

# THE EAGLE

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## Editorial

### WHAT WILL THE END BE?

Writing in the Saturday Evening Post of April 15, Ed Will, the operator of a small farm near Odessa, New York, shows how the grip of bureaucracy is tightening on the farmer.

A subsidy which independent farmers do not want, is forced on them to offset the cost of feed which the price of milk is not allowed to cover. It has grown from pin money to one-fifth of the dairyman's income, thus making him dependent on political handouts.

The inevitable conclusion from Mr. Will's article is that the farm subsidy is a political expedient to hold the price of food below its production cost, at the expense of the taxpayer at a time when the consumer is best able to pay the true cost of food.

As the subsidy program increases its hold on the farmer, he becomes less and less a free man, and government grows in its position of overlord toward him. This is indeed a "New Order" for the United States.

### THE ROAD BACK

One of the biggest threats to private enterprise after the war is the tremendous amount of money the Federal government now has invested in all kinds of business, as a war measure—some \$20,000,000,000.

When the war emergency is over, the postwar employment emergency is over, the postwar employment emergency will be used as an argument to keep the government in business. Hence, planning by private enterprise, such as is being done by the American Road Builders Association, to provide peacetime jobs, is of the utmost importance.

Highway construction is important at any time, but after the war it will be doubly so. Like all transportation facilities, roads are being pounded to pieces by war traffic, many of them are not being repaired, and badly needed new construction has been postponed.

Highway expenditures in 1930 amounted to nearly a billion and a half dollars. In 1943, they dropped to but \$300,000,000, and in 1944 to about \$150,000,000.

As upwards of 7,000,000 jobs depend on good highways in normal times, it is easy to see how important road construction and maintenance will be in any postwar planning to put American business back on a sound, self supporting basis.

### LESSON FROM SMALL TOWNS

Out of the genuine concern which most government and business leaders feel for the welfare of this country in the postwar period, is growing a recognition of the need for the kind of deep cooperation which has long characterized the activities of a small town.

Country people know that they must often rely on each other's help in times of hardship and trouble, and just so, it is now apparent that a large nation is dependent on the combined strength of all its people.

Mr. Donald Nelson, chief of the War Production Board, has long been an outstanding advocate of real national unity. He has made one more step forward—the appointment of a nine-man advisory board on the problems of reconverting our economy to a peacetime basis. This advisory committee includes representatives of labor, management, heavy industry, distribution, consumer groups, agriculture, public opinion researchers and financiers.

The problems of changing our geared-to-war economy back to one keyed to civilian life will be numerous and complex. But the only possible solution for them will come from just such a group as this—a group aware of the varied needs of all the people, and a group working for a harmonious and balanced adjustment of those needs.

