky streak so far. Weak European powers let the little nation take land and rearm itself. The invasion of Poland gave us a taste of a mechanized Prussian military doctrine, while the invasion of France showed us its true power. Germany has allied with Italy, and has a close ties with Sweden, the USSR and Spain. However, the German regime lacks the oil necessary to fight the war. It’s alliance with Romania helps them attain some oil to power their war machine, however it is insufficient to fight a large-scale war. Ultimately Germany and Japan lack the resources and naval power to sustain the scale of their territorial expansion. However, they threaten the self determination of European and East Asian nations. It is important that we take a strong position against the Axis powers, and that we take it now.

I have seen military service in the Spanish-American war with the Rough Riders, and in the World War as an artillery officer, and rose to the rank of Major. My career as a newspaper reporter and editor have made me incredibly involved in politics. I strongly support the Republican party and was even on the ballot against Roosevelt in 1936. I am very pleased that Roosevelt has appointed me as the Secretary of the Navy. I believe that our nation must come out on as a united front in support of the war. I believe that it is not a question of if we shall join England against the Axis powers, but rather how soon. The US industrial sector is still recovering from the stock market crash and joining in the war effort can significantly boost the economy and create growth. We must quickly build our reserves and prepare our citizens to fight this inevitable war.

I believe that US intervention in Europe and the Pacific is essential. The US must protect its territorial integrity in the Philippines, and it must protect England. While England still holds control over the seas, German air raids have weakened its defenses. With US resources we can fund and supply partisan movements in Poland and France. We must allocate resources to modernize and build our army and distribute weapons everywhere where anti-Nazi movements may spring up. Greece is on the brink of collapse, and we must maintain this foothold in Europe. Here and in North Africa, the Italians have shown an incompetent army. If we can seize Italy, we will once again hold a strong position in Europe. The Pacific theater will also require funding
and supply of similar partisan movements, mainly in China and French Indochina. To keep these supply chains going, we must strengthen our Navy. I hope to increase production of Naval and merchant vessels, in addition to developing a strategy for hunting German U-boats better. We cannot allow for the Axis powers to continue their unjustified expansion any longer.
Henry L. Stimson-Secretary of War  
Represented by: North Olmsted High School

Position Paper for the 1941 Cabinet of United States of America

The world is faced with WWII at present but the U.S. is not formally involved in the affairs around it. Tensions with Japan are rising with our embargo on oil exports, driving Japan into a corner and causing alert to the U.S. interim government set in the Philippines leading to political turbulence. Not only that but Germany has invaded Yugoslavia and Greece; in order to stop them we must show our nation's power. Many of America’s allies are having to unwillingly join the combat of the war. The United States must not sit back and watch as our enemies triumph over our allies. More importantly for the sake of maintaining a positive relationship with our allies, as an asset for future times of unrest, we must fight alongside them. Currently, the United States is recovering from the Great Depression, and my fellow Americans need to know that this country is safe and is getting back on track. We must remember the war may even help us get back on track by creating a generation of young men who will serve alongside our allies, and be the future leaders of society. We know from WWI that America is strong enough to defend our allies and bring about an end to the war. We must protect the world once again to show our country's strong national defense and we must take pride in putting America First!

Following Japan’s seizure of Manchuria, I have written a doctrine stating that the United States would not recognize any changes made in violation of current treaties. Thirteen Million soldiers and airmen were trained under my order during World War two. I recognize the fear of those who are hesitant of America being involved in this war, but I know first hand we are ready to fight and to make peace. I am not only confident in those trained under my order, I am confident in America. I know more soldiers will enlist, I am confident in the sacrifices those at home will make, and I am confident in our allies. I know we can follow my doctrine, not break any treaties, protect the ties made with our allies, and win the war.

