

TODAY and TOMORROW

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months has gone to wage earners and to some farmers who are barely touched or not touched at all by the present income tax. This added income is at the present time in the highest degree inflationary because about half of all consumption goods that are bought in this country are bought by the great mass of people who have small incomes. Because they have small incomes, they tend to spend extra income as soon as it is earned. They are not reached by the income tax and they do not ordinarily save to invest. They have bought less than 10 per cent of all savings bonds.

Therefore, the Treasury policy cannot possibly cure the existing inflation or prevent an even greater inflation. Until there is a tax bill which reaches the lower incomes, which have recently been in the aggregate greatly increased, and until there is a compulsory savings plan, the Administration ought not to pretend that it is dealing with inflation. Necessary and desirable as it is to tax the rich and the moderately well-to-do, the cold fact is that their taxes cannot and will not in themselves deal with the inflation. Nor can selling bonds to these people deal with inflation. If the banks buy the bonds, all that does is to make the inflation greater, and if investors buy bonds out of their normal savings, little is accomplished because what is saved and not spent is not inflationary anyway.

This is the specific and critical weakness of the program as it now

stands. The weakness can be overcome as soon as the President decides to make the Treasury's tax and savings policy conform to the recommendations of his other economic advisers. For it is no secret that Vice-President Wallace, Mr. Eccles of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr. Henderson, and the director of the budget, Mr. Harold D. Smith, are agreed that the Treasury policy is wholly inadequate. The bottleneck is between the White House and the Treasury. It will have to be broken if we are to deal with inflation.

The rest of the program as it affects manufacturers, farm products, and wages can be made manageable only when the inflationary pressure of excess purchasing power is drained off by taxes or dammed up by savings that cannot be spent during the war period. Even then the problems will be formidable. But they are not insoluble, and on the whole it seems to me that the President's approach to them is wiser than many of his critics are willing to admit.

This is especially true of his leadership in the field of labor, where he has clung stubbornly, and as the event shows successfully, to the idea of the largest possible amount of voluntary agreement. It is all very well for Congressmen or newspaper writers to say: Let us pass laws forbidding strikes, laws freezing industrial relations, laws freezing wages. They do not have to administer those laws. The President would have to administer them. And if he can outlaw industrial relations, if he can stabilize the wage structure, if he

can do all these things with the active assistance of labor leaders and labor unions, the ultimate effect will be infinitely surer and more satisfactory. Let us never forget that you can lead a horse to water, but that you cannot make him drink. You can lead a workman to his tools, but you cannot make him work with his whole heart.

Obviously, we cannot win the war and have strikes. We cannot win the war and have endless wrangling about the closed shop. We cannot win the war if wages go into a competitive spiral as employers bid against one another. But in our eagerness to deal with these matters, let us be careful, let us be very careful indeed, not to impair the will to work by getting into a position where it even looks as if we were using the emergency of war to break up the unions and to destroy collective bargaining.

If we make that terrible mistake, we shall destroy the influence of the patriotic leaders of labor, and their power to arouse enthusiasm and to instill discipline. We shall create the most serious of all labor problems, that which exists when men feel oppressed, and are sullen, and work listlessly, and are ready to listen to irresponsible agitators and adventurers. In these matters, details aside, the President is wiser, and more sure-footed than his critics, at least as anxious as they to win the war, and as well aware of what it will take to win the war.

A more temperate and a more understanding approach to the farmers, would also serve us well

at this time. I do not think it does any good for those of us who live in cities to talk about the farm bloc as if we were more patriotic and unselfish than the farm bloc. The sons of the farmers are on all the fighting fronts, perhaps a larger proportion of them than from any other group of our people.

No good end is served by talking about the complex question of parity prices in a tone of righteous indignation. The question is a practical problem in economics, and in its current phase it is at bottom a question of how to achieve the production of the necessary crops in the right amounts. Almost certainly the recently adopted 110 per cent of parity formula is wrong, and the President is asking Congress to revise it. But it will be revised more easily if we recognize that this is an economic and not a moral question, that our objective is farm production which fits the peculiar needs of this war, and that if we fix a lower ceiling on farm prices, we may in order to get the right kind of production have to support the ceiling by paying subsidies. My impression is that Secretary Wickard and Mr. Henderson understand the problem better, than most of us, and that the general public will do best to give them its confidence.

AXIS BIG WIGS TO MAP STRATEGY

Bern Dispatches Say They Will Devise One Gigantic Front

By FRANK BRUTO

BERN, Switzerland, Apr. 30.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and probably the Japanese ambassador to Berlin, Lieut.-Gen. Hiroshi Oshima, are expected to meet soon (if they haven't met already) in an effort to coordinate three-power Axis war efforts toward what the Italian press called today "a gigantic, single front." Bit by bit the picture of a new tripartite consultation was filled in by Axis propaganda agencies. Bern as one of the few neutral spots remaining in Europe, has become a crossroads for information on Axis moves. The Tokyo newspaper Hochi, according to a Tokyo broadcast, forecast a meeting within a few days without indicating where they

