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Line Against Inflation Crumbling

Election is nearing. For the second time in a week the War Labor Board panel has declared that the "Little Steel" wage ceiling freezing wages at 15 percent above January 1941 can be broken to keep earnings abreast of the cost of living, and that the president has the power to modify wage controls. The latter ruling was in the case of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, demanding a 17-cent hourly wage boost. A week ago another WLB panel, reviewing a wage increase asked by CIO steel workers made similar findings.

These rulings are preparatory for the president to personally make a political decision before election day granting some appeasement from the "Little Steel" formula and grease the skids for inflation in the interest of the fourth term. If such action is taken it will amount to a repudiation of the policies and promises that the administration has hitherto made. In his executive order of April 8, 1943, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"To hold the line we cannot tolerate further increases in prices affecting the cost of living or further increases in general wage or salary rates except where clearly necessary to correct substantial living conditions. The only way to hold the line is to stop trying to find justifications for not holding it here or not holding it there. No one straw may break a camel's back, but there is always a last straw. We cannot afford to take further chances in relaxing the line. We already have taken too many."

On the first anniversary of the "hold the line against inflation" order this year a joint statement signed by Fred M. Vinson, director of economic stabilization, Chester Bowles, OPA administrator, Marvin Jones, war food administrator, and William H. Davis, chairman of the WLB, declared:

"The general level of the cost of living has not been permitted to rise. Indeed, the cost of living as a whole is slightly lower than it was a year ago today. . . . Only by decisive action to halt the rise of wages could the pressure of costs on prices be kept within manageable limits."

Last April Mr. Vinson stated that if labor unions were successful in their effort to smash the Little Steel formula it would be a "short time winner at the economic roulette table" as everyone would be the loser in the price rise and inflationary period certain to follow. And testifying before a senate committee he said: "As far as I am concerned I have no intention or purpose to break the Little Steel formula."

It will be interesting to watch whether the president, for political reasons, will precipitate a dangerous inflationary situation, thus adding another to his long list of broken promises.

Philippines Next

It is no violation of censorship for military security to point out that the Philippine Islands are the next likely target for American forces in the Pacific. The current air, naval and land attack on the Palau Islands and on the other direct approaches to the Philippines indicate that Gen. MacArthur is preparing to take the last step on his "way back." That is so obvious that even the Japs cannot be but fully aware of our intentions.

The coming battle for the Philippines is not dictated solely by sentimental reasons. For strategically this group of islands represent an important goal. Already the opening punches from the air are being delivered by land based as well as carrier based planes. D-day with its landings may come any day now and its results may well be decisive in the final outcome of the war.

Nothing, with the exception of Russia's entry into the war against Japan, could be a more overwhelming blow at the Japs than the capture of the Philippines. The enemy knows this and can be expected to put up a desperate all-out defense. Their stakes are the vital resources of the occupied sections of the Dutch East Indies, French Indo-China and Burma. A glance at your map will reveal the importance to the Japanese of the Philippines, which dominate the sea routes between the Japanese home islands and all of her possessions south of Formosa. Through the South China sea now flows all of the enemy's supplies of rubber, rice, iron, hemp, tin, cotton, tungsten and other vital war materials. It is also the highway of supplies for the Japanese armies in the occupied lands to the south. American occupation of the Philippines would close all of these lines of supply to the Japs.

Besides its fleet which is presumed to be hiding somewhere in that vicinity, the Japs are reported to have around 200,000 ground troops in the Philippines and are said to be constantly reinforcing their defenses there. The looming battle for control of these strategic islands may well be the greatest and most decisive of the entire Pacific war.

Legal But Revealing

Disclosure that democratic organizations are campaigning for soldier votes by direct letter is illuminating but not illegal, nor even unethical. Any candidate for public office or his partisans has as much right to appeal to servicemen as civilians through the mails. We have not yet pretended to dictate what our citizens may read in the way of political literature simply because they are wearing the uniform of their country.

But the origin of the letters being circulated is revealing in its exposure of the interests seeking President Roosevelt's reelection. The first of the letters reported were circulated among the servicemen by Boss Hague's henchmen of Jersey City. Now it appears that Boss Kelly of Chicago is up to the same tricks.

