

The News-Journal

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DOUGALD COXE, Editor-Manager

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Kicked Dog Yelps

General Marshall, according to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, has accused labor of giving comfort to the enemy and delaying victory of the United Nations. The labor leader in naming our Chief of Staff as the author of the remark said: "We challenge General Marshall or anyone else to prove that the record of American soldiers of production provides an effective propaganda weapon for the enemy."

The loss of a few hundred thousand tons of steel and a million or so tons of coal may mean very little to the self-centered and greedy labor leaders, but the delay of victory by even a day means loss of many lives. EXTRA. If this is what General Marshall meant, if he made the statement, then we are sure he had good reasons for saying it, and we are glad someone in high place will speak up and let the labor bosses know what the parents of those fellows over there are thinking, and say it with a force that will let us know that it has been heard.

A good sound kick in the ribs generally brings a loud yelp from the kicked dog.

And another thing. Since when could you call a striking American worker a soldier. If a soldier strikes, it's called treason.

Simpler Rationing

An announcement of the Office of Price Administration states that the new rationing system which becomes effective on the 27th of February will be simpler than that now in effect.

The OPA explains that all the red and blue stamps in War Ration book four will be of the same value—10 points each. And to justify the differences in coupons and points called for by certain items the merchants will issue "change" in one-point tokens.

The OPA explains that under the new system stamps required will be reduced at least 60 per cent, and the tokens or "change" can be used over and over, and thus thousands of hours can be saved for all of the persons handling the ration currency.

The tokens will be made in two colors, red and blue, to correspond with the red and blue stamps so that confusion will be kept to a minimum.

Merchants are to file requests for their tokens on or before January 8th from their banking places. They will be issued in boxes of 250 each and the merchant will exchange a like number of points for these tokens.

This plan probably will be much more easily understood by shoppers than the original system. It is hoped that this is but the first step toward simplification of the many intricacies of the ration system. Overworked and understaffed storespeople have had many additional worries with which to contend under rationing and the more of these time- and labor-savers that can be instituted the less complaints the system will have. People generally want to cooperate in holding down prices but the difficulties of compliance with many of the MPR's, due to involved explanations of the way they work, has caused much of the trouble ration boards have experienced in enforcing the system's edicts.

Ration's Birthday

Today marks the end of the second year of rationing. Tomorrow starts another year with the promise of a simpler system and other promises of further simplifications.

Most folk have taken to rationing with at least a passive approval because they understand that its primary purpose is to see that everybody has what they need in the way of foods, clothing, gas and tires, at prices each can afford to pay.

Rationing is really working. Everybody is able to find those necessary things at the stores and to buy as much of them as they actually need, though few get as much as they want. Prices are being held much closer in line than was in the case in the first World War. And the reason for this is the fact that the ration board members, serving long hours without any remuneration whatsoever, have conscientiously tried to do a good job solving the terrifically complicated problems faced in supplying these things to the 130,000,000 people of this country.

Officials in Washington have not made it easy for these men. Blunders up and down the line have created lots of dissatisfaction that would not have been had the administrators not been so confused, and had they understood better what they were doing and found simpler methods of attaining their ends. This may come as the war goes along.

But, the success of the rationing system has been established largely through the efforts of the local men in each community who have had the job of selling the home-folks the idea that if we are going to win this war, the step was necessary.

The News-Journal joins with Mayor Neill L. McFadyen in extending to the members of the Hoke County War Price and Rationing Board a

heartily commendation for the excellent job they have done here, and to their other volunteer helpers, particularly to the school teachers who have assisted in all of the registrations for the various books.

We are sure that while no one likes rationing, the good folk of Hoke county will not take offense at us for saying "Thank You" in their name, as you begin the third year of regulating our appetites and our pleasures in accordance with the wartime demands.

Low Fares To Foreign Ports

Shipping companies operating boats between the United States and countries bordering upon the Mediterranean have announced fares of \$200 and \$250, one-way, to those ports which have been captured by the armies of the United Nations. But the announcement discourages would be excursionists with the statement that only passengers authorized by the State, War and Navy department may be carried to those ports.

Curiosity seekers and tourists wanting to "get away from it all" will have to postpone any Mediterranean cruises for a little while, at least. Anyhow, those wanting to tour that section of the world after the war, should be earmarking some War Bonds for the purpose.

Reversing The Order

Maybe he was just joking but Senator Styles Bridges has explained the shortage of diapers. He reported that some 200,000 of the three-cornered pants for which many American babies are crying have been lend-leased to North Africa. And Army officers who have returned from that sector reported to him that the Arabs are wearing them as turbans. From tails to heads, eh!

