



Washington, D. C.

CLOTHES RATIONING AVERTED

Few people know how close the country was to clothes rationing a few months ago, at the peak of the war. The key figure who helped prevent it was shrewd Pittsburgh department store wizard Irwin Wolf.

Wolf and WPB boss Donald Nelson held several conferences on the problem, at which Wolf pointed out that retailers, worried about shortages, were buying all the clothes in sight, and hoarding huge amounts of one item while having no stocks of other goods.

Finally, Nelson asked Wolf to sit down with Joseph Weiner, head of the civilian supply section of WPB, John Davidson, representing the wholesalers, and Earl Reed, another key WPB official.

After going over several involved proposals, they retired from the conference room and drafted a simple order which limited all retailers to the same amount of stock they had during the previous year.

The proposal was immediately adopted by Nelson, and clothes rationing was averted.

Nelson now edicts Wolf's plan "one of the saviors of the civilian supply situation in the U. S."

NOTE—One effect of Wolf's program is that merchants will carry over only small amounts of "ersatz" merchandise in the postwar period, will not be stuck with poor-quality merchandise to unload on the money-flushed public.

AFTERMATH OF V-DAY The White House has just received a confidential report showing that 69.4 per cent of American families have saved only 11.6 per cent of the money put aside by the nation during war time.

The same report points out that, immediately after V-day in Europe, most plants which continue operating will cut overtime, thus dropping wages from 15 to 25 per cent.

One of the problems officials face is a wild rush to cash war bonds, not for lush spending, but for bare necessities of workers in middle and lower-income brackets.

All these figures now have President Roosevelt concerned about what will happen in the first weeks immediately after the war. The president's economic advisers are telling him that continued prosperity in the postwar period will require his greater personal attention to domestic problems.

They figure that, if the nation can successfully come through the first few weeks after the armistice, then the demand for peacetime goods, long denied the public, will pick up national prosperity. However, the first weeks of readjustment are going to be tough.

DOLLAR-A-YEAR MEN The full effect hasn't yet percolated down from the top but, before he left for China, Donald Nelson signed a new set of rules governing the appointment of — and the continued employment of — WPB dollar-a-year men.

It has been felt first in the textile, clothing and leather divisions but gradually is beginning to result in changes elsewhere in the agency.

Dollar-a-year appointments for the war emergency period were okayed by the White House four years ago, the appointments to be made at the discretion of the agency chiefs without regard to existing law.

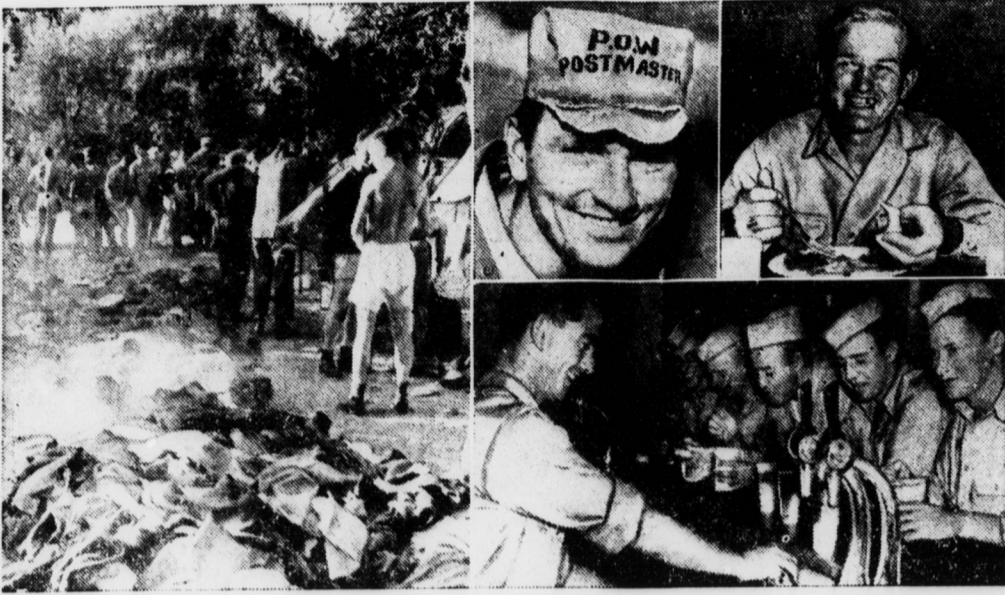
Major dynamite in the order is Nelson's pronouncement that "No person may be employed on a dollar-a-year basis who would be required by his position on the War Production board to make decisions directly affecting his own company or its competitors."

