

# LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

## DEFENSE SPENDING TO BE TRIPLED IN 1941 ONLY 6 BILLION THIS YEAR UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES DEFENSE BOOM SPOTTY CONTRACTS CONCENTRATED AAA OBJECTIVES FARMS OVERCROWDED FUTURE AIMS LISTED SHIP SCARCITY SERIOUS NAVY-ARMY NEEDS GREAT TRANSPORTS AVAILABLE WATCHING MARTINIQUE

The American citizen, overwhelmed by the immensity of figures appropriated and allocated for national defense, sometimes finds it difficult to understand that defense expenditures up to this time represent but a small fraction of the staggering sum that is involved.

Figures from the Treasury Department, for the first eleven months of the present fiscal year which ended May 31st, show that defense expenditures were \$5,240,420,822.

The present rate of expenditure will probably be tripled in 1941 and quadrupled in 1942, but even the contemplated expenditure of \$23,000,000,000 in the year 1942, when added to the war efforts of the British Empire, provides, in the opinion of Stacy May, Chief of Research and Statistics for the Office of Production Management, a margin "too slight to overcome within any reasonable time the initial advantage of armament superiority Germany had built up before we started."

Mr. May points out that scheduled expenditures for defense in 1941 are only twenty per cent. of the national income. Great Britain is expected to spend not less than forty per cent of her national income and Germany, it is generally estimated, is spending an even larger share of her national income. Mr. May believes that the United States will have to envision a defense program involving expenditures of around \$40,000,000,000 a year in order to assure an adequate armament superiority over Germany.

Some idea of the program during the first eleven months of the present fiscal year can be secured from a study of the figures released by the Treasury Department. These show that the Army got \$3,228,383,334; Navy, \$1,970,060,201; the President's defense funds, \$103,312,746; Selective Service Administration expenses, \$16,758,246; defense housing, \$10,660,488.

The idea that unemployment will vanish as a result of the defense program is questioned by WPA Research Director Myers, who notes marked activity in a few centers of production, but points out that many sections of the country report little or no improvement in employment. Total employment for April, he says, was below the 1929 peak, and the magnitude of the unemployment problem is emphasized by the fact that the nation's total labor force has increased by nearly 7,000,000 workers.

Mr. Myers says that money must be spent to give jobs. The stimulus of defense orders has been highly concentrated in a few industries and areas, resulting in sixty-eight per cent. of all prime defense contracts being awarded in twenty industrial areas, containing only twenty-one per cent. of the country's population and only twenty-four per cent. of WPA employment.

Recent re-employment rates, according to Mr. Myers, approximates that of Germany during her maximum rearmament period. Even taking into consideration the present rate of increase, he estimates 5,000,000 workers will be unemployed in the summer of 1942 and several million in 1943. Many of these workers will need public assistance.

In considering the diffusion of defense contracts throughout the country, Mr. Myers observes that 2,300 counties of the total of 3,000 in the nation have had no direct defense contracts. In these counties, he continues, unemployment and need continue almost as great as ever. While production shows some increases, they are accompanied by smaller employment gains than in the past due to the progress of technology. The increase of the nation's labor supply each year amounts to 600,000 workers, and employment has to be found for them before increased employment effects a reduction in the unemployment of the nation as a whole.

Farmers will be interested in the recent address of AAA Administrator R. M. Evans, who visualizes the AAA as an organization to guard farm prices, income and the land of the farmer. Moreover, it should seek to organize supplies for the good of society, modify the trend to large-scale farming, promote the shift to economic-sized farms, improve the lot of all who farm and help increase consumption of agricultural products.

Mr. Evans says that the machine is breaking up family types of farms, carrying us to larger units and fewer owners. He thinks that the nation should work out means for using the machine for socially desirable aims and calls attention to problems arising from the 6,000,000-person surplus in the farm population. Millions of farmers are doomed, he says, to "low incomes for no other reason than they haven't large enough farms."

