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Committee on Americanization

Connecticut State Council of Defense

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AMERICANIZATION

HARRISON H. WHEATON, *Director*

STATE CAMPAIGN OF AMERICANIZATION.

I. PURPOSE AND AIMS.

- A. To Americanize Connecticut.
- B. To assist in maintaining a united people back of the fighting line.
- C. To promote understanding of American ideals, ideas, habits of thinking, traditions, customs, life and citizenship, on the part of persons of foreign birth residing in the State.
- D. To promote mutuality of understanding as between persons of native and foreign birth residing in the State.
- E. To stimulate cooperation between persons of native and foreign birth, looking toward common state and national aims.

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II. POLICIES.

In the promotion of Americanization in the State, the Committee on Americanization of the State Council of Defense believe —

A. RELATION TO PERSONS OF FOREIGN BIRTH —

1. That persons of foreign birth ought to participate and cooperate in the formulation and execution of plans and programs;
2. That representatives of racial and national groups should be placed on or associated with both official and unofficial committees dealing with Americanization together with native born, in order to promote cooperation and mutual understanding in the Americanization movement;
3. That native-born Americans should make every reasonable effort to become acquainted with persons of foreign birth and their customs and contributions in order to absorb the best which they bring to this country;

B. RELATION TO INDUSTRY —

1. That since the working out of the process of Americanization involves the proper adjustment of persons of foreign birth to industrial conditions, employers and industrial concerns should take such steps as will further the efficiency, safety and industrial welfare of their employees of foreign birth;
2. That since, during the continuance of the war, our national unity and solidarity are dependent upon the morale of our working forces, all employers of laborers of foreign birth are urged to participate with the State and national governments in the establishment and maintenance of the morale of their employees of foreign birth and of their allegiance to the United States and the allied cause;
3. That representatives of industries employing persons of foreign birth should be placed on committees on Americanization, whether official or unofficial;
4. That industries employing persons of foreign birth should enter into cooperative arrangements with public school authorities whereby non-English-speaking and illiterate employees are enabled to attend



suitable classes in public schools or in the plant where such employees are employed; and should take such additional steps as may be necessary to facilitate the acquisition of the English language and a knowledge of American life and citizenship by all employees of foreign birth;

C. RELATION TO LABOR —

1. That organized labor should take steps to insure the thoro allegiance to the United States of all members of foreign birth, and should, in particular, further the acquisition of the English language and of a wholesome knowledge of industrial opportunities on the part of such members;
2. That representatives of labor should be placed upon committees of Americanization;

D. RELATION TO EDUCATION —

1. That education is regarded as the most effective instrumentality for Americanization, and that, therefore, particular emphasis should be laid upon the proper training and instruction of persons of foreign birth in English, in American life and citizenship, and in suitable vocations, by all agencies, official and unofficial, dealing with or interested in persons of foreign birth;
2. That suitable opportunities should be provided by public school authorities for the education of persons of foreign birth in every community where any substantial number of such persons reside, and that such facilities should be properly and fully brought to the attention of persons of foreign birth and their use of all facilities carefully stimulated;
3. That during the progress of the present war and thereafter, emphasis should be laid upon instruction in English, United States history, the causes of the war, America's part and objects in the war, the obligations of persons of foreign birth during the war, the attitude of the United States toward smaller nations and submerged nationalities involved in the war, upon training in trades necessary to win the war, procedure of naturalization, geography, industrial opportunities in the United States, civics and good citizenship;

E. RELATION TO WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS —

1. That, except in rare instances, Americanization activities should be carried on by men and women's organizations jointly irrespective of sex;
2. That women should participate jointly with men in the formulation and execution of plans and programs and representative women should be placed on committees on Americanization.

F. RELATION TO CHURCH AND PARTY —

1. That since Americanization is the process of making a united country, the Americanization program and work of this Council shall be non-partisan and non-sectarian, and shall be carried out cooperatively with all agencies, official and unofficial, willing to cooperate, and all agencies engaging in Americanization are urged to make their work in this direction as non-sectarian and non-partisan as possible.

G. RELATION TO UNOFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS —

1. That the Americanization plan of this Council should be carried out in cooperation with the regularly constituted official agencies and bodies wherever possible in preference to unofficial agencies;
2. That unofficial agencies shall be urged to cooperate with official agencies under all conditions as far as possible, and official plans and programs should be adopted by unofficial agencies whenever adaptable to the respective purposes and nature of such agencies;
3. That official and unofficial agencies should avoid duplication of plans and effort, and should attempt to execute only such work as they are organized to carry out.

NOTE.— For further information and advice, write to Connecticut State Council of Defense, Department of Americanization, Hartford, Conn.