

The Week In Washington

A Resume of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, April 22.—This nation is beginning to produce as no other nation in the world has produced.

This statement by Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the war production board, coupled with other similar evidence of the fact that war production now is soaring toward records, has spread a feeling of optimism here despite the disaster in the Philippines and other disturbing war news. The general feeling here is that allied morale and ingenuity of planning is great enough to win the war if given materials equal to those of our enemies—and it now appears certain that we will, before not too long, establish an imposing leadership in the production of arms.

Many cheering reports about the caliber of our equipment have been made recently. The British, for instance, have reported that U. S. built bombers are superior to anything they have and anything the Germans have. Recent investigation of bomb-sights have proved that the Germans don't even know the principals of our Norden bombsight which is far superior to any other; and other reports come in regularly from our allies praising the equipment which we are sending to them.

Actual figures on production of various types of equipment, which might be of use to the enemy, are not being made public, but enough figures are released to make it appear that our production is now going at a terrific pace.

The government permitted General Motors corporation to release general figures on its production of war supplies, which show that one corporation alone shipped over a quarter of a billion dollars' worth of war products during the first three months of 1942. This was almost five times as much war equipment as General Motors shipped during the first quarter of 1941. The General Motors report states that it has contracts for more than 10 per cent of all war materials fabricated from metal including one-third of the machine guns, more than one-third of the army trucks, more than half of the nation's diesel engines, two-fifths of the aviation engines and more than one-fourth of the tanks. Thus the progress of General

Motors gives a good cross-section picture of the progress of our total war production.

If General Motors is producing 10 per cent of all metal equipment, and if other producers are keeping pace with General Motors, it can be assumed that our war production approaches the three-billion-dollar mark for the first three months of this year. The figures also show that the production rate is being increased greatly each month.

Although the first concern of the government and of the people is with production, there is a widespread effort being made to see to it that no company gets exorbitant profits on its production of war material. Consequently, the President recently issued an order giving six government agencies the right to audit the books of firms which have government orders to prevent the accumulation of unreasonable profits. The agencies which were given this authority are: the war production board, the maritime commission, the Reconstruction Finance corporation and the departments of war, navy and treasury.

The White House has shown particular concern recently over the domestic problem of inflation, it being agreed by all authorities here that the war program can cost us many billions more than it should unless stringent steps are taken to keep prices from soaring higher.

The proposals to freeze wages, salaries, rents and prices are only part of the plan now being considered to stem inflation, a major part of the planning being aimed at the capture of many more billions of dollars from the people. With purchasing power getting far ahead of supplies available for purchase it is agreed that this surplus money will cause rapid inflation unless channeled back in the treasury.

Several proposals have been made for increasing taxes to even more than the \$7,600,000,000 requested by the treasury several months ago. Other proposals call for enforced savings, but, except in the treasury department, the majority of administration leaders seem to favor draining the surplus off the public purse by taxation.

The office of price administration has been the most active department in efforts to curb inflation. Leon Henderson, chief of that office, estimates that the last war cost us \$13,500,000,000 more than it should have because of inflation and he warns that this war might cost us an extra 100 billion unless further inflation is prevented.

"In every inflation in history," said Mr. Henderson, "wages and salaries have lagged behind the gen-

WINDOW EMBLEM FOR PLEDGERS



EMBLEM OF PATRIOTISM.—Every person signing the pledge to buy Savings Bonds regularly will be given one of these striking blue and white stickers to display as evidence of participation in America's all-out War effort. Be sure you qualify for one of these emblems by pledging to buy U. S. Savings Bonds regularly when you are approached by one of the Modern Minute Men.

FARMERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR NEW TIRES, RECAPS

Farmers can qualify for new or recapped tires, providing they use their trucks or cars to haul produce to and from the market, Dean I. O. Schaub, director of the State College extension service, said in discussing the tire-rationing system.

"The farmer who uses his truck exclusively to transport farm products and food to market, and to carry needed home supplies to the farm, is eligible for new tires and tubes," the agricultural leader explained. "This includes the transportation of fuel for farm machinery, fertilizers, and feeds to the farm. On the other hand, no new tires will be sold to farmers for trucks that are used to carry products to housewives or other ultimate consumers."

