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THE PROPAGANDA BATTLEFRONT

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The Case Against The Chicago Tribune

The *Chicago Tribune*, claiming a circulation of more than 900,000 daily and 1,250,000 on Sunday, is the largest middle-western newspaper. Sold at hotels, newsstands, drugstores and railroad stations in nearly every town and city in the middle west, its point of view is widely distributed.

Not only in Chicago but throughout the states of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and other sections and cities of the midwest, the influence of this newspaper and its publisher, Robert R. McCormick is felt. Until a short time ago, the *Chicago Tribune* dominated the morning paper field in Chicago and manipulated its Associated Press franchise and membership so that no other newspaper could be organized in competition with it.

TRIBUNE IS WIDELY READ A galaxy of special correspondents stationed in Washington, London, Cairo and other key cities all over the globe dominate the presentation of news in the *Tribune*. News — and views — are funneled back to the *Tribune* by these men who see and write their news according to McCormick

principles and standards. Presentation of wire news, columnists and special features are done in a punchy, dynamic style and are augmented by front-page editorials and editorial cartoons in color.

Mr. McCormick's *Chicago Tribune* propaganda line is: Anti-British, anti-Russian, anti-Semitic, pro-Axis, pro-native fascist, anti-Roosevelt, anti-Churchill.

ANTI-BRITISH CAMPAIGN

The *Tribune's* anti-British campaign revolves around systematic, questionable and frequently false accusations in the form of editorials, trumped-up exposés and news stories. As in all of its campaigns, the *Tribune* depends chiefly on repetition of ideas to make converts. On September 8 of last year, for example, the *Tribune* made the following editorial charge without presenting facts upon which it was based:

"Regardless of who actually gives the orders in the field, the British are to start the wars and we are to fight them. England gets the benefit of our victories." (page 18, column 1.)

This was followed on January 15, 1944, with the following:

"Our present relations with the British (are) that they would be free to start the wars and we would be obliged by an alliance to fight them." (page 10, column 1.)

And on and on, week after week, in the same vein.

ANTI-RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA Against Russia the *Tribune* is also persistent in its suspicion and hatred. Constant suggestion that our fighting ally, Russia, is stabbing America in the back through one device or another, that her motives are open to suspicion and challenge, are rammed into the editorial diet of *Chicago Tribune* readers. Here are some excerpts of the line:

"We have seen the Kremlin's scheme of creating economic confusion and unrest in this country as the prelude to despair and revolution." (*Chicago Tribune* November 30, 1942.)

"In frankness it must be said that our association with Communist Russia in this war... has not been wholly to the liking of the American people." (*Chicago Tribune*, September 25, 1942, editorial page. This statement was later shown to be a distortion by a Gallup Poll which showed the following survey of American opinion on the question, "Do You Think Russia Can Be Trusted To Cooperate With Us After the War Is Over?" Fifty-seven per cent said "Yes"; 27 per cent were undecided and only 16 per cent said "No.")

TRIBUNE IS ANTI-SEMITIC Mr. McCormick's anti-Semitism is veiled in insinuation, in suggestion and is almost never out in the open. References to Jews are invariably tied in with a tag-line which is currently in public disfavor. Recently there have been a number of front-page and editorial page color cartoons caricaturing such men as Judge Samuel Rosenman, Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, former Governor Herbert Lehman, Benjamin Cohen, Mordecai Ezekiel, with Harold Ickes and Harry Hopkins in the background. These public figures are characterized as "international bankers," "internationalists" and

"bureaucrats." (For additional references see *Chicago Tribune*, February 9, 1944, page 1; December 27, 1943, page 10; March 31, 1944, page 3; March 23, 1943, page 14; January 11, 1943, page 1; February 9, 1943, page 14; August 14, 1943, page 10; August 5, 1943, page 12.)

Here are some typical *Chicago Tribune* editorial references to the Jews which follow a line strangely familiar to those who know the Nazi propaganda line:

"Col. Lindbergh and Mr. Willkie have within the last week brought into the public forum the relation of the American Jews to the drive to push this nation into war." (Editorial page, *Chicago Tribune*, September 3, 1941.)

"... Jews of America, as a group, are working for war, although a few far-sighted Jews see the folly of this course and oppose it," (Lindbergh was quoted as saying, in a *Tribune* editorial, September 3, 1941.)

"It may be recalled that while the only ward in Chicago that voted for war in the *Tribune's* poll was predominately Jewish..." (September 3, 1941.)

McCORMICK IS PRO-AXIS Turn now to the nice things the *Tribune* says about our enemies, the Nazis and the Japs. Here are a couple of excerpts from the issue of December 7, 1943, in commemoration of the attack at Pearl Harbor:

"Whatever may have been the ulterior designs of Germany and Japan neither at the time wished to involve the United States. Mr. Roosevelt at all times intended that war in Asia and in Europe should have this Republic as a participant."

"Germany was avoiding it (war) but our government was pressing from one warlike measure to another."

AXIS IS PRO-McCORMICK The Axis, in turn, had nice things to say about the *Tribune*. Here's part of a shortwave broadcast in English beamed to the United States by Radio Tokyo:

"Just as you and I, Colonel McCormick has both friends and enemies . . . To his friends . . . Colonel McCormick is a man of independent will, a man of action, a fearless foe, ready to express himself regardless of consequences . . . at any rate there is no doubt that Robert McCormick is an extremely charming character . . . America today needs many more characters like this Chicago veteran . . . (he) is a 'one-man crusade' for the defense of true Americanism and for the salvation of the United States from the hands of the . . . radical interventionists led by Mr. Roosevelt." (*New York Times* May 18, 1943, also Congressional Record, May 24, 1943, page 4856.)

