

Button Up Your Lip!

They tell a story of two shepherders, the only inhabitants of a vast stretch of Montana wilderness. They were not near neighbors, and so met rarely. One morning they encountered, and one said: "Fine day, ain't it?" The other grunted and passed on. A few days later, he pulled up stakes and moved deeper into the wilderness. "Too much loose talk around here," he explained.

Perhaps even in wartime it would not do to cultivate taciturnity to the point attained by the Montana shepherd; but it is possible to think of him with respect, and it is wise to follow his example to a much larger degree than in peacetime.

Loose Talk Can Be Dangerous

It has been said that loose talk can cause the United States to lose the war. Certainly loose talk can greatly prolong the war, entailing the unnecessary loss of thousands of lives and the unnecessary destruction of billions in property. How?

Everybody can see how, when it comes to disclosure of troop movements. If, for instance, enemy agents learn through loose talk by men in uniform, or by their friends and relatives, that troop trains are to move over a certain railroad at a certain time, then these agents know what bridges to sabotage to do the most damage. Or if enemy agents learn of troop concentrations at a port of embarkation, then they know what instructions to pass along to submarines lurking off the coast. Hence, men in uniform are sedulously taught to "button up their lip," and letters which they mail are subject to censorship.

Soldiers of Production Must Guard Speech

Not so many people realize that loose talk by those other soldiers—the soldiers of production—can be equally dangerous. Armament production is the twin arm of our war effort. If an employee of a plant manufacturing weapons of any sort indulges in loose talk, he may easily give away information that will enable enemy agents to cripple that plant. And just as it is equally incumbent upon officers and men of the armed forces to guard their speech, so it is equally necessary for members of management and workers at the machines and assembly lines to be careful of what they say about their work.

Indeed, business and industrial leaders, just as officers in the Army and the Navy, are in possession of more important information than the worker at the bench. The worker sees only a small part of the industrial set-up; the men in the front offices see it as a whole. If they indulge in loose talk, they are likely to give away information concerning processes that would enable saboteurs to ascertain the key points at which a fire, an explosion, or even a monkey wrench in the gears would stop the production of a whole plant.

Information That Should Be Guarded

What sort of information should be carefully guarded? War-plant sites and the specific nature of their output, the measures taken for guarding the plants, structural details of plants, the sources of water, light, heat, and power, and their lines of distribution, the sort of machines in use, production-line organization, chemical, metallurgical and other processes, railroad and other transportation facilities, production figures, schedules and backlogs, dates of delivery, the names and location of subsidiaries and subcontractors furnishing parts, estimated supplies of strategic materials, inventions and devices for speeding production—all these are among the more important subjects that should not be discussed at random.

Printed Word Has Greater Range

What goes for talk goes with even more force for print. Talk may have a limited range; what gets into print cannot be quarantined. Advertising, publicity, and news releases and photo-

POTENTIAL RESEARCH WORKERS



Richard Franklin, Jack Patton, Harold Meyers, Larry Dixon and Bruce Baynard learn to be technical assistants while helping in the Plant Research Dept. Their work takes them into the field where they help in planting and cultivating the experimental plots and into the laboratory as above where they are sorting and classifying seed. They assist in testing germination of seed and in pollinating plants. The Plant Research Dept. accepts no responsibility for L. Dixon's hat.



MEDICAL DEPARTMENT IN ACTION

The First Aid Station here at Ecusta is well equipped for handling not only the minor accident cases, but also any emergency that might arise due to sickness or injury. The personnel consists of a physician and four registered nurses who are very competent in handling this type work.

The physician spends at least two hours a day in the medical department and is subject to call any hour of the day or night. A nurse is on duty every hour the plant is in operation and a complete record is kept of treatments rendered, whether due to sickness, occupational injuries or injuries occurring off the job.

This department is extending its every effort in guarding the health and welfare of all employees and assisting them in any way possible in maintaining their physical fitness.

graphs which give away such information as that listed above are eagerly watched for by enemy agents. It is for this reason that the Public Relations Branch of the Office of the Commanding General, Services of Supply of the Army, is cooperating with manufacturers and businessmen engaged in war work, and with publishers of periodicals of all sorts, to prevent the appearance in print of facts, figures, and pictures, disclosing information the enemy wants. The Branch invites the submission to it for review, prior to publication, of all printed matter, photographs, and drawings, dealing with war production.