The United States is constantly facing problems due to the war that we are not officially involved in. America must take a stance and trust in ourselves to end the war. A great deal of lives will be lost but we cannot sit back while Japan and Germany do as they please. I am confident that under my strategic military order the United States of America will earn the victory we deserve. If we, Americans, fight we can ensure a strong victory and an end to the War. Ultimately, with our involvement in the war we can ensure that the end will be on our side, protect the world against Germany and Japan, ensure our own economic boom, prove that our powerful military can quickly end the war, and we can keep the strong bond we have with our allies.
Position Paper for Claude R. Wickard - Secretary of Agriculture

Claude R. Wickard began working in the agricultural business after receiving his degree in agriculture from Purdue in 1915 and becoming well-known in his home state of Indiana for his farming advancements. He had risen to Undersecretary of Agriculture in the Indiana State Government by 1932, then had been ultimately asked to serve in FDR’s cabinet in 1940, after the previous officeholder, Henry Wallace, left the position to become a new political giant.

At this moment in history, May of 1941, the world is in a dark time; the Department of Agriculture consequently has many important topics to discuss. American agriculture had taken one of the worst dips in history during the early thirties, with the economic depression and the Dust Bowl crippling the farming industry. However, with the policies and initiatives adopted by the Roosevelt Administration, farming began to thrive again. As the United States begins to become more self-reliant and increasingly called upon by our allies abroad for support, agricultural production and security are the top priority for the department.

The agricultural industry is expected to face many challenges during the early 1940s, including possible labor shortages in the case of direct US military involvement in the war, as many able-bodied workers could potentially be drafted to support the war effort. Along with this, more and more people are beginning to leave the agricultural industry to enter the industrial sector which presents higher wages, another step in aiding US allies and preparing for possible direct US involvement abroad. The potential issue of labor shortage poses a major threat to agricultural production and security, resulting in a greater need to ensure protections for the domestic agricultural sector and supplyline of agricultural resources to be sent as aid to our allies and, potentially, American troops abroad. One solution to the conceivable problem includes pushing for a more efficient industry by eliminating waste and reducing the usage of unnecessary resources, including labor, that could instead be allocated to other areas of production in attempt to increase productivity. The incentive to increase overall agricultural production should be of utmost importance within the cabinet, and this goal can be achieved by economically supporting farmers and other members of the agricultural industry while working in conjunction with the Federal Farm Board. The encouragement of creating personal gardens is another pursuable option, as this allows for alleviation of pressure against the probable labor shortage. Wickard places a strong emphasis on productivity, and he raises caution to the fact that a country cannot be supported domestically without a strong agricultural industry, let alone abroad, an idea that becomes increasingly significant during these times.
Delegation of: Harold L. Ickes - Secretary of the Interior
Represented By: Solon High School

Position Paper for the Cabinet of the United States of America - WWII

We stand here as predominant advisors to our President, Theodore Roosevelt, while all carrying opposing ideals and conflicting motives during a time of drastic worldly undoing and the crackling flames of upcoming and ongoing wars. As a significant contributor to various New Deal programs alongside being a chief proponent of reform politics and the dissolution of segregation, I’ll make sure to push my inward agendas forward for the greater good of all American citizens. Still, we must come together to make strenuous decisions, better distinguish our participation in combat, and fight for the lives of the innocent and unrepresented. I believe that our people are our priority, and that by investing in our own country, we will be making it stronger. However, as tensions rise, it is clear that limited intervention could be beneficial.

Our goals and powers should be set in stone near the beginning of our meeting. As we stay inflexible about our isolationist mindset, we must understand that the world is still spinning even if we stop. We will be affected. We must act somehow. We are already preganble. Furthermore, through agreements such as the lend-lease act, we have begun to help ease the conflict without directly putting the lives of American citizens in jeopardy. If we don’t act smart, we’ll crumble alongside most of Europe. Even though the Great Depression has made our economy vulnerable, we’ve set programs to aid employment and crusade against corruption. In the past, I have championed rights for all marginalized groups, and this war is no different. The blatant anti-semitism of Hitler and the rising tensions between Japanese-Americans and non-Japanese Americans are reprehensible, and actions by Hitler and others like him should be condemned. My work at transforming the Department of the Interior into a prestigious and efficient agency clearly exemplifies my leadership capabilities and abilities to bring us together during a time of extreme conflict. The policy initiatives I wish to put forward will mirror the success that has been found within my own department.