OPINIONS and SENTIMENTS

From Other Editors

Calling The Bluff

(Fayetteville Observer)

Chairman May is well advised in offering labor leaders a free trip to the front battle zones to see for themselves whether industrial strikes at home have not hurt the fighting power of our men. Denying that there is in the government any disposition to criticize organized labor as such. Mr. May says it is true that strike threats in this country have actually given aid and encouragement to Germany.

It is one thing to deny responsibility for strikes. It is stupid and insolent, however, to assert blandly as certain labor leaders have asserted, that strikes and threats of strikes have not hurt the war effort. Of course they have hurt the war effort. Presumably responsible leaders who deny this fact should have their bluff called.

Senator Nye Sneers

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

In the senatorial comment on the Roosevelt-Stalin-Churchill meeting there was one sour note. Senator Nye, of North Dakota, sneeringly said:

"A few men seem to be shaping a beautiful world... I sincerely hope their announcements are backed, not only by words, but by a sincerity of purpose and a determination that can stand up and endure when victory comes."

It's the same Senator Nye whose course, concerning the European situation after the rise of Hitler, was such that in 1939 his name was applauded at a meeting of the German-American Bund. Mr. Nye, it is true, discovered the applause, but the incident did happen.

It's the same Senator Nye who said in 1941 that the United States could prevent war in the Pacific if we would only help Japan "save her face" by taking a few things away from China and giving them to the Japanese.

This is the Senator Nye who sneers. Anyone can draw his own conclusions.

Eastern War Time

(The State Magazine)

At about the time that our country entered the war, the Administration ordered that all clocks in the country be advanced an hour. This plan used to be called Daylight Savings; now in this section of the country, it is designated Eastern War Time.

During the summer months—and also part of spring and fall—the idea is an excellent one and it undoubtedly helps to conserve electricity. Not only that, but it gives our people a chance for recreation or work around the house after their regular day's work in store, office or factory has been completed.

But we can't see to save our life where there is any advantage in continuing this plan during the winter months. The majority of our people get up around seven o'clock. At this season of the year it is pitch dark at that hour. Lights have to be turned on until well after eight o'clock. So how in the world can there be any saving in the use of electricity?

Not only that, but when you get up in the dark and start to work in the dark, your day begins in an atmosphere of gloom and depression. Far different from the feeling you get from seeing the sun bright and clear and well up over the horizon.

Schools in various parts of the state are opening at ten o'clock in the morning instead of nine. This is done because of the fact that small children have to stand by the side of the highways in the dark, waiting for busses to come along. Parents used to be able to take their children to school when on their way to work. Now, however, parents have to leave home before the children do. Many other inconveniences also result in other ways. To our way of thinking, this business of keeping the clocks advanced in the wintertime is one of the silliest things that ever has been done inflicted upon our people. It ought to be done away with.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

NORTH-SOUTH FEUD IN CONGRESS

WASHINGTON. — Extraordinarily bitter attacks by Senator Joe Guffey upon his fellow Southern Democrats have raised curiosity as to what he is up to.

Guffey is an old huckster for the special New Deal line of goods, and when he tries to tear up his own Democratic party without any apparent cause, all politics naturally suspect the left wing New Deal boys downtown, who usually furnish his material, have decided on a new course of action.

The personal bitterness of his attack on Senator Byrd and other Southerners is known to reflect the anguish of the White House New Deal crowd at their inability to get the soldier vote bill through congress.

They assumed the soldiers would vote for the commander-in-chief if the collection of ballots could be handled under federal jurisdiction. But now that it is to be handled by the states—with non-New Deal Democrats or Republicans in control of practically all states—the blow is greater than people outside the political trade have appreciated.

But there is another reason. Coming up shortly in the senate will be the poll tax bill; an anti-lynching bill is in the offing, and a Supreme court decision on the white primary in Texas is imminent.

The old war between the North and South within the Democratic party, therefore, is coming up to a new series of battles, and Guffey—or rather the men behind him—are laying the ground for it.

Don't ask me to offer any reasonable accounting as to why this is so. The attacks on Byrd merely will furnish more water on his political wheel in the South. The Southerners have no intention of surrendering, and will block all action of the Guffeyites.

The charge that they are in an "unholy alliance" with the Republican Joe Pew is only remote political banter. The basis of the Guffey charge is that the former Delaware Senator Townsend, as chairman of the Republican senatorial campaign committee, worked against the soldier bill.

Townsend is more Du Pont than Pew, and neither Rene Du Pont nor Pierre has co-operated closely with Pew. There is no evidence that they are in a working league on any subject, and probably may be against each other on presidential candidates.

But to fight the Democratic civil war all over again once or twice each year in the senate without result, has enabled the Northern Democrats in the past to make special personal appeals to the votes of the liberal groups in their own communities (CIO likes it). This stratagem, however, seems to have outworn its effectiveness.

