

More Can Be Told

By Raymond Campbell

THE time may be close at hand when the Administration will be called to sharp accounting for the poor showing in meeting the submarine menace on our Eastern coasts.

We are suffering a major defeat. The news of it dribs out often weeks late and then is thoroughly camouflaged. Much of the story cannot be revealed for military reasons. The circumstances of three Axis submarines rampaging around inside our wanted Caribbean defense ring is a sufficient suggestion of how close the crisis is.

There is much more that cannot be said about the effect of this unrelenting campaign right up to the mouth of the Mississippi. The inconvenience to Eastern motorists of the companies with some of the other effects now beginning to be felt.

The Navy has failed and those who have even a partial inside picture know it. There is promise of improvement soon, and perhaps shortly a different situation will exist. The Navy is under the heaviest pressure to get results and very likely they will be achieved.

MORE CAN BE TOLD THAN HAS BEEN LEFT OUT

The Government has not been as frank about this as it probably could have been. How much can be safely told is a delicate question and opinions will vary. Surely more can be told than has been.

Perhaps one reason is that no occasion has been provided for making an explanation of the permeable fact. Governments do not usually go out of their way to volunteer bad news. Maybe the opportunity will come through the Truman Committee of the Senate, now studying the situation. It is in process of visiting some of our ports to gather first-hand information. Later, Navy and shipping officials will be thoroughly questioned.

The Truman Committee in this and in its past performances is doing a most useful service. It is showing how Congress can serve as the agent of the people in the most effective manner. The committee is the submarine situation and its effects. But a responsible body of the people's representatives, such as the Truman Committee, can investigate and hold the Executive branch to account.

Don't think it won't be effective. It is not always necessary to conduct a campaign through the headlines. A raking over in secret committee session on Capitol Hill is a more dreaded experience for the average executive official than a bombardment of headlines.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR WIDE OPEN PUBLICITY

In wartime that often is the only way to check up on the Executive. It is the democratic substitute for wide open publicity which is out of the question during a war.

Members of the Truman Committee will not look at this situation in any narrow light. The Navy has had a question of balance to deal with—it obviously could not convey every ship everywhere in the world. First thing is to come first. The Navy could not be pulled in to sit as an iron ring around our coastline.

But it is a question whether the submarine warfare has not reached a point where its effects bring it into a different status than it had some weeks earlier. It is a question whether some changes in type of shipbuilding may not be called for.

JUST JUDGMENT BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR

In these matters we can only sit on the sidelines. But Congress, through the Truman Committee, for instance, can represent us in checking up, in probing these possibilities, in needing the Executive branch to be sure that it is doing its best. Judgment is being brought to bear, and inquiry considered.

Congress, through its various committees, can go far toward justifying itself by such activity. In that work there is opportunity for men of the highest caliber and function. It is such activity, brain and digger rather than demagogic tricks count.

There isn't much place for the demagogue in the closed committee room and representatives of the people can work in an atmosphere with promises from and their inquiry and appraisal on our behalf.

Visitin' Around

The Early Worm Gets the Fish (North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Frank Smithley, kingfisherman, and small son were near the fore of attention at yesterday's fishing from down the river, possibly Blair's Island, he noted a double string of fish tipping the sidewalk, the largest fish being over half length of Smithley's arm, and altogether weighing about 28 or 30 pounds—caught with hook.

A Battle Is Won

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON
The battle of production has been won. American industry went over the top in April, out of the preparatory organizing phase, and into the great American stride of mass production which no one can equal anywhere. From now on the production line on our charts will go nearly straight up.

We reached the producing rate of \$400,000,000 a year in April. It will be up another 25 per cent in \$100,000,000 in June and \$200,000,000—nearly double—April—before the end of the year.

As War Producer Donald Nelson told a friend the other day, the metamorphosis of that great economic plant called American industry was as vast and victorious as the change which took place in the oil and auto industries in 1914-15 when Henry Ford discovered the conveyor belt and started turning out Model T's like cans of corn.

NEARLY EVERYTHING IS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Great as our peacetime production standard was before we entered into defense, the expansion which has been piled on top of it now is greater still.

Practically every phase—airplanes, tanks and guns—is ahead of these stupendous schedules which Mr. Roosevelt laid before Congress at the outset of our defense effort. Schedules that many doubted could be attained.

