

THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WAR EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POLICIES

During the years 1917 and 1918 the National Chamber submitted a number of referenda to its members and at annual meetings and in a special War Convention of American Business adopted resolutions on subjects connected with the prosecution of the War. Most of these referenda and resolutions have not been included in this compilation of policies for the reason that they deal with emergency problems and no longer have significance as a part of the active and continuing policies of the Chamber.

The following declarations are representative of the economic policies sponsored by the National Chamber during the World War.

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEASURES

For the preservation of the peace and honor of the United States, the National Defense forces both on sea and land should be so increased and the industrial resources so coordinated as to make fully available the military, industrial, and financial strength of the nation.

A body in the nature of a Council of National Defense should be created by law to assist in the development of an adequate and continuing policy for National Defense.

A staff of Industrial Mobilization should be forthwith created by law and so organized and maintained in times of peace as to insure the most effective use of the economic resources of the United States in case of war.

A program of naval construction should be adopted immediately sufficient to restore the United States at least to its former position of second naval power in the Atlantic, with surplus in the Pacific sufficient to protect its coasts, its possessions, its trade routes, the Canal Zone and adjacent territory.

A General Staff for the Navy by strengthening the present office of Naval Operations of the Navy Department, or otherwise, should be created by law.