

THE EAGLE

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MORE CIVILIAN SUPPLIES

There is a good deal of talk these days about the increased supply of civilian goods which may be available in 1944.

Government reports do show that there is a slight oversupply of some materials which, until now have gone entirely into war equipment. They also show that some materials are being released for civilian goods. For example, the War Production Board already has made steel available for a limited number of new refrigerators, electric irons and other necessary civilian products.

But it would be foolish for any of us to get our hopes up over there being an adequate supply of any of the products which have been called off because of war. There will be a small extra supply of some scarce items, but there will undoubtedly be new shortages of products made from materials which are scarcer now than they were last year.

And, even in cases where materials are available for civilian goods, it will still be more difficult than ever to get manpower to manufacture non-war products and to get transportation facilities to move such products to market.

RATION TOKENS

A new kind of ration system is now being planned by the Office of Price Administration to take the place of ration stamps.

It seems probable that tokens, if made so that they are not confused with pennies, dimes or nickels, could make the handling of rationing easier for both stockholders and consumers. The paper coupons continue to be confusing to many people and are a great nuisance to storekeepers who must not only collect them on all purchases of rationed goods but must also serve them in order to have the right to buy more goods to sell. They are difficult to handle, easy to lose, and present a time-consuming recording job for all stores.

Chester Bowles, head of the OPA, predicts that the token plan will save the retailers of the country \$15,000,000 worth of man-hours annually in time now spent in counting and sorting stamps.

The only objection we have heard to the token plan is that the tokens might be used in slot machines, juke boxes and turnstiles. Although this might conceivably offer a slight problem, it hardly seems worthy of consideration in comparison with the assistance which tokens would be our whole rationing system. If a few people want to try to cheat by using a ration token to get a pack of chewing gum instead of meat, we don't think that is much to worry about. To most people a ration ticket is worth more than a nickel anyway.

A NATURAL REACTION

OPA Officials in New York City should be nearly convinced that housewives have no desire to play detective. In reply to four thousand personal letters in quest of price checkers, the Manhattan War Price and Rationing Board managed to secure eleven women volunteers. Eleven out of four thousand is a pretty poor batting average. According to the OPA, a New York housewife simply does not want to be a "policewoman."

Housewives have always had their way of dealing with merchants who seek to exploit consumers. Their methods are effective. They just quit patronizing stores that arouse their ire. As a result this country has perhaps the most efficient retail distribution system in the world. Housewives are satisfied that it is treating them fairly, and that enemies on the whole are doing the best job they can under difficult circumstances. Therefore, why make their task harder?

FAITH PRODUCES MIRACLES

It is rumored that the Germans are about to launch a miraculous secret weapon upon the world capable of obliterating cities at a single blow. Far fetched as the idea may sound, Allied leaders long ago ceased underestimating German resourcefulness. They are driving to knock out the Nazis before they can come forth with any more devastating surprises. Our bombers are reaching with growing force into the industrial vitals of Europe. They are carrying loads of explosives that dwarf previous efforts of the Luftwaffe.

The average layman has little conception of the miracle taking place right here in our own country which make possible two-thousand-ton air raids on Berlin. One of these miracles is 100 octane gasoline. Two years ago daily capacity for the manufacture of 100 octane was only about 10,000 barrels—enough to fuel a single five-hour raid engaging 1000 four-engine bombers, similar to recent Berlin attacks. Now it is approximately 200,000 barrels daily, more than five times as much, and before many months it will double again. Without 100 octane gasoline, our bombers would be unable to carry out their missions.

A significant fact about the 100 octane miracle is that it has been financed principally by the oil industry. The oil companies have spent hundreds of millions of dollars perfecting this high-test fuel and building production facilities. All of which means the oil industry has faith in the future of private enterprise. It is endeavoring to demonstrate in action rather than words that industry operated by private citizens, if given a fair chance, has the resourcefulness and flexibility to take any problem confronting it.

Walkie-Talkie

LISTEN, ADOLPH,

DID YOU HEAR GENERAL EISENHOWER WHEN HE SAID, "WE WILL WIN THE EUROPEAN WAR IN 1944... IF EVERY MAN AND WOMAN, FROM THE FRONT LINE TO THE REMOTEST HAMLET, DOES HIS OR HER FULL DUTY!"

DID YOU...?

WELL, ADOLPH, WE'RE BEGINNING THE YEAR RIGHT! WE'RE DOING OUR DUTY TO DO A BIG JOB OVER HERE TO HELP HIM DO THE BIG JOB OVER THERE!

