Now all—and more—of what Messrs. Thomas and Wolfe have to say about the bloodstained history of The British Empire is true, yet this history does not explain the facts of the present situation. England, it will be recalled by those whose memories are not too short, was zealous in the desire to settle international problems by negotiation, as witness the Munich Pact, a deal generally considered shameful, not because England refused to negotiate but because she did negotiate in order to avoid war.

As far as American sentiment goes, it is overwhelmingly against war, and this preponderance would be sufficient to keep us out of the struggle if that choice were left entirely to our desires. But on the international scene there is no such guarantee.

It would be enlightening to have the authors of Keep America Out of War explain the connecting logic of these three passages: They endorse the proposition that "we move toward a planned collective economy with as little violence and as much democracy as the circumstances permit." Later on they write: "We forget that means and end are inextricably one; that the road followed is determined not solely by the goal announced, but by the actual steps taken in the effort to reach that goal; that the means chosen tend in large measure to determine what end will actually be achieved," and then that "the Russian Revolution must have taught all those who are capable of learning at all that a socialist society is inconceivable without freedom and democracy, which are integral to the socialist goal."

How much is "as little violence and as much democracy as the circumstances permit"? Obviously, only as much as is exigently permissible, and "quick transitions" being what they are, this is not likely to be a full measure. But if means and end are "inextricably one" it would seem that by the authors' own logic the socialist goal embodying freedom and democracy is doomed to failure, for the means which condition the end are, in their own words, to be limited by what the "circumstances permit."