

GOVERNMENT FEARS RISING PRICES

WASHINGTON. — Only insiders know it, but the government is pre-paring drastic price controls if the present upward trend continues.

They fear a runaway price situa-tion which would hit the pocketbooks of the great mass of consumers. And the last thing the administra-tion wants right now is a hot cost-of-living potato on its hands.

So far there have been marked price advances only in a few commodities—lumber, scrap iron, and other basic raw materials. But re-cently there have been tell-tale signs of a general upward movement, and some of those mysterious late-after-noon White House conferences have been over this problem. Three plans of attack are under consideration:

1. Use of the priorities control now vested in the office of production management, under the supervision of ex-U. S. Steel man Edward R. Stettinius Jr., to deprive price goug-ers of their supplies, thus forcing them either to go out of business or bring their prices into line.

2. Use of the "draft industry" law 2. Use of the "draft industry" law to compel price gouging concerns to sell to the government at a fixed figure; also to "freeze" prices in industries where quotations persist in getting out of line with what are considered fair levels.

Imposition of a price ceiling on all commodities and on every step in the industrial process from raw materials to retailer.

The last was the recommendation of Bernard Baruch, based on his ex-perience as head of the 1917-18 war industries board. In private confer-ences with Roosevelt and defense chiefs, Baruch emphasized that the one big price lesson learned in World War I was that half-way control measures were worse than none at all

"You must either stabilize every price or stabilize no price," he de-clared. "If you impose controls only clared. "If you impose controls only at one point, you leave the door wide open for a worse break-away some-where else. The only effective de-fense is total defense and the only effective price control is total control.

. . .

HOPKINS REPORTS Here are some of the things Harry Hopkins told the President. First and most important, Hop-kins definitely stated his conviction that the British would be able to hold out against the Nazis. He thor-oughly agreed with Wendell Willkie in spiking isolationist claims that Britain would crack up, submit to a negotiated peace, and leave the U.S.A. to hold the bag after voting "all-out" aid. However, Hopkins got no request

However, Hopkins got no request from Winston Churchill that the U.S. send five to ten destroyers a month. What Churchill did request was the right to repair British destroyers and other naval craft in American dry-docks. This has been one of Brit-ain's most difficult problems since ain's most difficult problems, since all of her dry-docks are fairly easy targets for air raids, so that vessels bombed a second time or even a third time and have to be repaired all over again.

Churchill also asked that the United States sell or lease "mosquito boats." These are small, fast motor boats carrying torpedoes and equipped to lay depth charges, which the United States has been building at the rate of about one a weak for some firms. week for some time.

Churchill wanted them particularby to ward off Nazi invasion, when it comes. Virtually impossible to hit because of their high speed— they can do 50 miles an hour—the mosquito boats would be especially effective against Nazi troop-ships and barges attempting to cross the and barges attempting to cross the



Three powerful units of the British fleet are seen off the Rock of Gibraltar as they helped cover passage of convoys through the Mediterranean to Greece. The warships are (left to right) aircraft carrier Ark Royal, an unidentified battleship, and dreadnaught, Renown. (Insert) British destroyers making high-speed turns when attacked by enemy aircraft while convoying ships through Mediterranean.

New Fighters for Uncle Sam's Air Force



Interior view of the huge Curtiss-Wright plant in Buffalo, N. Y., showing the mass assembling of the new Curtiss P-40 pursuit ships for the U. S. army air corps. This plant turns out 10 planes daily, and will soon increase this number as additional trained mechanics are put to work in the new plant buildings.

When Enemies Become Allies

Found Years Later







Girl Friday:

Girl Friday: Dear Mr. W.: Mrs. Billy Hill, wid-ow of the man who wrote "Last Roundup" and other delightful songs, called. Wishes we'd help lo-cate friends who were at the Wind-sor hotel bar in May, 1939, when Hill made changes in his will. For their child's sake, etc. . Quentin Rey-nolds is getting many a quarter via poker and other games from friends and strangers for relief of kin of RAF boys . . . Several months ago we ran a quip about two commys (carrying packages) who passed each other, one saying: "What time is it by your bomb?" . . . Page 52 of the Satevepost just ran it as a cartoon. cartoon.

Our Sing Sing keeper friend as-sures us the Jimmy Hines slugging stories are spurious. That Hines is popular with all prisoners, etc.

The War Dep't is discussing a plan to suspend all commercial airline traffic next month or in April for a day. All available planes will be used to transport troops to desig-nated enter and text. nated spots-as a test.

How come nobody realizes this? That the Nazi radio station which asked Americans to cable requests (they'd like to hear) will only ac-cept friendly messages because they intend contacting those Americans later on for sabotage or other rea-sons? sons?

