

Hoarding Of Commodities Is Both Foolish And Dangerous

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A lot of Americans are allowing themselves to become panicky and are rushing around buying commodities of various sorts which they propose to hoard as protection against a bugbear of possible war-shortages.

The scare-buyers (or at least a good many of them) naturally don't realize it but by such hoarding they are giving aid and comfort to the enemy. They are playing straight into Communist hands.

That's blunt language, but it's well that the facts be faced before grave damage has been done. There is no law against hoarding at this writing, but the law of common sense ought to bar it.

"But," demands a reader, "how on earth can the fact that I stow away a few extra pounds of food-stuffs be of aid to Russia?"

Well, it's this way: widespread hoarding either by hoisholders or by profit-making dealers, is terribly damaging to a country's economy. One of the main features of Moscow's strategy for spread of Communism is to create economic stress among the Western powers, especially the United States.

Ability to maintain military preparedness obviously depends on economic fitness. So if the Reds could wreck us economically, they would have softened us up so that we would be vulnerable to assault.

Thus anything which damages the economy of America is an ante to the Communist kitty.

Hoarding upsets the normal trade of the country by creating a scarcity of commodities on the market.

Non-hoarders are made to suffer for their patriotism because of their inability to buy necessities. And widespread hoarding might even deprive the government of things which were needed for overseas operations.

Hoarder Also Hurt

One ridiculous aspect of hoarding is that it actually hurts the hoarder. His hoarding forces prices up so that while he is hanging onto his hundred pounds of sugar he has to pay more for what he buys for current consumption. We shouldn't forget what President Truman had to say about hoarding in his broadcast last week:

"That is foolish, I say it is foolish, and it's selfish, very selfish, because hoarding results in entirely unnecessary local shortages. Hoarding food is especially foolish. There is plenty of food in this country. . . We have to fear only those shortages which we ourselves artificially create."

Every civilian citizen should be just as much a part of our national defense in times of stress like these as is the soldier at the front. Civilians are lucky not to be on the firing line in Korea, and the least Americans can do is contribute their best to maintenance of this country's economic strength and morale.

Four Get Sentences For Traffic In Marijuana

YAKIMA, July 26.—(P)—Pleading guilty to narcotics charges, two men and two teen-age youths were given sentences Monday ranging from 30 days to a maximum of 10 years.

The 10-year maximums were given to Rafael Nieto, 47, charged with illegal possession of marijuana, and to Richard Henry Chappa, 34, charged with unlawful sale of the drug. Nieto was sentenced to the penitentiary, Chappa to the reformatory. The actual length of their terms will be set by the state board of prison terms and paroles.

Alex Garcia and Eli Rico, both 18 and residents of Wapato, were placed on probation for three years. Garcia was sentenced to 30 days and Rico to 30 days in the county jail.

The four were arrested recently in connection with the reported sale of marijuana to Yakima high school students.

Girl Killed When Hurler From Runaway Truck

ASOTIN, WASH., July 26.—(P)—Six-year-old girl died of a broken neck Sunday when bounced from the back of a fast-moving truck after the brakes failed as it went down a steep mountain road.

She was Carolyn Louise Wilks of Enterprise, Ore. Three older brothers and sisters also were thrown from the speeding vehicle as it raced down a mountain road near the Grande Ronde river, 40 miles south of here in southeastern Washington.

One of the children, Judy, 8, and the victim's mother were taken to a Clarkston hospital in serious condition.



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- Grapefruit Juice Town House 46-oz. **39c**
- JELLO DESSERTS Gelatins 2 pkgs. **15c**
- POST'S SUGAR CRISP 2 pkgs. **27c**
- REDDI-WIP for toppings 7-oz. can **49c**
- MARGARINE Sunnybank 1-lb. **30c**
- MAYONNAISE Best Foods pint jar **42c**
- HEINZ DILL PICKLES 25-oz. **27c**
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- NOB HILL COFFEE whole bean 1-lb. **78c**
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