The letters being addressed to the soldiers are accompanied by an application blank for a soldier ballot. The letter wastes no time in preliminaries but gets right to the point in this language: "Franklin D. Roosevelt has been nominated for reelection as president of the United States. Feeling that you would like to vote for him in the forthcoming election of Nov. 7, 1944, we deem it not only our privilege but our duty to aid you in doing so. We enclose herewith an application for a ballot."

To make sure that the party gets full advantage of every soldier's vote cast, the letter outlines the procedure of casting a ballot in this manner: "The simplest and quickest way to indicate your loyal support is to make a cross (X) in front of the word democrats at the top of the first column on the ballot. One single cross in that circle means a vote for every one of our candidates."

Thus the big city machines are applying their proven tactics of getting out the vote to the absent servicemen who might not otherwise go to the trouble of securing and casting an absentee ballot. All this to assure the retention of the "indispensable man."

Deserted

Moscow, Idaho — Robert Eugene Jordan, 22, couldn't get into the navy any other way, so he told authorities at the naval radio training station at the University of Idaho that he was a deserter. Jumped the cruiser U. S. S. Lipton in Australia two years ago, he said, now he wanted to "face it." The navy said, well, we'll look at the record. . . . He still isn't in the navy.



German Flank Menace Grows — Arrows locate Allied drives, including a union of British Second army and allied airborne troops reported near Nijmegen in Holland to increase the threat (broken arrow) to the German right flank. American First army guns shelled German towns of Duren (A), and Prum (B).

Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

David Eyre, vice-president of Ladd & Bush branch of the United States National bank, came into possession of a \$20 bill yesterday which caused his eyes to pop out a little. He took a glance at the bill and saw his own signature looking up at him and on the other side of the bill the signature of Linn C. Smith. The bill was issued by the old United States National bank of which Dave was president and Linn was cashier and has been passing around for

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

No Ideas?

Hartford, Conn. — Whether or not the pace was too swift, they didn't say, but the Idea-a-Month club of Norwich acted on their latest idea and have filed papers of final dissolution with the secretary of state's office here.

Firewater

Grand Coulee, Wash. — Water dripped from a truck up on a grease rack—just a drop or two. It struck an extension cord lamp bulb, which shattered, igniting nearby gasoline. The entire garage went up in flames.

Soured

Boise, Idaho — Letter from Harold J. Lucke of Gooding to state republican headquarters: "Enclosed find sight draft in my favor in amount of \$9.10, being amount of my milk subsidy from the democratic administration. I have never before drawn on the milk subsidy or any of the money to which I was entitled under the triple-A program, but from now on, I intend to endorse them over to the republican party, to be used as a boomerang on the democrats. Make good use of it."

Hep!

Kingsburg, Calif. — Young Donald Danielson noticed the cadets at St. Mary's preflight school drilling with wooden guns—just what he and his gang needed. Yes, said the school commander, the school had some old ones which weren't being used any more, but he didn't have authority to dispose of them.

So Donald wrote to President Roosevelt. Now the gang is hard at drill.

From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Keeping American Homes Intact

We're great home lovers in our town. Family folk—like most Americans. So when war came, and the boys left in uniform, and the girls went into war plants, folks began to shake their heads.

Take Ben Ryder's family, for instance—all doing something different. Young Ben's in the Navy, and his sister's in the airplane plant. Ben's foreman at the tool shop, and Ma spends her days at the Canteen.

A broken home? Don't you believe it! When Ben relaxes with his evening glass of beer, and

Mom and Sis sit down to write their daily letter to Ben Jr., they're closer together than ever... bound by a strong and common purpose—to keep their family, their America, intact.

From where I sit, the strength of America lies in that family spirit—in the tolerance and mutual respect and understanding that have made the American family a strong and vital force for Good!

Joe Marsh

The War Today

By DeWitt Mackenzie

An interpretative analysis of war developments by a famous Associated Press war correspondent.

By J. M. Roberts, Jr. (Substitution for DeWitt Mackenzie)

The battle for Germany, which for a time appeared likely to take place at the Rhine, has actually begun in the Siegfried line and watery Holland and will be decided there.

