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LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

Bowles Tells Senators Price Control Works; Subsidies Are Needed

Chester Bowles, head of the Office of Price Administration, recently told the Senate Banking and Currency Committee that if the powers given his agency are continued "inflation during the war will be prevented and the nation will come out of the war with a sound and balanced price structure."

Mr. Bowles asked the Senators to continue the Price Control and Stabilization Acts, which expire on June 30th unless renewed by Congress. He said that despite "criticism, some of it justified," the OPA has done one of the best jobs done in this war.

Mr. Bowles presented his arguments in 106 charts, which so impressed some Senators that they made a formal request to have the charts and illustrated matter reproduced for their use in appearance before groups of consumers.

Cost of Living Stands Still
 "For the past eleven months," declared Mr. Bowles, "the cost of living, for the first time since it began to rise, late in 1940, has been held to a net increase of exactly nothing."

While not attributing this result entirely to the use of subsidies, Mr. Bowles reminded the Committee that "in spite of firm price control after the Spring of 1942, and even firmer price and wage control following the passage of the Stabilization Act, the cost of living continued to climb month by month."

Mr. Bowles freely admitted mistakes and errors in the early days of the OPA but maintained that every segment of the population, including farmers, large and small industrial, distribution and service establishments, labor and land-lords, had fared well economically in the last two years and that much of their gains would have been impossible without OPA.

Facts and Figures Given
 Because of the great importance of correct legislative action in connection with price control and subsidy payments it is necessary that the peoples of this country understand the argument made in support of these measures. Consequently we give below, in some detail, the facts presented by Mr. Bowles before the Senate Committee.

"OPA," Mr. Bowles stated, "now controlled upward of 8,000,000 prices with regulations reaching into 3,000,000 business establishments, controlled rents in 14,000,000 dwelling units occupied by 45,000,000 persons and rationed food to 30,000,000 households representing 132,000,000 men, women and children."

Billions Saved in War Costs
 By holding prices in line, the actual cost of the war to date has been \$136,000,000,000, a figure which would be \$65,000,000,000 higher without the curbs OOPA has placed on prices.

"The cost of living comparison tells the same story," he continued. "After fifty-three months of World War I, the cost of living was up to per cent. In January of this year,

of nations. No one but Nazi propagandists will accuse the Allies of wantonly wiping out Cassino. For weeks the Fifth Army has tried other means to break the bottleneck around this town that the Germans had turned into a fortress. Sometimes commanders plug stolidly ahead, seeking to make force do the work of imagination but the Anzio beachhead displayed a willingness to go around. We cannot believe that even the British and Americans soldiers who have practiced to make their weapons as destructive as possible can relish the disintegration of a town. They regard Cassino—and whatever successors it may have—as bitter necessities.

We can all pray that this kind of destruction will not have to be visited on towns and cities all across Europe. But we may well recognize that the destruction of civilization's material structures is less evil than the destruction of moral and mental values which this war is being fought to stop. And we may well resolve to so order and maintain the peace that such things as Cassino will not again be necessary.—Christian Science Monitor.

Farm Land Boom Dangerous
 Agricultural economists are worried over the incipient boom in farm land values, estimating that there has been a twenty-five per cent. increase in the last two years.

While the rise has not been fantastic, those who remember the disaster that followed the boom in land prices, after the last war, have no inclination to go through the same experience again.

Senator Gillette, of Iowa, has proposed a tax on the re-sale of farm land amounting to ninety per cent. within two years, diminishing on subsequent sales in later years.

No one seems to be interested, however, but it might be a good idea for farmers to get behind the proposal.

fifty-three months after August, 1939, the cost of living had risen only 26 per cent., less than half the rise in the last war. Food has increased 56 per cent. as against 83, clothing by 34 as against 112, and house furnishings by 27 per cent., as compared with a rise of 99 per cent. last time."

Production and Profits Increase
 OPA controls, he held, had not discouraged production. The volume of industrial production had more than doubled since 1939 and prices have risen by less than 25 per cent., whereas in World War I, industrial production rose by only 25 per cent and prices doubled. Farm production in 1943 was 21 per cent. greater than in 1939. In the comparable period of World War I, farm production rose only 5 per cent.

Earnings of corporations, after taxes were deducted, were the highest last year ever attained by American business. Net income of farmers was at new high levels. \$4,000,000,000 above the previous high year of 1919. Small business, gauged by bank deposits, decline in failures and other methods was enjoying record returns. Rent controls had not worked hardships on landlords as a whole, with a net operating income before interest and depreciation, 27 per cent above 1939 levels for apartment houses and 45 per cent for small structures.

Labor now had a weekly "take home" wage averaging \$43.16, as compared with \$23.86 in 1939 and \$26.95 in 1929.

Lady Outlines Strategy And Questions Invasion
 Miss Jessie Sumner, representative from Illinois, makes her bid for supreme strategist by expressing great concern over the course of the war in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres.

Like a good Congress-woman, Miss Sumner has no evil, without offering the correction. She would have the President issue an ultimatum requiring the restoration of sovereign rights and self-government to those forcibly deprived of them.

Further, the President should postpone the invasion of Western Europe until adequate assurances and guarantees are given of its success and until "qualified American military authorities" agree that our forces are adequately prepared and that the invasion is really necessary to the security of the United States.

This directive, enunciated by Representative Sumner, plainly demonstrates her incompetence to sit in Congress and her inability to understand matters that relate to war and, in our opinion, creates grave suspicion as to her competence upon matters in times of peace.

However, the good lady has some other ideas. She would combine all land, sea and air forces, now being employed in the war against Japan under a single, uniform command, with General Douglas MacArthur as Commander-in-Chief. Moreover, the Government should turn over to General MacArthur "such forces and equipment as he shall request, including amphibious equipment."

