

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By HUGO S. SIMS, Washington Correspondent

Farewell Report Urges "Full Steam Ahead" And Calls For High Taxes

The quarterly report of former Mobilizer James F. Byrnes adds that "our economy is stretched to its limit" but adds that there is real apprehension for the future.

When Germany falls there will be gradual cut-back in war output, civilian goods increasing about third within a period of nine months. This is much lower than the reconversion demanded by optimistic business leaders last fall, but based upon the necessity of supplying a tremendous volume of equipment, supplies and munitions to fighting men in the Far East.

Mr. Byrnes insists upon "full steam ahead on war production" because defeat of Japan will be costly in lives and weapons. He thinks the collapse of Germany will reduce the Government's spending for war by one-third, free 20 per cent of resources used for war production in three months and permit civilian production to have about double metal now available for such things as nails, cars, railroad and equipment within nine months.

War Mobilizer reported that economic stabilization controls will be needed "to protect war production, to safeguard against rising living costs and to maintain the post-war market for goods and services." Because manpower has become the limiting factor in providing troops with equipment to insure victory with minimum loss of life, he says that manpower control should be continued and strengthened and qualified workers should be deferred from non-essential industries to essential jobs. He estimates the deficiency of labor for the program at 250,000 to 300,000 men.

The report intimated that there will be "some increase" in the basic ration when the war in Europe ends, but Mr. Byrnes makes it clear that reconversion machinery will not be set in motion until General Eisenhower says that Germany has surrendered unconditionally or organized resistance has ceased. While the former War Mobilization Director believes that many of the controls which have restricted existence during war will be lifted with victory in Europe, he insists that rationing, wage and price controls will be continued after the collapse of Germany and that the nation must retain the present high tax rates.

Turning his attention to the future of the country, when warfare ends, Mr. Byrnes says: "A nation which found the way to produce for while developing an unexcelled prosperity for its people at home can find a way to produce for the world to establish an even higher standard of living throughout the world."

Doing this, he says, there will be jobs for our returned soldiers and released war workers and the nation will gain the only benefit to be derived from war, "the realization as long as we work together, people, there is always a promise of a better future ahead."

The report calls attention to the \$100,000,000 of consumer savings which will create a tremendous demand for the products of American industry. Consequently, Mr. Byrnes will keep prices in check so living costs won't mount and establish a market for newly manufactured goods which will be fair both to producer and consumer.

To prevent inflation from coming back, he recommends that high tax rates be continued that corporation earnings be under control by maintaining excess profits taxes, along with the right to recapture and control.

Mr. Byrnes also insists that wages be held in check so they will not force the price-cost of living spiral.

Lend-Lease Munitions Saved American Lives

Shells, tanks, guns and other munitions constitute 58 per cent of all lend-lease goods sent to Allies, according to Leo T. Clayton, Foreign Economic Administrator.

Crowley points out that these munitions have been the equivalent of 14 per cent of our production and that the remainder, or 84 per cent, has been retained for use by our own armed forces.

The American people should never forget the fact that munitions sent to our fighting Allies enable them to continue the war against Germany. While it is inconceivable that either Great Britain or the United States would have given up, even without lend-lease assistance, it is certain that the munitions they received from this country enabled them to make a greater war effort.

The greater the effort of our fighting Allies in the struggle against our enemies, the fewer the American casualties in the march to victory. It could not be overlooked that the British or Russian soldier, fighting as the result of lend-lease munitions, means that an American soldier or sailor is not required to die in his place. This is the justification.

Nazis Plan Propaganda For Post-War Period

The State Department says that photographic copies of German documents reveal a well-arranged plan to perpetuate Nazi doctrines and domination after the war.

This unequivocal statement should be accepted by Americans and their attitude toward post-war developments should be governed by the realization that the Germans will probably attempt to set up a long-term program, designed to give them another chance to rule the world.

It would seem impossible for us to forget this fact, but the air will be filled with many voices and much propaganda when Germany is defeated. There will be many Americans more interested in creating ill feeling between the United States and our allies of the present struggle than in warning the people of this country against Nazi propaganda.

The State Department tells of German plans to rebuild economic, financial and military control through renewal of pre-war cartel agreements, to recover property seized by the Allies at the beginning of the war, to share in all technological developments and to maintain a propaganda program to soften up the Allies "through a subtle plea for fair treatment of Germans."

