

# WPA Basis For Judging Of Projects

**Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel.**  
 Raleigh, Dec. 23.—In the course of the many housing surveys being made in North Carolina cities under WPA auspices, the field men actually inspecting the real estate are given definite criteria (that's what the WPA men call them) to determine whether a "dwelling unit" is standard or sub-standard.

So much was learned by minute questioning of these in charge of the real estate survey division of the WPA here, Fred Cobb, director of information for the WPA and the usual and ready source of information, was still out of the city for the holidays.

The "criteria" or tests of standards are divided into two main classes, physical characteristics and characteristics of occupancy. Under the first head fall seven tests, while there are three under the second.

- The physical tests class as sub-standards:
- (1) Any house in need of major repairs. Right off the bat there is considerable leeway here, the survey officials admit. It all depends upon the field man to use his own judgment as to the "necessity" for "major" repairs.
  - (2) Any house unfit for use. Here again there is some discretionary latitude for the surveyor; though there isn't often much disagreement about whether a house is unfit for use.
  - (3) Any dwelling having no flush toilet or any dwelling unit with only a fraction of a flush toilet. Thus it two families have one flush toilet between them, then the dwelling unit is sub-standard.
  - (4) Any dwelling without a bathing unit or with only a fractional part of a bathing unit. The same rule applies here to the fractional bathing unit as to the flush toilet. If one bathtub with running water is used by two "dwelling units" then both are sub-standard.
  - (5) No running water.
  - (6) No installed heating unit. It was explained that any permanent and fixed heating source is an "installed unit". Thus a fireplace is such a unit. The provision is intended to make sub-standard only such dwellings as must be heated by movable oil, gas or other unfixed heating agencies.
  - (7) No lighting system. The only recognized "standard" systems are gas and electricity and if the unit is not arranged for one of these two it is definitely sub-standard.
- On the side of occupancy characteristics the following tests are used. Any building is sub-standard which:
- (1) Contains more than one and one-half persons per room and rents for less than \$20 a month (the rental figure is for Goldsboro, other figures are applied in other cities in different population groups).
  - (2) Is occupied by more than one family and rents for less than \$20 per month. (Again the Goldsboro figure is used.) Here again both conditions must exist, one alone is not sufficient to make the unit sub-standard.
  - (3) Is occupied by more than one family and houses more than one and one-half persons per room.

## First Half of 1940 Will Be Best Since 1929, Babson Thinks

(Continued From Page One)

high level well into the first quarter merely to fill orders now on hand. Business could fall back to as low as 106 on the Babsonchart by June and still ring up the best first half since 1929 before adjustments for population gains.

**Big First Quarter**  
 Leaving the "ifs" and "coulds" out of the picture, my forecast is that business will travel at high speed in early 1940. The first half should average 10 to 15 per cent above the same months of 1939. It looks now, however, as though the trend might turn down from current high levels as the months work along. My guess is that activity will be lower early

next summer than it is now. I use the word "guess" literally, too. Any forecast beyond June 30, 1940, at this time, is a mere guess. No man—not even Hitler or Stalin—knows what will happen abroad in the second half of next year. Add to this world confusion, our domestic uncertainties, particularly the presidential election. Only a crystal gazer or a fortune-teller could aspire to give you an answer now to either the war or the election. Hence, for the first time in two decades I dare not make, at the New Year period, a specific forecast for more than the first half of the coming year.

**Two Possibilities Second Half**  
 Strange as it sounds, right now I think there are only two possibilities for the second half: (1) A rip-roaring boom or (2) a sickening crash. After the nominations are in, we should be able to tell which of these two developments will take place. Hence, I shall not give readers my definite forecast for jobs, wages and business in the second half of 1940 until June.

In the meantime, no one will make any money by worrying about late 1940. The successful people next year will be those who take advantage of the great opportunities of the early months. For ten years we have waited for "good times" to come back. They are here now but nobody seems to want to do anything about them. Fears and uncertainties should be forgotten for a few months. Certainly any one who is primarily worried about Congress is fretting unnecessarily.

### Don't Worry About Congress

Despite the war, it looks as though the 1940 session of Congress would be a typical election-year affair. Most Washington observers are forecasting a brief, routine session enlivened only by pre-election warm-ups and patriotic tub-thumping. No new reform or anti-business laws will be passed. Only major legislation which has a chance is pro-business, including amendment of the (1) Wagner labor act, (2) modification of the wage and hour act, and (3) the passage of the Mead credit bill.

I am reasonably sure that no new Federal taxes will be imposed. Pay-as-you-go talk in December is one thing—action by Congress next spring is another. Secretary Wallace would like to see the processing taxes revived under some type of sugarcoating—but this wouldn't be good politics in an election year. You can bet your bottom dollar, however, that the total share of your income taken by Uncle Sam—counting both income and hidden taxes—will not be a penny less than in 1939.

