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Last Call

48-Hour Week Means Final Phase of the War Has Come

Now the American working man, who has already done an amazing job in production for war, begins to discover what the final phase of total war is like. In the President's 48-hour work week order...

American industry has already worked miracles, but miracles will not be enough. When the storm of tremendous Allied offensives break over Hitler's Europe...

The call for final mobilization will do much to end manpower squabbles, for the new work-week will speed production and release men for service...

But now that the President has spoken plainly to the country, and said all too plainly that the coming offensive will depend heavily on the success in increasing production in the months ahead...

Their sensible control is an answer to the Wet Dry. One reason that the Price Bill calling for a State-wide liquor referendum seems doomed is that liquor control is demonstrably ineffective in North Carolina's 25 wet counties...

The Dry Wets

Their Sensible Control Is an Answer to the Wet Dry

One reason that the Price Bill calling for a State-wide liquor referendum seems doomed is that liquor control is demonstrably ineffective in North Carolina's 25 wet counties...

His bill, of course, is aimed at beer and wines, as well as liquor, and the experiences of the Army in North Carolina and the nation as a whole appear to us as a challenge to Rep. Price. Though the dries have discredited the OWI report on Army sobriety and continue their fight for regulation of encampment areas, they will find it more difficult to answer a report statement of Provost-Marshal-General Guillon.

He paid tribute to the Brewing Industry Foundation for its program of self-regulation and control of beer sales in the camp areas of this and 14 other States. He said that the OWI report apparently agreed with OWI that the sale of 32 beer in post exchanges was a "positive factor in Army sobriety."

And he wants to see the work of the Foundation continued and expanded. First charge of Price Bill supporters will be that the Foundation works for the brewers, that the brewers work only for profit, and that the Army is in cahoots with them.

In North Carolina, 255 retail outlets have been "eliminated" in the Foundation for years, about 30 of them near Army camps. Licenses are refused or revoked in the cases of dealers whose policies reflect discredit on the brewing industry.

In many a County, Army officials have found that such control is far more complete than that worked by law enforcement officers, and as a com-

mon, the two groups are remarkably effective. Such methods, satisfactory to the Army, point the way to true control of all alcoholic beverages, and provide an answer in advance to the call of Price of Rutherford.

One Victory

Guadalcanal Victory Cheers, But Cannot Be the Pattern

It was exciting news that the Jap was quitting Guadalcanal. For, though the campaign must find an obscure place in history when the great chronicles of this war is written, the tales of heroism from Guadal have thrilled Americans for six months as have no other battles, large or small.

Since the day that Marines swarmed up the beaches of that island, their deeds have become a glowing record for posterity, a new bright moment in the life of the Corps. The stories of the battle for Henderson Field, of the Wildcats first tearing apart the Jap squadrons, of the slow advance through the jungle, of the battles of the ridges, and the miracles of destruction and sea have become legend.

That Allied forces spent six costly months in the conquest of that area of the Solomons is a subject less worthy against the foolhardy attempt to reduce the Jap strength island by island. The Solomons campaign, fought against an enemy with all the advantages in supply and control of the sea, was savagely, brilliantly fought.

It remains that the Solomons, even as a whole, are only a tiny dot on the outer fringe of Japan's sphere. If campaigns to follow are fought in the same way, it might well be a generation before Nippon is defeated. General MacArthur found the answer in the latter phases, when he moved his fighting force by air to the struggle for New Guinea. Victory on Guadalcanal is cause for celebration, and honor to the men who won it for us.

A Compromise?

School Bill May Suffer From Lack of Ready Cash

This, in North Carolina fiscal affairs, is a time of expediency. Despite pressure from all sides for increased appropriations, salaries and gains, and the presence of a State surplus, the depressed revenues of the future demand that the General Assembly proceed with caution.

Regardless of the fact that the Administration, through a campaign platform, is pledged to see the measure through, practical considerations will prevent it. The total expense of the State of war bonuses for teachers and the ninth month would be \$14,000,000 for the biennium—and the compromise would cut that down to some \$9,000,000, which apparently would permit balance of the budget.

