

CONGRESS DEBATES RETAIL PRICE ROLL-BACK

ATTACK USE OF FUNDS TO CUT CONSUMERS' FOOD COST

On November 1, President Roosevelt sent Congress the longest message of his career.

All 12,000 words of the communication contained his arguments for continuation of the administration's food subsidy program, under which the government pays producers and processor to cut the charge to retail consumers.

Although the President said abandonment of the subsidy program "would increase the cost of living, bring about demands for increased wages... and might well start a serious and dangerous cycle of inflation," Rep. J. Wolcott (Mich.) sounded the opposition's sentiments by replying: "The question is whether we should use taxes to pay part of the grocery bill of the people who are financially able to pay their own bills now... or let them pay them themselves."

Spearheading the attack on subsidies have been the powerful farm blocs in both house and senate. Sure of their ground they have strongly resisted any compromises. As the senate's agricultural committee's chairman Ellison D. ("Cotton Ed") Smith, said: "You can't compromise with evil... You are either for subsidies or you are against them."

As hearings on the subsidy bills opened in congressional committees, about 2,000 representatives of producers and of marketing associations massed in Washington, D. C., to testify against the subsidy program. Previously, representatives of 85 per cent of the processed foods industry had met in New York and had condemned the same program. On the other hand, organized labor stands strongly behind the administration on the issue, demanding the reduction of retail food costs to the level of the fall of 1942.

In his address the President made no request for a specific sum of money for financing the subsidy program, only alluding to costs so far.

During 1943 the President said operations of the Commodity Credit Corporation in financing production subsidies and other subsidy programs had cost 350 million dollars. Expenditures at a rate of 450 million dollars a year also are being made to reduce meat and butter prices at whole sale and retail levels.

"This expenditure of 800 million dollars a year is a moderate sum to pay in order to accomplish the objectives we have in mind," Mr. Roosevelt said. Every nation now in the war has used some sort of government equalization payments in order to hold down the cost of living and at the same time to allow a fair return to the farmers," Mr. Roosevelt continued.

"A good part of the great success of the stabilization program in both Canada and Britain is due to the effective use of government funds in this way." Launching into the principal body of his argument Mr. Roosevelt said: "When properly used, they (subsidies) have three important advantages: first they stimulate production of certain necessary and select crops. Second by preventing price increases, they eliminate inflationary tendencies. Third they encourage the distribution of food through normal legitimate channels instead of black market operators, who are willing to pay higher prices to farmers."

"The expenditure of very small sums makes it possible to avoid pyramiding price increases all down the line—from the producers through the processors, wholesalers, jobbers and retail—extremely large amounts." Speaking before the meeting of processed food representatives OPA Chief Chester Bowles declared that runaway prices can only be avoided by properly controlled subsidies and even a 10 per cent rise in living costs would set the consumers back 18 billion dollars.

"If congress decides to abandon the use of subsidies," Bowles said, the prices of some commodities are bound to go up. With increases in the cost of living, a broad increase in wages would be inevitable. This in turn would increase costs still further and eventually retail prices.

"A 10 per cent rise in living costs would mean 8 billion dollars added to the household bills of the American people... which we would all have to pay in higher rentals and in the store. And if our war bill next year runs to 100 billion dollars, 10 per cent added to government expenditures through a 10 per cent rise in cost means 10 billion dollars more which would be added to our national debt."

As representative Wolcott declared on the other side of the fence, opposition to the administration's food subsidy program does not center around government payments to stimulate production, but rather around efforts to cut the consumers retail price. To back their stand opponents point out that where the average weekly earnings of industrial workers in 1936 was \$22.46, it now is \$43.45. Most workers are well able to pay their food bills, subsidy opponents say, instead of having them paid by the government with money which will have to be repaid through taxes later on, perhaps by returning soldiers.

