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"More Planes, More Planes!"

The latest dispatches from Europe and the Pacific emphasize again, and more strongly than before, the value of planes. "More planes, more planes! I got it over there the other day from General MacArthur," Under-Secretary of War Patterson testified to the Senate Military Committee. "The aircraft situation is the most crucial thing that is going on in America today," Bernard M. Baruch declared recently.

Planes have made possible the rescue of our Fifth Army from the trap near Naples. They have cleared the way for advances toward Japan. They have added miles to the progress of the Russians. They have softened up Germany for the final stroke. The limiting factor there, according to Mr. Baruch, is "the number of airplanes we shall have in combat in the next few months."

In deciding whether fathers should be drafted and unmarried men taken away from airplane factories, Congress cannot properly disregard the continuous appeals

for more and more planes. Any policy which tends to reduce the output will also tend to prolong the war.

It is good to know that the United Nations have more planes and are making more than the Axis, but the greater the superiority, the shorter the list of casualties will be. There are disturbing indications that the Germans and Japanese have improved the quality of their machines. The percentage of losses among the American and English planes which raid Europe has increased, and the Japanese now have new Zeros, faster, better protected, more heavily gunned and even more maneuverable than the original type.

If the aviators of the United Nations are to maintain their superiority, we shall have to displace many of the present models and turn out better ones in larger numbers. Battlefront, manpower, womanpower, drafting and priority problems—they cannot be worked out advantageously if Congress does not take notice of changed and changing conditions in the air.