That the Germans can take another terrible beating and yet retire once more in sufficient strength for any real further stand appears unlikely.

Reports from Arnhem sound grim. Our troops are reported surrounded by a bitterly determined enemy. But they were trained for just such fighting. The allied commanders have yet to blunder in western Europe. This morning's news that all airborne units south of Arnhem have linked up with the British is a strong indication that the battle to turn the northern end of the Siegfried line is still going, as the generals love to put

Crucial Battle Raging

The Germans are fighting to save themselves in the very territory where they began the total war in May, 1940.

Two plans of action, which may merge, seem to be open to the allies. Holding tremendous German forces by strong attacks south of Holland, everything else can be thrown into an invasion of southwestern Germany, across the coastal plains to envelop the great German ports as those of France and the low countries have been enveloped. That would be the Russian system, with truly decisive blows farther south held in reserve.

On the other hand, the allied campaign has developed to oversimplify, almost like three separate wars. They may have the strength to continue that way.

7th Before Belfort

The seventh army on the extreme right flank has conducted its own private invasion, has cleaned up southern France and stands before Belfort, ready to invade southwestern Germany, probably the weakest Nazi area of the Reich and where there has been talk of forming provincial governments for separate truces.

The American first and third

armies have operated all along separately from, although in most complete co-ordination with, Montgomery's multi-allied forces nearer the coast, and are pointed toward the Cologne-Coblenz area.

Arnhem is the first job. It is the key to the border and the great north Germany highway system. A gap there would permit the allies to flow both east and south behind the Siegfried and Rhine defenses, providing an anvil on which Patton, Hodges and Patch could pound the life out of Germany's entire western defenses.

Truman's Mother, 92, Helps in Campaign

Kansas City, Sept. 21 (AP)—Mrs. Martha E. Truman, 92-year-old mother of the democratic vice-presidential nominee, isn't too old to do a little campaigning.

Mrs. Truman served as chairman yesterday of a county group meeting for women party workers—and was the first to pledge that she would assist in the registration campaign by telephoning her neighbors and war workers who have moved into the community.

Pericles was born about 490 B.C.

Crash Victims Formerly Here

Three of the five officers killed near the Redmond army air base Wednesday when their C-45 transport plane crashed, were stationed at the Salem air base early this year. It is recalled by Brazier C. Small, local attorney who introduced the headquarters group at one of the closing luncheons of the Chamber of Commerce last spring.

Killed in the accident were Lt. Col. Ernest C. Young, Stillwater, Okla.; Lt. Col. William T. Moody, Glenville, N. C., and Chief Warrant Officer Clair K. Benson, San Bernardino, Calif.

The other two were not known here nor was the sergeant who was injured. All the dead officers were members of the staff of Col. Earl L. Naiden, Monroe, La., commanding officer of the 317th wing, 4th air force, who was also killed.

The officers, Small said today, were highly pleased with the Salem air base and did not relish the transfer to the base just east of the mountains.

Ancient people imprisoned fireflies in coconut shells to furnish light.

It's a Kuppenheimer

AN INVESTMENT IN GOOD APPEARANCE... AS NATIONALLY ADVERTISED THIS MONTH

Some men have the personality to go to the top in a barrel. But most of us would welcome the lift given the man spotlighted here when he made a Kuppenheimer appearance.

It's a combination of qualities that does it. Qualities you can see and feel—designing, tailoring, style, fabrics. (And they're all finer than ever today.)

Topped off by a human quality—Kuppenheimer's pride in maintaining a reputation for smart craftsmanship older than many a grand-dad.

Kuppenheimer Suits	\$50.00 to \$60.00
Kuppenheimer Topcoats	\$42.50 to \$60.00

The Man's Shop

MOXLEY & HUNTINGTON

The Store of Style, Quality & Value

416 STATE STREET

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, PAPER DAY IN SALEM

City-wide house-to-house pickup of bundled newspapers, magazines and old books by Boy Scouts. Place your bundles on curb in front of residence or business house before noon Sunday, September 24th. Sponsored by Marion County Salvage Committee and Boy Scouts.