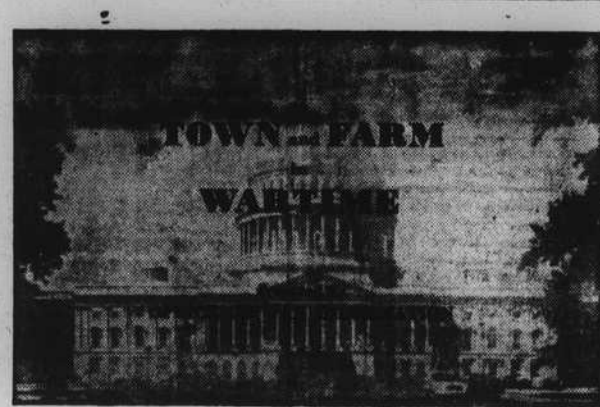
Generally expressing the position of the subsidy foes the Grocery Manufacturers of America said: "In the first place, consumers subsidies are justified on the fallacious theory that our people will thus be saved from the expense otherwise imposed by a higher price; whereas the fact is that they must then pay this expense by taxation and it will be materially increased from an administrative standpoint. Any important plan of subsidy payments by the government invites a serious raid on the treasury... difficult to limit; and it inevitably induces a bureaucratic control of private industry, which is repugnant to free institutions."

Life Park, Lard Restrictions. Restrictions on the number of pounds of pork and lard made from home-slaughtered hogs that can be sold or given by a farmer to people not living on his farm have been lifted from November 17 to February 17, 1944. The War Food Administration lifted the restriction to help handle the slaughter and distribution of this year's record hog supply. Farmers are asked to find out from their market agency or processor whether their hogs can be handled before sending them to market.

Asks Farm Workers to Help. Farmers and workers engaged in agricultural occupations have been asked by the War Manpower Commission to give all the time they can spare in the agricultural off-season to pulpwood cutting, lumbering, and other war-useful occupations. Farm workers may transfer to such employment without obtaining a certificate of availability but, if of military age, must still obtain approval from their local Selective Service Boards. Local boards have been instructed to approve transfers for periods up to four months, and registrants will be continued in their deferred classifications. Workers are expected to return to agricultural employment at the end of the off-season or at any time the need for them arises. Shortages in logging and saw-mill products makes it imperative that workers be recruited immediately. Any farmer or farm worker who does not

1 PER CENT DISCOUNT WILL BE ALLOWED ON YOUR 1943 TAX IF PAID IN NOVEMBER. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, LAST DAY.

E. E. McDowell
CITY TAX COLLECTOR



RATION REMINDER

In 17 East coast states A-8 coupons are good through February 8. In states outside the E. Coast area, A-9 coupons are good through January 21.

FUEL OIL—Period 1 coupons are good through January 3. Period 2 coupons become good on November 30.

SUGAR—Stamp No. 29 in Book 4 is good for 5 pounds through January 15, 1944.

SHOES—Stamp No. 18 in Book One, good for one pair; Stamp No. 1 on the "airplane" sheet in Book Three, good for one pair.

MEAT, EATS—Brown stamps G, H, J, and K, good through December 4. Brown stamp L is good through January 1, 1944. Brown stamp M becomes good November 28 and remains good through January 1, 1944.

PROCESSED FOODS—Green stamps A, B, and C in Book Four good through December 20.

HOLD DOWN FLOUR PRICES. To hold flour and bread prices at present levels the Office of Economic Stabilization has inaugurated a subsidy program that will enable wheat flour millers to pay as high as parity prices for wheat—should the market go that high—and at the same time sell flour for no more than present ceiling prices. Without the subsidy, the Office of Economic Stabilization says, it would be necessary to increase the present prices on flour, which in turn would force an increase in bread prices.

NO INCREASE IN BUTTER. Butter available for civilian use will not increase during the next few months, although the federal government has discontinued all purchases of the commodity until April, according to information from OPA and WFA. Current production of butter averages about 16 pounds a year per person, or about a half pound less than in pre-war years. Of this 3-1/2 pounds are being sent to our armed forces and our Allies, leaving about 12-1/2 pounds per capita for civilian consumption. Up to 5 million pounds of butter will be released to hospitals from stocks held by or set aside for the Food Distribution Administration. The butter is to supply the hospitals from November through March, and ration coupons will be required.

