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WASHINGTON SNAPSHOTS

It is reported that the even-tempered Robert E. Lee became tired of receiving instructions from so many sources at one point during the Civil War, and humorously complained "that he had got a crick in his neck from looking over his shoulder towards Richmond."

The average business man with a defense contract is likely to feel a certain amount of sympathy with Lee's plight these days. Partly because of the complexities of defense work, but even more because of the bureaucratic habits of Washington itself, it frequently looks as though there are more officials—"more cooks than customers"—than there are occasions to officiate.

Thus, one commentator observed a regulation from the Office of Production Management will be signed by five important officials and attested by another gentleman. Meanwhile the Labor Division of the same OPM will announce "a new and concentrated approach to the problem," which it immediately signifies by naming one man as a director of a particular branch to work in association with 12 other chiefs, chairmen, and commissions!

It all points to the need, often registered here by experienced observers, for one man with a business and executive sense who is permitted authority enough to clear up the defense program's ambiguities and di-

vided responsibilities.

Incidentally, all the cricks in industry's neck don't come from looking to Washington for "go-ahead" signals. You've heard a lot about the growing power of labor union officials. Well, here's an actual case where one wielded "life or death" authority over part of the defense program itself:

A Pennsylvania company received a defense order from the Army and found that it required certain raw materials on which priorities were in effect. Having duly applied to the War Army Ordnance Department for a priority certificate, which was sent to Washington, countersigned, and returned to the company naturally assumed that it was ready to go ahead and fill the defense order.

But it happened that there was a packing strike in the Pennsylvania city that completely tied up operations. The company found that it could be permitted to submit the priority certificate to union officials who would determine whether the shipment of raw materials was sufficiently important in their eyes to justify delivery.

The officials having concluded that it was worthwhile to have the defense equipment in question, they then gave the company a list of "approved" truckers and also presented it with the names of men whom it could hire to unload the needed materials.

Thoughtful people have already been greatly concerned over the manner in which defense strikes have hamstringed large parts of the defense program. But how would they react to the idea of local union officials entering into the realms of high military strategy and deciding whether Army orders are important enough to be filled?

Washington Snapshot: Buried in the middle of Leon Henderson's recent gloomy report on sacrifices that lie ahead in the defense program was a real tribute to the efficiency of American industry and its common, well-run management and loyal workmen. Henderson declared that we can out-produce Nazi Germany and its conquered territories by working three hours out of every eight on defense, although Germany is working four to five hours out of eight to produce war materials. The Price Administrator didn't go into the reasons for this superiority, but they ought to be pretty plain—private enterprise, and a way of life based upon individual opportunity!

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Ledford visited Thad Ledford and family Saturday night.

THIS BUSINESS OF Living
BY SUSAN THAYER



... and she meant "we"
It was an old-fashioned far at house kitchen with a big kerosene stove for summertime use in front of the coal range. A roller towel hung on the back of the door into the dining room and a short-handled pump perched above the sink which was also piped for running water. It brought back memories of kitchens I had known as a child so when I was invited to sit down for a glass of cold milk and some cookies, I gladly accepted.

My hostess, in a fresh housedress and an ample kitchen apron, went back to her job of paring potatoes and dropping them into a big yellow crock which she held on her lap and I thought how far away it all was from "war and rumors of war" and the colossal production effort in which our own country is now engaged. But as we sat there discussing the road I had stopped to ask about, the weather and cookie recipes, this world I was trying to forget suddenly broke in upon us.

"They tell me," she said, "that we built more airplanes than ever last month—over 1,400 of them, I believe."

"Yes," I said, perhaps showing my surprise, "and still more the next."

She nodded her head. "I know. You see my son works in the big airplane factory 100 miles from here and my daughter spends part of each week keeping track of things down at the tool shop in the village. They're making something that they use on planes, too. I'm not sure just what, but they're busy as anything. It's awful, of course, to think of us having to take so much of our efforts away from the production of peace-time goods to the building of armaments. On the other hand, it's pretty wonderful to think we can turn to and do it when we have to."

She said "we" I noticed, and she meant we. For although she is a farmer's wife, living on a remote farm, she feels as if she has a vital part in the work industry is doing. Her children are actually part of it and her own sympathies and interest are with it as it turns out the equipment for defense.

We may have various ideas about what course the nation should take in the months to come and we express these ideas loudly so that we sometimes look divided. But on one thing we are certainly all agreed. That is that America must be made strong and that the plants and factories of the nation are now at work for the interest of us all.

No matter where we live or what we do, it is actually "our" effort and "our" success as the planes and tanks the guns and ship, roll off the assembly lines of industry.

W.N.C. Associational Sunday School Meet Set For Hangingdog

The Western North Carolina Baptist associational Sunday school convention will meet with the Hangingdog church Sunday afternoon, July 27, beginning at 3 o'clock.

C. R. Browning Jr., prominent Baptist layman and Sunday school worker of Asheville, will be the principal speaker.

The program for the day follows: 3:00—song service; 3:05—devotional; Rev. Pat J. Scott; 3:20—roll call of Sunday schools by secretary; 3:30—special music; 3:55—address by C. R. Browning Jr.; 4:00—report of committee on organization of new Sunday schools; 4:05—business and announcements.

The association includes all Baptist Sunday schools of Clay and that each school will be represented by large delegations. Cherokee counties, and it is expected

Eat More Peaches Through the South Drive Is Begun All

Plans for a public-spirited cooperative effort to increase the consumption of fresh peaches during the period of July 24 through July 30 were announced today by G. R. Bateman, area supervisor of surplus commodities administration, U. S. agricultural department.

The movement in Cherokee county is being sponsored by A. Q. Ketner county agent, who is directing his efforts to encourage people to eat more peaches in the variety of forms in which they can be prepared. Housewives are also advised to can and preserve as much peaches as is possible.

Several delicious recipes for preparing peaches make them into the finest dishes that can be served, peaches being the most popular fruit for the table in this country.

The exceptional food value of peaches is also stressed and the present surplus of peaches on hand make

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It possible for everyone to prepare and serve peaches as often as desired.

Gardenia Queen Chooses Chevrolet



Pretty Martha Mitchell, Queen of the Gardenia Festival at the famous Cypress Gardens in Florida, has just put her royal seal of approval on the Chevrolet Convertible Cabriolet—the outdoor car—by purchasing a new one for her own use. Ever willing to oblige by posing for the hundreds of camera fans who consider the Gardens a mecca for picture-taking, Queen Martha can now reach location quickly and flood herself with sunshine by rolling back the vacuum-operated top at the touch of a dash button.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO PROPERTY OWNERS



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Bring your plan and estimates to this bank for complete details.

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