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A UNIFIED COMMAND AND DEMOCRACY IN AGRICULTURE\textsuperscript{1}

By President JAMES D. HOSKINS
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

No question to-day, I dare say, is more subject to debate than the problem of a unified command. Yet it is scarcely a matter of debate. Military experts, statesmen, laymen in high quarters and an aroused public are demanding a unified command! For the United Nations at large, for the armed services of each, and for the wayward committees, commissions, bureaus and departments throughout our decentralized democracies—the immediate postulate of hope for victory in this war is a unified command. It is more of a battle cry than an argument.

While we confess to the need for such a command in war, let us not forget for a moment what we are about. The perils of the cure are but little short of those of the disease itself. We are but fighting fire with fire. For the ultimate potentiality of the unified command is the totalitarian state. Our security lies in our recognition of both the strength and the weakness of democracy. It lies in our ability to put aside our inherent weakness of individualism and prolonged debate in order to assume the full power of our strength in unity of purpose under a unified command. That we are slow to do so is but evidence of our whole-hearted commitment to decentralization of authority and to local autonomy. Our departure from these basic tenets of democracy is but temporary and for the sole purpose of winning a war. Otherwise,