

### Under Armed Guard

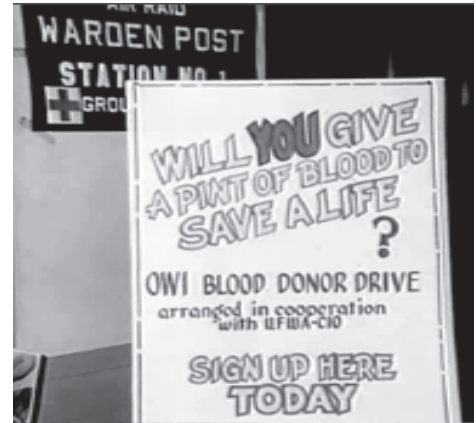
MP guards were deployed around the White House and anywhere that was deemed vital to the war.

do away with it. I do not. I see it as the responsibility of freedom inherent to a democracy, the responsibility upon which fame, fortune and despair will follow. It is the responsibility of what to tell and disclose or what not to tell. That is a dilemma of the past that is still with us and now found in this so-called world fighting a war on terrorism.

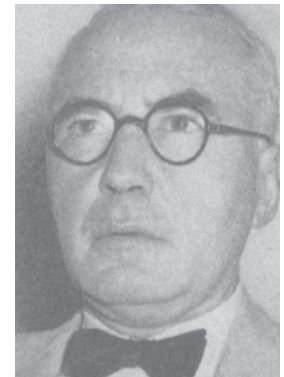
We are still a culture brought up on trying to know secrets, and a culture glamorized by the media and inspired by it. The biggest difference between us in this decade of the new millennium, as I see it, is that it seems now everybody hates delays.

Brave reporters, photojournalists and writers are the link to communication, education, information and victory. The kinetic energy that feeds from them is the starting foundation. Back in the pre-Pearl Harbor era, poet and playwright Archibald MacLeish, the chief of the new agency, the OFF, wrote a controversial essay May, 1940, on responsibility. He chastised those who wished to remain ambivalent. "The revolution of our age," he wrote, "...is a revolution of negatives, a revolution of despair...a revolution of gangs....Caliban in the miserable and besotted swamp is the symbol of the revolution." It was not anymore a case of sticking to one script or reporting one event and then forgetting it and moving on in the make-believe world of ambivalence.

The intermediary between the public and government was the press and radio. There was no television. The OFF was usually the head office that was supposed to supply the facts, but during the first months of the war -after Dec 7-casualties were so severe that everybody found themselves not pressing for the direst of facts, lest they depress public morale more than what existed. While the main job of the OFF was to provide a basis for judgment, informational facts to the people, it was not concerned with strategies or aspirations.

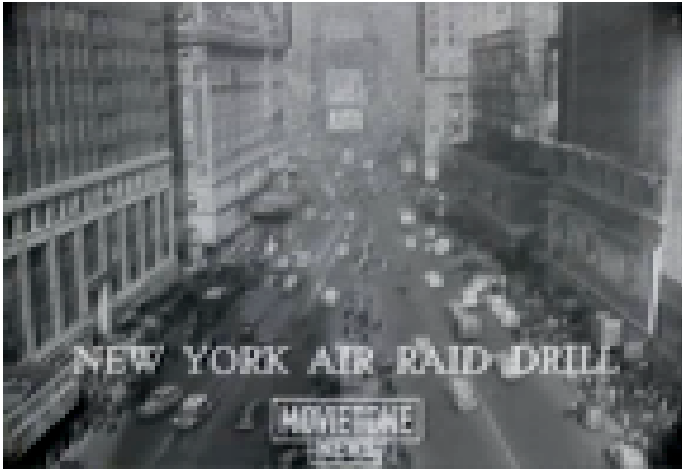


The Office of War Information during the entire hectic war created dozens of MOTIVATION DEDICATION themes.



**Elmer H. Davis**

Chief of Office of War Information. American author, radio commentator, he was one of the more-listened-to news broadcasters in the world when he gave up his \$52,000 a year job to accept his position. As the power of OWI mushroomed, so did Republican congressmen, calling his agency a mouthpiece for New Deal propaganda. Almost everyone criticized his OWI as it tackled work both at home and overseas. Europe and Asia had the greatest budget. OWI combined the Office of Government Reports, OFF, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Information and the Office of Emergency Management. Incidentally, Davis was paid \$12,000 a year.



**YEAR OF THE CITY 1942**

These sets of pictures recall a rare time in the Big Apple, when it held air raid drills, complete with loud screeching sirens, traffic halted, people scampering out of stores, buses, streetcars, automobiles and trucks, and headed for the underground. Only the first & last pictures represent New York as it is still in normal mode.