### THE PRIVATE AND THE GENERAL

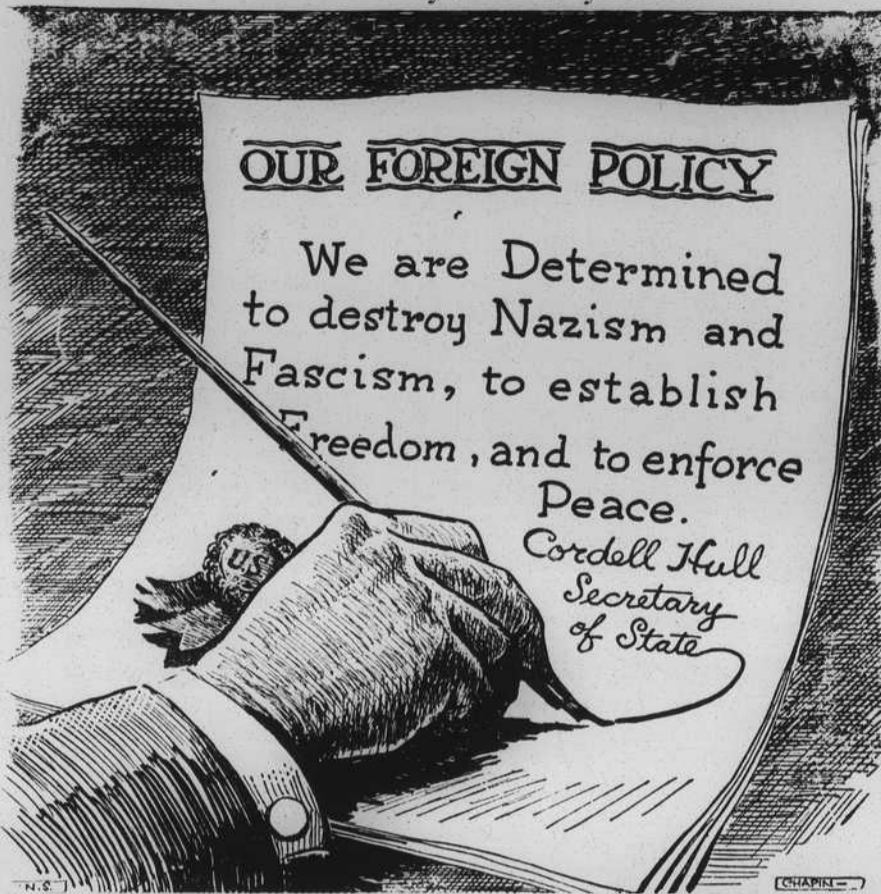
After reading the latest story about Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, one could paraphrase another famous American's signature, "William Allen White of Emporia, Kansas," to read "Dwight D. Eisenhower of Abilene, Kansas."

A young air force mechanic, Pvt. Walter J. Thorpe, recently walked into general headquarters in London, and said casually that he would like to see the general. Military aides in the office were considerably startled when, a few minutes later, General Eisenhower stepped out, and escorted the young man into his office. They chatted for a while about home doings and people. Then the private asked for a note to show his comrades, and General Eisenhower wrote:

"Dear Thorpe:  
I'm delighted that as a fellow citizen of Abilene, Kansas, you called at my office to see me today.  
Sincerely,  
Dwight D. Eisenhower."

That kind of simplicity has made American democracy a living thing. As long as there are great leaders who, even with the enforced rank-consciousness of the military life, are sufficiently humble to do such a gracious thing, we do not have to fear for the continuance of our philosophy of living.

## The 'Hull' Story, Briefly Stated



### "BEHIND THE SCENES IN AMERICAN BUSINESS"

—By John Craddock—

NEW YORK, May 1.—America's living habits and standards are being changed by rationing, shortages, travel, high taxes, service in the armed forces, and the influx of women into factories. To what extent the changes will carry over and alter the normal buying habits of the average family after the war is naturally a question of great interest to manufacturing and retailers.

Some of the consumer patterns that may be expected have been projected in a study by Modern Industry magazines. Changes in eating habits are forecast as a result of Army and Navy life for so many persons. Northerners, for example, are learning to eat and like the South's hominy grits; the midwesterner is developing a taste for the Easterner's fried oysters and roast lamb. Millions of men and women in service are for the first time getting the habit of adequate medical and dental care, and thousands are having their first try at wearing glasses.

Women are gaining through war plant experience a certain mechanical mindedness, plus a greater appreciation for automatic and labor-saving household machinery in the home. The great growth of middle income family group has reduced the commercial importance of both the previous high and the previous low income strata, manufacturers are likely to concentrate production on goods for the medium-quality, medium-price range market. This will total the largest number of families, by groups so that in the post-war period, of any income group in America.

"MIRACLE MAKERS"—The automotive industry, America's largest is living up to its peacetime reputation as a performer of "miracles" by continuing to skyrocket its armament output, which currently has hit the stupendous rate of \$1,000,000 an hour. Latest announcement in a long series of wartime accomplishments is the report by Willys Overland Motors that it has turned out its 200,000th Jeep—a vehicle that less than three years ago was still in the proving ground stage.

