

Hoover Rail Staff

Dear Sirs:

Have been reading the papers lately and would like to protest, as a soldier, against the hotheaded and cocksure Anti-British spirit now growing in this country.

It seems to have started with the Globe-trotting of five Senators who, on their return, have been howling because Britians War Budget is 21 billions of dollars, while ours is over 100 billions and because oil is being produced on British possessions in the Far East, which they feel is not being properly utilized in the War Effort. Also Curtiss fighter planes have been delivered to Turkey with British labels pasted over American labels, and last, but not least, many Americans feel disillusioned because Churchill has said that he "did not take office to preside over the liquidation of the British empire".

It is obvious that relations between the two countries are not perfect and never will be. We have different methods of doing business and different ideas about many things, but to let these differences interfere with the prosecution of the War and the formation of a just peace is silly. It is worse than silly - It is asinine.

One of the most ticklish points is Lendlease. Some of our people expect payment, cash in full, some, partial payment in intangibles, like trade concessions and bases, and some argue that we are merely pulling our load in the war and should expect no re-payment. It is hard to determine what is just, but an interesting side-light is furnished by an incident that happened in the last war between the French and the United States. They wanted to charge us with transportation of American troops in France. We indignantly refused to pay, saying that we were fighting this war for France, as well as ourselves, and that they should be glad to transport us as a just contribution to the war effort. Our position then, is England's position now, and one must admit it is not without merit.

As to the differences in our War Budgets, several factors must be considered, one is that England's population is only 45 million against our 130 million, a ratio of three to one. Also our Service Men and War Workers make about two and one half times as much as Englands. Of course things cost about twice as much over here, but still Britain is diverting as large a percentage of income and manpower to the war effort as we are. In fact their manpower mobilization goes farther, with a greater percentage of men in the armed forces, and their women registered and liable between certain ages, to draft, in both the services and industry.

As to the oil situation, every tanker must be fully utilized, and the shortest and best protected route to the European battle-front has been from the East Coast of the United States. However, plans are under way to use a greater proportion of the oil produced by Britain's possessions.

As regards the Curtiss Fighter planes with British labels, the most that can be charged is a little overworking of the trading instinct. Lendlease is to be distributed by the most convenient means. Britain had quite a few Curtiss P-40's, which, while good against Japs or Italian fighters, and unprotected bombers, are not up to snuff against German fighters. So it was natural that after the fall of Italy, these planes would be distributed to Turkey under Lendlease rather than bring more from the United States. And in a way the label was correct since the P-40's have long been in British hands and are supposedly British property. Even so, it is improbable that the Turks do not know that the Curtiss fighters were made originally in the United States.

Many people express regret and polite indignation, because Churchill does not propose to liquidate the British Empire. Well I, for one, would hate to see Britain with no overseas bases or sources of supply. Think what a predicament the "tight little isles" would have been in, in '39 and '40 with no African bases and no access to men and supplies overseas. Where would the Free French have fought without Britain's African possessions? Where would Rommel be today?

However, since this country is being controlled more and more by bureaucrats, visionaries' and men with "Leftist" ideas, who would distribute our money and goods haphazardly over the world - perhaps the Senators did us a service by waking us up. The State Departments give-away attitude coupled with promises of future American bounty, which we cannot possibly fulfil will put us in bad with small countries the

(Continued on next page)