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## HOOVER ASKS WILL TO KEEP FROM WAR

Formal Declaration by the Government First Means of Staying Out, He Says

'POWER POLITICS' DECRIED

Ex-President, in Article, Warns That Neutrality Laws Will Not Prevent Conflict

Former President Herbert Hoover asked yesterday for a formal declaration by our government that we will not go to war with any European nation unless the Western Hemisphere is attacked. He listed this as the first means by which the United States might stay out of war, the second being our withdrawal from the game of "power politics."

Mr. Hoover's views were expressed in an article appearing under his name in the American Magazine, entitled "Shall We Send Our Youth to War?"

He dismissed as unimportant the technicalities of neutrality legislation, declaring that if we do not have the "adamant will to stay out, no amount of law can keep us out."

Like "Playing With Matches"

In discussing the game of power politics, Mr. Hoover wrote:

"The players change and the forces in the game shift constantly. It is a game of delicate moves. It is not a game of open covenants openly arrived at. Nor is the self-determination of nations one of the rules. Those who play with power politics, like those who play with matches, always deny that they intend to set the conflagration of war. Their moves are based not alone on bluff but on guns. When we take sides in their controversies, when we talk of using force of any kind, we are playing power politics at the European chess table.

"I do not believe we should sit in that game, either in their interest or ours. Our idealism and our uncertainties of policy only befuddle the movements of expediency and delicate adjustments in which they are compelled to live. And our stakes are the lives of millions of sons of America. The stakes are another twenty-five years of hideous national impoverishment. The stakes are the progress of mankind for half a century. The stakes may be the sinking of intellectual and spiritual liberty for a century to come.

"The time may come when we could arbitrate the quarrels which arise in that game at some point before shooting begins. But if we sit in the game we shall never be arbitrator and we may be drawn into the shooting."

Mr. Hoover then took up the

question of "war-conditioning" of the minds of our people, noting various propaganda methods, and also the "firing of words by our government officials at the nations we don't like."

President at "Chessboard"

"President Roosevelt has taken a seat at the table where power politics is being played. He has joined in the chessboard of Europe. He lines us up in the balance of power. It is said that we can do this without joining in war.

"It is said that we will do something more than words and less than war. When we open fire on the front we are in the fight. The enemy will fire back with more than words. If the more than words fail to overcome him we

have to go farther. For then we have to win or be overcome on our side. Let nobody say you can do such things without danger of war itself."

He gave his program for our remaining at peace by saying:

"The greatest immediate service that we can render is to join in economic cooperation with other nations to relieve the economic pressures which are driving the world constantly to instability. A great part of these pressures for war are economic. The greatest healing force that could come to the world is prosperity. There is a vast field for American action which is free from foreign entanglements.

"We should resume the conferences which were started under

such good auspices by our country in 1932. But, far beyond that, we can hold the light of liberty alight on this continent. That is the greatest service we can give to civilization.

"We as a people can keep out of war in Europe if we have the resolute will to do so. Our will can be weakened by propaganda. It can be insidiously undermined by sitting in the game of European power politics.

"We hear much of laws that will preserve our neutrality. But the question is not legalisms. It is our will to stay out. Staying out is a matter of tactics and strategy almost as difficult as the strategy and tactics of war. And, if there is not the adamant will to stay out, no amount of law can keep us out."