

SUBSIDIES

Washington, June 15.—President Roosevelt today backed the idea of subsidies to hold down food costs to consumers, and suggested that if Congressional critics of such payments know of a better way to combat inflation they should come out with it. He told a press conference he did not know a better way.

Mr. Roosevelt made clear, too, that he has no intention of creating a "czar" with overall powers over food matters—a proposal taken to the White House first by a Senate group yesterday, and again today by a bipartisan committee of House members.

On both these issues there was accumulating evidence that a sharp struggle was developing in Congress. Some legislators already are talking of pressing legislation to establish a central food administration, and for months members have been taking sides on the question of whether it is

advisable to subsidize the cost of living.

Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown today pushed the latter issue to the fore with the declaration that it is impossible without subsidies to carry out Congressional mandates concerning prices.

No "splitting" of OPA. Mr. Roosevelt gave over virtually his entire press conference to a discussion of inflation and food prices which developed these major points:

1. He expects the Office of Price Administration to go on as it has been. He replied with a flat no when asked if it is to be "split up."

2. Food Administrator Chester C. Davis, so far as the President knows, is perfectly satisfied with his present authority. Mr. Roosevelt said the only comment he had had lately from Davis was a request that he not be given OPA's food-pricing job.

(Some Congressional advocates of centralized control over all food matters have suggested that

Davis be given authority to fix food prices, now in OPA's hands. Davis' responsibility is food production.)

3. There have been delays. Mr. Roosevelt acknowledged, in handling food and other matters as a result of divisions of authority, but he said he expected the new Office of War Mobilization to coordinate the work of all and eliminate delays.

4. While strongly supporting the idea of subsidies, Mr. Roosevelt said he thought he would not send Congress a message on the subject because the legislators already knew that was one way to buck inflation. If they had a better way, he said, they could come out with it.

In discussing subsidies, the President spoke of \$1,500,000,000 to \$2,000,000,000 as the possible cost, but said these were just figures he had taken from the newspapers. But assuming they were correct, he said, that would be only 1-2 to 2 per cent of a \$100,000,000,000 cost of the war.

(Presumably he referred to an-

nual costs, as this year's war spending has been officially estimated at \$106,000,000,000.)

Remodel or Patch Up Old Clothes

"Fix it up . . . Wear it out . . . Make it over . . . Do without."

That's what hundreds of thousands of 4-H Clothing Club girls throughout the nation are doing to help win the war. In short, the girls are remodeling or patching up not only their own clothes, but those of their fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, so that new cloth will be saved for our boys in the armed forces.

And that they will do a masterful job of "Make and Mend for Victory" is reflected in last year's records of roundly 500,000 participants in the National 4-H Clothing Achievement Activity, which disclosed that these rural girls had remodeled or repaired more than 1 1-2 million

garments and other articles!

Many of the current year's participants in this activity will receive honor awards provided by the Spool Cotton Company's Educational Bureau for outstanding records of achievement. These special recognitions, which are based on county, state, and national levels, include medals, National 4-H Club Congress trips, and \$200 college scholarships.

North Carolina's state winner in this activity last year was Laura Louise Lucas, of Lucama, Wilson County.

British Train For Big Thrust

Hundreds Of Invasion Craft Are Being Produced Each Month

South Coast of England, June 16.—An immense fleet of landing craft—from tiny launches to

troop-carrying barges—was massed along the English Coast today awaiting the Allied invasion of the European Continent.

Production figures on invasion craft are a closely guarded military secret but it is possible to say that hundreds are being turned out each month.

A visit to training stations along the south coast gave reporters an idea of the vast array of new type landing craft and the crews which will man them. The big troop barges looked like regular transports. Among innovations were small, swift support vessels designed to provide fire cover for landing operations.

The support craft are manned by royal marine gun crews which operate twin machineguns from mounted turrets. They also carry mortars to shell beaches or lay down smoke screens.

In a demonstration, several swift launches spilled marine patrols onto a pebbly beach which had been plastered by Typhoon fighter bombers of the Royal Air Force. The British Marines sat

in the launches with rifles between their knees, some singing " Chattanooga Choo Choo." Half way toward the "objective," they opened little cans of cocoa grease and smeared each others' faces to make them dark.

Nearing the beach, they crawled up the narrow decks and in a few seconds were splashing in the water and dashing up the beaches in a running crouch.

It was apparent that the crews of these assault boats are well trained. They are the men who make it possible for the Commandos to land and they are proud of their little publicized role.

The U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that the total income from farm marketings during the first quarter of 1943 was 35 per cent higher than in the first quarter last year.

Soldiers make an average of 8 moves by railroad between induction and embarkation for service overseas.

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