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Wednesday, June 3, 1942

The only thing about this war we can not afford is to lose it.

Any man smart enough to be a successful politician could make more money doing something else.

Why Is Rationing?

The next time you feel inclined to be impatient with the rationing program because it causes you some inconveniences with regard to tires, gasoline or sugar, just remember that the sacrifice you and members of your family are being asked to make are simple compared to the suffering and hardships encountered by the boys in the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

The idea behind this whole rationing program is one of conservation. Right now, there is a critical shortage of rubber, and if there is to be enough to keep up the flow of trucks and planes and tanks then the civilian population will have to make sacrifices greater than any of which they have ever dreamed.

"This is a good idea," you say, "so long as it doesn't bother me and my business. Of course, that is different. Now if I can just get, etc., etc."

Well, that's not the way it is. The program is going to have to fit you just like it fits your neighbor; and things that you think now it would be impossible for you to do without are sure to be demanded of you if the war effort is continued and successfully prosecuted.

About Paying Debts

One thing that has always been a puzzle to us is why so many so-called respectable people hate so badly to pay their honest debts. Right now we know people with a good bank account who would need practically every cent of their savings to pay up their obligations.

Thrift does not consist of saving somebody else's money. They have another name for that.

Now some of our readers may wonder what got us off on this subject. Well, the reason is that there probably is the biggest weekly pay-roll coming into this county now that has existed since the days of the last war. Many of our men from Brunswick are making the highest salary they have ever received, and at a time when there are definite limitations on our purchase of luxuries and other non-essentials.

One mighty fine thing to do with some of these funds, then, would be to pay up some debts of long standing. Maybe it is to the doctor; maybe it is to a merchant who carried you week after week during a period when you really were in a tight spot. Or maybe it is an obligation that you owe to your church. Pay up now. Money may not be this plentiful indefinitely, and you'll get a real kick out of the feeling you'll get from being an honest, debt-free citizen of your community.

Soldiers—Present And Future

Last January, an official announcement said that the United States Army would reach a total of 3,600,000 men by the end of 1942. Since then, the actual size of the Army and precise plans for its expansion have not been announced, inasmuch as they are military secrets of the first order. Some commentators have forecast that in time the Army might total nine or ten million. The best available information seems to indicate that a total of at least 6,000,000 will be attained.

That is obviously going to have a revolutionary effect on the manpower of this country. However, there is no factual evidence to support the scare rumors which say that every physically fit man under 36 is certain to be placed in uniform. Selective Service heads are making a genuine effort to create an Army of the size needed with minimum dislocation of American family life.

Here is how matters shape up at this

time, according to published statements: First, practically all available single men in the 20-35-year bracket have been called. Many who were given temporary deferment for occupational reasons are now being summoned. In time, women and older men will replace thousands of young men in defense industries.

Second, the Selective Service Boards are placing in the 1-A classification all men who have no genuine claim for dependency. That includes men with working wives, men who contribute little to the support of their households, and men with means. Almost all of these men will be in uniform by the end of the year, unless they are unable to pass the physical examinations or perform vital work in war industry.

Third, it is universally believed that Congress will soon approve a bill providing government grants to dependents of service men. These grants, as now projected, are small—around \$50 a month for a wife and child. But they will make it possible for the Selective Service Boards to call thousands of men who are now deferred for economic reasons.

Fourth, a new draft classification, 3-B, has been adopted. And that is a matter of very great importance. At the present time, men with genuine dependencies are classified as 3-A. The 3-B classification is for men with genuine dependencies, who, in addition, are employed in war work. The hope is that thousands of men who now have non-war jobs will shift to war jobs, in order to obtain the 3-B deferment. Some observers say that eventually the Selective Service Boards will operate on the "work or fight" policy which existed in World War I. In other words, a man will be given the choice of going into the Army, or leaving a non-war occupation for a war occupation.

The industries which are classified as essential to the war effort are definitely limited in number. Lawyers, store clerks, newspapermen, wholesalers, advertising men, etc., have no claim for deferment. Deferment is given only to men who hold a job which is directly and absolutely necessary to the production and transportation of the raw and finished materials which are involved in war.

What this all adds up to is plain. If you are single man, under 36, in reasonable health, you will go into the Army unless you are virtually irreplaceable in some war industry. If you have dependents who look to you entirely for support, you will be deferred for the time being—but there is a strong likelihood that in time the continuance of your deferment will depend upon your obtaining a job in war industry. If you have minor physical defects, you are not exempt from military service. The original physical standards have been relaxed, and men with defective eyesight, hearing, feet, etc., are being called to the colors and assigned to non-combatant duty.

Many a problem remains to be worked out. An army of 6,000,000 men would mean that four to six times that number would be needed in industries manufacturing and transporting supplies. On top of that, agriculture must be kept going, and on an expanding scale, inasmuch as we are sending tremendous quantities of foodstuffs to our Allies. Selective Service heads, such as General Hershey, have advised the Board to exempt enough farm labor to keep food production up to the necessary level. But, reports say, in some areas the draft is virtually denuding the farms of labor. Furthermore, farmers cannot pay the high wages paid by war industry, and workers are naturally taking jobs in war factories instead of on farms. This seems to be one of the most serious of the unsolved problems.