Dean Schaub said that the term "truck" includes pick-ups. Farmers are also eligible to get new tires for their tractors and other farm implements, providing they are not changing from steel wheels to rubber tires.

Turning next to the eligibility of farmers to receive recapped tires, the extension director said: "Farmers who use their passenger cars to haul produce to and from market because they have no other practical means of transportation, are eligible to have tires recapped or to buy recapped tires. This eligibility also applies to farm workers and technicians who use their passenger cars to travel within and to and from farms essential to the war effort."

Dean Schaub said that farmers who use their trucks for important purposes other than those that make them eligible for new tires, also may qualify for recaps. "For instance," he stated, "a dairy farmer who delivers milk to consumers in an isolated area not having access to other sources of milk might establish eligibility if the local rationing board considers it vital."

MacARTHUR TOLD TO PREPARE FOR OFFENSIVE

U. S. Army Headquarters, Australia, April 19.—Gen. Douglas MacArthur was under orders tonight from the united nations to prepare to take the offensive against the Japanese as commander-in-chief of all land, sea and air forces in the Southwest Pacific.

Headquarters of the hero of the Philippines announced that the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands had agreed on the scope of the command and had conferred on him the new title of "commander in chief of general headquarters of the Southwest Pacific area."

The official announcement did not mention New Zealand, but Australia's prime minister, John M. Curtin, in a congratulatory letter to MacArthur said the general was assuming command by charter of the four governments, plus New Zealand.

eral rise. That is the deadly danger. Wages seem to be more; there is actually more money in the pay check. But that increase is more than offset by the rise in prices. So in reality the wage-earner's standard of living is lowered."

Those who favor higher taxation as a means of preventing inflation fear that they cannot get the cooperation of congress in an election year. Already some members of congress have suggested that the tax proposals are too high and it is evident that a good deal of administrative pressure would be necessary to boost them still higher.

2 DESERTERS CONVICTED OF SLAYING F. B. I. MAN

Abingdon, Va., April 17.—Two 21-year-old army deserters were convicted of first degree murder by a federal district court jury today in the slaying of F. B. I. Agent Hubert Treacy, Jr., here March 13, and were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Judge A. D. Barksdale pronounced sentence upon the two, James Edward Testerman, Clinchburg, Va., and Charles J. Lovett of Philadelphia, immediately after the verdict was returned by the jury, which recommended against capital punishment.

Treacy was slain in an Abingdon cafe as he and a fellow agent, Chas. L. Tignor, sought to arrest them as deserters from Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. Tignor was wounded.

U. S. AGAIN CUTS SUGAR ALLOTMENT

Washington.—Sugar sales will be limited to a half-pound a week per person during the first two months of government rationing, the OPA disclosed Friday.

Decisions as to future allowances will depend largely upon the supply picture, officials indicated, leaving the entire program flexible and subject to prompt alteration by the office of price administration.

When plans to ration sugar were announced originally, OPA said the weekly allowance probably would be 12 ounces. Since then, increasing shortages of supplies forced a reduction to eight.

Mount McKinley National park in Alaska embraces 3,300 square miles.

G O P CHAIRMAN URGES SUPPORT OF WAR EFFORT

Chicago, April 19.—Representative Joseph W. Martin, chairman of the Republican national committee, declared today that free constitutional government was "going to be maintained and perpetuated regardless of all political conspirators who may turn their brains and their hands to schemes to try to liquidate all critics."

At a woman's Republican club luncheon in honor of members of the Republican national committee, Martin said:

"If and when the day ever comes that all criticism, appraisal, evaluation, and suggestions can be suppressed, and the bi-party system of government operation liquidated, constitutional government in the United States of America will be at an end."

Martin called for "an end to all attempts to inject partisan politics into the war effort," and called upon party leaders to "conduct the forthcoming campaign as loyal, patriotic Americans."

INCREASE

Farm real estate values for the country as a whole rose about 7 per cent during the 12 months ending March 1, reports the U. S. department of agriculture.

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