

Speech to the I. B. P. O. E. W. In Convention Hall at Philadelphia, Pa.

Address by Robert R. R. Brooks, OPA Deputy Administrator for Information, to the Annual Convention of the I.B.P.O. of the Elks of the World at the Chris J. Perry Auditorium, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Monday, August 27, 1945.

The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World has made an outstanding contribution to the success of the stabilization program.

The members of your organization have bought more than \$20,000,000 worth of war bonds. They have not only helped to finance the war. They have also stored up purchasing power which, if it had been spent, would have added fuel to the fires of inflation. And that buying power can soon be used to buy the flood of goods which will pour off the assembly line as reconversion gets into full swing.

The purchases which will be possible in the future through the use of these savings will mean new comforts, new labor-saving devices in the household, and new homes for thousands of your members. It means washing machines, radios, electric lights and decent plumbing. It will also mean jobs for workers and farmers who are building the homes and making the things your money will buy.

Your organization has a vital stake in the Nation's continuing struggle to hold down the cost of living and maintain a stable economy.

All of your members are consumers who have been protected with fair success thus far by the Nation's effort to hold the cost of living. For nearly four years, the bitterest war in history exposed us to the greatest inflationary pressures this Nation has ever faced. But your rents and the prices of your food, clothing, and household necessities have been held reasonably well in line. With your help, we must and will continue to hold that line.

Many of your members are small business men who have good reason to fear the kind of inflationary boom and collapse which took place during and after the first World War. They know that as a result of that boom and collapse thousands of businessmen lost not only their businesses but their shirts. Many of you can remember that period. Some of you perhaps were among those who lost their shirts then, but have since started all over again and have won back your place in the business world. All of you who are businessmen have a stake in the success of our common effort to hold business costs stable not only during the war but in the transition to full peacetime production.

Thousands of your members, their relatives and friends are small farmers. Still more thousands are tenant farmers or share croppers. They chop cotton in the red clay of the Carolinas and hoe corn in the black soil of the Delta. The welfare of these men and women is to a large extent dependent on the prices of the things they have to buy—the clothes, the food, the fertilizer and the farm tools which are charged to them during the time they are making a crop. Price control has helped these people hold their costs down.

Price control on the things farmers sell has not prevented the farmer from greatly increasing his income over pre-war years. But these controls have thus far prevented the kind of inflationary spiral which at the end of the last war led to disaster for thousands of farmers who lived on or bought farms at ridiculously high prices and lost their livelihood on the auction block of mortgage foreclosures. These people, too, have a stake in the Nation's effort to hold farm prices and farm costs at stable levels during the months ahead.

Thousands of your members and their friends are workers in factories and in the service trades. As a result of the full employment of the last three years more Negro workers than ever before in our history have had decent jobs at fair wages. These men and women, perhaps more than any other group in our society, have a stake in maintaining the kind of stability which will make possible full peacetime employment and production.

As consumers they must be protected against increases in the cost of their food, their clothing, their household furnishings, and in many cases the homes they have dreamed of buying. As workers, they must be protected against the spiralling of prices and costs which inevitably ends in business collapse, unemployment, bread lines, and the interracial friction and intolerance which seed on insecurity.

All of us, every delegate here, all the members of your huge organization have a stake in the success of our common national effort to promote the economic stability essential to a free and prosperous world.

Your officers have fully recognized their responsibility for giving their support to this national effort.

In his second official Proclamation for the year Dr. J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, made the following statement to more than 500,000 men and women's auxiliary members of the Order:

"Price control, rent control and rationing have saved us from inflation and panic thus far. In the economic scramble immediately after the war, we must demand price control and rent control in accordance with the principles of the Office of Price Administration. We must provide for Cost-of-Living Committees in each lodge and temple, auxiliary to the various War Price and Rationing Boards, to keep down our living costs. These Committees will furnish information to members as to illegal prices or of unfair rationing practices."

"I know that hundreds of your Lodges and Temples have gone ahead with this program of establishing Cost-of-Living Committees to help your local OPA War Price and Rationing Board in your community hold down the cost of the necessities of life.

Everyone of us must see to it that he never pays more than ceiling prices or rents and that he reports all illegal overcharges

to his local board or his Area Rent Office. In this fight every consumer has a part. Inflation begins with penny overcharges. A little higher price here and another higher price there becomes the trigger of inflation with results that could be as disastrous to our hope of peacetime prosperity as the atomic bombs were to the teeming cities of Japan. Now that the war is over the need for continued effort is greater than ever before. We must not, at the last moment, relax our vigilance until we know for sure that the danger is over.

I know we can count on all of you to keep up the fight until the battle is won.

