

# THIS WEEK in DEFENSE

In a radio address to the Army on the reasons for extension of selective service, War Secretary Stimson said the Government realized the personal sacrifice of additional service but was also conscious of the danger to the U. S. He said "some of the most significant symptoms. . . which invariably forecast the coming of a new Axis attack. . . are occurring in South America. . . the most dangerous avenue of attack against us."

The War Department announced that unless the international situation becomes more serious it intends to release by December 10 approximately 150,000 National Guardsmen inducted last fall, 20,000 selectees inducted last November and December, and 10,000 Reserve officers. The releases will be made upon application in accordance with the following priorities: dependency and hardship, age of more than 28 on July 1, 1941, and marriage for those who have served 12 months. Men completing enlistments will also be released on request.

### AID TO BRITAIN, RUSSIA, CHINA

The President announced aircraft ferry and air transport services to West Africa and the Middle-Eastern war zone to provide direct and speedy delivery to "a critical point in the front against aggression. . . ." The route will be so arranged that it will not pass through the zone of actual warfare, Mr. Roosevelt said.

The President told his press conference Russian needs fall into two categories: (1) materials immediately available to help them in their summer campaign; (2) materials which will be available for the spring campaign next year. Russia will not get lend-lease aid, the President said, because the Soviets have the necessary cash for materials.

The Public Health Service announced a 16-member U. S. medical commission will go to China to direct health measures for 250,000 Chinese building the 1,700 mile railroad along the Burma road.

President Roosevelt told his press conference that on the average defense production is up to estimates and in some cases actually exceeds estimates. He said, however, he still is not satisfied with armament production. He said several hundred tanks manufactured this year have gone to the British; the quota of 61 anti-aircraft guns monthly is being more than met; 160 37-mm. anti-tank guns will be delivered in August, 260 in September and 320 in October; 340 81-mm. mortars will be made in August.

OPM Director Knudsen told a press conference the rate of defense progress is sufficient to provide adequate equipment for the Army within six or seven months. He predicted again the U. S. can out-produce any other nation but said that the nation is still not showing the correct spirit. Production rather than shipping, he said, is the greatest bottleneck in U. S. aid to Britain.

War Under Secretary Patterson, speaking at Syracuse, said the Army will not have to resort to broomsticks instead of weapons for training because "America is at last pushing toward peak production. . . Tooling up will soon be over. Guns, tanks and planes are coming in daily increasing numbers." He cited production increases in the past six months: tanks, 800 percent; other vehicles, 600 percent; machine guns, 225 percent; anti-aircraft guns, 400 percent; smokeless powder, 400 percent.

### CIVILIAN SUPPLY

OPM and the Office of Price Administration ordered auto production for the 1942 model year cut to 817,000 cars during the four months beginning August 1, compared with 1,560,000 during the four months ended July 31.

General Motors, Chrysler and Ford were asked to make a 27.6 percent cut from last year's levels; Studebaker, Hudson, Nash, Packard, Willys and Crosley, 20.2

OPM Associate Director Hillman said unemployment in the industry would be headed off by transfer of workers to defense plants and other defense industries and the conversion of auto production machinery to defense work along the same lines as similar moves in the silk industry.

### DEFENSE CONTRACTING

The OPM announced changes in Army and Navy purchasing policies to combat unemployment in plants and communities threatened with shortage of materials because

of priority action and to utilize more of the nation's productive capacities through subcontracting. The Government can negotiate contracts at prices up to 15 percent above current quotations, deal with joint groups of small contractors, eliminate bids and performance bonds when necessary, inspect products at the plant to facilitate prompt payment and call for bids to be broken down into optional units to permit smaller firms to bid.

### AGRICULTURE

Price Administrator Henderson set ceiling prices of burlap, used in the packaging of feed fertilizer and agricultural products at approximately 20 percent below recent New York quotations.

OPM announced 35 to 40 new egg-drying plants will be built by private interests at a cost of from \$50,000 to \$100,000 each in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, New York, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Ohio, increasing capacity from 12,000,000 to more than 100,000,000 pounds annually to provide dried eggs to Great Britain. Similar projects are under consideration to expand milk drying, cheese and other concentrated food production for American and British requirements.

### CIVILIAN DEFENSE

Civilian Defense Director LaGuardia arranged for the first State-wide "blackout" to be held the night of September 12 in New Mexico. Twelve towns will be "bombed", fires will be started in vacant lots and other emergencies will be rehearsed.

Mr. LaGuardia also announced a training program for 100,000 volunteer nurses' aides with the collaboration of the Red Cross and local hospitals. The Public Health Service called for 50,000 young women to begin professional nursing training this fall to meet a future shortage. At present, the Service said, there are 10,000 vacant positions for registered nurses in the nation's hospitals.

### CREDIT CONTROL

The Federal Reserve Board issued tentative regulations which it said will probably be placed in effect in September to increase the required size of down payments on installment buying (they will be from 15 to 33 percent) and to shorten to 18 months the time for payments on autos, airplanes, power boats, motorcycles, refrigerators, washing machines, stoves, air-conditioners, radio sets and similar

household appliances.

### OIL

Deputy Petroleum Coordinator Davies reported only a 10-day supply of gasoline reserves on the Atlantic seaboard and Price Administrator Henderson ordered a 10 percent cut in deliveries to filling stations in East coast States. Filling station operators were told to reduce gas sales to their customers "equitably" but to allow necessary fuel to commercial, public and health vehicles.

### SHIPS

Maritime Commission Chairman Land, speaking in California, said the immediate goal in ship production is more than 1200 merchant ships by the end of 1943 and the U. S. would be producing an average of two ships a day until then.

The Navy launched the sixth submarine since January 1 and announced that during the first half of August two minesweepers, two torpedo boats and two district craft were launched and 18 keels laid.

## REVOKED

Among driving licenses revoked by the North Carolina Highway Safety Division from August 16 through August 22 were the following: George D. Clements, Garysburg, in the Jackson recorder's court for drunken driving; George Lynch, Hollister, in the Halifax recorder's court for drunken driving; Lutlier McWilliams, route 2, Enfield, in Halifax recorder's court for drunken driving.

## Supervisor Of Teachers For Northampton

Miss Mary Vann O'Briant has arrived at Jackson to begin preparation for her duties as supervisor of teachers in Northampton County elementary schools which are scheduled to open on September 4.

En route to Jackson from her home at Forest City last week, Miss O'Briant was slightly injured in an automobile accident which happened when a truck ran into an intersection through which she was passing, forcing her to drive her car into an embankment. She sustained a severe cut on her neck and minor bruises and lacerations.

### ENGAGED

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ben Johnson of Shreveport, La., announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Margaret Ewing Johnson, to Thomas Williams Mason Long, Jr., son of Mrs. Thomas W. M. Long and the late Dr. Long of Roanoke Rapids, the wedding to take place September 13, at the First Presbyterian Church in Shreveport.

Mrs. J. L. Williams, Mrs. J. M. Ingram and son, Jimmy, spent Sunday in Emporia, Va., with Mrs. Romie Darden.

Mrs. Clarence Topping and daughter, Jane, of West Point, Va., visited friends in town last week.

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If you are planning to build or remodel at this time we urge you to PLACE YOUR ORDERS EARLY and allow all possible time for the completion of your project, for the shortage of materials is serious at this time!