

## LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

### Spain's Peace Offer Absurd. Only Surrender Satisfactory.

The Spanish Government, through its Foreign Minister, announces a readiness to offer its good services in the interest of a speedy and just peace and to collaborate in the negotiation of treaties that would lessen the danger of future wars.

Inasmuch as the United States has outlined its objective as the unconditional surrender of the Axis there is not much reason to discuss the proposal from Spain, except for its implication of where Spain stands.

The present Spanish government is pro-Axis and not much better than those of Germany and Italy, which Dictator Franco admires. He enjoys his present supremacy largely through the help of the Axis nations and may be counted upon to do what he can for their benefit.

The Spanish argument is that Communism is a constant danger to all countries, belligerent and neutral alike and that no barriers exist for the revolutionary communistic idea. This is water over the dam, so far as the people of this country are concerned.

Incidentally, the Spanish Foreign Minister might have pointed out that one of the great barriers to the spread of Hitlerism is the Red army and that only the armed forces of the Allied nations offer any hope of a free world.

The suggestion of peace, however, serves Hitler's propaganda purposes if it makes a dent in the determination of all free peoples to insist upon a war to the finish and one which, while it may not end all wars, will safeguard the world from another German-Italian assault for many years.

Japs Develop Kiska Base. Planes and Ships Interfere.

Increasing aerial activity in the Northern Pacific indicates that our high command is paying attention to Japanese installations on Kiska where a runway for fighter planes has been underway since December 31. The Japanese are persistently attempting to develop bases on Kiska and Attu islands. Official announcements indicate that hangars have been constructed, supplies, materials and living quarters are underground and that huts have been built in a valley for construction workers.

It is pointed out that the Japanese have constructed revetments, presumably earth embankments, for protecting planes which may be stationed at Kiska. A fully equipped airfield would be of doubtful value as a base for bombing attacks against our major industrial arsenals, but might be used to attack bases in Alaska and raid American shipping in Alaskan waters. It would also interfere with any effort to launch an American offensive to the westward.

While some Americans are unduly concerned over the progress that the Japanese have made, it may be assumed that our high command understands what is going on. At the proper time, no doubt, effective action will be taken to prevent the Japanese from making important uses of their island holdings and, if necessary, the islands will be recaptured by attacks.

On several occasions, the Japanese have attempted to land reinforcements on the islands, using transports on June 4, 1942, and making an effort to push three cargo ships through as late as March 25th. On both occasions, the effort failed and, so far, the Japanese have lost fifteen surface ships to Navy guns, torpedoes and Army bombers.

Huge Fortune at Stake. What About War Plants?

Must We Give Them Away? The government of the United States has invested ten and fifteen billion dollars in the construction of expanded production facilities, necessitated by the war emergency.

Already the question arises as to what will happen to this large investment when peace arrives. Business men worry about possible competition and suggest that to keep government "out of business" the investment should be liquidated as soon as possible.

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The history of the past, especially in regards to the shipping fleet constructed in the last war, should warn the people of the nation. After the first World War, ships and shipping lines were practically given away by the government in its effort to get out of business.

When it became apparent that the United States would have to undertake the creation of an armaments industry on a large scale, after the fall of France, much time was lost in an effort to arrange satisfactory terms with manufacturers in regards to the eventual disposition of the industrial plants to be constructed.

Now, with the government owning hundreds of giant plants it would be foolish to throw them on the market when peace arrives. For most of them there would be few bidders and they would go, at auction, for a song. The government would take the loss which the people would pay, and some business interests would make a fortune.

The extent of the government's investment is startling. Through the Defense Plant Corporation it has financed construction or expansion of 1,500 factories, shipyards, airplane and aluminum plants and other war facilities and, for the most part, leased them to private industry for the duration.

Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce, points out that the Federal investment in aircraft and aircraft accessory plants alone include 395 factories, with a combined area equivalent to 700 city blocks.

In ship construction and in port facilities the nation has expended billions. There is no telling how many cargo vessels the nation will own when peace arrives and the same thing is true about aircraft and facilities for their use.

Naturally, there will arise a tremendous demand, stimulated by interested business men, that the government "get out of business" by selling its holdings at once. The old cry about competition with private industry will be worked overtime and the nation, which has put up the money for the new construction, will be asked to sell out at any price offered.

At the end of the last war the nation abandoned its shipping and shipbuilding industry. Ships were sold at bargain prices to operators who were immediately given subsidy contracts that guaranteed the new owners a handsome profit. This may be a good thing for private shipping interests but it does not make sense for the government.

Of course, the government will naturally retain some of its war plants in reserve for a future emergency; it may hold others as stand-by plants to permit greatly expanded production when necessary. However, there is no reason whatever for the nation to give away its huge investment by speedy sale to private interests.

We have no preference for government industry and would prefer for private enterprise to operate all business. However, whenever the government puts up the money, in the form of subsidies, we think the government should become a partner with private capital to the extent of its investment. This is the only course that is in the interest of the people, and we hope that it will be in the national policy when peace arrives.

CONFERENCE AT WOODLAND CHURCH

The second quarterly conference of the Perquimans Charge will be held at Woodland Methodist Church on Saturday, May 1.

The Rev. W. L. Clegg, district superintendent of the Elizabeth City District, will bring the morning address at 11 o'clock. After lunch, the business session will be held.