would get together. The Berlin radio put out a Munich dispatch reporting Oshima's arrival at that past meeting place of Hitler and Mussolini. But he was there ostensibly to participate in "the week of interstate cultural work." Oshima recently returned to Germany from Bulgaria where conferred with the Japanese ambassador to Turkey, presumably canvassing the Axis situation in the Middle East. The editorial mouthpiece of Italian Fascism, Il Giornale D'Italia, without mentioning Oshima, contributed a hint that the meeting would be one of a series which would parallel "examinations, decisions and fresh resolutions" under the three-power pact. "We are on the eve of great events, both political and military," said this Rome newspaper which is edited by Virginio Gayda. The purpose of the meetings, it added, would be to "unify and convert all fronts into one gigantic, single front in which all operations are perfectly synchronized. "The powers of the Axis are resolved to unite their forces so as to be able to strike with the greatest power and efficiency wherever the enemy is confronted," Il Giorno

nale D'Italia declared. The Berlin radio's rendition of Il Giornale's editorial said, "a new cycle of contacts between the Axis powers and the states of the three-power pact has been completed as regards big military and political events." Berlin added: "...Italy and Germany will have to come to an understanding as regards everything likely to affect usefully the cycle of war operations in Europe, so Gayda concluded." Berlin referred vaguely to a Gayda editorial of Monday in which he "hinted at examination of the policy of the Axis powers, between Rome and Berlin and between Il Duce and the Fuehrer."

Whiteville Helps Navy's Relief Fund

WHITEVILLE, April 30.—A concerted drive to raise \$1,000 in Columbus county for the Navy Relief society was decided upon here this afternoon at a meeting of the Columbus County Citizens committee headed by A. F. Powell, Jr. A benefit motion picture Sunday afternoon at 3:30 and 9 p. m. will be shown at the Columbus theatre here the entire proceeds going to the Navy Relief fund and a campaign for the sale of emblems will be launched here in the county in the immediate future.

STRAW HAT DAY, SATURDAY!



Put away that winter felt! It suddenly feels pounds heavier, degrees hotter, and looks shades grimmer, doesn't it? A new straw will feel air-light, breeze-cool, and lighten up your attitude toward summer! Don't wait—stop in today and pick a leghorn, Panama, crunch, mesh weave, coconut, or sennit from our ample stock.

\$1.29 - \$1.98
\$2.98 - \$3.95

BONAIRE SPORT SHIRTS \$1.49

Mesh weaves, broadcloths and Oxford cloths in white, tans, greys, greens, blues and yellows. Tailored to fit—fully shrunk. A shirt you will enjoy wearing. Sizes small, medium, large and extra large.



SLACK SUITS

Men's slack suits — Sanforized shrunk. Twills and broadcloth. Sizes 28 to 42.

\$3.95

ARMY CHINO SHIRTS AND PANTS

Made of an excellent quality mercerized Chino Khaki woven to meet rigid U. S. Government specifications. Our officer's cut and splendid tailoring assure a perfect fit and utmost satisfaction. Shirts are form fitted.

Shirts\$3.50
Pants\$2.98
Pants With Zipper\$3.50



SWIM in fine form!

Pool, lake, ocean or swimmin' hole; whichever you swim in—how you look is equally important! Your bathing suit wardrobe is waiting for you here, every garment shapely—and tailored to keep its shapeliness long after the last day of summer.

Sharkskin Rayon Jersey Wool Jersey Cotton



★ CATALINA
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Sizes 12 to 44
\$2.98 TO \$5.95

Slacks ARE HERE TO STAY

Slacks suddenly become a "must"—now, more than ever, you need a complete slacks wardrobe. Choose from our huge collection of slacks, and slack suits — for work and play! Crisp spun rayons and cotton gabardines, sturdy denims, wool flannels—in solid colors, stripes—brightened by saddle-stitching, tricky buttons and most important of all—slick tailoring. Make your selection today!

Sizes 12 to 44 \$2.29 to \$8.95

Belk-Williams Co.

Belk-Williams Co.

Advertisement for Dorothy Perkins Lilac Dusting Powder and Cologne. Includes an illustration of a woman's face and a bottle of perfume. Text: "It's Lilac Time! Dorothy Perkins LILAC DUSTING POWDER AND COLOGNE. REGULAR PRICE \$2.00. SPECIAL \$1.25 PLUS FEDERAL TAX. LIMITED TIME ONLY."

Advertisement for Barbara Gould Cleansing Cream. Includes an illustration of a woman's face and a jar of cream. Text: "NOW in Quelques Heures HOUBIGANT Eau Florale CONCENTREE. HALF PRICE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY. Barbara Gould CLEANSING CREAM \$2. jar for \$1 Plus Tax. There are two types of Barbara Gould Cleansing Cream—each does a wonderful job of skin-cleansing and leaves the natural moisture in your skin. SPECIAL CLEANSING CREAM for cleansing dry or normal skin. CREAM POMPON for cleansing every type of skin."

Advertisement for 6 Iced Cocktail Glasses. Includes illustrations of six different styles of glasses. Text: "6 Iced Cocktail Glasses. Enjoy iced shrimp, crab meat and fruit cocktails during the hot summer months. Set of 6 iced dishes and 6 cocktail dishes. \$1.00. Belk-Williams Co."