The same old farce, therefore, likely is to be played through again without change in the plot or ending, but with Mr. Guffey in a leading role that no one else seems to want.

UNDESIRABLE FACTORS IN SUBSIDY BATTLE

The food subsidy fight seems to be cooling. The alternatives offered are both undesirable. The idea of paying secret price increases out of the treasury of the United States in order to conceal them from the public is a policy which the administration has attempted to justify only on the grounds of necessity of avoiding a greater evil—wage increases and more direct price inflation. Some commentators have attempted to describe it as a tax on "economic business," but it is far more than that. It is a levy against all people who pay taxes.

The opposition wants higher prices, which is likewise an undesirable goal for the great majority of the people who pay them.

But, of course, the truth is you are going to get higher prices anyway with or without subsidies, because of a dominant controlling inner economic situation pressing toward that conclusion (the current pending bill involves only the few commodities on which subsidies are already being paid).

The administration has not shown strong interest in compromising the matter, even though a congressional majority is obviously against subsidy continuance. War Mobilizer Byrnes went on the air in defense of the administration program even in the face of coming defeat.

They all know very well that Mr. Roosevelt will veto the bill, that it cannot be passed over a veto, and that Mr. Roosevelt will get his subsidies anyway by plucking the money from the bottomless bag of revolving funds under the custody of the New Deal's extracurricular banker, Jesse Jones.

The subsidy opposition fears that if congress approves the administration plan—and even if not—Mr. Roosevelt may expand it into a new spending program as a means of re-election.

OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat

NEITHER SNOW NOR RAIN NOR HEAT NOR GLOOM OF NIGHT STAYS THESE COURIERS

FROM THE SWIFT COMPLETION OF THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS.

— QUOTATION FROM THE GREEK HISTORIAN HERODOTUS — USED AS A MOTIF FOR THE U.S. POSTOFFICE.



ON NOVEMBER 26, 1873, THE FIRST UNITED STATES POSTOFFICE IN THE COUNTRY WAS OPENED IN NEW YORK CITY AND POSTMEN ON HORSEBACK AND BY COACH BEGAN SERVING THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.

TODAY, FROM POSTOFFICES IN EVERY CITY, TOWN AND VILLAGE IN THE NATION, POSTMEN BRING OUR MAIL BY FOOT, BY HORSE AND CAR, BY RAIL AND SHIP AND PLANE TO OUR HOMES.

AND THE UNITED STATES MAIL IS ALWAYS READY TO CARRY MORE AND MORE OF THOSE CHEERFUL LETTERS THAT OUR BOYS ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE EXPECTING.

POOLE'S MEDLEY

By D. SCOTT POOLE

A little girl was asked what she thought Heaven was like, and she replied that she thought "Heaven was a place where every day was like Christmas Day." Not a bad answer.

A few days ago I read of a landlord who charged his roomers \$2.50 a week for the privilege of entering through his front door. That was his way of raising the price of rent.

If extortion is on a parity with stealing, and a recent Sunday school lesson taught us it is, many people are guilty of a more debasing crime than they thought would be laid to their charge.

Poverty is not an inseparable obstacle to success. One case of a thousand others: Spencer, who developed the finest system of penmanship the world has ever known, was too poor to buy foolscap, so he wrote, and wrote on the sandy shores of Lake Michigan.

It is well known that Japan will continue to fight, even after it is known her efforts are hopeless. Men who know China believe that nation would eventually wear out Japan. China deserves praise for her war efforts.

The records show that the Allies have gained decisive victories over the Germans during 1943, and German cities are laid waste the country over. Hitler has been the cause of more destruction in the world than any other man who ever lived.

THE POCKETBOOK of KNOWLEDGE

THE JOB HAD TO BE DONE. SO INDUSTRY'S INVENTIVENESS CREATED A MONING TOOL 1/8" THE LENGTH OF A FOOTBALL FIELD! THE WORLD'S LARGEST. IT SMOOTHS SURFACES OF MAMMOTH WAR WEAPONS.

A WIRE ROPE 1/2 INCHES IN DIAMETER CAN LIFT A LOAD OF THREE TONS

GENERATORS ABOARD THE HUGE AMERICAN MADE BATTLESHIP IOWA CAN POUR OUT ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO SUPPLY A CITY OF 20,000

BY MEANS OF AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, THE BATTLESHIP IOWA CAN STAY IN CONTACT WITH THE MAIN BATTLE FLEET

THE TERM "ROUND OF AMMUNITION" IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ORIGINATED FROM THE FACT THAT AMMUNITION IN EARLY DAYS WAS ROUND IN SHAPE