If the people of this country follow the example they set after the last world war, they will be persuaded that the Germans are being harshly treated, that stories and relations about German aims are but a continuation of war-time propaganda and that the news comes from Germany is untruthful.

The German strategy, after the war ends, will be based primarily upon an effort to divide the United States, Great Britain and Russia. Every Nazi trick will be attempted in the three countries. Consequently, in the United States we will hear much about the evil machinations of the British and Russians and, unfortunately, there will be people in this country to fall for the yarns.

It should be obvious to all Americans that the peace of the world depends upon the cooperation of the three great Allies. If the United States, Great Britain and Russia manage to work out a program that will enable them to cooperate and develop peacefully, there is little prospect of another world war at any

early date.

If the three powers fail to maintain the friendship, forged under the threat of German domination, there is no scheme available, or to be devised by the mind of man, that will prevent the outbreak of another titanic war.

Both Houses Investigate Domestic Meat Shortage

With both the House and the Senate conducting investigations into the food situation, it ought to be possible for an impartial inquiry to establish some facts.

There are a number of stories going around about the meat situation. Despite the shortage in meat shops, packers admit that 80,000,000 head of cattle are in the country, which is pretty near an all-time high. Packers say that they cannot buy and sell livestock at controlled prices "without losing money."

OPA officials bluntly deny that the packers are losing and assert that they made about seven times the return they made in pre-war years. Profits have increased in hogs, according to the OPA, while declining on beef cattle. Moreover, the OPA says it has expended about \$170,000,000 in subsidies to packers, with most of the money going to beef cattle packers.

Other facts, or assertions, include the statement that Canada has surplus meat, with much of it going to Great Britain but some left to share with the United States. It is said that Argentina has considerable quantities of canned meat, but it does not get into the United States.

While the packers charge that OPA price policies are forcing them to choose between "going black or going broke," James Brownlee, deputy price administrator, points to high profits by the packers, the number of cattle roaming the ranges and asks if packers are conniving with the "black market."

It is hard for people to know the truth in the midst of such conflicting assertions. Of course, it is realized that the owners of cattle are interested in higher prices and that packers are, quite naturally, interested in profits. The OPA is supposed to be interested in controlling prices and preventing inflation in the cost of living.

When conflicting statements are made by cattlemen, packers and OPA officials, the presumption of the average citizen will be that the OPA is correct. The burden of proof, so far as public opinion is concerned, is upon the cattle raisers and the packers to prove their case.

With two investigations now going on, they have their chance.

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S. T. Perry and John Q. Hurdle



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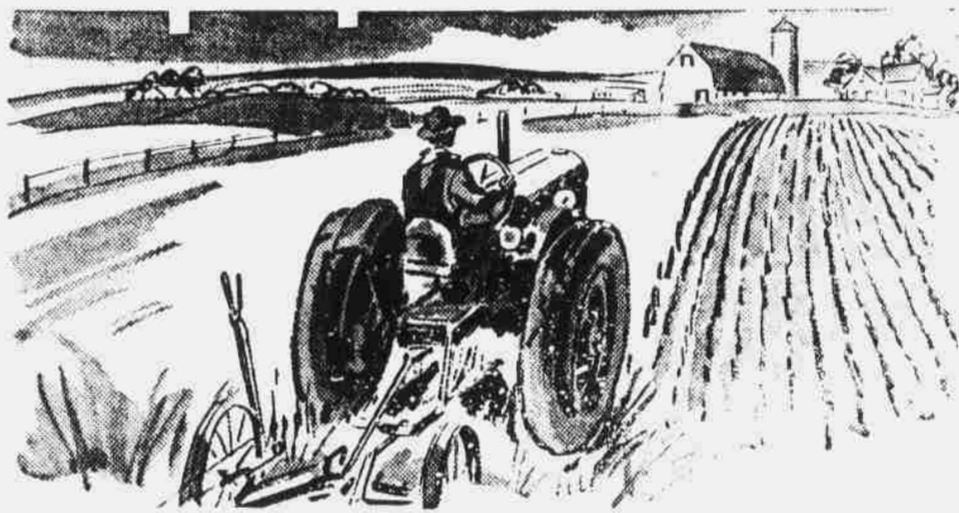
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