OPA AUTHORITY UPHELD. Authority of OPA to forbid persons from dealing in rationed commodities as a result of violations of rationing regulations was upheld in a recent decision by Federal Judge Archibald Lovett of Georgia. Judge Lovett ruled that OPA does have the authority, under the Second Powers Act, to issue such suspension orders and dismiss the complaint filed by a gas dealer who has been suspended from dealing in gasoline 30 days because of violation of the rationing regulations.

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have ready access to logging and sawmill operations is urged to communicate with the United States Employment Service office in his community for information. Some other industry may have greater priority in his area.

RESTRICTED FARM EQUIPMENT SALES. To prevent others from getting scarce farm equipment needed by farmers the War Production Board has issued a restriction of the farm machinery order L-257, which prevents dealers from selling rationed farm equipment for non-farm use, except on a rated order of AA-4 or higher.

APPLE PRODUCTS TO COST MORE. Consumers will pay more for apple products because OPA has increased maximum prices for apples to sales processors. The amount of the increase at the consumer level will vary with the product and the size of the package.

INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYED. Unspent and unemployed money in the United States during the second quarter of 1943 amounted to 2.6 billion dollars, compared to 1.7 billion dollars in the second quarter 1942, the Office of War Information said in its first quarterly report on economic stabilization. In spite of paying more taxes and buying more war bonds, Americans were still able to build up a store of unspent money. Should holders of this money now begin to bid against each other for scarce products it would make the job of holding the line against rising prices enormously more difficult.

BYRNES URGES SAVE PAPER. Urging a greater drive to conserve and save paper, James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization said: "The war needs for paper and paper board are greater than our present ability to produce. The shipment of bombs and shells depends upon paper bands and containers. Rations, blood plasma, medicines, bullets—all find their way to the fighting fronts in paper containers. We must all curtail all unnecessary use and then get all waste paper in local salvage committee or local charitable organizations and thence to the mills at once. Every scrap of paper that you can save and turn in will help."

GIVE WAR STAMPS FOR CHRISTMAS. "A Stamp in Every Stocking"—that's what the Treasury Department wants for Christmas. To encourage the giving of War Stamps, many ideas for utilizing them in gifts and decorations have been suggested; war stamps attached to a cellophane bag containing a small gift; war stamp label ornaments; a tiny Santa Claus holding stamps; a small Christmas stocking containing stamps; a baby's rattle with stamps tied on with ribbons; and children's toys, with stamps attached. The stamps may also be used as decorations on wreaths, fastened to candles and on Christmas cards.

BE THANKFUL FOR FOOD. "I think we should thank the Creator with particular humility for the possession (food) that makes our armies liberators, not looters," said Marvin Jones, head of the War Food Administration, in a Thanksgiving Day statement. To the peoples of looted, starving countries, Mr. Jones continued, "the coming of the Americans means a chance to live again, to work their land and enjoy its products. We will not take their food. We have our food. For that, and for all it means, we give thanks."

MAY CUT POINT VALUES. Storekeepers, distributors, and others in the food trade may cut point values of canned, frozen, and dried rationed foods that might spoil if held in stock too long, OPA announced recently.

However, point values may be cut only if prices are cut at least 25 percent.

TO COLLECT CLOTHING. The nationwide drive for collection of discarded clothing and rags started November 22 and will continue through December 4. Only discarded clothing is wanted and all types are needed, according to WPB. Donors are requested to see that women garments are brushed and cotton garments and rags are clean. Mending is not required. Any unwearable clothing that can be reduced to rags is desired also. Not wanted are shoes, rubbers, rubber boots, overalls, gashose, slippers, leather leggings, leather gloves, hats, caps, neckties, collars, garters, garter belts, suspenders, belts, girdles, corsets, brassieres, veils, spats, rubber coats, diapers, and masquerade costumes.