WILLIAMS AVE. USO HAS BIGGEST MONTH

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and Bonneville, Naval Installations in and around Astoria, Pendleton Army Air Base and the overflow from Ft. Lewis and the Seattle Cantonment. The ability to bring cheer and happiness to men and women in uniform is largely responsible to the tireless work of our volunteers and the unusually fine cooperation of the entire community. In every instance individuals and organizations wholeheartedly gave their support to our program. For this we are deeply grateful.

RED CROSS PREPARES FOR PEACE PROBLEMS

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periodically throughout the country.

In a statement sent to the labor press for release in Labor Day editions, Chairman Basil O'Connor pledged the increased efforts of this humanitarian organization in the years of reconstruction ahead.

"Conscious of our responsibility to help solve the problems of occupation, demobilization and readjustment," he said, "we are determined that insofar as Red Cross service will permit, there shall be no forgotten man.

"Never before have reconstruction and rehabilitation offered such a challenge or such a complex problem. As we enter our peacetime program it is in no sense with a sigh of relief that means a return to the familiar. The old shoe won't fit.

"The enlarged program of the future will include the manifold problems that will arise in connection with servicemen and their families in regard to the interpretation of Government regulations and legislation affecting them. Questions about family allowances, claims for pensions and assistance of various kinds are bound to need clarifying, end every chapter of the Red Cross is preparing to do its utmost to help.

"In the days of war, at last ended, all branches of labor have supported the American Red Cross. Blood, money, time, energy and skill have been forthcoming in response to repeated appeals. Today, on labor's national holiday, so well earned, we look forward to an era of continued cooperation."

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RC CLUB PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE AS OCCUPATION NEED

Washington, D. C.—The end of the war will have no immediate effect on the Red Cross club program overseas, and Red Cross workers will remain in Europe or the Eastern theater as long as a need exists among American servicemen for Red Cross services.

BARGAINS IN HOMES

FRANK L. McGUIRE—3 houses First and Pacific—just across the Steel bridge. All 3 bedroom, 6 room houses with full cement basement warm air pipe furnace. Must all be sold at once. If you have two friends that will buy the adjoining houses, we are open to do business. One house is \$3650, one \$2990, and the other \$2900. Reasonable terms down, balance less than rent. Ask for A-194, A-198, F-178.



FRANK L. McGUIRE—Fine income—one 5-room apt. down, complete bath; one 2-room apt. up with bath. Good condition. Tax \$23.60. 50x100 lot. Priced at only \$3500. A real bargain price on nice income property. Ask for Key No. A-56.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—Two bedroom, nice condition, close to bus and school, only \$2350, easy down payment \$750. Lot 150 dep, has garage, 2 extra bedrooms in attic. Part cement basement. Ask for C-146.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—Income \$110 per month, plus 4 large rooms and bath for owner. Double plumbing, cement basement, fuel furnace, 2 fireplaces, double garage. It's on bus line and 4 blocks to school. Gas water heater, ven. blinds. Located on paved street, has cement sidewalks. One of our best for only \$4500—terms. Call Mr. Morris, ask for E-95.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—FURNISHED—2 bedrooms down, complete bath, 2 bedrooms up, utility room, good condition. Owner occupied, ½ blk. to bus. A lot of property for only \$3200, terms. C-191.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—FURNISHED—1 bedroom with inclosed porch—may be used as extra bedroom—only \$1990, terms. 1½ blks. to bus. Owner occupied, corner lot, opportunity to own your own furnished home for very little money. Ask for C-134.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—Three bedroom home, 2 baths, fireplace, 2 kitchens, all on one floor. Piped fuel furnace, gas water heater. All furnished including El. range. Full size lot, nicely landscaped, 2 lbs. to bus, 6 to school, owner occupied. Only \$4500. Ask for H-222.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—One bedroom down, partial plumbing, 3 bedrooms up, with full plumbing. Full cement basement, paint good, sawdust water heater. Basement garage, good looking, American Colonial type and priced furnished \$5500, terms. Ask for G-79.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—Only \$2500 for this 3-bedroom shake exterior, owner occupied. 3 blocks to bus and school, full bath. A fine bargain. Ask for E-139.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—\$3250. Albina Heights, 3 bedroom, 6 room home. Corner lot—sightly property. Close to Emanuel hospital. Garage. 421 North Knott. Reasonable payment down, balance like rent. Ask for B-193.

FRANK L. McGUIRE—Nice income plus apartment for owner. Property has five room apartment with bath down. Large, 2 room apartment with bath up. In 50x150 lot. Good condition and only \$3500—terms. Call AT. 7171, Mr. Morris ask for A56.

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