

Letter to the Editor March 16, 2020

Will local manufacturers step up to provide health care supplies?

On December 7, 1941 this country was attacked and then mobilized into action. Wisconsin companies like Briggs and Stratton, Harley Davidson, Master Lock, Allen Bradley-Rockwell Automation, and Allis Chalmers massively supported this effort within a matter of weeks.

We are in the midst of a Covid-19 Pandemic where millions of Americans may get this killer virus. Many Americans will die, yet we do not seem to be doing much about it yet.

Who will now step up to produce PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), and ventilators?

Do they need a formal invitation from the Federal government? Of course they don't.

While the Army Corps of Engineers has failed to act in the past, but they could certainly step up now to build hospitals or MASH units.

Some states are using creative ways to expand hospital capacity, by buying up or taking over hotels and motels. There are a lot of recently closed hospitals in rural parts of this country, we need to get going on opening them back up. If corporations can build a new McDonalds in 30 days, we can certainly build hospital capacity equally fast.

Test kits need to be produced locally, and testing labs built and expanded. We may soon be in a nationwide lockdown, so we need to do as much as we can locally.

The Governor has declared an Emergency, and closed our schools, but what's next. We have plenty of unused manufacturing capacity here.

Manitowoc Shipbuilding, Burger Boat, Aluminum Goods Manufacturing, Carron Net, Kahlenberg Industries, White House Milk Company, Schwartz, Heresite Coatings, and Paragon Industries to name a few, all played a role in the past war effort.

As this thing moves in from the coasts in the coming weeks, we have some runway. But experts say it is going to get worse in the next two weeks, for the next two months, and continue for up to two years.

It is high past time to renew a historic American CAN DO ATTITUDE and get going on this!