

Lend Lease Supplies Helping To Hasten Defeat Of the Axis

The President in his seventh Lend-Lease report to Congress pointed out: "Supplies from the United States have had an important part in the war effort of the United Nations." We can place a value in dollars and cents on the goods and services made available to our allies through Lend-Lease, but we cannot fully appraise the strategic value of the aid we have given, beyond the fact that our Lend-Lease assistance definitely has advanced the allied cause on many battle fronts and brought victory over the Axis that much nearer. It is harder still to measure the value of the reciprocal aid we have received from our allies.

Under the terms of the Lend-Lease Act, passed by Congress on March 11, 1941, the President was authorized to permit the delivery

Yanks in Holy Land Visit Wailing Wall



Taken on a tour of the Holy Land by the hospitality committee of the Jewish agency for Palestine, these American soldiers are shown at the famous wailing wall in Jerusalem, the only existing relic of Solomon's temple. They are watching a bearded "chased" (left) devoutly saying his prayers.

of a wide range of goods, products and weapons and the rendering of many kinds of services by this country for the benefit of "the Government of any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States."

At the time the Act was passed, there was the possibility that by putting the weight of America's economic resources fully behind those countries fighting the Axis, we might assure defeat of the Axis without becoming involved in war ourselves. The attack on Pearl Harbor destroyed that hope, but it served to emphasize the vital importance of the Lend-Lease program, which was immediately speeded up. The total value of Lend-Lease aid for the months of September, October and November, 1942, was four times the total for the corresponding three months of 1941, and nearly twice the total

for all of 1941. Aid was then being extended at a rate of more than ten billion dollars a year, or about 15 per cent of the current rate of spending on the entire United States war program.

Expenditures of such magnitude must be justified, and the results of the Lend Lease policy of helping to arm and supply our allies as part of our essential war measures have amply demonstrated the soundness of the plan.

The billion and a quarter dollars devoted to Lend-Lease in 1941 was used to good purpose. Our goods and services aided and encouraged Britain and Russia in their struggle with the Nazis and, at the same time, the volume of war orders served to build up our facilities for producing weapons and munitions before we were faced by war itself. As these orders were channeled through the Government, instead of being given to various factories directly, we began to build the government machinery for handling the far more difficult war problems that followed Pearl Harbor.

Military Items Top List
More than half of all Lend-Lease supplies exported in 1942 were for military campaigns against the Axis while British pilots in our planes have smashed at the Nazis on the continent. Other tons of war goods and equipment have gone to India, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, and to a less extent—because of the closing of the Burma Road—to China. The United States and Great Britain between them have shipped (but not always delivered) over the Northern convoy route—to Soviet Russia during the past year, more than 3,000 planes, more than 4,000 tanks, more than 70,000 trucks, jeeps and other vehicles and hundreds of thousands of tons of food, medical supplies and other products.

Agricultural products, mostly foods, exported under the Lend-Lease program from March 11, 1941, to October 31, 1942, were valued at \$1,147,000,000. These food supplies have been particularly important in helping to sustain the civilian populations and armed forces of the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union and keep them in fighting trim, yet the volume of our food exports has been small by comparison with the amounts we have reserved for our own war services and for American civilians. Our Lend-Lease shipments of processed milk products, during 1942, were only 4 per cent of our milk supply, in that period we sent abroad less than one per cent of the meats now under voluntary rationing, except pork, of which we shipped 17 per cent, and about 12 per cent of our total egg production went abroad.

Benefits Not One-Sided
But the benefits of Lend-Lease exchange have not all been in favor of our allies, by any means. Damaged American warships and merchant vessels abroad have been repaired in friendly shipyards. Many of the American contingents sailing to the fighting fronts travel in British ships, and British planes and warships protect our convoys. Supplies and service furnished to American overseas forces include various shipping and supply facilities, foods, uniforms, and other quartermaster supplies that can be provided on the spot and so save shipping space.

Materials and labor to build air-dromes for U. S. air forces in Britain and the building of troop cantonments, bases, headquarters and storage facilities have absorbed a good part of the British construction industry. Both Australia and New Zealand are straining their domestic economy to the utmost to supply our forces with food, housing, transportation, wool and cotton uniforms, and other equipment and supplies.

OPEN FORUM

This is a column open to the public for free expression. THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT does not assume any responsibility for articles printed under this heading, and neither endorses nor condemns them. Please be as brief as possible.

KEPHART URGES ABSENTEE VOTING BE ABOLISHED
Honorable J. M. Broughton, Governor of North Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Governor Broughton:

I am writing to you as a private citizen interested solely in the success of the democratic process and in good government in our state. I am sending copies of this letter to members of the General Assembly and to all of the newspapers of the state. I have lived in the state for nearly twenty-five years and my children grew up and were educated here. I expect to spend the remainder of my life here. I have voted both the republican and democratic tickets during my residence. My son, Lt. W. P. Kephart, U. S. N. R., was killed in action on Guadalcanal last October in the defense of our liberties and to help to establish freedom and justice throughout the world. He and others like him have left it to us to see that we do not allow the Bill of Rights to be violated for any purpose, to see to it that we begin right here to insure complete freedom from some of the abuses which develop in a democracy and in effect violate our Bill of Rights. He fought and died for something that we do not fully enjoy here in our own state, particularly in our elections.