It is an old saying that speech is silver, but silence is golden. In wartime this contrast is even greater. In fact, it may be said that speech is danger, and silence is safety. Although Government vigilance has thus far prevented any widespread campaign of sabotage in this country, there can be no question that saboteurs are present and watching for opportuni-

ties, and that other enemy agents are constantly seeking information which they can transmit to the principals abroad.

Exchange of Information Should Be Controlled

It is helpful to the war effort for manufacturers and businessmen to exchange information that may result in the speeding up of production. Where such an exchange of information takes place under controlled conditions, it has the approval of the War Department. But members of management should be everlastingly on guard against the sort of loose talk that may be called smoking-room talk. It is human to be proud of the achievement of one's factory, shop, or retail establishment; but it is dangerous in wartime to discuss this achievement with any stranger—or even to discuss it with friends when to do so cannot serve to promote the war effort. For it is impossible to tell to whom even a friend may inadvertently reveal important information told

The Charleston Charge

Just in case anyone is wondering how come some of their colleagues suddenly developed a Charlestonian accent, it's because they spent all of one day and night in Charleston, S. C.

We took off on our "Express Tour" in Ruth Shepherd's "Chariot" after work one Saturday. When we arrived in Greenville, Charlie Matthews said he had to check a Fiske-Carter invoice, which really made us quite unhappy, but, of course, business must come before pleasure so we relented. He found, however, that there were so many invoices in need of his attention that he decided to take them along. I must say tho' that those were the heaviest invoices I ever held.

Some of us got quite hungry in Batesburg, and we really had to sing for our food. It wasn't such "good grade" of singing . . . but it worked.

We arrived in Charleston around 9 o'clock. They didn't have the bands playing for us, nor did they present us with a key to the city, but we did rate an escort. (Well, for a few seconds anyway—even if it was just to tell us that the tail light wasn't burning.)

We found it was almost as difficult to get a place to sleep in Charleston as it is to get sugar for that second cup of coffee. We stopped at one place to see about getting accommodations and they must have told us they had a full house 'cause we drove away; but as far as I'm concerned, I haven't yet been able to interpret what they said. Fred Williams' purchasing ability is the only thing that saved us from sleeping on the beach.

Knowing that we were going to have a place to put our heads for the balance of the night, the next thing on the docket was food. We bombarded Henry's Place at midnight just as they were closing, but it was eight "agin" one—so, again we went, saw, and conquered.

The next morning we went to see the Magnolia Gardens. The colored woman at the gate told us that the flowers were almost gone and there "won't" much to see, but had it been any lovelier, I'm thinking we would still be there.

The children down there must have had their dates confused and thought it was Halloween for never have I seen so many contradictory highway signs as we saw when trying to get to see the "large body of water hanging out" at Folley Beach. However, we blazed the trail. Justine, Charlie, and Nancy went swimming; Ruth, Jonesie, Fred, and I ventured wading—but Eben scrutinized the sights.

After leaving the Beach, we cruised around the city for a bit then headed for home. It is highly probable that there were innumerable scared Geechiees in Charleston when we left in spite of the fact that they were repeatedly assured they needn't be.

If anyone wants to refresh their memory on the leading song hits of the century—just come along next time. We hope that the gasoline situation will be improved by the end of the present rationing period and we can take a trip to Cataloochee Ranch. Anybody interested in taking such a jaunt, let your wishes be known to Justine Williams. The more the merrier! Incidentally, if some of you want an expert packer who will guarantee your suits not to get wrinkled . . . see Mag Jones. She really can recommend the best one.

in confidence.

To emphasize the danger of loose talk, the British have publicized an instance of the sinking of a transport by a submarine as a result of information obtained by an enemy agent from a soldier about to sail on the transport. Let every American soldier of production resolve that no loose talk of his will ever result in the sabotage or bombing of any war plant or other business establishment engaged in furthering the war effort. So, button up your lip!