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INFORMATION PROGRAM
FOR THE
PREVENTION OF SABOTAGE

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information to the public

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Prepared by
The Office of Program Coordination
U.S. Office of War Information ✓
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Information Program for the Prevention of Sabotage

This program book presents a plan for a program of information aimed to help lessen the possibility of successful sabotage in this country.

THE PROBLEM

Sabotage is always a threat, particularly in view of our enemies' previous record of use of sabotage as one of their major weapons.

The United States has been very fortunate so far in that we have had as yet no foreign directed sabotage loss, thanks to vigilance in pre-war years and forehanded action since by government agents. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has, so far, kept the situation well in hand with the help of Military and Naval Intelligence, Office of Civilian Defense, law-enforcing agencies and other government departments. BUT NOW it is felt by all concerned that there's real need for renewing our vigilance. Because:

- 1) A sense of false security must inevitably result from so long a stretch of time without anything's happening, UNLESS the importance of maintaining vigilance is adequately brought to the attention of those concerned.
- 2) The enemy himself has given strong indication of renewed zeal in sabotage efforts. It is an established fact that the Germans are turning out well-trained graduates of a saboteur school, and that some of the graduates may be sent to this country.
- 3) The enemy has been meeting enough reverses in the field so that desperation moves are very likely, and one of his favorites is sabotage.
- 4) Heretofore, enemy submarines have managed to destroy a sizeable amount of our war materials as they were being shipped to foreign countries. Now, however, we are beginning to conquer the submarine menace, and it is logical to assume that, if the enemy can't destroy the material in transit, he will endeavor to destroy it at the source.

Hence the government agencies concerned are more than ever on their toes tracking down all possible suspicious schooling, personnel, etc. And an information program is desired to give still wider circulation to the subject.

OBJECTIVE OF INFORMATION PROGRAM

To impress every citizen in general and key workers in particular with the need to step up vigilance against sabotage rather than to relax it,

THEME OF THE INFORMATION PROGRAM

The general theme of the information program on sabotage will incorporate the following points:

- 1) **WARNING:** Sabotage is one of the most deadly weapons that the enemy can employ. Cleverly handled, it can do as much actual damage as a military campaign, and can shatter morale to such an extent that the people are easy prey to the enemy.
- 2) It is now more important than ever that the United States be vigilant toward the possibility of sabotage because of:
 - (a) the general attitude of the public that as long as there has been no enemy-inspired sabotage up to now, that there is little danger of it, and
 - (b) because we know the enemy is even now trying to send their most highly trained saboteurs to this country to help turn the tide of war back in their direction.
- 3) Therefore, we must redouble our efforts to insure the continued safety of this country.
 - (a) By carefully observing each company ruling in regard to safety and watchfulness at work. A careless or malicious employee, although he is a loyal American citizen, can cause as much damage as an Axis saboteur.
 - (b) By noting any suspicious or irregular circumstances and reporting them directly to the nearest office of the FBI, without mentioning the matter to anyone else.

CAUTIONS

It is highly important to remember that we do not want to stir up a wave of spy hysteria. Improperly handled, or overplayed, an anti-sabotage campaign could arouse such excitement in the public mind that inestimable damage might result. We do not want people to get the erroneous idea that the country is filled with saboteurs and that one is probably lurking around each corner. To create such an impression would bring to light thousands of amateur detectives who would hinder the excellent work now being accomplished by the government agents. It would also shake the public morale and cause everyone to be over-fearful.

SUGGESTED MEDIA FOR THE ANTI-SABOTAGE INFORMATION PROGRAM

Because of the above mentioned need for keeping a delicate balance in the campaign on prevention of sabotage, we will not carry on a spectacular campaign. We will, instead, proceed on an even basis, putting across a message through a different medium every month or so. Thus we will keep the need for safeguarding against sabotage constantly in the minds of the public without overloading their minds with it. We propose to utilize the following OWI media.

1) Graphics

- (a) Posters - The Bureau of Graphics has already printed a poster on sabotage which was distributed during the first weeks of July. The copy for this poster is virtually a copy platform for our campaign, for it reads as follows:

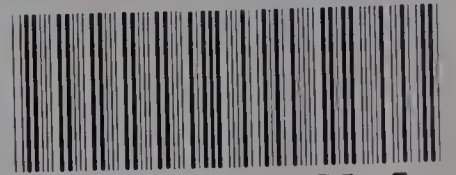
"Warning from the FBI. The war against spies and saboteurs demands the aid of every American. When you see evidence of sabotage, notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation at once. When you suspect the presence of enemy agents, tell it to the FBI. Beware of those who spread enemy propaganda! Don't repeat vicious rumors or vicious whispers. Tell it to the FBI! Signed J. Edgar Hoover."

Because this copy defines so well the idea we are trying to get across, it will be a good idea to start the campaign rolling by distribution of the poster.

- (b) The Universal Match Company is printing 5,000,000 match book covers with an anti-sabotage message on the cover. These match books will be distributed in New England, and if results of a test on the inside cover prove that the message is actually read, we can probably get the Universal people to cooperate further with us.

2) Radio

- (a) Spot allocation - we plan to utilize the National Spot Allocation Program to get across one-minute messages on anti-sabotage. (The week of July 26 has been selected for the first set of these.)
- (b) Special assignments - Anti-sabotage themes can be suggested to writers of prominent radio programs as possible one-shot outlets for anti-sabotage messages.



3) Motion Pictures

All five of the major newsreel companies did a featurette, released the week of July 4, on the identification (fingerprinting) department of the FBI. The estimated coverage of these five newsreels is 70 million people per week.

The theme of the newsreel was tied up with the importance of taking proper precautionary measures toward the prevention of sabotage.

4) News Bureau

We will work with the News Bureau toward using their facilities in getting out material on anti-sabotage from time to time.

Office of Program Coordination, OWI
August 13, 1943