### Record Spending

But because taxes are being "frozzed", do not imagine that an economy wave is sweeping Washington. It definitely is not. Farmers' benefit payments will be almost as big as in 1939. Relief costs will still be heavy despite increased jobs. Outlays for defense will break all records—up half a billion dollars over 1939. If there is any paring down of expenses it will be done purely for window-dressing purposes. Net results will be another whopping deficit for the Treasury—as big, or bigger than, in 1940.

Hence, the Roosevelt administration will come down the straightaway of its last year with the eighth consecutive deficit and a national debt of nearly \$45,000,000,000—up \$20,000,000,000 since 1933. It will be a sorry record indeed for a president who chided his predecessor's administration as "being the most extravagant and reckless of any peace-time government anywhere, at any time." Despite this record, Mr. Roosevelt is still popular with the majority of voters. They particularly like his foreign policy and his mammoth defense program.

**Heavy Industries 1940's Spark Plug**  
 This record-breaking defense program is just one of the four props under 1940 business. (1) Trade gains with neutral countries. (2) rising buying power in cities and on farms, and (3) a heavy industries boom are the other supports which will hold business at a high level. Most important of all these is the renaissance in the heavy industries. In the boomlet of 1936-37, the consumers' goods industries furnished the drive. Today the burden has been shifted to the broad shoulders of such industries as steel mills, railway equipment shops, and machinery makers.

For five years we have tried to get the heavy industries going. That's where most of our unemployment has been. So the upswing in these "big businesses" will be the sill und-

# Hitler Visits the Front



**Central Press Radiophoto**  
 Adolf Hitler chats with a German soldier during a visit to "the foremost line" on the German Western Front on Christmas Day. German authorities declare the Fuehrer crossed the frontier into France and hint that he is on French territory in this picture. Photo flown from the front to Berlin and flashed by radio to New York.

er jobs in early 1940. Employment in the heavy industries should increase, but there may be some layoffs in certain consumer industries. As a result, total number of jobs in early 1940 will be only slightly higher than at present. No real inroads on unemployment are in prospect. After schools and colleges dump their crop of graduates on the market next June, unemployment may well be higher than it is today.

### Higher Payrolls, More Strikes

Payrolls are another story. They should be 20 to 25 per cent bigger in the same months of 1939 and even moderately higher than at present. Wages will be pushed up where union pressure is strongest while the wage and hour act will force up weekly income where overtime is concerned. With business riding the crest of the wave, it is only logical to expect more strikes. I doubt, however, if there will be any serious tie-ups such as we had in 1937. Right now it looks like the aviation industry is the odds-on favorite to provide the labor trouble headlines.

These plants—and nearly all others—will be running under forced draught. Machine shops, locomotive and car shops, construction outfits, and shipyards will be working at top speed in the next few months. Soft coal miners will be much busier than a year ago. Metal mines are slated for a big six months. Steel mills should average above 80 per cent of capacity. More autos than in any similar period in three years will trundle off the assembly lines—well over 2,000,000. Railroads are in for their best first half since 1930.

### Let Down for Consumer Lines

Activity in chemical, electrical equipment, farm tool, furniture, paper, tire and rubber, and metal plants should top the early months of 1939. Use of electricity and petroleum products is destined to set new all-time records. A let-down from current boom levels in such consumer lines as textiles and shoes would not be surprising. Woolen and rayon plants, however, will continue fall blast. With industrial activity wide open, service businesses will be the clover and professional men will see the best collections in many months.

Steady to higher payrolls in industrial centers, therefore, should hold the purchasing-power spotlight. In addition, farmers will have more money to spend. I do not foresee any runaway gains in farm product prices such as we had in the World War. Yet, heavier demand and higher consumer buying power should bolster up prices to the tune of 10 per cent over the first half of 1939. Wheat, corn, and other grains will lead the parade. Fresh vegetables and potato farmers can look ahead to a good year.

### Farm Income Up

Beef, lamb, and pork will not sell much higher than in the early months of 1939. I do not foresee any big gains in butter, cheese, eggs, milk, poultry or fruits. Cotton exports are rising sharply and demand is tremendous. This indicates that King Cotton is getting a new lease on life. Consequently, farm income ought to be 10 per cent higher than in the same months last year.

The drought in the west is a very serious factor. The moisture situation if it gets no drier, however, it could easily lift rather than lower, total far income. Having a continuation of the drought, total production on all farms in 1940 may be close to the 1939 figure. The increase in prices will not be so grave for the farmers, however. Their costs will go up, though perhaps not so much as their prices. With farm profits a bit better, farm land values should continue to edge up a little.

World commerce is all muddled up. You cannot make any strong forecasts about it. The best you can say is that our trade with Canada, South America, and Italy will be the high-spot of the export and import picture in early 1940. Our commercial treaty with Japan expires on January 15. If it is not renewed, our trade in the Pacific may be sharply curtailed. However, I think something will be worked out with the Japanese.