It is probable that the immediate course of the war will have a direct bearing on Army expansion plans here. If, for instance, Russia continues to hold the Germans, and Japan is stopped in the Pacific, a U. S. Army of the largest size possible will not be necessary. If, on the other hand, Germany manages to crack the Russian defense this summer, and if Japan continues to win victories, you can look with assurance to Army expansion on a tremendously accelerated scale.

It is reported that men between 34 and 44, which was the second group registered, will, as a general rule, be taken only for behind-the-lines Army service. It is expected that the greater proportion of this group will go to work in war industry. No plans have been made for the 45-65 group of registrants.

COST OF WAR

Cost of the war in which we are engaged, is expected to increase from the present three and a half billion dollars a month to more than five billion by the end of the calendar year, which is one more reason why the purchase of war savings bonds must be expanded substantially.—Charleston Evening Post.

THE HOME FRONT

We're really getting tough these days. We have learned to take it, and because we have learned to take it, we are able to dish it out—to dish out the tanks and planes and ships and weapons which will lick our enemies.

Right now, Home Fronters are taking in their stride developments which might have thrown many of us off balance a few months ago. In our progress toward the efficient practice of total war, we have been like the army recruit whose training takes off fat, puts on muscle and sinew. The barrack bag which dragged along the ground at first now is hoisted shoulder high in one quick, easy movement. That bag is heavier, if anything, than before. But he is stronger. He's a soldier now.

Launch Manpower Program The past seven days brought new proof that we are growing lean and hard, that we are putting everything we have into our punches. For instance, the great program for complete mobilization of our manpower.

We are fighting a three-sided war — war on the field of arms, war under the factory roofs, war on the rolling farms. To win this war, we are raising a fighting force of at least 8,000,000 soldiers and sailors together with a labor force of 20,000,000 and an agricultural force of 12,000,000 men and women. If any one of these armies fails, all will fail.

The War Manpower Commission has been casting around for a source of these armies. It estimated that 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 will come from suspended civilian industries, 400,000,000 to 600,000 from the farms, 400,000 from the professions, 1,500,000 from the temporarily unemployed and 2,000,000 from the home. The peace-time mechanic, the mechanically inclined farm hand, the retired workers, the woman without children, boys under the draft age and girls in their late teens are sought for enlistment in the Army of the Home Front.

If you fall into any of these categories and want to do your part, get in touch with the nearest office of the U. S. Employment Service and see if they have a war job for which you are fitted. If you have the aptitude but lack the necessary training, there are 2,400 vocational schools and 10,000 public schools shops throughout the U. S. which offer technical courses. Or you may be able to get a job in one of the 3,195 factories providing "in-plant" training for their employees—teaching them while they work.

Must Not Waste Manpower The first rule of total war is not to waste manpower. Everyone must be fitted into the task for which he is best suited—there must be no square pegs in round holes.

Here's an indication of the speed with which the Home Front is mobilizing. The U. S. Employment Service placed 605,200 persons in jobs in factories, shipyards, offices and on farms in April, 19 per-cent more than in March. At the same time, job-seekers on the records on the bureau dropped to 4,400,000 or four per-cent below March.

Rice was brought under the price ceiling last week after repeated price rises. Rice in the hands of the millers was frozen at the level of the last days of December, 1941, or the first two weeks of March, 1942. Rice is the staff of life to millions in our Southeastern and in our territorial possessions. Cuba has been leaning heavily on us for rice since the war cut off her Far Eastern supply.

OPA Rolls Back Rents

Our readiness to get tough with ourselves was further demonstrated last week in an order from the Office of Price Administration. OPA stepped into twenty of the original "defense rental" areas and rolled back rents of all habitations from hotel rooms to trailers to dates as far back as January, 1941. OPA acted because local authorities had failed to remedy the situation within sixty days and rents were on the up-grade. OPA's action affects 9,000,000 persons in thirteen states containing some of our largest war production plants and military training centers. Thus, Federal control of residential rents becomes a fact for the first time in our history.

Now that school is about to close for the summer, boys and girls may join in the great, nationwide program of salvage. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other juvenile groups are invaluable in systematic campaigns to collect rubber, tin, steel and cooper—all the materials we need so badly. WPA's Bureau of Industrial Conservation has opened a drive to salvage tin cans in 36 selected cities from which the scrap can be easily shipped to detinning plants. Now is the time to go all out for "getting in the scrap." We'll never need it more.

