

## The Week In Washington

A Resume of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, Feb. 11—Although the government now has the power to dictate prices on all types of commodities, no immediate action to put ceilings on the retail prices of consumer goods is contemplated. Such action will undoubtedly be taken as it becomes necessary, but immediate action of the administrator of the new price control law will probably be largely confined to strengthening the ceilings already established on materials needed in defense production.

Until the new law was passed, the price ceilings imposed by the office of price administration depended on voluntary co-operation. Now they can be enforced by the threat of heavy legal penalties. The new law also gives Leon Henderson, federal price administrator, power to dictate price ceilings on all consumer goods and on rents. Just when he will take any action in these prices will probably depend on how much voluntary co-operation he gets from retailers and wholesalers on keeping prices down. Mr. Henderson's general aim is to keep prices at approximately the levels they were in April, 1941.

The subject of greatest debate in formulating the new law was the question of farm prices. Some members of the farm bloc in congress sought to permit farm prices to rise to 120 per cent of parity, but because of charges that the bill was becoming a "farm relief measure" instead of a price control law, it was finally agreed to limit farm prices to 110 per cent of parity.

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard now has stated that he intends to prevent farm prices from rising above parity. He has the power to do this, since he can at any time break prices by putting on the market the government-owned supplies of farm crops at any price he sees fit. He is already demonstrating how this works by releasing some government corn below current market levels and he is believed to have broken the price of cotton merely by stating in a speech that he planned to release some government controlled cotton for use in army uniforms.

The government's original purpose in buying huge quantities of farm products was to prevent farm prices from sinking to disastrously low levels, but it is now apparent that these stocks can be used in the other direction to keep prices from going too high.

President Roosevelt objected to the new law permitting farm prices to rise above parity and it is believed here that Secretary Wickard's

stand has been influenced by the President's views.

In signing the bill, the President commented at length on the right of the government to dispose of its surplus stocks in order to keep prices at fair levels. He also said:

"I feel that most farmers realize that when farm prices go much above parity, danger is ahead. One of the best ways of avoiding excessive price rises, of course, is abundant production. And I hope agricultural prices can be maintained at such a level as to give farmers a fair return for increasing production."

It is estimated that, even if prices are kept at parity or below, the farmer's income will be greater this year than any year since the last war. Total farm income for 1942 is estimated at about \$13,000,000,000.

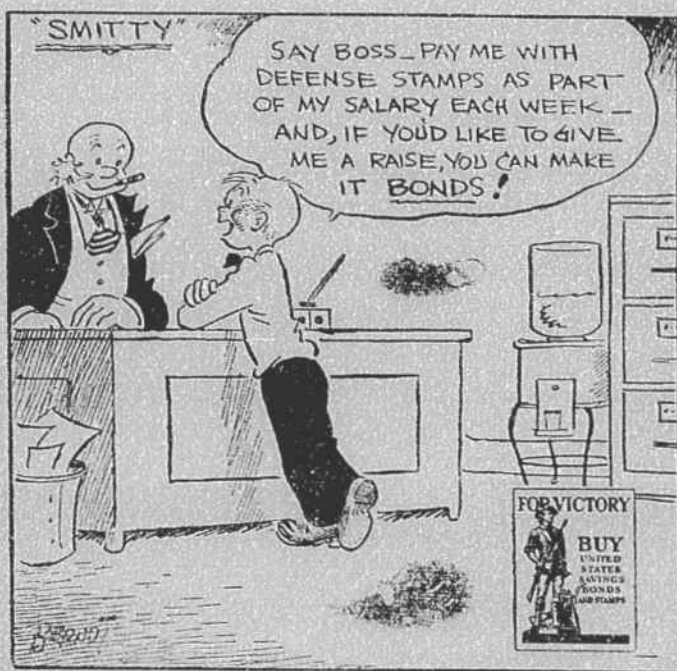
Although farmers are being called upon for record production of all kinds of crops, it is well understood here that farm labor is becoming an increasingly difficult problem. Because of the loss of man power to defense factories and to the army and navy, it is realized that those working on farms will be forced to work increasingly long hours and should be compensated for their increased labor.

Members of the farm bloc in congress point out that the average farmer works at least 62 hours a week whereas defense workers in factories work only 40 hours a week and get time-and-a-half for all hours over 40.

Every labor union action which interrupts defense production in order to get even better conditions for defense workers, is like a thorn in the side of farm representatives here. If the farmer is going to put in long hours of work at moderate pay and without complaint, they feel it is imperative that laborers do the same thing.