"Can you write shorthand?" "Yes, sir, but it takes me longer."

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## New Support Prices For Peanuts Listed

New support prices will average \$140 per ton for Virginia and Spanish type peanuts as the result of a move by War Foods Administrator Chester C. Davis to obtain increased production of five urgently needed war crops. E. M. Johnson, acting manager of the Growers Peanut Cooperative, Inc., agency which handles the government peanut program in the Carolinas, Virginia and Tennessee, said the price is \$8 a ton above the price announced February 10 by Secretary of Agriculture Wickard.

The sharply higher loan and purchase rates will bring \$130 a ton to growers of runner type peanuts instead of the \$122 announced by Wickard. The support price for yellow soybeans will be \$1.80 a bushel. Premiums and discounts will be made as previously announced so as to give an advance of ten cents a bushel for other classes and qualities of soybeans. Farmers who store their soybeans on the farm under CCC loans will receive, in addition, a storage payment of seven cents a bushel.

The higher prices—in some cases above present Office of Price Administration ceilings—will replace a \$100,000,000 incentive payment announced by Wickard.

Mr. Johnson said he understands prices to farmers for peanuts of like type and grade will be uniform in all areas.

The three other "war crops" for which higher rates have been announced by Davis are dry beans, dry peas and flaxseed.

## Farmers Must Obtain Points For Sales

A farmer who sells butter, lard, or any other food that is rationed under the meats and fats program to a retailer now must collect ration points for the sale, just as he has been collecting points for sales to consumers since March 29, the State Office of Price Administration has announced.

All farm sales, whether to consumers or to retailers, must be made at current point values, eight points per pound for butter sold in bulk units of five pounds or less, and five points per pound for lard sold in the same small quantities. Trade point values are 7.9 for butter and 4.9 for lard and apply when the farmer makes sales in larger quantities. Farmer sales to wholesalers are on the same basis as to retailers.

Consumers as well as retailers who buy from farmers surrender stamps just as they do when buying from any other source. Consumers buy with currently valid red ration stamps, and retailers either with ration stamps or with checks, depending on the currency they use for other purchases.

Stamps or other ration currency that farmers collect for their sales of butter, lard, cheese, and other rationed foods must be turned in to local boards once each month or report period in which a sale is made, along with a report made on OPA Form R-1609.

## Blackleg Cattle Disease Now More Prevalent

The blackleg disease, which affects cattle, sheep and goats, is becoming more prevalent, says Dr. C. D. Grinnells, Experiment Station Veterinarian at N. C. State College.

He reports that cases have occurred frequently in the mountain counties of North Carolina and that the disease may be expected to be brought in from other states, due to the added traffic in livestock now taking place. The trouble is widespread in livestock areas, especially in the "range country" and in the Mississippi Valley.

According to Grinnells, the disease is caused by a spore-forming germ or bacteria. The spore lives in the soil and, once a pasture area is infected, the disease is liable to reappear yearly in susceptible animals, unless they are vaccinated. The losses are largely in cattle.

The disease attacks cattle from four months to two years of age, Grinnells says, and the first noticeable symptom is lameness. This is generally followed by a swelling, with a high temperature and marked depression, usually resulting in death within a few days.

Although treatment for this disease is not highly successful, veterinarians have saved some animals by using large amounts of blackleg serum. Where the disease is known to exist, the animals should be vaccinated in late winter or the early spring months. Experience shows that an occasional death follows vaccination.

Although blackleg is not yet a serious threat to the livestock industry of North Carolina, outbreaks should be guarded against, cautioned Dr. Grinnells.

**SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY**  
Mrs. Godfrey Chappell and Mrs. Carson Chappell of Hobbesville, entertained at a surprise birthday party at their home on Tuesday evening in honor of Mrs. Curtis Chappell, who celebrated her 80th birthday. The

home was decorated with dogwood blossoms and yellow jasmine.

Games and contests were enjoyed by all, with Mrs. A. D. Ward, Miss Sybil Rogerson and Miss Catherine White receiving prizes, which they graciously presented to the honoree. The honoree was the recipient of many lovely and useful gifts.

The guests were invited into the dining room where the table was centered with a large birthday cake, topped with lighted pink candles, surrounded by mountain plox. Easter decorations were used, with the hostesses serving ice cream, cakes and

jelly beans.

Those present and remembering the honoree with gifts were: Mesdames L. C. Briggs, Albert Hobbs, I. D. Spivey, Bryant White, Archie Baccus, Freeland Copeland, F. E. Smith, Basil Copeland, O. M. Blanchard, W. T. Smith, Junius White, F. I. White, Jackie Spivey, A. D. Ward, Elbert Riddick, Roy Byrum, C. T. Rogerson, C. T. Rogerson, Jr., Lonnie Spivey, L. W. Hobbs, T. H. Riddick, C. M. Riddick, E. S. White, L. L. Chappell, Nurney Chappell, G. W. Chappell, David Boyce, Eliza Spivey, J. C. Stallings, Dessie Chappell, and

A. H. Copeland, and Misses Lorinda Ward, Catherine White, Irene Copeland, Dorrie Mae Chappell, Anna Rea Chappell, Mozelle Stallings, Sybil Rogerson, Juanita Spivey and Florence Ward.

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