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**Letter from T. Coleman Andrews, President,, Executive Committee,  
American Institute of Accountants, to the Members of the  
American Institute of Accountants, Re: the Institute's Defense  
Activities.**

T. Coleman Andrews

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# American Institute of Accountants

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

February 14, 1951

To the Members of the  
American Institute of Accountants

Gentlemen:

As the preparations for national defense grow, the accounting profession must ask itself where it will stand during and after the present emergency. The economy of the country is already in large part controlled by the government. This control is more apt to be expanded than contracted, particularly if the emergency lasts as long as most people think it will.

Certified public accountants must demonstrate their usefulness in the defense effort. They must demonstrate it not only to their clients, and to their communities, but also to the agencies of the federal government which exercise controls over large segments of the economy.

The Institute's executive committee has therefore resolved that activities related to national defense be given priority by all committees and by the entire staff. In addition, the committee on national defense is being enlarged and reorganized.

The Institute's defense activities fall into three major classifications:

(1) Promoting the most effective use of accounting manpower, both in the Armed Forces and in the civilian economy.

(2) Providing information and advice to Congress, the Armed Services, and other government agencies on all questions involving costs, profits, audits, and taxes on which certified public accountants are well qualified to speak.

(3) Serving as a clearing house of information for the accounting profession on policies, procedures, laws and regulations which relate to accounting and auditing.

An outline of what Institute committees and staff have done in these fields so far appears in the February CPA. Please read it.

The full contribution of the accounting profession to the defense effort, however, must be made by the profession as a whole, not merely by the officials of its professional organizations.

What can each member do?

(1) As an independent reporter of financial facts, the certified public accountant can provide reliable information on costs, prices, and profits which will assist clients in complying with emergency requirements. Under conditions of national emergency it is more important than ever that in certifying financial statements CPAs maintain absolute independence since defense agencies, as well as private interests, may be relying on the CPAs' opinions.

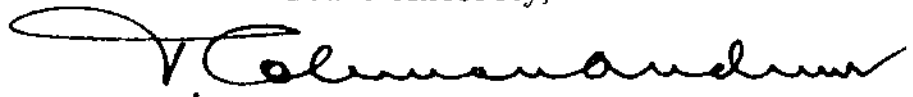
(2) As a citizen, each member can seize every opportunity to serve to the best of his ability in local, state or national defense organizations.

(3) As a member of the accounting profession, he can inform Congressmen or other officials with whom he is personally acquainted of the importance of accounting in the defense effort, and the fact that the Institute is available to help in every way possible.

If you will do these three things, and the committees and staff can discharge their three duties satisfactorily, I have no doubt that our profession will emerge from the mobilization period stronger and more respected than ever before.

Please let me have any thoughts which may occur to you on how we can all do our defense job better.

Yours sincerely,



President

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