The reason we are ahead is the same one which is now beginning to show itself on the fighting front—superior American ingenuity. New techniques were discovered.

Schedules for a West Coast plane factory, for instance, was 50 planes a month. The factory is today turning out 150 planes a month.

When the production line was set up in 1940, both industry and labor began finding ways to speed it up until they trebled it.

Mass production never remains static. Small arms production is anywhere from 25 per cent up ahead of its blueprint, because of technical advances. In ship production, it was discovered steel could be substituted for brass (except on shells of less than five-inch caliber, and since then this line has been sailing).

Aluminum has three unsatisfactory spots, mentioned in this column previously, but all others are now almost completely covered. The supply of processed materials like aluminum casings and forgings, now that production will go well apparently depend on how this shortage is worked out.

THESE COMPANIES REALLY WANT TO WIN

Among the aviation factories which have done an outstanding job are the Consolidated four-motor bomber plant on the Pacific Coast and the Curtiss-Wright plant in upper New York state.

Industry has been working great in creating the tank arsenal in Michigan. General Motors production figures show that materials for that month, up \$17,000,000 from March.

Many Gyroscopes is getting a new order for 100,000 units here for what it has done in instrument, and National Cash Register has been ordered to build in control equipment (shooting stuff).

There are still some bad lines, mainly merchant ship lines. The Warship program is OK, except in one small-batch phase. Merchant ships are only being built at a snail's pace. Government economists figure that if the April rate of ship building is suffered in the remainder of this year, the \$2,000,000,000 cost of our construction program (if it is reached) will be 2,000,000 tons short of what is needed.

The first three months of the year, delivery of steel plate in shipyards were behind, but this condition is now being remedied by diversion. The bottleneck here now is in the supplies of pipes, engines, sea cocks and such.

In fact, factories are going so well on this primary battle line, WPA has cancelled its new plant building and is restricting the raw materials into actual production of tanks, ships, etc.

NO EARLY END OF WAR IS FORESEEN

Now this does not mean the war is over. It does mean the battle on the important initial front has been won. Troubles on that front, of course, are not ended. Shortages of materials are ahead, particularly for the period of the end of this year.

Factories yet are far from a three-shift capacity basis. They are beyond the one and a half shifts, but there is yet some way for advancement on this angle, and others.

The important thing now is that we have got the sort of stuff Double-Dutch showed over Japan, MacArthur and the Navy exultantly pointed out. The Japanese off in the Coral Sea before they could get started on a new scheme. It was the first time when a large convoy was landed in Ireland without seeing a German U-boat. It shows what American ingenuity can do when it gets into aggressive action.

No other nation, no other country, has such a record. It has been over here in the war, or people. Here is the way the war is going for our democratic way of life.

Travel Plan

—By Herblock



"It Costs Too Much"

By Dorothy Thompson

WHAT stands out in ever more glaring relief is the gap between scientific accomplishments and imagination regarding the uses to which they are put. The greatest star in the crown of twentieth century capitalism is the creation of our industry. The greatest blot on it is the recurrent failure to put the public interest, necessity and welfare in the foreground of its thinking and planning. It has technological foresight out of all proportion to its social foresight.

And it doesn't even act economically. It is so wasteful in the essence of economics is to create what we need. The essence of economics is to sell it at a profitable price.

OIL COMPANIES SHUT THE EYES TO FUTURE

We need gasoline. Essential for food, it is the most critical material of our life. The oil companies produce it out of our American earth, and in sufficient quantities. On this production they have made immense profits. And they are proud that they produce an essential American war material.

Their directors are men of wide international knowledge. Presumably they could foresee the likelihood of this war and that the production of oil and its distribution is ever so important to America. Yet they have not prepared for this. As a result, they are in a leading problem. Yet they have not prepared for this. As a result, they are in a leading problem. Yet they have not prepared for this. As a result, they are in a leading problem.

And how long will it take to make this rubber, after this delay? Then, after this delay, maybe three. And what's the price of time? Our life as a nation.

Side Glances

Neither is the Government free from this commercial and trading concern. The Government did not force the issue. So now its business is to exploit its in sacrifice. The American people will sacrifice anything, including their lives, but the big companies don't like it. They're not willing to be the ones to be sacrificed.

Our relations with Japan had been worsening steadily for five years. Presumably, in case of war, the East Indies were in danger. As a result, it was needed, on the part of industry and Government to prepare a substitute.