Looking to the future, Administra-

tor Evans recommends that:

(1) The AAA should be brought to reach more of the small farmers, tenants and share-croppers.

(2) The organization should be tightened to make it more protective of farmers' interests.

(3) More of the benefits of the AAA should be extended to small farmers, especially since the enactment of the new eighty-five per cent. loans."

(4) The farm program should be readjusted to cushion the shocks mechanization has brought to many of the people on our farms.

(5) The conservation program should be more positive and more thorough; and

(6) The organization should "always keep parity as our goal."

The shipping situation continues to be one of the gravest problems connected with the present national emergency. Not only is the United States doing everything possible to relieve the strain on British shipping by taking over Pacific routes to release British merchantmen for service in the Atlantic, but every available way is being used to build new ships.

In addition, following recent legislation, foreign-flag ships in U. S. ports have been seized and the Army and Navy are requisitioning American ships for possible use. Just how many ships have been acquired for the service is not known but the Maritime Commission recently announced a list of twenty-eight merchant ships, totaling around 500,000 tons, including the luxury liner, America, as well as the Washington and the Manhattan. Twenty-one of these ships go to the Navy and seven to the Army.

Fourteen Atlantic and Gulf shipping lines have been ordered to place half of their tonnage at Government disposal and the Eastern Seaboard States face a possible shortage of oil and gasoline because of the number of tankers that have been requisitioned.

Last week the President asked Congress for \$100,085,000 to purchase nineteen ships from the Maritime Commission and several vessels from the War Department for naval auxiliary use and to cover deficiencies in funds being used to construct auxiliary naval vessels.

Speculation as to the use of the ships being acquired emphasizes the distance involved if it becomes necessary to send soldiers anywhere in South America. This contingency may seem far-fetched to some individuals, but experts point out that Germany might send a small force from Africa to Brazil by air, where it could lead a local army mobilized from the 2,000,000 Germans in that country.

There is little idea that the vessels are being acquired with the idea of transporting expeditionary forces to Europe. It may be necessary, in order to prevent Hitler from seizing certain islands, the Azores and the Cape Verde Islands. The distance involved would make necessary the use of considerable shipping. From New York to the Azores is 2,400 miles; to the Cape Verde Islands, 3,200 miles, and to Iceland, 2,550 miles.

Americans who are concerned lest the Vichy Government of France relinquishes control of the French West Indies, or exercises control in the interest of Germany, will be interested in a recent statement made by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who points out that under an arrangement, confirmed by France and the United States, France gave certain guarantees regarding French vessels in American waters and agreed to notify this country before making any shipments of gold.

The arrangement permits a daily patrol by vessel and plane of the islands of Martinique and Guadelupe and the Secretary of State points out that a naval observer is now stationed on the Island of Martinique to check observance of the plan by the French.

Under the arrangement, the United States releases certain funds in this country to permit the Island to purchase foodstuffs and essential supplies to maintain the economic structure of the Islands and French Guiana. The supplies purchased with these funds are for the Islands themselves and are not to be re-exported to French North Africa or to France itself.

## Hertford Soft Ball Team Making Good Record This Year

Hertford's softball team, under the management of Willie Ainsley, is making a good record for itself this year. The young men composing the team which was recently organized, have played a total of seven games.

Having won three, lost three and tied one, the team played in Edenton Thursday night and had all intentions of putting another game in the winning ledger.

Games played in Hertford are played on the Town parking lot and admissions are free. The team invites the public to come out and watch the games.

## Star In Show



Above is shown "Kippy" four-year-old chimpanzee, one of the star performers of the trained animal show appearing this week in Hertford with the Crescent Amusement Company. The animal show is under the direction of Dan Riley. The animal show lasts one hour and includes various acts, consisting of tricks by dogs, mules, monkeys, etc.