Governor Broughton is reported to have given his support to the substitute plan, of which no details have been announced. Presuming that it means lower bonuses or adoption of the ninth month as a comparatively few counties, we are willing to accept the compromise in the spirit in which it is offered. It may be said by the stout supporters of the school bill that these are no times to sacrifice North Carolina's educational program, or to allow education to operate with insufficient funds.

Among the recent predictions is a WPB special, that the country's stock of motor oil will be depleted within 30 days. For once our thoughts are with the boarder.

Every Bomb Helps

Attack From The Air

By Raymond Clapper

THE NEW American commander of the European theater, Lieut.-Gen. Frank M. Andrews, says his first job is to increase the bombing of Germany and soften it up. If we were just about six months ahead of where we are, the chances of laying Germany out cold in short order now would be very great.

Unquestionably Germany is shaken inside. The odd behavior going on there, the funeral dirges, the strange silence of Hitler, the frantic note in the voices of the once cocky propagandists, and the hurried dash about of the propagandist people in the Balkans since Churchill visited Turkey, all add up to a home-front echo of the bad news from the Russian front.

After Napoleon won the Battle of Borodino and had thus opened the way into Moscow, he had the Russians falling back and everything looked easy. But the Russian General Army began to disintegrate. The French Army began to spread confusion and to harass the French so that within six weeks the victorious French army collapsed and had begun their disastrous retreat.

The French had not been defeated in battle at all. At the peak of their triumph they went to pieces, and then were easily driven out. Folowing, searching for an explanation, thought that the French soldiers who had fought bravely and effectively in Moscow were suddenly, under German harassment, overcome with panic to get home.

Discipline went to pieces. By the time they reached Smolensk, the French soldiers were sacking their own stores and killing each other. Just as they had once had all their ambitions and desires and hopes pointed to Moscow, now they had only one frantic desire—to get back to France.

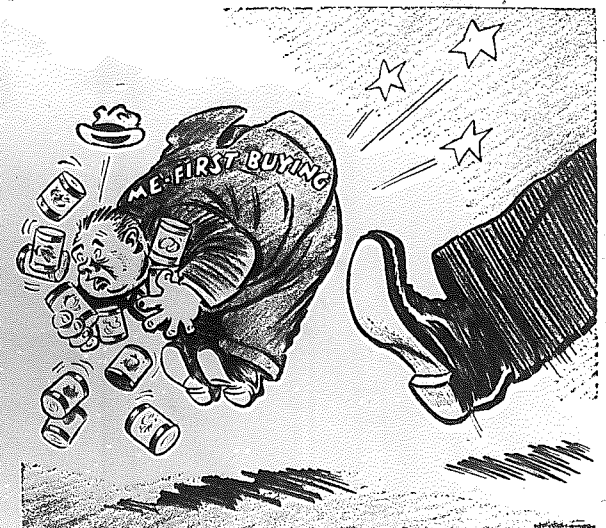
Is anything like that happening in Russia? For the moment, the news out of there begins to suggest it, although we cannot be too certain for the Germans are just now back approximately to the line from which they began their advance last June. But the Nazi structure is so built around Hitler's personal prestige, his claims about himself, that no one can be sure will stand very long against such a national disaster as has weakened the Nazi Army. We can be prepared for anything in Germany now.

Every bomb we can drop in Germany has double force. It does its physical destruction. And it adds its blow to the German spirits that are low over the defeat in Russia. Obviously we have sent considerable air force to North Africa, and the fact that General Spaatz is remaining in Africa indicates that extensive operations are in mind there. That has necessarily checked the amount of airpower we can put against Germany itself for the time being.

The idea that Germany could be defeated from the air has never been seriously held except by a limited number, but it is accepted that a daily raid of Cologne size would so completely disorganize and depress Germany that it would bring her halfway to defeat. Russia now is doing the ground job. She may not finish it. There may be ground work for us to do before it is over, but every bomb we drop now will do the work that American soldiers otherwise will have to do on the ground later.