In case you missed Mayor La-Guardia's description of a negotiat-ed peace: "It's like this. Suppose a man is living happily out on the range with his wife and children. One day he comes home and finds that a vile man has invaded the sanctity of his home and attacked his wife. And suppose that injured man invites the attacker to stay in the house as his star-boarder. That's a negotiated peace!" . Why don't you do a col'm asking what-ever became of the Senator Wheeler plan to probe soandso? And so on? I'll dig up some for you . . So plan to probe soandso? And so on? I'll dig up some for you . . So many people make such big state-ments threatening to do this and that, and after it gets in the papers that's usually the last you hear of it . . . I heard this today: That if Russia permits Germany a free hand in the Balkans it'll be in return for unhampered Russ action in Swe-den. . . By being a patriot Willkie den. . . . By being a patriot Willkie has found out something many of us never learn in a lifetime. He's discovered his enemies among his friends!-Your Girl Friday.

Notes of an Innocent **Bystander:**

The Wireless: It isn't hard to spot Hitler's angle in his short wave in-vitation to Americans to cable him advice, C. O. D. If the message rubs him the right way, he files the sender's name as a future Bunds-man. If it's an insult, the man who signs it is one for the Hum errand man. If it's an insult, the man who signs it is one for the Hun errand boys over here to watch out for. Berlin is glad to pay \$2.19 for each message that gives the Gestapo a "une on U. S. citizens, good or bad . John T. McManus, reviewing Guy Lombardo's 10 years among the headliners, finds that the band leader keeps compromising with changing musical modes. His band, McManus adds, "says musical McManus adds, "says musical things nicely, like a William Lyon things nicely, like a William Lyon Phelps Look review . . . When one commentators get too gloomy you can always escape to some of the standbys . . Easy Aces and Fibber McGee and Molly still hold up handsomely, with an undiminish-ing quota of laughs.

The Front Pages: One newspaper the Axis hasn't tamed is the Vatican organ, Ossevatore Romano. Ev-ery edition nails the Nazi-Fascist lies that try to tell you the Catholic church is on their side The shellackings the Fascisti have taken in Africa have made Ga-Gayda the Huey, would never emerge as a Fascist, but as a 100 per cent Amer-ican movement. See? . . . The headlines reported that Franco and Mussolini met and agreed . . . What most likely happened was that Franco said he didn't like the war and Benico agreed . . . Hi Phillips insists it is silly to see D. Fairbanks criticize Lindbergh . . . Almost as comical as Lindbergh criticizing F. D. B. Hi?



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The Heart Knows We know the truth, not only by the reason, but also by the heart. --Pascal.



inel.

However, the mosquito boats which the United States is building are a little light for the choppy wa-ters of the English channel, and it is significant that the President already has ordered the redesigning of the stern of these boats in order to improve their balance. . . .

CAPITAL CHAFF

Ex-Senator King of Utah visited the senate the other day, sat in his old seat and itched with the impulse to rise and address the chamber.

Blind ex-Senator Gore of Okla-homa came into the chamber on the arm of a page and listened with up-lifted face and rapt expression to the debate.

Following isolation demonstra-tions in the senate galleries last week, Capitol police keep all visitors lined up on the lower floor, and ad-mit only a few at a time.

Latest issue of the magazine "Na-tional Republican," blithely ignores Wendell Willkie, but heaps four col-umns on ex-Ambassador Joe Kennedy for his fight against the lease-lend bill. The magazine also has a few kind words for Norman Thomas, the Socialist candidate, who also opposes the bill. The FBI is advising all plants do-

ing defense work not to sell their waste paper but to destroy it. Henry Wallace presides over the

senate from the opening at 12 until 1:30, then retires to lunch on orange juice and a cheese sandwich.

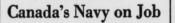
For the moment at least, enemies become allies to help a wounded soldier. A British officer and an Italian prisoner are shown in this sound-photo carrying an Italian casualty at Bengasi, Libya, to an ambulance. Another wounded soldier is on the ground awaiting assistance from the friendly enemies.

British Convalescent Home Kept Busy



At a hospital in the northeast section of England wounded Royal Air rece pilots and girls of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force are now "in Force pilots and girls of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force are now "in mending." The hospital is used by the R. A. F. and the W. A. A. F. Pic-ture shows convalescents walking about the grounds.

Wrecked plane of Charles Stanton, wrecked plane of Charles Standor, of Dorchester, Mass., which disap-peared with its five passengers June 20, 1937. It was recently found by four farmers in a jungle near San Jose, Costa Rica—its passengers a tangled heap of bones.





Two officers of the Royal Canadian navy watch over a convoy from the bridge of their destroyer. With the increasing flow of war materials to Britain, Canada is kept busy.

The Story Tellers: Collier's claims that H. R. 1776 is an all-out-for De-mocracy Bill. Their editorial points out that it may give F. D. R. a great deal of power, but without that power Britain might fall and leave the U. S. powerless . . . The SEP predictions of all kinds of gloom for America are put in a brieffort light predictions of all kinds of gloom for America are put in a brighter light if you remember that it made sani-lar gloomy warnings every time Roosevelt ran for President. But America is still here . . . Some say a great American magazine is writing its own Senitable writing its own Sepitaph

D. R., Hi?



Anger Is Costly Anger makes dull men witty it keeps them poor.—Bacon. witty, but



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