This total, according to Ward M. Canaday, president of the Toledo concern, dates from June of 1941, when the company's model was selected as "standard" by the army. At the inception of the government contract, he points out, the firm's Jeep and its commercial vehicles—which utilize the same engine—were turned out on adjacent assembly lines. However, six weeks after Pearl Harbor all manufacturing facilities were converted 100 per cent to war work.

"THINGS TO COME"—A plastic-bonded plywood that is "flame proof" reported by American Lumber and Treating company, three years ago, is now being sold as "Razors that you can buy!" After two years of war work American Safety Razor company expects to resume production shortly for civilians. Rainproof matches, their tips are enclosed in a waterproof solution and will light in the heaviest of April showers.

"CANTEEN REJUVENATION"—Taxpayers have a personal stake in the Jersey City Quarter-master Repair Sub-Depot, which is saving them approximately \$1,500,000 a month through reclamation of army equipment and clothing. One of the newest items to be added to the reclamation list is the dented and battle-scarred canteen.

Millions of canteens which before would have found a home on the metal junk pile will be returned to active duty as a result of machinery developed by engineers of the American Gas Company. Only previous method of reclaiming canteens was by hammering out the dents by hand.

The machines make ingenious use of the hydraulic pressure principle to salvage approximately 1,000 canteens a day. The first of the two machines fills the canteen with water, using ordinary city-system pressure up to 60 pounds to restore the canteen to its original shape so that it will fit into the mold of the second machine. In the latter hydraulic pressure up to 30,000 pounds can be applied to remove all dents. These, with other operations that straighten the necks and reclaim the tops and claims, make the canteen look—and work—like new.

"SAVE A BAG"—Housewives can make a daily contribution to victory by carrying home one less paper bag from shopping expeditions. Heavy demand for paper for war use, labor shortages in the pulp industry and the dwindling of pulp imports have made it necessary for the War Production Board to allocate only one-third the amount of pulp for wrapping paper and bags that we had this time last year. Twenty-five tons of blueprint paper help make a battleship. 12 pounds of paper make the ring of a 500-lb. bomb and 1.8 pounds of paper make a 75 mm. shell container. To save paper for use in vital purposes, here's what can be done:

Several items can be put in a bag. Food buyers can bring bags to the store to be used for loading their own groceries. They can use other types of shopping bags. They can carry home packaged items unwrapped. It's estimated that peons of paper would be saved in America every day.

"BITS OF BUSINESS": Industry must graduate more than 100,000 apprentices a year after the war to rebuild and maintain a normal reserve of skilled technicians and craftsmen. One tanker carries enough aviation gasoline to supply all the motorists in a city the size of St. Louis for three weeks. A vast fleet of such tankers plies regularly between this country and England carrying fuel for bombers and fighter planes.

"ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING RESERVE PROGRAM OPENS"

The Charlotte recruiting station announces that the War Department is now informing all qualified young men who passed the Army-Navy Qualifying Test on March 15th of their eligibility for the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program. All young men receiving such instructions are urged to report to the U. S. Army recruiting station, 406 Liberty Life Building, Charlotte, N. C., for enlistment in the Enlisted Reserve Corps. The new program of military scholarships offers a minimum of six to nine months education at selected colleges, with uniforms, tuition, housing and meals furnished by the government.

Candidates for the ASTRP must have completed high school by July 1, 1944, successfully passed the Army-Navy Qualifying Test, enlisted in the Enlisted Reserve Corps, and be not over 17 years, 9 months of age on July 1, 1944.

Especially qualified candidates have opportunity to enter the advanced course of Army Specialized Training Program upon successful graduation from the Reserve Program. All reservists receive an uninterrupted education at government expense during that period between high school graduation and induction into the Armed Forces and receive important training for Army and civilian occupations.

"DRAFT. Newspaper men (meaning women too) often get what you



LEAVES OF LAUREL  
ELVIA GRAHAM MELTON

might call an all-over view of things rather than a biased close-up. Not because they are any smarter than other people but because the very nature of their work trains them to be objective, and again because of their wide contacts—both public and confidential.