The Point in Point-Rationing

By Herblock



Rick Talks Straight But Facts Are Missing

By Samuel Crafton

CAPTAIN Eddie Rickenbacker ought to give us some facts. We all admire his heroism, but his passionate criticism of the level of American production needs supporting data. The feeling he has let with millions of listeners and readers is that he has looked over the American industrial scene and that he is rather disgusted with it. What, precisely, disgusts him? To proclaim such an attitude, and to fail to document it, is to hurt a bitter arrow into the air, to fall to earth one knows not where.

We have it that Mr. Donald Nelson that the United States is already outproducing the entire Axis. Mr. Nelson says that by the end of the year we shall be outproducing the entire Axis in munitions. These findings were confirmed last Fall in the learned and sober 'Military Affairs' organ of the American Military Institute. In an article by Edward S. Mason of the United States Office of Strategic Services, you will observe that these are authoritative statements. Is it Captain Rickenbacker's opinion that these statements are wrong?

I suggest that if these statements are wrong, Captain Rickenbacker should disprove them, and if they are correct, he should include them in his speeches to and about "against the American economic situation, some overture, in his declarations to indicate that he knows of them. In which case, his statements in American labor would have to be re-examined. You may remember that last Fall, you will shortly outproduce the world; but I am still completely against your abandonment of our economic strikes, and your concern with overtime pay, etc.

That would be at least a start toward factual discussion, and in an atmosphere of factual discussion, America can live; police can be

made, and answered; if they cannot be answered, habits can be changed; evils can be remedied.

I suggest that, instead of making a factual case, Captain Rickenbacker has merely floated an attitude. He has, first, postulated a feeling of intense bitterness in our soldiers against the civilian population, and our soldiers know all the facts. He says, "they would be madder than they are." Well, do they know the facts? Do they know that we are out-producing the Axis? If they do not know this, shouldn't they know it, for the sake of morale, and could they learn it from Captain Rickenbacker's statements?

Then, drawing the line between soldier and civilian still more sharply, Captain Rickenbacker has suggested, at one time, that if the soldiers were brought back and put in the factories, our production would increase 30 to 40 per cent, and, on another occasion, he has suggested that it would be doubled. In offering these suggestions, Captain Rickenbacker has actually set up a theory: "The only obstacle that stands between us and a 30-to-100 per cent increase in production is a labor effort." I should like evidence from our transport people and our raw material experts on that point.

I should like the president of U. S. Steel to tell me whether steel is lying around idle for lack of labor, or whether labor is lying around idle for lack of steel.

Captain Rickenbacker has an awful responsibility. His story has touched the heart of America. He is almost the first articulate American to come back from the front of this war. As such, he represents the advance guard of millions. He has suggested that it would be doubled, in offering these suggestions, Captain Rickenbacker has actually set up a theory: "The only obstacle that stands between us and a 30-to-100 per cent increase in production is a labor effort."

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Quote, Unquote

It would be a refreshing novelty to find a man who, when they come before us, would vary the precedents a little by telling us so much of the conditions which they think they must have, but the appropriations which they think they can do without.

one month on Bougainville Island. British (Newspaper Review)—British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kingsley Wood. We got away now too soon. We later learned the Japs, apparently having found out about our plans, reached our embarkation points two days. For once our thoughts are with the boarder.

Side Glances



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"Gosh, Sis! Fried eggs again? If you don't learn to cook something else while Mom is doing volunteer nursing, we're all going to be her patients!"

The People Talk

A Tax Strike?

SOMETHING strange and unexpected is stirring among the 35,000,000 men and women who under the law must file their income tax returns and pay at least the first installment not later than March 15.

Millions are holding back. They are not filing their returns or paying the tax as early as in past years. Treasury officials are concerned and disturbed. Never before has there been such a lag.

Ordinarily, January is a busy month for taxpayers. A large proportion of the tax payers of the past have got their returns filed and their checks to the Government. But not this year. In late January, a quick survey by the Treasury revealed only 57,000 persons had done so. That was fewer than one-third the number who filed up to the same date in 1942. Yet the number of taxpayers who must file this year is by many millions, the highest on record.