The same section bans dollar-a-year employment of all lawyers, all trade association officials, members of WPB industry advisory committees, or any individuals convicted of anti-trust violations.

Dozens of dollar-a-year men within WPB are daily called upon to formulate policy affecting their own industries, and consequently their own companies and competitors.

At the same time, Nelson's order does not reach the even more serious problem of salaried employees in a position to make decisions affecting the companies from which they came to the government — or to which they will go when they leave Washington.

Yank Fliers Released From Nazi Prison Camp



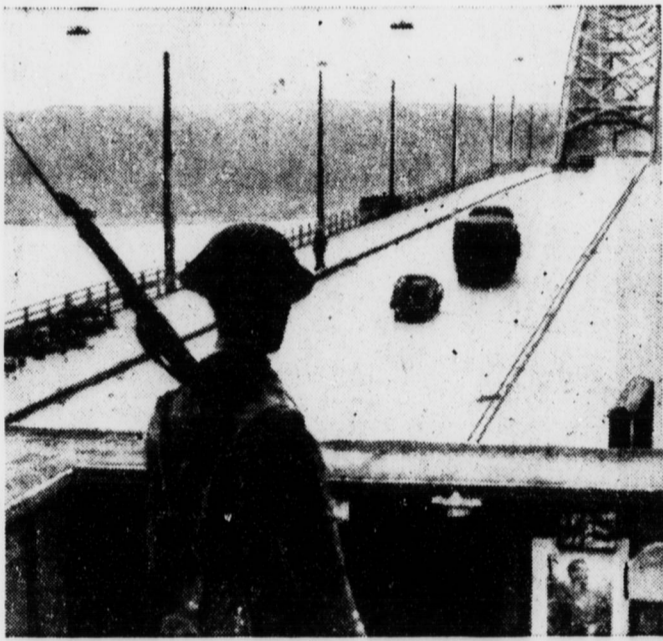
Left, shows Yanks released from Romanian prison camps lining up for hot showers and new clothing while their old outfits are deloused. Lower right, another group, former prisoners of Bulgaria, line up for ice cream sodas in Egypt. Upper left, Sergt. Eddy Lauary, Lancaster, Ohio, was postmaster in Romanian prison. Right, Corp. George Cale, Columbus, Ohio, enjoys his first American meal.

Almost Everything Went Underground in France



Brest's wounded went underground and remained for 32 days during artillery bombings (right). Wounded were not all that went underground. American army discovered vast stores of Swiss cheese (left) the Germans were forced to leave behind. Now the GIs will have something special to put on their K-ration crackers, and the Nazis will be without their prize cheese.

Newest Watch on the Rhine



The 1944 version of the "Watch on the Rhine," shows a British soldier in command post as he guards the bridge across wall, the Rhine's main outlet to the sea. This is the first time during the present war that Allied troops have taken command of any large section of the Rhine, a fallen stronghold of the Germans.

Yank Bombers Hit Philippines



An oil storage dump at Cebu in the Philippines burns fiercely after direct bomb hits which were delivered from bombers on carrier base from the Third Fleet. As the result of this raid, more than 200 enemy planes were destroyed, and the softening up of the Philippines continued in anticipation of MacArthur landings in near future.

Saddle and Boots



Todd Watley, riding a bucking broncho, shows the boys and girls, and the GIs, how a Rodeo's bull-dogger acts. From the West's wide open spaces, he has gone east to entertain the members of the armed forces and kids of New York. Rodeos continue to operate during war as a morale builder.

Collie Does Watch



The lady watching the sleeping sailor, happens to be one of twin golden haired collie pups, who recently became part of the complement of Twin U. S. Naval Vessels. She has two weather eyes peeled for anyone disturbing her master.