The effort of the automobile workers' union to get double pay for those who work on Sunday is an example of the type of action which arouses the farm representatives. Automobile workers now get time-and-a-half for each hour they work over 40 hours, but the union demanded that those who work on Sunday, even if they do not work more than 40 hours during the week, get double pay for all work they do on the Sabbath.

That new disturbances of labor, plus the walkout of welders in the shipbuilding yards on the Pacific coast over an inter-union feud, has once again brought up demands in congress for no-strike legislation and wage control. When the war first started and union leaders agreed to a labor control plan suggested by the President, it was hoped that there would be continued peace on the labor front. But now many congressmen are plainly worried again over the threat of new labor troubles interfering with defense production. Any serious development along this line is expected to lead to drastic legislation.



### Notice of Stockholders Meeting

The Stockholders of the

#### Watauga Building & Loan Association

are hereby notified that the annual stockholders meeting will be held in the office of the secretary-treasurer in Boone, N. C., on February 20th, at 2:30 o'clock p. m. for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Stockholders who cannot attend the meeting are urged to fill out and return the blank proxies which have been mailed them at once, as the meeting cannot be held unless a majority of the stock is represented.

**W. H. GRAGG, Secretary-Treas.**

### Ladies' Hats

All Ladies' Hats, values up to \$2.95, closing out at

**50c each.**

# Belk's

## Department Store

ONE RACK OF Ladies' Dresses being closed out at **Half Price**

# Week-End Specials

## Thursday, Friday and Saturday

For the week-end we are offering our customers some very outstanding values in clothing, shoes and other items. In many instances the goods cannot be replaced at the price quoted. Get your share of these bargains while the stocks are complete.

## LADIES' COATS

A large line of quality Ladies' Coats being offered at greatly reduced prices to make room for spring merchandise. These garments come in a wide range of sizes and in prices to fit every purse.

- \$59.50 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$39.99**
- \$49.50 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$33.99**
- \$29.50 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$19.99**
- \$24.50 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$16.99**
- \$22.50 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$15.99**
- \$19.95 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$13.99**
- \$16.50 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$11.99**
- \$14.95 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$10.99**
- \$10.95 and \$9.95 Coats, reduced to ..... **\$ 8.50**



### CONGOLEUM RUGS

9x12, while they last at the low price of ..... **\$3.49**  
6x9 Rugs ..... **\$1.89**; 18x36 Rug ..... **10c**



### MEN'S OVERALLS

Men's good 8-oz. Overalls, sizes 30 to 50, lengths 30 to 36. Special

**\$1.25 pair**

Men's 8-oz. full cut Sanforized Overalls, all sizes

**\$1.39 pair**

- Men's good heavy Work Shoes, strong and durable... **\$1.69 to \$1.98**
- Men's and Boys' Dress Shoes, a special value... **\$1.98 to \$2.45**
- Closing out of big table of Enamelware at a discount of ..... **33 1-3%**
- Plenty of Ladies' and Children's first quality Galoshes, pair ..... **\$1.25**
- Ladies' Nylon Hose, a very special basement number, pair ..... **79c**
- 1 table of 36-inch Outing, white, black and grey, a Basement special, yard ..... **10c**
- 1 table 36-inch anklets, plenty of them at the low price of, pair ..... **5c**  
(Basement)
- Men's Dress Sox, you should buy many pairs at the price of ..... **5c**  
(Basement)

**ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO PRIOR SALE**

- One table of ladies' Dress Shoes and Oxfords, \$3.95 and \$4.95 values ..... **\$2.00**
- 1 rack of Men's and Boys' Overcoats being closed out at ..... **\$10.00**  
(Some Curlee Coats included)
- 1 rack of Men's Suits, broken sizes, some Curlees, only ..... **\$10, \$15**
- Men's Bon Aire Shirts of exceptional quality, special, 4 for ..... **\$5.50**
- Archdale Shirts, real quality garments, all sizes, 3 for ..... **\$5.50**

- Men's \$1.19 Dress Shirts, an exceptional value, each only ..... **\$1.00**
- 1 table of Percale Sheets, being offered as long as they last at ..... **\$1.00**
- 1 table of Ladies' Nylon Hose, a rare opportunity at, per pair ..... **\$1.00**
- Archer's Silk Hose, regularly selling for \$1.15 and \$1.19, pair, special ..... **\$1.00**
- LL Sheeting; you should buy a full supply while it is priced at, yard ..... **10c**  
(Basement)

# BELK-WHITE COMPANY

"Belk's 200 Stores Sell It For Less"

Boone, N. C.