I am urging you to promote and support an effort to so modify the Absentee Voting Law in North Carolina as to make it apply to men in the armed forces only or to repeal it completely. You are already familiar with the reasons for abolishing it in the primaries, with the flagrant abuses in elections in Cherokee, Swain, Graham, Henderson Stokes, Davidson, and in scores of other counties in the state, and with the outrageous irregularities in its use in my own county of Watauga. In this county with a population of about 17,000 there were approximately 1000 absentee votes, while in the adjoining county of Caldwell with a population of over 32,000 there were less than a hundred. It would be futile reflection on your intelligence to recount the various types of abuses which accompany the application of the absentee law all over our state, resulting in actual violation of the Bill of Rights.

In the last election my wife and I found it necessary to be out of the state on election day. In the office of the chairman of the County Board of Elections and in his presence we filled out absentee ballots following his personal directions, sealed and delivered them to him on the spot. Upon our return to the county we found that they were not counted because of alleged irregularities. This points to only one thing. They were deliberately opened and modified after we delivered them personally to the chairman. No one who knows anything about the Watauga story will question the truth of this statement. That such irregularities and fraud are possible is enough to condemn the law and justify its repeal or strict modification and limitation.

This is not a partisan contest or is it propaganda. I have no political ambitions and no axe to grind. It is merely a matter of citizenship. I submit to you that no honest citizen or official should be willing even to as much as touch an absentee ballot except in the presence of a witness of the opposite party. No one should be exposed to the suspicion of tampering to say nothing of the not uncommon charge of opening, modifying, or forging of such ballots. The present law makes these things possible. I contend that such safeguarding is a practical impossibility.

You will agree, I am sure, that this step in the direction of good government is demanded of us in support of the sacrifices of our men in arms as well as our claims of unselfish enthusiasm for freedom for all people. I find it difficult to become reconciled to the loss of my son, but I will always be fighting for the things for which he fought. Will you join me in the effort to correct an obvious weakness in our election laws? If freedom is worth dying for it is worth having here at home. Isn't there a bit of treason in anything else?

Yours sincerely,
A. P. KEPHART.

Tri-Creek Soil Conservation District Makes Annual Report

The Board of Supervisors of the Tri-Creek Soil Conservation District held their annual meeting in Yadkinville last week for the purpose of approving an annual report to the Soil Conservation Service and to discuss ways and means that the District might help farmers in attaining their war production goals for this year.

The annual report shows in part that complete conservation plans have been prepared on 383 farms covering 29,138 acres during the year. This brought the total number of cooperators to 1170 farmers with a total of 110,507 acres. On these farms, among other erosion control practices, there were: 14,172 acres of approved rotations; 2390 acres of rotations arranged in strips; 1,239 acres of kudzu; 260 acres of sericea; 6590 acres of terracing; 3876 acres of pasture treatment; and 432,000 trees planted.

The members of the board made plans to cooperate with the agricultural war boards in each county within the District during the year in connection with their food production goals. They also made their equipment available to all farmers who need it to carry out conservation practices. This equipment consists of Martin ditchers, Martin hummers, and drag pans for building terraces.

Members of the Board were well pleased with the progress made so far in spreading conservation practices among the farmers of the District, but expressed hope that since increased farm production is so vital to the war efforts, more farmers would practice "conservation farming" as one method of reaching these goals.

The Board of Supervisors of the District which comprises Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, and Forsyth counties, is made up of Paul Speer, chairman of the board, and R. S. Burrus, representing Surry county; Paul E. Church from Wilkes county; C. H. Hutchens, secretary, from Yadkin county; and M. A. Hester from Forsyth county.

All Soldiers has successfully met its shortage problems. The average army man is 24 years old on entering the service.

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NOTICE!

Of Sale of Personal Property

NORTH CAROLINA, WILKES COUNTY.
Having qualified as Administratrix of the estate of Mary Jane Wooten, deceased, I will, therefore, on the

27th Day of February, 1943

at the hour of 2 o'clock, P. M., at the premises of the late Mary Jane Wooten, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash the following described personal property:

1 Piano, 4 Beds and Springs, 2 Washstands, 2 Tables, 2 Dressers, 1 Chest of Drawers, 1 Cedar Chest, Chairs, 1 Range, 1 Oil Stove and Heaters, 2 Clocks, 2 Kitchen Cabinets, Dishes, Cooking Utensils.

Other articles of personal property too numerous to mention. This 23rd Day of January, 1943.

NORA WOOTEN MARTIN
Administratrix of Estate of Mary Jane Wooten, Deceased

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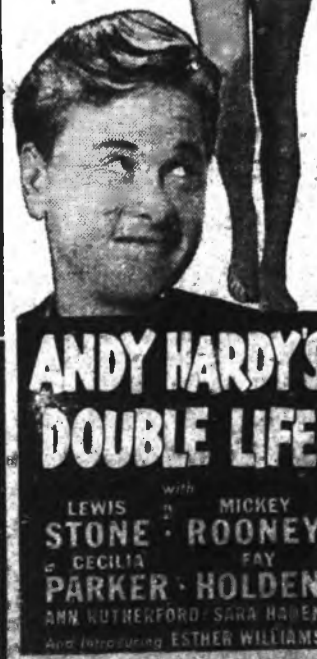
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