REGISTRATION RESULTS
Last Wednesday almost all men in the country who had completed their twenty-first year and had not completed their thirty-fifth, including some 1,000 Techmen men, registered for training in the armed forces of the nation.

What does this action really signify? What is behind this enrolling of sixteen million men for possible military service?

It is, primarily, a good example of a democracy, American style, in action. This, first of all, because it is a spontaneous re-action to a definite, individual philosophy of outlook; it is the first step down the giddy slope that is called militarism. The word is a people's spirit, instilled in them at birth.

The Constitution's authors envisaged when they wrote into the Constitution its meaning for the individuals whom it directly involved. What significance do the registrant's actions on Wednesday hold for the individuals whom it grew out of democratic processes, it can become entrenched in the American intellect.

Hitler hokum under the American people's viewpoint. The German dictator's supposed ratings as to whether Hitler would prefer Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Willkie for the next President of the United States is absurd from any viewpoint. The German dictator's supposed preferences, whichever way they run, are of no possible value to an American campaign. The people of the United States are better fitted than Hitler to decide what is best for their country.

Stupid and irrelevant as the Nazi choice for an American president may be if it is, the political cat-calling over this "issue" is even more childish.

Mr. Henry Wallace and New York's Governor Lehman started the ball rolling when they decided, and publicly announced, that Hitler would like nothing better than to see Mr. Roosevelt defeated. Several other political observers leaped to the attack, declaring that Hitler is infinitely more afraid of Willkie than of Roosevelt.

The President himself kept quiet about the thing. But recently he, too, succumbed to the temptation to wave this snappy bit of Hitler hokum under the American people's collective noses. He came up at a press conference with a New York Times dispatch Rome with these lines embedded: "The Axis is primarily interested in keeping her (the United States) out of war ... more over, the Axis is out to beat President Roosevelt, not as a measure of interference in American internal policies, but because of the President's foreign policy ...."

Now, we can quite calmly conclude that Hitler and his boys are unhappy over the election of President Roosevelt. It is disturbing that these Axis powers are so upset over the President's foreign policy. We also know that Roosevelt is the shrewdest politician in the world.

The crowning ludicrousness of the whole business is Mr. Bruce Barton's offer to bet Mr. Roosevelt $1,000 that Hitler would like to see Mr. Roosevelt re-elected, instead of Mr. Willkie. Offering an excuse for his proposal, Republican Mr. Barton says he is simply interpreting an incident that he has emphasized that, and Mr. Roosevelt is the shrewdest politician in the world.

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A spirit or a philosophy can not be created by a legal act. But because military problems now are closer than ever before to American, soldiers will fill more magazines, this spirit can readily become entrenched in the American intellect.

On the other hand, since, as it was pointed out before, universal military training has grown out of democratic processes, it can propagate a new consciousness of the responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy, as well as of its privileges. Our determination that we are training to fight for our democracy, if it needs fighting for, can become a projection and extension of democracy at home. This evolution happened in the Revolutions War. It did not happen in the last World War. We can choose for ourselves what will happen this time.

Whatever the result, today we are being tumbled along before a tempest. The realization that we can in some measure determine our course is a spiritual uplift which will become no small factor in the eventual effect of universal military training.

THE AXIS CANDIDATE
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