But immense investments in crude rubber were threatened to be lost. A chemical substitute should be developed in a vast way. The history of chemical substitutes is that they eventually replace the natural product. The argument against them is that they "cost too much." They start, however, by costing more and eventually cost less. Always, but the mind, concerned with investments and price, stops dead before the social or even economic reality.

Rubber can be made from oil. But the oil companies acquire patents for the manufacture of the synthetic product. Whether they



And must rubber be made from oil? No.

For months leading chemists of both Britain and America have called attention to the fact that rubber can be made from something that we, the people, own in vast quantities. Grain. We own tens of millions of tons of it. stored in Mr. Wallace's ever-normal granary. And, say these chemists, this grain can be turned into rubber. In from ten to twelve months and even without creating new factories, if the American people will go without whiskey and give us the distillates. This isn't a new prohibition movement. It's a necessity of war.

AGAIN, 'GRAIN IS TOO EXPENSIVE'

What are the arguments against it? "Grain is too expensive." Listen, this grain costs exactly zero. It is worthless unless used. "Shortage of copper for adjustments in distillates." But I am told we can use silver, and silver we have in immense quantities. "Too expensive." Listen, the cost of the silver in the American people is also zero. It's bought in. We can't. And unless used it is worthless. And, anyhow, we will still have it.

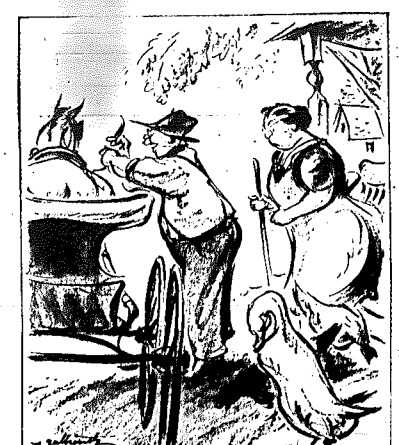
THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO PUT UP THE MONEY

Mind you, they have got their hands full as it is. They haven't even solved the problem of the industrial distribution of gasoline. But there is a chance to make money, so they are going to put up with synthetic rubber plants. Just why the people of the United States should finance enormously rich corporations to manufacture a product for which there is no market is beyond the range of my financial thinking. Why didn't they put up their own money?

And how long will it take to make this rubber, after this delay? Then, after this delay, maybe three. And what's the price of time? Our life as a nation.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

It takes two to make a bargain, but you are not responsible for hatreds and revenge: Follow me, ye people, with all men.—Hebrews 12:14



"I know it's a nice day for having, but the crop will have to wait! I'm driving to town to show the editor that letter from our boy in Australia!"

Send-Offs

The Little Nips Know the Uses of Demonstrations

With our Pacific outposts long weeks away from home, and a desperately needed shipping pool longer months away, the U.S. Army and Navy may be agonizingly long time in catching up with the Japs. Though it was high time to credit Nippon with the strength to face American arms, today's military opinion practically guarantees a year or two of touch-and-go destruction in the East. In too many ways, the Rising Sun has a head start on us. One way, one way, we could overhaul him at home.

Consider, if you will, these scenes as enemy soldiers go off to war:

1. In bustling Osaka, capital of munitions and industry, thousands of earnest, bandy-legged little Nip soldiers swarm into the American-style railroad station, headed for the front. Around the waist of each is the legendary belly-band of a thousand stitches—guaranteeing safety from bullets. Hundreds of civilians, mostly school children, line the walkway. Japs flash "Banzai! Banzai!" It's a send-off for each soldier of the Army.

2. On Charlotte's Fourth Street, or more recently on Cecil, bus loads of new recruits, bound for Bragg or Jackson, are run through a final examination. They sit among strangers, and stare out the windows, or josh with inattentive passersby. As they go, realizing it might well be a one-way trip, they have heard farewells only from the folks at home. The rest of America, perhaps only a few miles away, seems quite far. No new. Later, there will be a few entertainments in USO style, or in camp-come towns—mostly they'll go on into war without a cheer.

Because America would never confess she holds her soldiers less dear than they, and because all are straining terribly toward victory, it might not be out of order to trot out a nation-wide campaign in behalf of our departing soldiers-to-be. We want territory to hear news of their victories, but we want, too, a people to share in some flag-waving, even for a name for this war, the draftees might at least be given a salute of hail and farewell.

