

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

Battle In Washington. Insults Fighting Men. Seeking Selfish Favors.

High Army officials make no secret of heavy casualties that will result from American participation in the present war. In fact, they expect casualties to number 100,000 a month a bit later. Exery extra month that the war continues means that many additional casualties.

We call attention to this Army expectation in order to emphasize the serious situation in Washington, where congressional and civilian interference with military and naval leaders promises to prolong the war by many months.

Many Congressmen are more interested in promoting private schemes to develop political strength than in perfecting our war effort. In addition, there are selfish interests seeking profits at the expense of American lives.

While every American proclaims his ardent desire to get on with the war and terminate the struggle as quickly as possible in order to save American lives, many of these verbal professions are belied by positive action tending to hamstring responsible officials who are carrying out the war program.

If the United States, by a superhuman effort, both on part of the armed forces and civilians at home, exerts maximum pressure upon the enemy during 1943, it is conceivable that the Axis in Europe can be defeated.

If, due to bickering at home, this maximum effort is delayed, the war will be prolonged and with its prolongation, the casualty list will grow longer.

The patriotic American, now safe on the home front, must realize that the conduct of the war is a matter in the realm of trained military and naval leaders.

If the nation has them, and we think it has, everything is good, but, if the nation has not developed competent leaders in its fighting services, the situation is not improved by putting ignorant and untainted civilians in charge of the war effort.

There is a growing struggle between certain congressional members and the President of the United States. This fight embraces a war upon our military leaders.

An apparent drive is on in Congress to coerce the Army and Navy into accepting congressional opinion, to wage a personal fight upon the Chief Executive, despite the war, and to pass legislation which military men assert will be extremely injurious to the war effort.

The Congressmen have their argument. It is mostly political. They seek to exempt men from military service, to determine the size of the Army, to favor labor and farmers as a class and to protect business in exorbitant profits.

These schemes are bad enough in time of peace when they do nothing but rob the national treasury. They are potential treason in times of war when they inevitably mean the sacrifice of additional American soldiers and sailors through the prolongation of the war.

The civilian who expects business-as-usual in the midst of a severe and rigorous war is not an intelligent patriot. This applies to the efforts of business to secure profits in the manufacture of munitions, to the efforts of labor leaders to secure special favors for agriculture as a class. Each phase of this selfish conflict seriously affects the fighting power of this country.

It is not our purpose in this article to go into elaborate details as to the issues involved and alleged to be involved. We want every American to decide that it is necessary for loyal citizens to put the prosecution of the war first and to leave until after the war the settlement of domestic ques-

tions. This is not the time to push internal reforms. Neither is it the occasion to sabotage reforms that have been legally enacted. These fights are for peaceful years.

Every American, whether in Congress, in an official position, or at home, should subordinate this kind of warfare for the only kind that counts, the war upon the Axis.

The battle going on in Washington has nothing to do with winning the war. It involves petty fights between high officials and agencies of the Government. It includes the sudden display of independence by Congress as it wars upon the President. It embraces the selfish drive to secure profits from the war situation which leads to clashes with those who want to get on with the war.

None of these disputes contributes to the support of our fighting men. They do not recognize the imperative needs of executive authority in times of war. Many of them involve appeals to public opinion, which are certain to disrupt civilian morale and mislead many Americans.

The bickering is intense and one capable Washington observer says that there is more thought, more feeling and more effort on the part of those involved than they give to the shooting war against Germany and Japan.

The prospect of ending our war against the Axis ought to be inviting to Americans whose sons, husbands and fathers are risking their lives. It should be our only concern at this time. We should not permit selfish leaders, whether they represent labor, business, agriculture or political parties, to impede the application of our full strength against our foes.

The longer the war lasts, the more Americans will die. Unless the people of the nation give emphatic repudiation to tactics now underway, the war will stretch out many months.

The extra cost will be American lives and it is just probable that those who sit supinely will suffer in sorrow.

Congress Studies Taxes. Rum Plan Fools Some. 1943 Payments At Hand.

Congress is making slow progress in the matter of taxation, largely because of the interest aroused by various plans to put the nation's taxpayers on a current, or pay-as-you-go basis.

