

Looking at WASHINGTON

New Sea-Level Canal Suggested By Experts

The construction of a sea-level canal is suggested by the conclusions of experts, who, after an investigation, report that it is practically certain that an enemy attack, using new and modern weapons, could damage the Panama Canal.

A sea-level canal includes some difficulties. The maximum tide on the Atlantic side is only two feet, but on the Pacific side, the water drops or rises sometimes as much as twenty feet. This would cause a current through the Canal unless regulating structures were constructed on the Pacific side. These could be damaged by enemy bombing, it is admitted, but the Canal would not be put out of business.

The experts report that the Panama Canal locks can be easily damaged by bombing and that the possibility exists that the retaining walls of Gatun, the artificial lake, could be breached. This would permit the waters to drain and more than a year would be required to accumulate sufficient water to make the Canal function.

German Production Vital To Recovery Of Europe

The problem of the victorious allies in connection with Germany is to re-

store German production without permitting the German war potential to menace the rest of the world.

General Lucius D. Clay, American Military Governor, points out that Germany is producing only forty-two per cent of its pre-war level, although the rest of Europe averages eighty-five per cent.

As long as German production is so low, the whole recovery program for Europe will lag. Consequently, the United States and Great Britain have joined their zones of occupation for economic cooperation. The hope is that Germany, at least that part occupied by the Anglo-American forces, will become self-supporting. This will, of course, save money for both of the English-speaking nations.

General Clay does not think that the German people, when they look around at their ruined cities, think much of their former military leaders. The problem in Germany at the present is to secure a better standard of living, but he points out that when this is accomplished, it will be necessary to watch out for the development of a strong nationalistic feeling.

Nation Headed For Crash Unless Congress Acts At Once

The nation is headed for an economic crash unless Congress does something to stop the spiral of in-

creasing prices, declares President Truman.

The President's warning came as stock and commodity markets experienced their sharpest slump since the spring of 1947. The occasion gave him an opportunity to repeat his request for legislation to control inflation and prevent such a catastrophe.

The President backed his warning on inflation with some Bureau of Labor statistics, which revealed that retail food prices had increased 2.1 per cent between mid-November and mid-December. This steady upward trend, which began last May, has been interrupted by only a slight fluctuation, and retail food prices are higher than ever.

The figures show that the index of food prices hit 206.9 on December 15th, 1947, which is a record high and means that prices are forty-two per cent higher than they were in June, 1946 and twelve per cent higher than they were at their highest peak after World War I, in June 1920.

With this background, Mr. Truman reiterated his conviction that Congress should do something to stop the increase in prices. Naturally, he stated his belief that the President should be given the powers requested last autumn. This request, it will be remembered, brought forth charges of playing politics from his adversaries. Nevertheless, if the Congress does not care to give the powers that he insists are necessary to avert a more dangerous inflation, then Congress must act on its own initiative and assume responsibility for what occurs.

Scarcity Of Food Is World's No. 1 Problem

The most complete survey yet made of the post-war world's economic problem comes from the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Its conclusion is that shortages of food are the world's number one economic problem.

The scarcity of food, according to the Council, is the principal cause of the inflation spiral. It reveals that 1947 production of key foods was seventy per cent below 1937, although the output of some was almost back to pre-war levels. Principal reasons are given for the shortage that continues in almost every country:

(a) World population has increased ten per cent since the outbreak of the war.

(b) Production in the United States almost alone accounts for the high agricultural and industrial output. European production was worse affected than any other region.

The Council points out that Europe still absorbs the bulk of the United States' export surplus and that this fact largely accounts for the intense dollar scarcity.

Food, fuel, steel and transport are the principal barriers to increased production throughout the world, but timber and fertilizers create special problems in some countries. The Council admits that the shortages which hold back production in devastated and under-developed areas cannot be overcome by imports and that overcoming the shortages requires "strenuous and heroic efforts on the part of the deficit countries."

Terming 1947 a year of "frustrated hopes", the Council says that the economic potential of the United States looms large throughout the world, having enormously increased during the war, while the importance of other production centers has considerably diminished. This shift is what causes the present dollar shortage and also explains the apprehension that exists in other countries in regard to economic conditions in the United States.