Miss Sumner, who was elected to Congress in 1938, deprecates the coming Western front invasion, asserting that "privately, many of our keenest American military experts call this invasion costly and stupid."

Material Losses Heavy
 Interesting revelations as to material losses in the campaign in Sicily have been revealed by Col. Warren Clear, of the War Department General Staff, who warns us that losses in Italy have been much heavier.

In the "comparatively light" Sicilian operation, which lasted thirty-nine days, we lost between 13 and 54 per cent. of the guns and gun carriages that were landed. This illustrates the high cost of war in material and gives a warning to those who believe that reconversion is just around the corner.

Col. Clear points out that in a year, or less, eighty-four out of every one hundred .50-caliber machine guns have to be replaced and sixty out of every hundred Garand rifles.

Is Business To Blame For Poor Tax Laws?
 Edward E. Chase, President of the New England Council, thinks that our present tax system has "put a premium on trickery" whereby business concerns, without changing business or ability to pay taxes, have greatly reduced tax liabilities by legitimate devices or recapitalization or transfer of ownership.

Mr. Chase, as we gather his meaning from a brief newspaper report, is not complaining about the amount of taxes nor advocating a specific program of reform. He tells of one company which made a lot of money on munitions and in order to keep it, rather than pay taxes, went into the development of oil leases by drilling on shares. The losses would be offset by reduced taxes, while profits could be avoided by capping wells and leaving the oil in the ground.

His general statement was supported by Clinton Davidson, economist, who asserted that business itself was "responsible for the complications and absurdities in the excess-profits tax."

Mr. Davidson said that a united business could have secured adoption of a Treasury recommendation of a plan to tax corporate income distributed in dividends at a lower rate

than the income accumulated, thus eliminating the excess profits tax completely. Business, as a rule, is against all taxes. It should recognize the ne-

cessity of taxation and devote its energies to assisting in the levy of taxes that will bring in the money. (Continued on Page Four)

WE SHALL REAP WHAT WE SOW: For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.—Gal. 6:8.

Aircraft Statistics

Charles E. Wilson, Executive Vice-Chairman of the WPB, says that in three years our aircraft industry has produced 153,061 planes, of which 105,126 were combat planes.

This is the first statement that we have seen which shows the number of training planes produced in this country. The total is 47,935.

Considering the fact that we have sent 28,000 planes to our allies, this leaves approximately 77,000 combat planes for use by American forces. To these, the aircraft industry is adding planes at the rate of 350 a day.

A Job For The Infantry

The role of airpower in the invasion of Western Europe is receiving careful consideration in military circles but the emphasis is now being placed on the need of highly trained infantry divisions to match battle-tested German units.

No one discounts the devastating effect of aerial bombings of German industries but it is realized that airpower alone cannot annihilate entrenched infantry and that, after the heaviest bombing, it is necessary for infantry soldiers to drive the enemy from entrenched positions.

Our recent experience at Cassino, where the bombardment included an estimated 3,500 tons of bombs and one of the war's heaviest artillery barrages, demonstrates that an alert enemy can hold the rubble and debris of a ruined city. This was previously discovered at Stalingrad.

There is some reason to believe that the heavy bombardment of Cassino was effective in clearing the area of enemy troops but the Germans were able to reoccupy advantageous positions before Allied infantrymen could reach them. If this is a fact, it would seem to mean that airpower can clear an area but ground troops must quickly advance to seize the position.

Military leaders intimate that, discounting the possibility of a German collapse, the question of infantry manpower is a serious one. More than a year ago, the Army had a goal of one hundred divisions, including a ground striking force of 3,118,000 men.

No one knows what striking force Army strategists desire at this time but the emphasis that is being placed upon infantrymen indicates a realization that the great task of the war is to meet and defeat the three hundred German divisions still in being.

This does not mean that the Germans have three hundred divisions available for service on the Western front. The bulk of the German Army is on the Eastern front, with considerable strength engaged in Italy and elsewhere.

German strategy in the East is plainly based on a plan to provide maximum opposition to the invasion in the West and nobody knows how many divisions the Germans will be able to disengage from the Russian front.

Cassino

Cassino is more than a military victory for the Allies. Its pulverized rubble will stand for some time as a symbol of destruction, as Lidice does for barbarism. Gen. Mark Clark points to it as an example of what is in store for every defenseless enemy set up on the route to Berlin.

Although some Germans somehow survived and continued to resist, Cassino's illustration of what earth-shattering fire power the Allies can command may be a warning which will help persuade the Germans of the futility of prolonging the war.

Cassino is also a warning to Hitler, a new and graphic view of the man-made catastrophe which comes in less concentrated form to the homes and towns of a score

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Where the PULPWOOD SHORTAGE hits the farmer

Over 1/4 of all pulpwood is used in packaging farm products

THE FARMERS of this country responded patriotically to the appeal for more pulpwood. They cut wood because their country needed it. Few of them stopped to think that their own business of food production was threatened by the pulpwood shortage.

Already there have been cases where packing plants were unable to accept perishables because they could not get packing materials; and the distribution of food may be seriously upset this year unless the pulpwood shortage can be overcome.

So the farmer who cuts pulpwood is not only helping his country meet a serious wartime shortage; he is also adding to his income, improving his draft deferment status, and helping to provide for the packaging and distribution of his own farm products. *Cut your pulpwood now!*

Paper Containers Needed to Package Many Farm Products, Such as—

-  Packaging Eggs 150,000 tons
-  Packaging Seeds 4,884 tons
-  Packaging Milk 159,981 tons
-  Packaging Meats 407,880 tons
-  Packaging Fruits and Vegetables... 161,178 tons

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