As every reader understands, taxpayers will make income tax payments in 1943 on their 1942 incomes. Under the Rum Plan which has been widely publicized, the taxpayer would make his payments in 1943 but they would be regarded as payments upon his 1943 income.

The objection has been raised to the Rum plan that it cancels a year's taxes and the advocates of the plan counter by the assertion that it does not forgive a year's taxes, but merely substitutes one year for another as tax base for collection in 1943.

In addition, the advocates of the Rum Plan have explained that the national income flows like a river and that taxes collected represent buckets of water drawn from an ever-flowing stream. Consequently, they assert, lowering the buckets at one place in the stream will be as effective as at any other.

Opposing this idea, those who doubt the wisdom of the Rum Plan point out that the national income is like a constantly flowing river, but that, like a river, the national income is subject to wide variations in the volume of flow.

It makes considerable difference, they assert, whether the buckets are drawn from the river while it is full or from the same river when dried by drought.

The application of this illustration to the Rum Plan is clear. To relieve taxpayers of all income taxes due on 1942 income would be to waive

TOWN AND FARM IN WARTIME

Ration Calendar

GASOLINE—A Book Coupon No. 4 expires March 21.

SUGAR—Coupon No. 11—3 lbs., expires March 15.

COFFEE—Stamp No. 24—1 lb., expires March 21.

TIRES—Class A. First inspection deadline March 31.

FUEL OIL—Period 4 coupons expire April 6.

Gas To Drive To Work

Car owners who drive to work and do not get enough mileage from their "B" ration book may now get additional allowances—if they show they cannot get to their jobs any other way.

Applications must be made to local rationing boards and must fulfill the following conditions in addition to needing more gas:

1. That driving is between home and a fixed place of work, in connection with their principal occupation.
2. That either a ride-sharing arrangement has been made or that the vehicle carries a full load.
3. That alternative transportation is inadequate.

Sugar Stamp Worth 5 Pounds

Sugar Ration Stamp No. 12, which becomes valid March 16, is worth five pounds, but it must last through the end of May, a period of 11 weeks. Stamp 11, good for three pounds, is valid from February 1 to March 15.

Wheat Quotas Suspended

Wheat marketing quotas have been suspended by agriculture secretary Wickard in a move to insure adequate food and feed supplies. This action lifts marketing quotas and releases at once for food or market any wheat which has been stored. Wheat farmers who meet 90 per cent of their farm war crop goals in 1943 will be eligible for AAA wheat payments and wheat loans even though they exceed their wheat allotments. About 650,000 victory farm volunteers will be recruited from non-farm youth for farm work during the Spring and Summer months.

Rice, Bicycles

Rice is not rationed, the OPA has reassured consumers. Another announcement by OPA stated that prices for used bicycles will be substantially reduced in the near future.

More Rubber For Recapping

Owners of tires smaller than 7.50x 20 now may get their casings recapped with reclaimed rubber "camel-back" without applying to their rationing boards for certificates. This does not relax the need for continued observance of rubber conservation measures. The change was made to reduce the demand for replacement tires by encouraging recapping, which takes less than half as much reclaimed rubber as a new war tire.

V-Mail Safer

More than fifty thousand individual V-mail letters from American soldiers in the collection of taxes in a year when the river is overflowing its banks.

Moreover, if we consider the circumstances of various individuals and corporations, there is a tremendous difference between substituting 1943 for 1942 as the tax base.

If we take an individual citizen, whose income amounted to \$2,400 in 1942 and assume that it will amount to \$2,400 in 1943, there will be no difference in the taxes that this individual pays, regardless of the plan adopted by Congress. The Rum Plan will not reduce by a penny the income taxes that this \$2,400-a-year man will have to pay in 1943.

If we take an individual who had an income of \$4,500 in 1942 and assume that his income in 1943 will drop to \$2,400, the Rum Plan, by substituting 1943 as the base for collections, will relieve him of the taxes that would otherwise be paid upon the \$2,100 that represent excess of 1942 income over 1943 income.