Advice To Voters

This Is an Election, Not A Popularity Contest

It is not the policy of *The Nix* to support this or that candidate for political office unless genuine issues are involved or unless choice between two men is clearly as between good and bad, right and wrong. In the new Tenth Congressional District's trial run, both Democratic candidates, former Senator Cameron Morrison and John A. McFar, are men of high type and good standing. As for the issues, there are none.

Senator Morrison is going to support Mr. McFar. So is Mr. McFar, although, to be sure, he has some ideas about economy in government that he would like to carry out.

Mr. McFar's main chance of success, the politicians suggest, lies in votes cast not for him as against Mr. Morrison. There is a feeling, and it is fairly general, that Mr. Morrison has had his share of honors and oughtn't to be a dog in the manger, that his defeat by Mr. Reynolds was due to the political unpopularity which he had accumulated in his brief term as a complimentary Senator, that he is rich, hence ought not to be drawing down the salary and perquisites which might sustain some unbecoming citizen.

As these reasons for voting against the Senator, if you will run over them again, are purely personal, and border closely on outright ill nature and pettiness. At any rate, they comprise no argument for nominating Mr. McFar—no, as we say, counting most heavily on support from this quarter.

The office of Representative in Congress is much too important—theoretically, anyhow—to be bestowed capriciously, or to be withheld spitefully. And while we cannot be sure that Mr. Morrison would be wisely disliked, there has been enough talk along that line to warrant dealing with it.

To anybody who has his reasons of principle or conviction for voting against Mr. Morrison, we say to vote against him, and for someone else, simply out of courtesy—well, for Heaven's sake.

Bad Taste

The Amenities Alone Should Have Prevented This

The Fort Bragg Reception Center Band was on hand to render military airs for the exercises. Federal officials were guests of honor. The Mayor was coaxed and primed with a speech, and Lumberton's new USO center for visiting soldiers was ready to be dedicated. It was then that the amity of the occasion was shattered beyond repair. The United Service Organization is an amalgamation of six supporting and participating organizations. The USO's policy is to place of these organizations in charge of local installations, the sound reason of keeping responsibility centered rather than divided. And over Lumberton's USO but the National Catholic Community Service, represented by Miss Mary Frances Redmond, had been placed in charge.

As the retired Baptist minister arose and made what was described as a "slashing attack" on the Catholic organization. Other Protestant ministers chimed in, although in tones and statements more moderate. But it was indubitably, an embarrassing situation for everybody, and for Miss Redmond, who was an excruciating experience. She wept. A great many people have fixed prejudices against the Church of Rome. But no matter the intensity of any Christian's convictions, the uttering of them upon such an occasion was both execrable taste and rare unkindness.

Full Measure

USO Has Proved Its Worth Since Last Summer's Drive

Because there were thousands of soldiers and sailors with no place to go for entertainment and relaxation: Because there were generals and admirals who know that wholesome recreation was indivisible from morale; Because there were people in this country who were willing to do more than feel sorry for the boys in uniform; Because of these three factors, in the main, the United Service Organizations came into being about a year ago. What the USO has done on a budget that was drawn up months before December 7 can be determined by taking a good look at the first soldier you see on the street and comparing him, in your mind's eye, with his counterpart in the days before the USO got going. Better still, ask him what the USO is doing for the Army. And, brother, when you can sell the Army on something—you're a salesman.

Today the USO begins its first wartime campaign for funds in Mecklenburg County. We have five days—until Saturday—to raise \$66,000. That means contributions will have to average better than \$13,380 a day.

Last Summer, after dragging weeks of effort, Mecklenburg couldn't raise a total quota of \$20,000. Raising three times that much would seem to be none too easy.

But last Summer we were still officially at peace. During the week of that first USO drive, the Japs were saying that there was no reason why a peaceful settlement of the Pacific problem could not be reached. A declaration of war proposal would have been hoisted out of either house of Congress.

Well, were it in now. And moreover, the USO has proved that it can do an essential job economically and well. This time we ought to top that quota.

The banning of burlesque in Manhattan had made some hundreds jobless. It's tough when you're underpaid and have no place to go.

All these war fronts have the conscientious observer looking more ways than an old-fashioned Brooklyn outfielder in a high wind.