Notes of a Newspaperman:

Sir William Beveridge, the British plan man, has cooked up a new one to be announced after the Armistice. . . . The gamblers who bought big property in Miami Beach for the de luxe season will get an awful shock. There'll be no gambling, vows the chief of gendarmes. . . . CBS is grooming Johnny Morgan to replace Fred Allen until the latter resumes. . . . The American Fed. of Musicians is dickering with the Institute of Public Relations to woo the press back for its president, James C. Petrillo. The fee involved is reported at \$100,000. . . . Eileen Stafford and G. Ross are betrothed. . . . A nobleman in town has a juicy racket. He charges social climbers \$100 a night to be seen with him in the better places.

Those who sneer at foreign-born Americans were given a whacking across their derrieres by columnist Lowell Mellett, formerly of the White House staff. Colymed Mellett: "I am also an immigrant; not a first generation immigrant, to be sure, since the first of the family came over during the Revolutionary War, but an immigrant just the same. I can't claim any credit for being an American. Sidney Hillman can. It was his own idea, not the idea of a great-great-grandparent!"

James W. Miller of Muskogee, Okla., corrects our observation that F. Sinatra will net about \$25,000 from his annual "take" this year of \$1,450,000. Mr. Miller, a public accountant, says Frank will make more than 25 Gs. He will net a little more than \$75,000. Hot diggity! . . . Ernest Hemingway will start another war if he isn't careful. He writes: "I think any writer, especially a war correspondent, is dull in conversation. It's only the phonies that are personally colorful" . . . The Broadwayites, for the 11th year, visited the grave of Variety's founder, Sime. . . . Abbott and Costello, who send cartons of giggles to troops overseas, happily wrap each carton in "the funnies." . . . While overseas Frances Langford never drank the hot tea, which has a medicinal taste. The torrid South Pacific, strangely enough, has no hot water. So she used the tea to wash her face.

The Writer's Work Board devised a subway and trolley car card showing babies (of all color) which read: "Must They Die in World War III?" . . . The text continues: "Yes! Unless you work now for lasting peace after victory." . . . The cards are distributed by Americans United for World Organization, Inc. . . . Transit companies in several cities are displaying them. . . . Mayor LaGuardia hoped N. Y. subway trains would do the same. . . . In reporting the refusal of John H. Delaney (chairman of the Board of Transportation) the N. Y. Times said in part: "Mr. Delaney says he turned down this particular poster 'because it was not of local interest. . . . I don't intend to give away free publicity to any organization seeking to promote peace on its own. Our Government is well equipped to do that!'" . . . Not of local interest!

Income tax sleuths are following the columns closely to check on the reports of cafe society playgirls and their "incomes." . . . The Windsores have been plagued by crank letters. Too much publicity plus their address. . . . Bill Tilden, one-time world's tennis champ, tried acting some years ago. He has taken an option on a play which will be produced soon. . . . Vogue feature editor, Ruth Portugal, is in Martha Foley's "Best Short Stories" annual this time. . . . Another fashion mag editor, Dorothy Wheelock of Harper's Bazaar, relaxes all night by writing detective thrillers.

New York Novlette: You've read about the case in the papers. But not this angle. . . . It was at a society party several years ago. The hostess' jewels disappeared. . . . Suspicion pointed to a pretty young girl. . . . The detectives had the goods on her and pressed the hostess to let them make the arrest. . . . Another guest volunteered to help the crying suspect. . . . He was a lawyer. . . . His skillful plea won the hostess over. She didn't press the charge. . . . The girl was let go and married him! . . . Many times thereafter he had to do his best legal work getting his bride out of similar jams. . . . Recently she was arrested again—for allegedly stealing jewels. . . . But he can't help her now. . . . He has a bigger case. . . . Fighting for his country.

Madeleine Carroll, the actress, rates your salute. She shelved a successful career to join the Red Cross overseas without trumpeting or fanfare. . . . Our pet answer to those who use the "He's a foreigner!" routine is to remind them the Statue of Liberty is also an immigrant. . . . Oh, that Winchell!

Washington hears that General H. Miller, demoted in London by Eisenhower for allegedly revealing the invasion date, will be retired as general after the war.

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