As time catches up to us, we must first work to placate civil unrest before it intensifies. Deceit and dishonesty can cloud the minds of the American citizens and lead us astray. We must not fall to xenophobia and racism to excuse and support the wrongdoings of country leaders. Jews are have long been forced into concentration camps with no end in sight as they’ve been discriminated against in Germany. We must work to offer them a safe haven as they escape their confined fences and unequal treatment. To not do anything would just be subjecting them to the same torture they already face. I cannot tolerate that. We must provide the refugees with a bridge of travel and allocate them safe passageway into our unpopulated and indigent communities. This will improve our economy as a whole as we bring promise and opportunities to our nation. We should also further previous work such as the New Deal to expand our economy and create unity in our nation in this time of peril. As the economy struggles to recover, I strongly believe that Americans get back to work through the help of the New Deal and the Public Works Administration. Overall, we must understand that we have the diplomatic upper hand. We must attempt to solely aid allied nations while agreements are formed and working policies are advanced so that warring nations will no longer spill unnecessary blood.
Being the secretary of state, I feel it is my duty to make sure I do everything in my power to ensure the everlasting security and safety of The United States of America. This being said, I believe it is necessary to stay out of the theater of war, and give indirect economic support to the allied alliance. I feel our top priority is to defend the liberty of the United States against tyrannous expansion. I believe protecting and providing for U.S. citizens is of the utmost importance and it would be damaging to the nation to have American soldiers take part in a foreign conflict. I believe part of securing The United States from the war is to not take part in the protection of refugees and continue to secure the Philippines. Although I believe there is power in unity and have deep sympathy for these refugees, we simply do not have the security or economic stability to provide asylum to these immigrants. In addition, this protects against possible espionage. Even though the economic depression has slowed, the unemployment rate is still at a 10% high and inflation runs rampant. We need to focus on rebuilding our infrastructure. This being said, I believe free trade provides prosperity and peace for our country and should continue and increase opportunities for economic growth. I believe the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act (RTAA) supports the lowering of tariffs and taxes for foreign and American trade by allowing the president to take direct control of bilateral trade agreements. Militarily, I do propose we keep our Pacific fleet in California. I feel moving it to Hawaii will make our Western States vulnerable to a Japanese attack. Although I feel it is necessary to stay isolated from the conflict, I feel it is beneficial to keep our relationship with our allies strong.
As Franklin Roosevelt’s cabinet, we have a monumental task ahead of us. The Cabinet must work effectively to determine the need for United States involvement in European affairs regarding the events of World War II and must rapidly respond to Europe’s quickly changing power balance, and ensure the voices of all people are heard under this government.

Following Franklin’s election to the presidency, I was appointed chairman of the Federal Farm Board (an independent and intergovernmental agency below Cabinet level) in 1933, and, in 1934, secretary of the treasury. After William Woodin’s death, I was named the permanent Secretary of the Treasury. As Secretary of Treasury, I stabilized the devalued US dollar as a result of numerous bank panics and deflation due to the gold standard, I additionally helped finance the “New Deal”.

One of the manifestations of postwar optimism was the rise to prominence of the stock market, which served as a cornerstone of the US economy. While the stock trade had always been significant in the upper class of the United States, the 1920s saw the lower and middle classes increase stock spending as a method of becoming wealthy. By autumn of 1929, most stocks had climbed well beyond their real value due to high demand, and when growth slowed, panic ensued, culminating in a market crash on October 29. The resulting Great Depression affected the entire world and lasted well into the 1930s. In the United States, President Herbert Hoover’s popularity suffered as voters attributed their economic hardships to his intransigent fiscal non-interventionism, resulting in a landslide victory for the progressive Democratic candidate Franklin Roosevelt in 1932, who promised to act immediately to alleviate the Depression. Two years after the election of Franklin, I assumed the role of Secretary of Treasury, where Roosevelt and I created and enacted the New Deal, which established strong social services and vastly increasing public sector employment. Yet, the United States economy is still in shambles and it is imperative that we use the war in Europe to aid in the healing of the American economy.

