

Looking at WASHINGTON

War Profits of Ship-Builders Is Capitalism At Its Worst?

Never before "have so few men made so much money with so little risk", declares Ralph Casey, attorney for the General Accounting Office, before the House committee investigating the construction of the nation's huge merchant marine during the war.

This is a serious allegation which, if substantiated by the facts and figures, will cause concern to loyal service men and others interested in the welfare of the country. In support of the statement Mr. Casey asserted that 19 shipbuilding companies, now under investigation, made a profit estimated at \$366,006,612 on a capital investment of only \$22,979,275.

This is a sorry picture for private capitalism to present to the people of the United States. With the nation engaged in a desperate war of self-defense, with the existence of the capitalistic system at stake, the best contribution that these representatives of individual initiative could make to the defense of their country was to mulct the government of enormous profits.

The government of the United States, anxiously watching the loss of ships at sea and desperately struggling to avert defeat at the hands of the U-boats, put up facilities that cost \$424,250,694 for the use of these companies. Certainly, it would appear reasonable for the government, as a capital-providing partner, to share in the profit in proportion to its contribution. After allowing generous compensation to the individuals employed in the gigantic ship-construction program there would have been ample profits for distribution.

Here is a sample of the profits that companies are alleged to have received, in spite of the fact that the government put up most of the money necessary for the construction plants:

The Kaiser group, including seven corporations, used facilities that cost more than \$200,000,000, put up less than \$3,000,000 capital and took down fees and profits, according to the committee counsel, of more than \$190,000,000.

The Kaiser companies are not the only ones that seem to have made a fortune out of ship construction. Among other firms mentioned by the committee are the St. Johns River Shipbuilding Corp., Marinship, Todd-Houston Shipbuilding Corp., and Delta Shipbuilding company. The first company made \$2,080,000 on \$600 invested capital; the second, \$11,871,840 on \$500,000; the third, \$13,678,303 on \$689,200 and the fourth \$12,171,811 on \$750,000.

Here is what Mr. Casey says about the record submitted to the committee: The shipbuilders "were really only managers of government shipyards—and enviable managers at that, inasmuch as no skill or ability was required to make money when you consider the extent to which the Maritime Commission went not only to insure them against loss but to guarantee them huge profits." Someone "should come forward with a satisfactory explanation" adding that in many cases "it looks as though the only know-how covered by the fee

was knowing how to secure a contract from the Maritime Commission."

Bill To Regulate Lobbyists In Step In Right Direction
A lobbyist is not defined by the recent act of Congress requiring such persons to register, but it is fairly plain that a person who receives compensation for attempting to influence legislation is a lobbyist.

In a democratic country, such as the United States, lobbying for legislation is a popular pastime. Nearly every citizen, at one time or another, has attempted to persuade legislators to pass or repeal some legislation. Such persons, if they work without remuneration, are not lobbyists. They work in the open.

There are, it should be understood, paid lobbyists, who openly represent their employers. These individuals are expected to register and to file a quarterly accounting of money received. There are other lobbyists who keep their connections secret and attempt to influence legislation without revealing their selfish motives. These are somewhat dangerous because they tend to misrepresent public opinion upon which many legislators depend.

We thoroughly approve the intention of Congress in passing the lobbying act, which requires the good and bad lobbyists to come out from behind the fence and proclaim themselves. Thereafter, everybody will understand what they are doing, the sources of their money and the use they put the money to. This will be of some benefit in connection with legislative activities.

Army Now Asks Congress For Six Months Universal Training
The War Department announces that it will ask Congress to provide for six months' universal military training, with some mandatory, additional training required.

The current world situation ought to convince Americans that it is vital to the safety of the United States that our young men be trained for modern warfare. While no one can tell for sure, the chances are that the next war, if it occurs, will involve the United States almost immediately and that the defense of the interests of this country will depend largely upon the manpower already trained for battle.

The revised program of the War Department represents a reduction from the one year's training previously advocated but clings to the essential soundness of the idea that the nation should prepare itself for war in times of peace. This advice is somewhat ancient but its worth is emphasized by the well-nigh hopeless position of the United States when World War I and World War II began.