Sudden Drop In Prices Puzzle Economic Experts

The experts find it difficult to explain the somewhat sudden drop in the prices of commodities, followed by the slump in stock prices that constituted the worst decline on the market since early last summer.

The probability is that commodity prices were, as Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson asserts, "too high", and that traders began to suspect the fact. The decline in stock prices may have been sympathetic, but apparently traders in stocks do not pay much attention to the earnings of the corporations.

The drop in prices may be something of a warning of more serious declines ahead. The probability is that this is true in regard to commodity prices and, it might be added, some other prices. The rumor is abroad in the land that the consumer is not quite as quick to buy and the

suspicion is general that the producers of some goods have priced themselves out of the market. Dealer Urges Congress To Control Prices

The Senate Banking Committee heard something new recently when Oliver W. Wood, president of the National Used Car Dealers Association, asked the Congress to prohibit the sale of a used car at a higher price than a new car of the same model and make. This is what used to be called "price control". The dealer explains that his associates are afraid that they will be stuck with a

lot of high-priced cars they can't sell if ceilings are not reimposed.

About the same time, Harold E. Stassen, former Governor of Minnesota, speaking in Maine, declared for giving the Government "excess inventory power as a weapon against hoarding, profiteering and semi-monopoly". This is not quite the same thing as price control but if the government should use some form of control to avoid present economic ills, it becomes largely a matter of opinion as to which controls are the most effective.

Undoubtedly, the record discloses

that price controls prevented greater increases in the cost of living until they were removed by Congress. Equally obvious is the fact that the price ceilings were violated by black market operators, who, despite their violation of a war-time regulation, waxed fat and continue to retain the respect of their friends and associates.

As If She Didn't Know

Doctor—You are too fat, lazy, eat too much and want more exercise.
Patient—Put that down in Latin so I can tell my wife.

NOTICE!

Meeting Of Board Of Equalization And Review

The Board of County Commissioners of Perquimans County will meet as the Board of Equalization and Review in the Court House on Monday, March 15, 1948, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of hearing complaints and the equalization of property values, and said Board will adjourn from day to day until this work is completed.

J. W. WARD

Register of Deeds, Perquimans County

Only NEW CHEVROLET ADVANCE-DESIGN TRUCKS FOR '48 have all these new and finer features

Here is Advance-Design that provides the cab that "breathes,"* Uniworld all-steel cab construction, fully adjustable seat, all-round visibility with rear-corner windows,* extra-durable frames, specially designed brakes, and many other features.

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Chevrolet-developed Synchromesh transmission provides new ease and efficiency.

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Steering column gearshift on models with 3-speed transmission provides new ease and efficiency.

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Chevrolet's foot-operated parking brake on models with 3-speed transmission provides new clear floor area!

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The world's most economical engine for its size. Has greater durability and operating efficiency!

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New splined rear-axle shaft attachment to wheel hubs in heavy-duty models... Heavier springs... New propeller shaft bearing-seal design.

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Rests on The Beer Retailers of North Carolina

To his fellow citizens, the beer dealer owes law-respecting conduct of a business which they have given him license to operate...

A business, incidentally, that brought \$1,784,821.12 in tax money for the third quarter of 1947 alone, to the counties and municipalities of North Carolina wherein beer is licensed to be sold. (Hereafter, distribution of this tax money will be made annually and local government units will continue to profit generously.)

To the beer industry, the beer retailer owes careful guarding of its good reputation.

Assisting in the fulfilling of these obligations is this Committee's major work. Our program of Self-Regulation, begun in 1939, has had notable success in weeding out those who treated these obligations lightly.

Success, yes—and it has come largely from support given by our North Carolina public, press and law-enforcement agencies. Thank you—and let's continue our cooperative work!

NORTH CAROLINA COMMITTEE UNITED STATES BREWERS FOUNDATION

SAM M. BECKWITH, State Director

Suite 312-317 Southern Building, Raleigh, North Carolina

When Your Back Hurts

And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.

You may suffer aching backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with burning and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wise that neglect. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won country-wide approval than on something less favorably known. Doan's have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get Doan's today.

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