Applying the same reasoning to corporations, we discover that those companies whose income in 1942 were higher than their assumed income in 1943 will be benefitted by the Rum Plan. Corporations whose incomes, in two years, are equal will not know the difference. However, corporations whose income in 1943 proves to be higher than in 1942 will have to pay more.

The Rum Plan means that a corporation with a \$15,000 net income in 1942 and a \$5,000 income in 1943 will pay taxes this year on the basis of the \$5,000 income. However, a corporation with a \$5,000 income in 1942 and a \$15,000 income in 1943, will pay taxes on the \$15,000 income.

The reason why many corporations and individuals are vociferous in urging the adoption of the Rum Plan is the fact that 1943 was something of a lush year for many individuals and corporations. Naturally, if they can persuade the Government to pass over the collection of taxes, they will be ahead of the game.

The argument has been made that the passage of the Rum Plan will prevent a situation that occurs, very often, upon the death of an individual. His estate is compelled to pay taxes on the income that he enjoyed the year before his death and this, sometime, is a hardship.

However, if the objective of the Rum Plan is to relieve this hardship, the result could be obtained by an amendment to present income tax laws, ameliorating the condition complained of in event of death.

diers in England to relatives and friends in the U. S. were destroyed when a Canada-bound RAF plane crashed in Newfoundland. The original letters were reproduced at the Army Postal Service's V-Mail Station in England and dispatched by a later plane for the U. S. This incident shows the value of V-Mail over ordinary letters.

Farmers Get Gas For Six Months

Farmers may obtain gasoline for their tractors, engines and other non-highway equipment for a period of six months instead of three months, under a change in rationing regulations announced by OPA.

The change is being made because of the variability of farming operations which frequently make it difficult for farmers to estimate their requirements for only a three-month period. It will also save the farmers time.

Size Of Armed Forces

President Roosevelt said the goal of 7,500,000 men in the U. S. Army by the end of 1943 was decided on last August, has never been changed, and will not be changed. The goal for 1944, he said, will probably be decided this fall. This year's army goal also calls for 700,000 officers, which would make a total of 8,200,000 men in the army. Adding the goals set for the other armed services, the grand total of all our armed forces by the end of 1943 would be almost 11,000,000.

Outlaw "Combination Sales"

Sales of used wheel tractors, combines, corn pickers, corn binders or power-operated hay balers in combination with other used farm equipment or commodities have been prohibited by the OPA. Numerous complaints have been received that the combination sales device is being employed to force farmers to pay exorbitant prices for such items. The scheme used is to sell an uncontrolled machine of little value jointly with a controlled item at a price which greatly exceeds the ceiling for the machine which is under price control.

Soybean Seed Available

Processors of soybeans and the commodity credit corporation are cooperating to make additional supplies of soybean seed available for planting the 1943 crop. Supplemental supplies will be available to farmers from government stocks at not more than \$2.50 per bushel. These stocks are stored in bins and country warehouses in areas where there was no frost damage last fall.

Changes In Tire Quotas

The National quota of grade 1 passenger car tires for March has been practically doubled. The increase will take care of accumulated applications, but will not be continued in succeeding months. The quota of truck tires for March was reduced as compared with February but the truck tire recapping quota was in-

Small Business Gets Contracts

Taking of its first prime contract for 10 million dollars and the negotiations of 36 loans totalling \$2,568,770 were reported to congress recently by the smaller war plants corporations. In addition, the smaller war plants division recommended to the procurement agencies 1,191 firms who received business in the amount of \$195,000,000 during the last 60 days.

Wheat and Corn Loans

The commodity credit corporation through February 13 had completed 532,716 loans on 404,415,794 bushels

of 1942 wheat amounting to \$467,235,969.57. The average amount advanced was \$1.13 per bushel. In that same period 39,068 loans were made on 46,176,893 bushels of 1942 corn in the amount of \$35,693,053.02. The average amount advanced was 77 cents per bushel.

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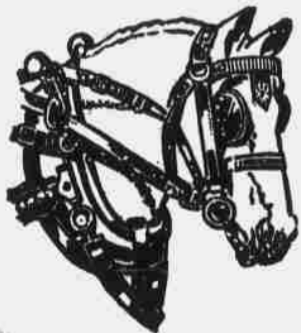
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