**No War Forecast**  
 No forecast on the war or its duration is possible at this time. It may be all over tomorrow, or it may drag on for years. The important point right now is to recognize that war's effect on business is being over-emphasized so far, it has neither helped nor hurt American business. When and if fighting breaks out in earnest, Allied war orders will help our business. But under no circumstances would the belligerents buy as much from us as they did in 1915-17. The war is in no sense the major prop under our current boomlet. That's why I say, "War or peace, early 1940 will see the best business in ten years."

The first half of 1940 will come the closest to "good times" that we have seen since 1929. Readers must not think, however, that I believe everything is hunky-dory. Real prosperity is as far away as ever. Real

prosperity is merely a synonym for progress of civilization. With millions of men jobless at home and millions more trying to kill each other abroad, real prosperity is not even "just around the corner." Real prosperity and lasting peace will return only when the desires and goals of our and all other peoples change—that is, when we all practice what Jesus taught 2,000 years ago.

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Principles, according to a medical article, are virtually loaded with vitamin C. That's odd—during the prohibition era we always understood they were full of vitamins TNT.

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# Hooded Band Abducts Man in Anderson

(Continued From Page One)  
 he heard a woman scream, but the men hustled another person to the automobile and drove away before he reached the spot.

The Anderson Independent-Recorder is saying "the woman hysterical and apparently faint." Her baby was crying, and I rushed them to the home of a neighbor. The woman told me that hooded men broke into the home and dragged her husband from bed.

A police report quoted Anderson as saying the robbers and hooded men forced their way into the home, frightening his wife. She was not there, he related.

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 GREATER SAVINGS  
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 Ample Parking Space

**For Your New Year's Good Luck DINNERS**

Smithfield **JOWLS** 1b. 10c  
 Dried Black Eye **PEAS** 3 lbs. 19c

- High Rock or Par-T-Pak Ginger Ale or Sparkling **WATER, 2 qt.** 15c
- With Spleen Red Cocktail **CHERRIES, 2 bots.** 25c
- Libby's Stuffed **CLIVES, 3 oz.** 17c
- Pop-It **POP CORN, 2 pkgs.** 15c
- O & C Potato **STICKS, 2 No. 2 cans** 15c
- Domesic **CAVIAR, 3-oz.** 25c
- Anchor **PASTE, 2-oz.** 13c
- Fancy Bulk **RICE, lb.** 4c
- Waldorf **TISSUE, 4 rolls.** 15c

- Green **COLLARDS, 3 lbs.** 10c
- New Red Bliss **POTATOES, 6 lbs.** 25c
- CARROTS**
- GREEN ONIONS bunch** 5c
- RADISHES**
- Tender Green **SPINACH, lb.** 5c
- PARSNIPS, lb.** 5c
- TOMATOES, 2 lbs.** 25c
- Yellow **ONIONS, 4 lbs.** 10c
- ORANGES, 10 lbs.** 25c

**FANCY FRESH MEATS**

- Sausage** Pure Pork 2 lbs. 25c
- Pork Chops** Fancy Lean 2 lbs. 37c
- Bologna** The Better Kind 2 lbs. 25c
- Ham** Armour's Center Slices, lb. 29c
- Hams** Armour's Whole or Half, lb. 21c
- Picnic Hams** Fresh Lb. 12 1/2c
- Picnic Hams** Cured Lb. 15c
- Ducks** Long Island Lb. 17 1/2c
- Turkeys** Just Received For New Year's, lb. 25c
- Trout** Fresh Speckled 3 lbs. 25c
- Bacon** Thin Sliced Lb. 19c
- Pork Brains** 2 lbs. 25c
- Veal Cutlets** Lb. 25c
- Veal Chops** Lb. 15c
- Round Steak** Lb. 23c and 25
- Beef Roast** Lb. 15c and 18

Foundation Sweet or Unsweetened

**Grapefruit Juice** 3 No. 2 Cans 17c

**Peaches** Golden Halves California 2 No. 2 1-2 Cans 25c

**Pea Soup** Aunt Betsy 2 No. 2 1-2 Cans 19c

**Black Eye Peas** 2 No. 2 Cans 19c

**Sweet Pickles** Triangle Sweet Mixed or Phillip's Delicious Quart Jar 17c

**Black Eye Peas** 3 15-1-2 oz. Cans 16c

**Packed In Cartons EGGS** 23c Doz.

**Standard Quality String BEANS** 3 No. 2 17c

**Junket Quick FUDGE** 12-oz. Pkg. 15c

**Just for The Record . . .**

Six months ago, when the Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee was formed, a definite and sincere promise was made to the public.

We pledged the aid of this industry to the law-enforcement agencies in seeing that retailers of beer operate their establishments in accordance with the law and public sentiment.

That promise is being carried out—and will be carried out permanently. The record shows that in the past four months, the legal beer industry in this state has assisted authorities in bringing about the revocation of 34 licenses.

You can help your law-enforcement authorities and this awakened industry by giving your patronage only to reputable beer dealers—who deserve it.

**Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee**  
 EDGAR H. BAIN, State Director  
 SUITE 813-17 COMMERCIAL BUILDING RALEIGH, N. C.