## Farm Commodity Prices Soaring

Housewives of North Carolina are now paying from 6 to 143 per cent more for seasonal meats, fruits and vegetables and seafoods compared with prices prior to the outbreak of hostilities in September, 1939. A. B. Harless, marketing specialist of the State Department of Agriculture, reported today.

Enlarged consumer purchasing power, low production yields as a result of the drought, plus Government financial support of certain commodities are the principal stimulating factors behind price increase of most farm products," Harless said. "While it has not been determined what share of the abnormal increase paid for farm products is going to the grower, it is a known fact that farmers in general are receiving financial benefits from sales of most livestock and perishable products."

Harless explained that "while June prices are not exactly representative of market conditions for farm commodities compared with early September 1939 prices, showing representative percentage increases," were reported by Harless as follows:

Fish: (Retail) — Pogries, 12 1/2; speckled trout, 43; croakers, 6; Spanish mackerel, 38.

Hogs: (Prices to farmer)—Rocky Mount, 39; Richmond, 38; Baltimore, 37; Chicago, 40.

Butter: 92 score, 42.

Cattle: (Prices to farmer)—Choice steers, 21; cows, all weights, 20; vealers, all weights, 6; bulls, all

weights, 26.  
Spring Lamb: (Prices to farmer)—Good and choice, 25.  
Fruits and Vegetables: (Retail)—Apples, 18; beans, 15; sweet potatoes, 12; peppers, 106; spinach, 30; tomatoes, 143; corn, per dozen, 51.  
Old Pork: (Retail)—Bacon slabs, 12; backs, 14; bellies, 22.

## HONOREE AT LINEN SHOWER

Mrs. Winfield Bonaport, who before her recent marriage was Miss Callie Stallings, was complimented at a linen shower at the home of her mother, Mrs. C. B. Stallings, near Hertford on May 29th. After numerous games, the guests were served sandwiches, iced tea, pickles and cake. Those present and sending gifts

were Mesdames J. F. Winslow, J. N. Winslow, C. L. Copeland, D. L. Rogerson, Jarvis Forehand, Eddie Boyce, Hugh Copeland, Dukie Speight, J. T. Lane, B. W. Thatch, Jim Bass, Sr., Jim Bass, Jr., E. L. Reed, J. T. Brinn, Mark Gregory, Jones Perry, Wayland Howell, Jack Hunter, C. F. Reed, Carson Howell, L. White, J. T. Benton, Tom Perry, Edd Everett, Tom Nixon, Percy Rogerson, Thurston Stallings, Misses Joe Hunter, Mary Frances Dail, Margie and Lucy Forehand, Mrs. Willie Reynolds, and Melvin Forehand.

## SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE HAS MEETING

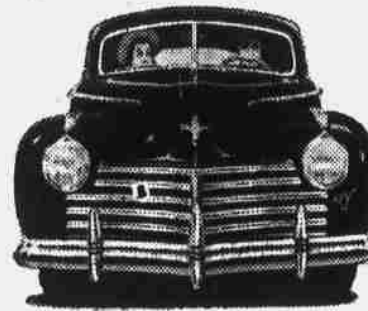
The Woman's Society of Christian Service of Woodland Church met on Thursday afternoon at the home of

Mrs. Carson Jordan. "Work for the Night is Coming" was used as the opening hymn, after which Mrs. Eddie Harrell offered prayer. A short business session was held, after which Mrs. Mary Keaton had charge of the devotional, using as her topic, "Stewards of the Temple of God." Mrs. Eddie Harrell and Mrs. Ralph Harrell told of the harmful effects of narcotics and alcohol. The Spiritual Life program was given by Mrs. Eddie Harrell, the topic of which was "Thy Faith Has Made Us Holy." "A Charge To Keep" was used as the closing hymn and Mrs. Ernest Cartwright offered the closing prayer. The hostess served lemonade with fruit cake and pound cake. Twelve members and one visitor were present.



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