Many Orders Affect Home Front More evidence of our ability to take it and dish it out — Price Administrator Leon Henderson

has warned members of the meat industry not to try to get out from under the price ceiling. "Ignorance — professed or actual," Henderson said, "will not be accepted... as an excuse..." WPA has cut down drastically on civilian use of mahogany, domestic and Philippine, in such kinds as are used in building combat ships and airplanes. On the other hand, it modified the "freeze" on softwood construction lumber so that it now affects only about 55 per-cent of the industry. The Office of Defense Transportation has authorized the Des Moines (Iowa) Railway Co. to shift from street cars to electric buses on one route—the first exception to the rule. ODT has also started a survey of inter-city bus and rail travel out of 100 cities as a step toward travel rationing and has placed bus service between Washington and New York on a war footing. The Bureau of Industrial Conservation tossed a bouquet at a New Jersey plant of the DuPont Company for a record salvage campaign. Under the direction of its war production drive committee, the plant collected in one month 100.5 tons of scrap iron, 9.5 tons of hard lead, 5.25 tons of copper, 3 tons of brass, 1.75 tons of aluminum, 1.75 tons of stainless steel, 25 tons of monel and 1,073 pounds of rubber. OPA decreed that the 1942 fall lines in women's, girls' and children's outer clothing shall be priced at the same level as in 1941. And that goods sold at auction shall not go above the price ceiling. Among new WPA industry advisory committees recently appointed, one will advise on snuff. Goose and duck feathers over a certain length have been released for civilian use in pillows and upholstery.

The price ceiling over ice has been lifted a little to permit dealers to sell ice in the summer months at the same prices they got in the summer of 1941 instead of at the March, 1942, levels. WPA has liberalized the rules under which distributors may sell molasses to farmers for use in preparations to kill insects. A supply of molasses was necessary to combat a threatened spread of boll weevil in the South. Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt reports that 2,500 of the 3,070 counties in the country have organized nutrition committees in the past year. And that 6,000,000 children in 93,000 schools are receiving free lunches as a result of the Federal Nutrition Program.

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, June 3.—With writing-on-the-wall indicating active participation of American troops on European battle-fronts at an early date, the feuding between bureaucrats and lawmakers now raging appears a little less important to the people. However, the dissension in government circles is provoking tense situations which definitely do not make for the necessary wartime unity. The fact that the War Manpower Commission is taking a tough attitude in shifting men and women from non-essential jobs to war production work is taken as a grim reminder that the "muddling along" policy has been abandoned in favor of direct action.

Rationing, which is essentially designed to distribute the burden of civilian sacrifice more equitably, is rapidly becoming a political football. Contradictory statements issued by government leaders have confused the public mind. Legislators, realizing the intense public interest in what is primarily an administrative war-time function, are intervening in seeking preferential treatment for their localities. Frictions developing from the walter of words is weakening belief that these disciplines in the consumption and use of rationed articles is actually necessary. The probable effect of this recent trend may be gleaned from the frank statement of David Ginsburg, O. P. A.'s chief counsel, that "never has any important Government control been so completely dependent on the good will and the confidence of the people themselves."

For instance, the average citizen wanting to cooperate finds it difficult to give credence to official statements when there are distinct differences of opinion among the nation's policy-makers. The President's optimistic comment that inventive genius would provide a synthetic tire, knocked the wind out of Donald Nelson, Leon Henderson and Joseph Eastman, the three top-flight Federal officials who have the direct res-

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NOT EXACTLY NEWS

It's bad enough that they stopped putting emery sheets on one side of the safety match boxes, but what troubles us is why they never have it on the side we strike first... One of the first practical results of the recent class here for First Aid instructors may be the establishment of a first aid station by Morris Cranmer at Long Beach.

Incidentally, we heard over the week-end that the Long Beach Pavilion will open within the next week... And while we are still in that locality, we might mention that one of the prettiest speckled trout we have seen this season was caught there Saturday afternoon on a surf rod.

"Shanghai Gesture," starring Gene Tierney and Victor Mature, is the feature Monday and Tuesday at the Amuzu. A story of oriental intrigue, the story has an unusual appeal because of the present war interest... There's a new hate on the wrestling bill in Wilmington these days—The Black Panther—whose identity will not be revealed until somebody pins him in a match. Bib-

ber McCoy will have a try Friday night. The other half of the double feature will show Cowboy Lurrell vs. Chief Saunooka, 300-pound Cherokee Indian. A favorite way to spend a morning or afternoon around here now is to go crabbing. This not only results in good fun, but in good eating... We still think that a softball league would provide a lot of amusement and recreation for the people of Southport this summer. Already there is a good contingent of fans making regular trips to Oak Island to see the games played there by the Coast Guard—usually against the soldiers.

Billie Bragaw not only has been able to bring out Hilda as a fast and fancy trotting mare, she has been working her on some jumps and has discovered that she is a natural... They say that the pinto Dr. Fergus bought recently is plenty good in a running walk... We stick to the idea that the Welsh pony belonging to Earl Plaxco is the fanciest piece of horseflesh we've seen lately.

Watch the date on Your label. Don't let it run out. You need the paper—the paper needs you.

Wilson County 4-H Club members carrying brood sow projects are following a swine sanitation system recommended by the N. C. State College Extension Service, says Assistant Farm Agent J. A. Marsh.

Charlie Dillard of Syria in Jackson County reports that lime has been responsible for a better stand of desirable grasses and clover on his pasture and that grazing has come earlier where lime was used.

A pronounced improvement in the health of Edgecombe County 4-H Club members was noted at the annual health examinations held in the various clubs this year.

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