ABOVE THE HULLABALOO

By LYTLE HULL

THE REBOUNDED HUMAN

There is no such thing as tumbling through the tough waters of a war and coming smoothly out upon one's feet. Peace is a storm and when a storm blows over, the sea remains agitated some time afterward. Storms have wrecked and near wrecked our cities and vessels which have been weakened by it will go down in the less turbulent waters when follow such convulsions.

When the great human cyclone which is ravaging the world today is over, the struggle to regain the safety of a harbor will begin. The wrecks of many governments will have gone to their final rest. The wrecks left by many governments must be picked up or they will rot. The survivors will be crowded and the money to make repairs will become scarce and slower. Those who have it begin to reap the costs of repairs which their own ships of state require. Less rich nations of terribly devastated nations will be seeking ways to rehabilitate themselves. There will be quarrels and hard feelings over frontiers, between nations, and there will be economic destruction, enmities, and hatreds between old enemies. Men will take a long time to heal.

The struggles to pull their nations back upon a firm foundation will bring about the economic, political, and social changes in national controls, influences like the military oligarchy of Japan or the National Socialist Dictatorship of Hitler to raise their cobra heads. The whole mess will make a field day for the local Communists, Socialists and Anarchists of the various nations which will be struggling to save themselves—and will hear plenty from our own American outfits of the same ilk.

If all this turmoil and strife, which we must unfortunately undergo as a result of the present world war, were something new and unheard of the human race, with the exception of those eternal enemies who revel in the people's work, and who wouldn't be called human, any way, would doubtless feel like coming en masse out of the window. But there is nothing new about it. It is the customary and necessary consequence of every great catastrophe and its seriousness is measured by the size of the whirlwind which brought it on. This is a big whirlwind and it is going to have a big after math; but the world has had worse catastrophes and worse plagues and is still going on, such not merely at the moment.

Humans are just like ants, if you kick over the little hills they are built and next day they are back again. You can't keep an ant down, and you can't keep humans down. Several hundred years ago half the population of Europe died in the Great Plague. The dead lay in the streets of the great cities and rotted. Millions trekked because the peasants feared to bring food into the plague-ridden towns and cities. But when it was over those left worked just twice as hard to make a "comeback."

It is always thus; and it will be the same after this period of human and material destruction. And five or ten short years after war, people will already have begun to forget in the din and excitement of the surge ahead.

USE EAGLE ADS

LABOR

Just as Hitler and his cohorts will never need guilty to having started the war, neither will union leaders in the United States ever admit any guilt in the charge of interfering with our nation's war production.

But, when the whole nation knows that labor leaders have, again and again, used the threat of cutting off supplies to our armed forces as a means of frightening the government into giving them wage increases, it seems rather ridiculous at this late date that the metropolitan press and radio chains should have spent a week or more featuring the news and course of General Marshall's statement attacking these union tactics.

To most people it rarely seems that the news should point out that strikes and German sabotage hurt the morale of our own armed forces. We have taken that for granted ever since the war started that the head of our country.

We have also become very accustomed to raving labor leaders attacked by patriotic Americans and to having congress attacked for not doing something to put more drastic curbs on labor.

Perhaps the "news" of this controversy is the fact that the nation's two-year barrage of attack against labor leaders has, apparently, gone unnoticed by them—that they didn't recognize that they were being "insulted" until General Marshall did the insulting.

SANITY strikes
We believe William Green, head of the American Federation of Labor, established some sort of a record for silly argument when he said:

"I hereby assert unequivocally, that, although a strike date has been set, there never was the faintest possibility of an actual walkout of the nation's railroad. The railroad unions, most of which are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, are responsible organizations led by responsible and patriotic officials. They gave their solemn assurance to the President and to congress that, come what might, there would be no railroad strike."

That kind of an argument coming after a week in which the railroad unions assured the nation that there would be a paralyzing strike unless their demands were met and after the government had to seize the railroads in order to keep them running—is the kind of argument which would make any sane person boil over. Yet that paragraph was included in what Mr. Green called "a message of sanity to the American people."

Both Mr. Green and Mr. Murray, head of the C I O United Steel workers, who threatened a Christmas present to the nation, have pledged their unions to a nonstrike policy for the duration of the war. But, as far as we can see, that pledge had a rope tied to it—it will be kept on the condition that these unions are given everything they ask for.