It would be a mistake for individuals to conclude that, because our young men receive military training, they will become militaristically inclined and advocates of an imperial policy of expansion. The only logical basis for this assertion, as we see it, is the assumption that our young men are morons or that those presenting it as a serious argument against military training have failed to think the matter through.

Despite the differences that have arisen between the victorious allies of the recent war, it is entirely too early to assume that war is inevitable. Nevertheless if the Western powers drift into a state of military impotency while Russia continues to stress the reorganization of the Red Army and the Russian people are told by officials that a war is inevitable, the very weakness of the peace-loving nations will invite the use of force against them.

We hope Congress will approve the amended program of the War Department but have no tears to shed over the fact that young men will be called to give six months of their lives to military training. While we are sincere admirers of the youth of the land, we are convinced that a period of training, which would include the physical improvement of the trainees, will constitute an asset to those who receive it.

Gen. Clark Cites Record Of Russians In Austria
General Mark Clark, American Commander in Austria, says that the United States must be prepared to render substantial economic assistance to Austria and calls attention to the failure of the Russians, who occupy the "bread basket" of Austria, to permit adequate supplies of food to go into the other zones of occupation.

The American commander also explains a difference of opinion on what should be considered a "German asset" in Austria. The definition is important because the Russians acquired certain rights over German assets in Austria and the Russians in seeking reparations are seizing property which, in the American definition, is not properly a "German asset."

German state in Austria, every seizure of property which, in fact, belongs to Austrian citizens, tends to weaken the economic condition of that country and increase its dependence upon outside assistance.

(One statement in connection with Austria, made by General Clark, is somewhat puzzling. He says that under Austrian law work is compulsory and that he has absorbed more than 200,000 displaced persons in his zone. However, in ordering such work to be performed, he could not, under direction from Washington, require Jews to do such labor.)

No Relief From State Meat Famine

Speaking at the first general meeting of the North Carolina Meat Processors and Dealers Association held in Raleigh recently, T. S. Johnson, State OPA director, said that "even if price controls were lifted from all meat, this action would have little or no effect on the local supply of meat available to the public."

Johnson declared that meat which would normally be in butchers' cases today was slaughtered and eaten during mid-summer when no price ceilings were in effect. He said further that he could see no immediate relief from the meat famine even if producers could sell the product at their own price.

The meeting, which was presided over by A. B. Brady of Chadbourn, president of the organization, attracted abattoir operators and meat dealers from throughout the State.

Lieut. Governor L. Y. Ballentine pointed to the need for improvement of slaughter facilities in this State, and he expressed the opinion that more attention should be given to native grown beef and pork.

"The livestock industry is 'fenced out' because of inadequate facilities for local handling," said Ballentine. Agriculture Commissioner W. Kerr Scott asserted that growth of the livestock industry in this State has been retarded because of an indifferent attitude toward the processing of meat.

Scott said that markets must be established if a stable livestock industry is to be built in North Carolina.

Other speakers at the meeting included Paul Kelly, of the State Department of Conservation and Development, who discussed the expansion of packing plants in relation to the State's economy, and Dr. Dan E. Brady of State College, who talked on the necessity of proper slaughter of meat and the relationship of freezer locker plants to the meat industry of this State.

The association passed a resolution saying it would give "every preference reasonable and practicable to supplying meat to the hospitals and school lunch programs."

The group also went on record as favoring the de-control of meat or a re-writing of the regulations "to permit us to stay in business and at the same time furnish North Carolina meat for the North Carolina table."

Governor's Day At State Fair
Governor R. Gregg Cherry will be 55 on October 17, and that date has been set aside as "Governor's Day" at the State Fair, which will be held October 15-19.

State employees for many years have been given a holiday during State Fair Week, but R. G. Deyton, personnel director, declared that it was "merely a co-incidence" that this date falls on the Governor's birthday.

No Labor Troubles On Grassland Farm
L. M. Loftin of Richfield in Rowan County is a "Grassland Farmer" and he has no labor troubles on his beef cattle farm of 160 acres.

There are no row crops on the farm. Loftin has 16 acres of small grain; 22 acres of lespedeza, and the remainder of the cleared land is in permanent pasture. This pasture is made up of orchard grass, redtop, Dallis grass, Ladino clover and lespedeza.

