

Looking at WASHINGTON

SPENDING TEN BILLIONS FOR WAR

In connection with the increase of 600,000 men in the armed forces of the nation, which means an increase of about forty per cent in its present strength, the President has asked Congress to appropriate \$10,516,976,000 to provide vast new quantities of tanks, aircraft, guns, ships and ammunition to meet possible challenges from Communist aggression.

The largest item in the rearmament bill is \$3,344,600,000 for aircraft. This includes planes for the Air Force and some for the Navy and Marine Corps.

For tanks, guns, field artillery, electronics and "other major procurement," the amount asked is \$2,646,000,000.

For maintenance of plants and facilities, "such as tanks, planes, guns and ships," there is requested \$2,504,800,000.

For military pay, clothing and allowances, the amount is \$1,242,600,000.

For high priority construction, research development, industrial mobilization and miscellaneous activities and contingencies, the estimate includes \$463,976,000.

It is interesting to note that for ship construction, the President has requested only \$185,000,000. Apparently, those who direct our defense program believe that we have enough ships on hand to take care of our needs. The total allotment for the Navy is \$2,648,029,000. For "ships and facilities," which apparently means reconditioning some of our "mothball" fleet, the amount allocated is \$483,748,000.

The breakdown for the other Departments includes \$3,059,154,000 for the Department of the Army and \$4,585,400,000 for the Department of the Air Force. The rest of the total is taken up to cover contingencies and emergencies that are on the basis of establishment-wide activities.

It seems to be generally agreed that the Administration has planned a substantial build-up of the armed forces in the fiscal year 1951 in order to be prepared for what was expected to be a critical year in 1952. For some time, high officials have believed that war with Russia might develop in 1952, after that country built up its atomic bomb pile and when, with the end of the five-year European Recov-

ery Program, the Western nations of Europe would be deprived of substantial American assistance.

It may be pointed out that, in the estimate for the Army, the largest item is \$1,498,221,000 for ordnance service and supplies. This includes procurement of tanks. The conflict in Korea has shown up a glaring need for more and larger tanks. It should be understood, of course, in connection with all of the sums requested, that the amounts represent amounts in addition to sums already appropriated and available.

WAR CRISIS REQUIRES DRASTIC CONTROLS

There is ground for suspicion that the Korean crisis may be the initial step in a Russian program designed to conquer the world by force but one cannot conclude that the Soviet is about to begin its tremendous aggression solely on the basis of the action of the North Koreans.

There is little reason to doubt that the invasion of the Republic of Korea was not only launched with the knowledge of the Russians, but also with their tacit approval. The idea might have been to test out the resolution of the democracies and see if, under the provocation of an outright aggression, any nation, or group of nations, would be willing to face the possibility of an all-out war in order to take effective action under the sanction of the United Nations, or without action.

Despite our inability to come to a definite conclusion as to the future plans of the Russians, which, as Mr. Winston Churchill points out, are known only to the oligarchy in the Kremlin, there are any number of people in the United States who have immediately assumed that a world war is coming, with the result that there has been a drive to buy articles expected to be scarce and a tendency on the part of some sellers to boost the price in order to beat the imposition of price controls.

In this situation, the President of the United States has asked Congress for certain powers to meet the economic dangers confronting the nation but has taken the position that price controls and rationing are not necessary. He has asked for congressional authority to channel materials to defense work, curb credit and otherwise meet economic requirements

raised by the Korean war.

Mr. Bernard Baruch, who has had some experience with wartime economies, insists that procrastination in the effort to limit war profits and curb the wartime profiteer, "will bring as evil results in inflation as they will in far preparedness." The retired industrialist denounces business men who raise prices and hoarders as profiteers, and equal enemies of the nation. He says: "It is the height of immorality to call young men to the colors—young men who may never come back, or if they do, return maimed and shattered—to take them from their homes and careers and leave others to profit and profiteer."

This sentiment is widespread in the United States and there are numerous complaints about price increases and the hoarding of goods. Consequently, a growing movement exists in Congress to impose wage and price controls and perhaps, rationing. The objective is, of course, to permit all Americans to share equally in available goods and to curb inflationary tendencies immediately.

With congressional opinion divided as to a mandatory roll-back of prices, advocates of immediate action suggest that the President be given price-wage control and rationing powers on a stand-by basis. It is recalled that the President asked Congress several times during the inflationary period, just after the war ended, to provide such authority. Even this suggestion fails to secure anything like unanimous support but Senator Ralph E. Flanders, of Vermont, who does not think that the present emergency warrants drastic action, points out that "there's another emergency showing up."

Mr. Flanders says that "consumers have lost their heads and started hoarding. Business men have lost their heads and started raising prices." Should this lack of control continue, he adds, "and lead us into the trap of a new price-wage spiral," the application of rigid controls will "become imperative."

We give above the general-round-up of the views expressed on price-wage controls and rationing because, we think, the people of this country are willing to have such controls if they are necessary to prevent hoarding, profiteering and the making of enormous profits out of the war emergency of the nation. We thoroughly agree with Mr. Baruch as to the "immorality" involved in calling men to the colors to be killed and wounded in battle, while selfish citizens are left at home to reap unearned, unjustified and unsuspected profits.

ATOMIC BOMB TOO BIG FOR KOREA

Our military reverses in Korea and the reports of atrocities committed by North Korean troops have developed demands in this country that we use the atomic bomb.

The military experts say there are convincing reasons why an atomic bombardment should not be employed. In the first place, we do not have enough bombs to bomb more important objectives, if necessary, much less waste them in an area that does not include large cities of great industrial facilities or important enough to justify atomic bombing.

In North Korea, according to Hanson W. Baldwin, there is industry in five different areas but none are of

sufficient size or importance to warrant the use of an atomic bomb from a military standpoint. In addition, there are psychological reasons that caution against its use because millions of people in Asia would become alienated and there might be a considerable segment of world public opinion to brand the United States as an aggressive power.

Poor Man

She—In India, when a man dies, they bury his widow with him! That is cruel.

He—Yes, poor man!

Personal To Women With Nagging Backache

As we get older, stress and strain, over-exertion, excessive smoking or exposure to cold sometimes slows down kidney function. This may lead many folks to complain of nagging backache, loss of pep and energy, headaches and dizziness. Getting up nights or frequent passages may result from minor bladder irritations due to cold, dampness or dietary indiscretions.

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