

# HELP FOR BRITAIN DEBATED ON RADIO

## Rex Stout and Ralph Ingersoll Ask Full Aid, Asserting Eng- land Is Fighting Our Battle

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24—The question, "Shall We Give Full Military Aid (men and ships) to England?" was debated over the radio in Theodore Granik's American Forum of the Air tonight by an author, a publisher, a Senator and a Representative.

All seemed to agree that the affirmative of the question, as put, meant entrance by the United States into the war as a combatant. All spoke from the standpoint of wishing to extend the utmost aid to Britain, except Senator Holt of West Virginia, who denied that England had ever been a sponsor of democracy and cited England's attitude toward India as proof of this.

The other speakers were Rex Stout, novelist and lecturer; Representative Melvin J. Maas of Minnesota, ranking member of the House Naval Affairs Committee and a World War Marine aviator, with active service overseas, and Ralph Ingersoll, publisher of the newspaper PM, who recently returned from a visit to England. Mr. Stout and Mr. Ingersoll upheld the affirmative.

### Criticize "Group of Nabobs"

Broadcasting over the Mutual System, Mr. Stout said that all except a minority of Americans favored helping England, and that of those who opposed aid for Britain the most dangerous were "a small but influential group of nabobs who want to appease Hitler because they look forward to the day of cheer when they can sell him something."

Mr. Stout said that the question of aiding England was equivalent to that of defending ourselves. That could not be done by building 100,000 airplanes and storing them until the enemy—and there already was one, he said—had bases close enough to bomb us. Practically and morally, we were already at war, Mr. Stout stated.

"Britain's boys are flying our airplanes (paid for) against the men who have said a thousand times that they were out to destroy the democracies of the world," said Mr. Stout. "Her men are sailing our destroyers (paid for) against those who have already crushed freedom on the Continent of Europe and threaten it everywhere."

### Senator Charges Subterfuge

Senator Holt declared that through subterfuge, dishonesty and misrepresentation the United States had been taken to the very precipice of war—"taken by the very men who proclaimed they wanted this country to remain neutral, who were for war but felt it inadvisable to say so—too early."

Warmongers, said Senator Holt, were telling us that we should get into this war because England was fighting for democracy. But 30,000 American boys were lying in France today who had heard the call of "making the world safe for democracy" twenty-five years ago, he added.

Military authorities disputed the argument that we would be invaded if England fell, Senator Holt went on.

"I want a strong national defense, the world's best army—in America; the world's best navy—in American waters, and the world's best air corps—in American skies," declared Senator Holt. "This talk of invasion is promoted poppycock."

### Says England's War Is Our War

Mr. Ingersoll described his position as follows:

"I believe that England's war is our war; that if England loses it we will find ourselves on the edge

of a totalitarian world, just as England today finds herself an island on the edge of a totalitarian continent. And under those circumstances I believe we would have to fight for our existence, just as the English are today fighting for theirs. Therefore, the more intelligent and thorough our aid to Britain, the better.

"The quickest way to peace is to turn to and help England destroy the men who, until they are destroyed, will never be appeased and will continue to force their will upon more and more people by force of arms. The sacrifices the British are making to fight our enemies are greater than any man dreamed possible before it happened. The only reason the British need help from the United States is that they are fighting the resources of a continent.

"With the resources of this continent to draw on, it is inconceivable to me that they can be beaten by Mr. Hitler's synthetic State, with its brittle propaganda-manufactured morale."

### Representative in Warning

Representative Maas asserted that for the United States actively to enter the war now would be suicidal and would probably mean the defeat of both England and the United States.

While it was true, he said, that we were making great strides in getting ready to build the finest defense forces in the world, the cold fact was that, in comparison with the mighty military machine which we potentially faced, we were weaker than at any time in our history.

"On that basis," said Representative Maas, "we are dangerously unprepared, and should we force ourselves into the war now we will undoubtedly be defeated and wind up a second France, if as well off as France."

His arguments were not on sentimental grounds, he said, but from the purely practical one of what was best for the interests of the United States.

"I hope and pray that we may keep out," he said, "but I think it is criminal just to take it for granted that we won't get in, and therefore fail to prepare for total defense. But that is a long way off.

"Once we are in the war ourselves we will be unable to give further aid of planes, ships or supplies as these will be desperately needed for ourselves."