While the situation may seem dire, there are clear steps forward the Cabinet may take to address the issue. Unemployment has dipped since the implementation of the New Deal and its programs, yet unemployment still remains at average levels of 13%. As Secretary of Treasury, I propose that the Cabinet establish funding for the defense industry in the production of military goods for war efforts. The production of this aid will not only help our allies in the war against fascism, but also create employment opportunities. Additionally, this funding can be used a subsidy for increasing production through an additional proposition of establishing quotas in order to help the unemployed.
Outside of America’s economic needs, there are millions of Jewish persons who are currently threatened by the genocidal activities of Nazi Germany and it is imperative that the Cabinet address the issue of the unjustified loss of human life due to the rise of authoritarian and non-democratic forms of governments. It is because of this unjustified loss of life that I strongly recommend consideration of joining the war effort militarily with full force. The activities of Nazi Germany threaten the rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness that our country is founded upon. Furthermore, joining the war would likely assist in the recovering of the economy as industry transitions towards war production and soldiers are sent to battle, lowering the unemployment rate in America. Entrance into the war would inject the final stimulation needed for America to fully recover from the effects of the Great Depression.

While these solutions will not address all of the current issues, they represent important steps. As Secretary of Treasury, I will ensure to advocate for them to end the economic disaster caused by the Great Depression as the unjustified loss of life of defenseless Jews.
Delegation from: The Vice President
Represented by: Saint Vincent-Saint Mary's High School

Position Paper for The Arsenal of Democracy: President Roosevelt’s War Cabinet, 1941

The United States had a large impact on the ending of the Great War. After this excruciating conflict which killed 100,000 soldiers, there were many post-war optimismisms such as the prominence of the stock market as a cornerstone of the growing economy. The market had increased steadily making people believe they were on a road to riches. On October 29, 1929 the stock market crashed, this event is known as the Black Tuesday. This crash was associated with President Herbert, causing him to lose many followers and supporters. Franklin Roosevelt won the ensuing election by a landslide. Promising to focus on the great depression, he created a new deal. This deal rejected market-based consensus of the 1920’s by establishing strong social services which helped to increase the plummeting employment rates. His appeal has spread throughout the United States, especially with the common American.

The German President, Paul von Hindenburg, was choosing between two large parties: The Nazi Party, and the pro-Soviet Communist parties. After an alleged communist terrorist attack against the Nazi’s, it gave them the necessary justification to obtain the rights of left-wing dissidents allowing them to win the vote. Hitler was gaining power. Using this power he banned political opposition and limited the rights of Jewish Germans alongside many other minority groups. Using this idea, the Nazi’s took over Sudetenland, a border region of Czechoslovakia. Next, Hitler attacked Poland which caused Britain and Italy to declare war. This war encouraged Japan to press their advantages further in their successes. Japan tried to take advantage of China’s civil war, but its political leader, Chiang Kai-shek, took a hard line against Japan. Through all of this, the soviet union wants to expand. This included the annexation of Poland. In the US, President Roosevelt had succeeded in stabilizing the United States economy.

The world is at war and tensions are very high. The problems that are facing the United States not only affect the US from within, but it affects the United States’ interests abroad. Due to many nations not being able to come to an agreement, the US is not able to work with other nations in order to protect and strengthen the US. These tensions have a negative effect on the nation, especially the tensions with Japan. The Japanese had invaded French Indochina, were the United States had placed an embargo for oil exports. This allowed Japan to culminate oil resources in the Dutch East Indies. The Japanese have also taken over parts of China causing much concern for our nation. As well as the American Protectorate is a large Japanese target.

As the Vice President and a member of President Roosevelt’s Cabinet, we, as a cabinet, must ensure stability within our own country. Our country cannot move further with war considerations unless we are strong from within. It is my duty, as the Vice President, to update
the Senate on the happenings of the executive branch. Once this strength is acquired, we will only be making decisions to ensure the protection of our nation. We will be working as hard as we can to make agreements with our allies and work together in order to form a powerful force, that if needed, will be able to fight through any conflict. We shall show the strength of the United States through everything we do.