A tax consultant in a Southern city, for instance, who normally assists 50 taxpayers daily, on the average, to make their returns, writes the President that last month the number dropped to between two and three a day.

A plant survey covering some 250 workers—all subject to the tax—shows not a single worker filed his return in January, that none considered his March 15 payment.

In only one district in the United States was the number greater last month than in January, 1942. That district, says the Treasury, was in North Carolina; it was the district represented in Congress by Representative Robert L. Doughton, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Treasury officials are anxiously asking: "Why the delay? It is due to agitation for a pay-as-you-go tax plan? These officials say it is not. They blame pay-as-you-go altogether, say the public has got the wrong idea—that the public is holding back because it feels pay-as-you-go will "forget" a part at least, of their tax on 1942 income. Is the delay due to the high rates? Haven't taxpayers got the money to pay the first installment? Treasury officials dismiss the first two questions. The answer to the last is the law, they say. The answer is that the public actually saved \$25,000,000,000 last year, therefore, it has the money—and to spare—with which to meet the first payment.

Is a taxpayers' strike likely? The Treasury sees nothing to indicate it. Its figures show only two-tenths of 1 per cent defaults over the past twenty years, only three-tenths of 1 per cent last year when rates were highest on record.

Both Treasury and Congress are aware of much grumbling over present taxes. The Victory tax, for instance, is widely resented; many workers regard it as a wage cut—one asked a Congressman "What do you mean, the Victory tax, have we won the war?" Many are talking about wage increases to offset it.

And many Congressmen have got lists of letters bitterly complaining about the high rates levied by the new law, demanding that "something be done about it." The rank and file apparently are just waking up to the fact that they face heavy taxes. They don't like it. It concerns the Treasury has appealed for help in the tax committees of Congress.

"Tell the taxpayers," it has asked in substance, "that pay-as-you-go is not yet the law; that it can't possibly become law before March 15; that in the meantime taxpayers are to pay the old law as if it now stands to make their tax returns and first payments this year not later than March 15 as they have been doing every year in the past."

The tax committees answered the appeal. They have agreed on a resolution and each has adopted it unanimously. Here it is: "This Committee desires to inform the American people that no pending tax law will relieve them of the necessity of filing an income tax return and paying their first quarterly installment on March 15. There is more in the resolution designed to answer public belief that pay-as-you-go will "forget" the tax on 1942 income.

Even though such a plan be developed prior to March 15, there will be no relief from the necessity of filing a return on March 15, and the payment made in connection therewith will be a full credit to the taxpayer under such circumstances." Will the resolution unanimously adopted by the two powerful committees break the log jam?

It is too early yet to say, but nothing now indicates that the 35,000,000 taxpayers are going to permit themselves to be hurried into making their returns.

Taxpayers still hoping that pay-as-you-go will reduce the size of the installment they must pay March 15 have the word of the Treasury and the 46 Senators and Representatives of the tax committees that this hope is a delusion.

Pay-as-you-go, in whatever form it is enacted, will not reduce the amount of taxes to be paid this year. On the other hand, many will be able to pay more under pay-as-you-go in 1943 than they would be if it were not enacted. It seems likely, it seems likely, the method of collection, which probably will be withholding, and the basis for assessing the tax to make it current.

Visitin' Around

Now What In Tarnation Made You Jump To That Conclusion? Luck! (The Rev. Marshall News-Record) Mrs. Doshia Donaldson and Mrs. J. B. Spide seen to be getting ready to eat for the lunch room at school.

Ho Hum! (Foster Creek Item, Chapel Hill Weekly) The Rev. Mr. Sumnerlin of Marshall, filled his regular time at the Baptist Church Saturday and Sunday. She Taking Her Meals There, Too? (Neighborhood Note, Chapel Hill Weekly) Mrs. Thurston, the living dictionnaire of Swain Hill, is living at Mrs. Hermon's.

Come On, Tell Us The Joke! (RFI Item, Lexington Dispatch) Mr. and Mrs. Monte Green cure are tickled about their new baby. No Omelettegrin! (For Hermon) (John's River Item, Herald News-Topic) Lenora Philway has bought a