RELAXES ANTIFREEZE ORDER. Prompted by serious weather conditions in the Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions and by inadequate local supplies of approved antifreeze, the Appeals Board of the War Production Board has granted three exceptions to its order prohibiting manufacture and sale of salt and petroleum types of antifreeze. Brands which may be sold are No-Freeze, Freeze-Proof, and Safas—all petroleum base solutions which were found to be non-corrosive upon metals. Although they are injurious to rubber, with careful handling they should not destroy rubber hose connections during the freezing season, according to WPB.

USE SOY MEAL FOR FEED. More than 90 percent of the soy meal of the large soybean production of live-stock feed, according to the War Food Administration. Current rate of production indicates that the output of edible soya products for humans for all purposes during the last 3 months of 1943 will require the equivalent of about 74,000 tons

of soybean meal. Soybean oil meal production during the same period, however, is expected to total between 800,000 and 900,000 tons.

WILL HAVE CHRISTMAS TREES. Most people will be able to get Christmas trees this year but they will have less choice, WPB said recently. More trees will probably be harvested and sold locally to avoid long haulage.

INCREASE STOVE STOCKS. Stove dealers and distributors in 10 states have been allowed increased inventories in order to meet the demands of rationing. Other areas throughout the country already have been granted such increases. Regions affected by the recent OPA action are New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Save Scrap. You Women Who Suffer From HOT FLASHES then CHILLY FEELINGS. Heed This Advice! If you—like so many women between the ages of 38 and 52—suffer from hot flashes, weak, dizzy, nervous feelings, distress of "irregularities", are blue at times—due to the functional middle age period in a woman's life—try taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound at once. It's the best known medicine you can buy that's made especially for women.

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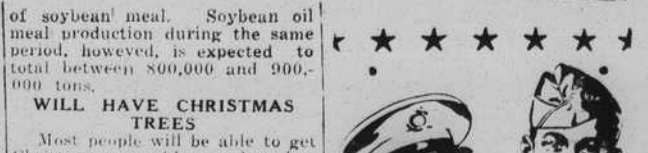
GO LIGHT! A young boy is sitting on a stool, looking at a tall stack of paper on a table. The text "GO LIGHT!" is written in large, stylized letters above the stack.

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Have you ever been a new papa? Have you ever had to enlarge the hole in the nipple of baby's bottle? The hot milk, just about as fluid as anything, barely comes through. Far "skinnier" than small holes in nipples are many of the oil spaces in your car's engine. That's still true after it is middle-aged or beyond. Any oil...any oil...has a hard enough time coming through and spreading all around. Overweight oil—easily thickened by cold—is far worse. The lightest oil your engine can use this season is rightest. And you can know that light oil will more than stand the gaff when it

includes the ability to give your engine internal OIL-PLATING. Because a Winter change to Conoco Nth motor oil adds OIL-PLATING to engine parts, you can go your car's limit on lightness. Any good plating is a protective surface, and so is OIL-PLATING—attached all over your engine's insides, as if strongly "magnetized" there by a synthetic that's part of patented Conoco Nth. Now every moving part enveloped in its close-fastened OIL-PLATING must slide upon the rupture-resistant fluid film of Conoco Nth. Safety is multiplied!—though your economical Conoco Nth is so light that your battery, too, has every chance to outlive the Winter, and the War. OIL-PLATE at Your Conoco Mileage Merchant's—today. Continental Oil Co.

Dread Engine Acid Fought by OIL-PLATING. Normal combustion always leaves acids inside of your engine when it stops. Formerly it seldom stood idle long. Soon mileage and speed heated your engine enough to oust acids. But nowadays rationing may force long rests, while corrosive acids gnaw. To combat corrosion, metals are plated. You combat acid corrosion with your engine OIL-PLATED.



WILL HAVE CHRISTMAS TREES. Most people will be able to get Christmas trees this year but they will have less choice, WPB said recently. More trees will probably be harvested and sold locally to avoid long haulage.

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