

Hy, then a young man in his early twenties, saw the crucial importance of the fight against fascism in Spain for the peoples of the world as well as of the United States. To the question: "How can I make the maximum contribution to this fight?" Hy's answer was to take up arms in the very front line of battle against fascism along side the people of Spain. Hy joined 2800 Americans who volunteered to serve in the International Brigades, of whom 1200 gave their lives. Hy fought in the battles of Brunete, of Quinto and Belchite, of Fuentes de Ebro and Teruel. Because of his outstanding steadfastness and courage, he was selected to attend an Officer's Training School. But at the end of the first week, the entire school had to be sent to the front lines near Gandesa to stop the world's first blitzkrieg, threatening to cut the Republic in two.

Hy stood and fought near Gandesa until he found himself behind the fascist lines. For a week he successfully evaded the fascist armies while trying to return to the Republican lines. On the eighth day he was captured, and spent the next 17 months in fascist jails and concentration camps.

It is because Hy understood that stopping the advance of fascism was the most important task facing the people of the world, because he willingly risked his life and his future to stop fascism, because he fought bravely and well, that we have a second reason for honoring and thanking Hy today.

But there is a third reason for honoring both Pearl and Hy, and to me it is of even greater importance. And for this reason, I would like you to join me in a trip into the future, to the year 2000, only a scant 21 years away. Already you can see its distinguishing feature in the supermarkets, Inflation. By the year 2000, the leading edge of the Age of Scarcity will wreak havoc on our economy. The readily obtainable resources we now squander so freely will be gone. Mankind will have to make do with less. We with 5% of the world's population who now use one-third of the world's resources, will be forced by the demands and strength of the Third World, ~~will be forced~~ to make do with a smaller share of a smaller pie.

But who here shall have less? We can already see the answer. New York City's solution to its financial problems has been to increase the tax-free income on City Bonds from the traditional 4 to 5 per cent to 9 and 10 per cent, a huge bonus to the wealthy. At the same time it has reduced the number of jobs by many thousands for the working people, and has cut its services to the people of this city, and first of all, to the poor, the minorities, the children and the aged. The income of the wealthy goes up, and the living standards of the rest go down.

Even Proposition 13 is serving the same purpose. It strengthens the hand of those who wish to cut the already inadequate services to the disadvantaged and the politically helpless.