

DAVE E: Stalingrad! Kharkov! Kiev! And now Novgorod! What is that Russian patriotism which impels the great Red Army to drive back what was thought to be Hitler's invincible forces? Mrs. Sina Fosdick, director of the American Russian Cultural Association believes she has an explanation for it. Mrs. Sina Fosdick!

BIZ: APPLAUSE.

DAVE E: Go ahead, Mrs. Fosdick.

MRS. F: Russians love their homes - their soil - their country - their families. But so do people of all lands. There must be something more. And being of Russian birth myself, I believe I have the answer. . . . . You see, Russia doesn't draft her artists for front line fighting. There's a reason for it. One high Russian official said to me, "Suppose we would send a great artist - for example, Shostakovich - to do actual fighting. And he would kill one German. There would be one German less. Let's reverse the case. A German kills Shostakovich. Approximately 190 million Russians would lose a great artist."

In Russia art and artists belong to the people, and because of it, protected by the people. That is why when Germany invaded Russia and set out to systematically destroy everything which has the stamp of Russian culture, the spirit of the Russian people flared up. And can you blame them? Not only their homes - but their national shrines had been desecrated.

DAVE E: I begin to understand the fierce anger of the Russians. But Mrs. Fosdick, how does all this tie in with our Victory Auction?

MRS. F: Although Russian artists are not actually fighting in front lines, they are doing their patriotic duty wherever needed. And one of the phases of this work is the famous Tass windows.

DAVE E: What do you mean by Tass windows?

MRS. F: War posters painted by well known artists of Russia. These Tass windows are actually carried into the front lines of battle - and their grim humor is a constant reminder to the Russian soldier of the kind of enemy the Nazis are.

DAVE E: I've never heard of war posters in front lines before.

MRS. F: They can be seen not only there - but all over Russia. They inspire the people on the home front, too. I've brought one of them for your Victory Auction.

DAVE E: Here it is - ladies and gentlemen - take a look at it. It shows Laval as a cute little poodle, Hitler as a mongrel, and all the other axis leaders as dogs, barking their feelings at a parade of Germans in Paris.

MRS. F: Yes - the moral drawn in the text is that dogs bark fiercest when they're afraid of something. . . . . I'd like this poster to help America - help Russia and our other allies to put a speedy end to the war - and so, would you, Mr. Ellman, put it on the War Bond Auction Block?

(ADLIB BIDDING)

DAVE E: And now, let the nation take it from there. If the studio bid is not surpassed by a listener, the studio bidder gets the Tass window.