BUNGLING
There may be something in one of Mr. Green's "messages of sanity" when he said: "The responsibility for the prolongation of these disputes rests entirely upon the bungling, fumbling and incompetent handling by government officials and agencies."

There is no question that these labor problems are handled by the government in a weak, hithermiss fashion and that the government agencies have no clear policy to guide them in their negotiations with labor.

We believe it is up to congress right now to do something about Mr. Green's complaint—to end bungling and fumbling by passing clearly-worded legislation that a strike during wartime is treason and its leaders should be tried for treason. Such legislation would help Mr. Green and Mr. Murray to keep their no strike pledges, it

This Week in WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C. (N.W.N.S.)—Guided by the President's broad message outlining the legislation which he considers most important to the welfare of the nation, congressmen are now drafting bills which will keep them busy until the November election.

The number of controversial measures before congress is probably greater than at any time in history, and there is but little question that the next election will be strongly influenced by the action which is taken on these measures.

In the forefront of the matters to be decided by congress are increases in taxes, simplification of our whole tax structure, mustering out pay to the members of the armed forces, conscription of labor, the solativate, subsidies to farmers, pay increases for railroad workers, poll taxes and control of oil rationing and oil prices.

At the head of the senate calendar is completion of the long delayed tax bill. Although in some tax blanks already have been mailed to taxpayers, with instructions based on last year's taxes, the new tax measure will apply to this year's income and is apt to call for complicated adjustments to be made by all taxpayers on March 15. It is clear to congress that the situation will be confusing to the public and every effort will be made to get the tax question settled as quickly as possible. To hasten action, leaders of the senate finance committee will probably keep the total amount of new taxes in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000,000 as approved by the house, and will not attempt to increase it to near the \$10,000,000,000 figure asked by the treasury.

Because of the threat of the railroad strike and steel workers strike last month, many congressmen are eager to pass new labor legislation which would clarify the situation for them in their disputes with the government, and it would be very welcome to the majority of the American people.

Until such legislation is passed, we hope that Mr. Green will again play his little game of threatening strikes even if he is "holding fins" when he issues his threat. For we hate to think of American soldiers having to fight under the handicap of any more unhealed about the selfish, uncooperative attitude of an important segment of the home front.

legislation to take the place of the Smith-Cotton act which so far has proved useless. Many congressmen favor government conscription of labor, although it is doubted if this could be put through in an election year even with presidential support. But anti-strike legislation with severe penalties for strike leaders, is favored by a large number of the members of congress.

Before February 17, congress must decide the highly debatable subject of subsidies to farmers. Before the last session ended, congress passed a resolution continuing these subsidies until next year, but unless action is taken before then they will automatically stop in the middle of February.

The house has already begun discussion of increasing pay for soldiers and is likely to approve a measure similar to that already passed by the senate calling for payments ranging from \$200 to \$500. It is likely that the house will keep to a simple bill, which can be acted upon quickly, and will later consider more complicated parts of this problem, such as unemployment insurance, bonuses, government-financed education, financial help for the purchase of homes, etc.

On January 25 the senate committee on education and labor plans to inquire into the difficulties of white collar workers under government wage restrictions who are said to have suffered severely because of increased cost of living. As a result of these hearings legislation may be proposed to eliminate some of the restrictions on increased pay to office workers.

In addition to the many controversial subjects which congress will consider, it will also have to consider a flood of new appropriation bills. Although it will probably okay all requests for appropriations for war purposes, there will undoubtedly be a great deal of debate from the economy standpoint on all appropriation requests for non-war purposes.

4th WAR LOAN
Let's All Back The Attack

This is Your "Battle Flag" HERE AT HOME

WE BOUGHT EXTRA WAR BONDS

4th WAR LOAN

Every patriotic American will want to display this emblem at home—on his front door or in his window. It is the red, white and blue sticker that says you have done your part in the 4th War Loan.

Display your colors now!

DURING this 4th War Loan Drive you are again asked to do something extra to help smash the Axis. Your part is to invest in at least one extra hundred dollar bond. But don't stop there if you can do more. For remember—no matter how many bonds you buy—no matter what denominations they are—you get back on maturity \$4 for every \$3 you invest. And that's on the word of Uncle

Sam, creator of the safest investment the world has ever known. So before you look into your wallet—LOOK INTO YOUR HEART. Your company, the place where you work, has been given a quota to meet in this 4th War Loan Drive. Do your part to help meet this quota. And remember, millions of America's fighters are waiting for your answer, your pledge that you are backing them to the limit.

Let's All BACK THE ATTACK!

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