DEFENDS 30 The *Tribune's* attitude toward
SEDITIONISTS native fascists — and especially
 those indicted for sedition — is
markedly friendly. Not only does McCormick defend the more than 30 persons under indictment for sedition but he also uses the *Tribune* as the master link in the network of newspapers by which the rising "nationalist" movement in the middle west spreads its anti-democratic views.

Some of the persons indicted are: Lawrence Dennis, author of works which plead the cause of fascism, lecturer, avowed fascist and called "one of the few fascist intellectuals"; Joe McWilliams, Yorkville's rabble-rousing anti-Semite who boasted, "Hitler is 100 per cent right . . . the greatest leader in the history of the world . . . and the kind of man we need here . . . I am 100 per cent with Hitler . . ."; shrill Elizabeth Dilling, publisher and author of the monthly anti-Semitic, pro-Fascist *Patriotic Research Bulletin*, author of the pro-Nazi book, *The Octopus*, Hitler fan who attended the 1938 Nuremberg Conference in Germany; William Dudley Pelley, publisher of the *Galilean* and a series of pro-fascist, pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic publications, leader of the American storm trooper organization, *The Silver Shirts*. Pelley wrote: "Hitler performs a vast service . . . to world humanity in general . . . the Orient is being serviced through a renovation of the Adomic Nipponese." (He is now doing 15 years in the Federal penitentiary on conviction of sedition after an extended trial.)

Of these persons the *Tribune* stated editorially:

"Some of the statements attributed to the defendants can be defended as true . . . but they are all in comment on public affairs and as such any citizen under our Constitution has the right to utter them." (*Chicago Tribune*, January 6, 1944, page 14, column 1.)

"The attack on Mrs. Dilling is a deliberate effort at political persecution. The worst that can be said of her is that she may have been ill-advised and that some of her actions lacked dignity. There is not the slightest evidence that she was or is disloyal, and a strong presumption that she would not have adopted the strong course she took except for a very deep concern to herself over the fate of her country." (*Chicago Tribune*, October 2, 1942.)

TRIBUNE PRO- Toward the native fascists who
NATIVE FASCIST infest the Chicago and mid-
 western area, who are now
amalgamating their dissident, fanatic, fascist groups into a solid front, the *Tribune* has always been paternal. In 1940 Mr. McCormick and his *Tribune* defended the 17 members of the Christian Front, who were charged with conspiracy to overthrow the United States government, as "Americans who recognize the communist menace for what it is."

PROPAGANDA IS A WEAPON

Propaganda is a weapon as much as submarines, tanks and bombers. Friends of Democracy has been carrying on a militant campaign against anti-democratic propaganda for a number of years. The impact of the Axis propaganda is now tremendous. Therefore, it is necessary for Friends of Democracy to carry on more vigorously than heretofore. Our organization invites the cooperation and support of all who are concerned about the preservation of democratic civilization.

“VERMIN” PRESS LOADS TRIBUNE The “vermin” press, the voice of the “nationalist” movement, speaks with reverence of the *Chicago Tribune*. Pelley’s papers, the *Galilean* and *Roll Call*, were largely devoted either to re-writes of the *Tribune* or direct quotations with or without proper credit. The *Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter*, *The Broom*, *X-Ray*, *Publicity*, *Social Justice* and many other publications edited by persons indicted for sedition have followed the same practice of lifting right out of the *Tribune*.

The *Chicago Tribune* is bitterly, caustically “anti” everything. It is against the British, the Russians, Roosevelt, Churchill, the “international bankers,” the “internationalists” and the “war mongers.” In the name of freedom of the press, McCormick and his newspaper carry on a program of propaganda which knowingly or unknowingly gives aid and comfort to our enemies. The Axis powers believe that the *Chicago Tribune* is steadily working to break down the morale of the American people.

The *Tribune*’s carping criticism undermines the confidence of the American people in our military and civilian leadership and in our allies.

DISCLOSES MILITARY PLANS Two days before Japan attacked us at Pearl Harbor, the *Chicago Tribune* revealed intimate plans being formulated by our Army and Navy for the eventuality and possibility of war. It told our then potential enemies — enemies who two days later were to deliver us one of the most underhanded blows of all history — that our government was laying the groundwork to mobilize 10,000,000 men, 5,000,000 of which were earmarked for an expeditionary force.

On December 11, 1941, Hitler addressed the Reichstag and publicly recognized the job McCormick had done for the Reich in informing him of American plans for aggressive warfare against Germany. He finished his address with a declaration of war upon us.

On June 7, 1942, the *Chicago Tribune* disclosed that the Japanese were advancing to meet the American battle fleet in what became the battle of Midway. McCormick made known to all, and to the Japanese, that our government had special access to information concerning the content and movement of Japanese battle fleets. Upon the basis of this information, the enemy was able to change its plans, avoid the full impact of American forces directed against it, and kill more American boys than would have been possible if the *Chicago Tribune* had not revealed our naval secrets. When the government ordered a Grand Jury investigation of this disclosure of naval secrets, McCormick cried “persecution” and took refuge behind “freedom of the press.”

Middle western readers of the *Chicago Tribune* should be aware of the editorial policy of this paper.

What is McCormick up to anyway?

FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC.
137 East 57th Street
New York 22, N. Y.

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