Dr. R. L. Lovvorn of State College, pasture research man, says that Loftin, by maintaining a surplus of pasture, is able to graze his herd of 41 purebred Herefords for the greater part of the winter. Only about one-half ton of lespedeza hay per animal unit is needed.

SURPRISE PARTY
The members of the Susanna-Wesley Bible Class gave a surprise party in honor of Mrs. C. P. Banks Wednesday.

Mrs. Banks meeting them at the door, began wondering and pondering just how to feed so many. After seeing their baskets filled with good things to eat, the burden was lifted. The dinner was spread on a long table with all the delicacies anyone could wish for, and Mrs. Banks was invited in.

In the afternoon Mrs. C. W. Griffin, teacher, conducted a Bible contest which was enjoyed by all. Monday, October 2.

Re-soiling Is Expensive
The customer in a New York City restaurant was remonstrating with

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24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood.

If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.

Burning, aching or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

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the waiter about the quality of steak served to him. "Why," claimed the man, "the price you charging for this sole leather is posterous."

"I know," replied the waiter in the aloof manner adopted by all the members of his profession, "but on show it would be more."

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Today (Thursday) and Friday, October 10-11—
Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo in "THE KID FROM BROOKLYN"

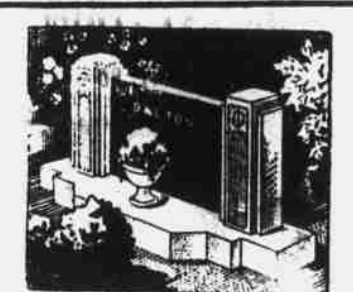
Saturday, October 12—
Roy Rogers and Gabby Hayes in "ROLL ON TEXAS MOON"

Sunday, October 13—
Lenore Aubert and John Loder in "THE WIFE OF MONTE CRISTO"

Monday and Tuesday, October 14-15—
Margaret O'Brien, Lewis Stone, Lionel Barrymore and Edward Arnold in "THREE WISE FOOLS"

Wednesday, October 16—
Double Feature
Richard Fraser in "WHITE PONGO"
Also
Robert Lowery in "THEY MADE ME A KILLER"

Coming October 17-18—
Perry Como and Harry James and Orchestra in "IF I'M LUCKY"



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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Bert Childers and the Melon Patch

Bert Childers put an ad in the Clarion the other day. Here's what it said:

"Planted more melons than I can eat this year. Stop by and pick as many as you want. All free."

As you can guess, plenty of folks went there and plenty of the parcels came too. Bert's melon patch is no more. And as they went away, Bert treated the kids to melons, and offered the grown-ups a glass of ice-cold sparkling beer.

Naturally it puzzled some folks... but Bert explains: "It gives me a kick to share things when I can afford to—whether it's the melons, or the beer, or beer. I guess I just like to indulge my whims."

From where I sit, if we had more "self-indulgent" people like Bert—who believe in share and share alike, live and let live, this third world would be a whole lot better off.

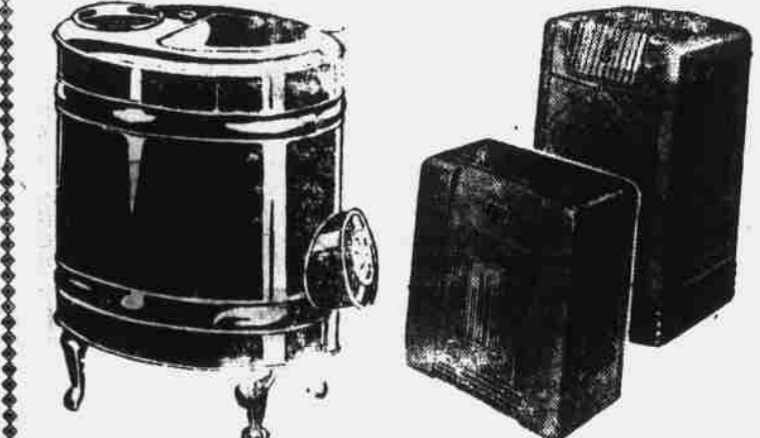
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