So I like to get together with my colleagues pretty regularly for off-record shop-talk and summaries of how things are jelling and what's cookin'. Their analyses, while not one hundred per cent accurate, do score bullseyes more often than not.

For public opinion polls in general, the best of them are probably those conducted by Fortune Magazine and George Gallup. But these do deal primarily with cross section public opinion. Taking a poll or trading opinions with news writers has the advantage of not only covering general public reaction but adding the quiet, behind-the-scenes strategy and opinion of Congressmen and other leaders interested in specific questions of legislation.

Take the "Civilian Draft" question, for example. Most of the newspaper people I know believe there will be no draft law passed. This in spite of the fact that a lot of polls seem to favor it than otherwise.

Mr. and Mrs. Average Citizen, when asked what they think of a civilian draft automatically remember (and FDR and others have reminded them too) serious strikes that have occurred during the past year or so. So they say: "Well, maybe it would be a good idea." Or words to that effect.

However, those who study such problems in detail can see little, if any, merit in such a proposal. A civilian draft amounts to a declaration of martial law, and a regimentation of all people in order to make a few carry on their work. Which doesn't make good sense. Also war emergency powers already exist (if exercised properly to solve strikes and manpower problems).

Another argument used by the proponents is: the soldier is drafted—so why not the civilian? Which seems logical until you examine it. Men drafted into the armed forces considering practical matters now, have their entire living arrangements solved and cared for by the government—under a long instituted and well-planned system. All are treated alike as to pay and privileges. And they don't have to wrestle with problems like transportation and housing, to mention only two.

On the other hand, civilians, if drafted, according to proposed conscription, could be uprooted from present jobs and homes and sent hundreds of miles away, at less money, and with their family and housing problems dumped into their laps.

Anyone aware—and who isn't these days—of transportation and housing problems, knows there are at least two of the greatest stumbling blocks to any efficient or successful execution of such a plan.

Not only would all our ordinary civilian everyday living problems increase—real hardships would result. And, just think what an army of administrators and expeditors it would take to cope with the intricacies and red tape of a "civilian draft" problems!

As examples of the complexi-

ties of administration of such a huge regimentation—why all we have to do is remember the present and past confusion and mistakes surrounding Selective Service and the induction of only a small segment of the population into the army. And again, Rationing and OPA regulations and the problems of their institution and enforcement.

That's why the prediction that Congressmen, regardless of Chief Executive, and even military pressure, have a "thumbs down" attitude toward an over-all conscription of our people.

Added to that, many of our Senators and Congressmen, Democrats as well as Republicans, resent what might result in an attempt at totalitarian control: they fear such a complete degree of regimentation of and dictation to the individual by concentrated federal authority.

### OUR FREEDOM

We, in America, have many freedoms. Each one zealously held. These freedoms which we still enjoy. Our boys are defending today. Let us not hold them lightly. Because we have always known them. They are doubly precious now; Let us make use of them to the full. Lest we, undeserving of such a heritage. Awake to find them wrested from us.

—Ruth Fortney Maxwell  
(From the Country Bard; Madison, N. J.)

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# WHY telephones are hard to get

The telephone business is deep in the war and getting deeper all the time.

The farther American forces advance, the more switchboards, wire and telephones they need. And folks at home seem to want more, too.

Since the National Defense program started in 1940, we have supplied the needs of Army, Navy, war producers and most others. In all, Southern Bell has increased the number of telephones in service by over half a million.

The equipment to do this came from reserves that are about used up. No more can be made for civilian use. That's why we can't fill orders as fast as we'd like.

But we're doing all we can to serve as many as possible as soon as possible by—

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- Operating central offices beyond their normal capacity.
- Taking extra-good care of equipment that can't be replaced.

If you are one of those who are waiting, we'd like you to know we want your patronage and will take care of your needs at the earliest possible moment.

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