

Clackamas County News

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THIS WEEK IN DEFENSE

Stating "we will not let Hitler prescribe the waters of the world on which our ships may travel," the President asked Congress to repeal Section 6 of the Neutrality Act which prohibits arming of American merchant ships and to examine other phases of the law. The President said this action "is a matter of immediate necessity and extreme urgency."

The President said conditions have so changed since enactment of the law it is no longer truly a neutrality measure. He said "it is time for this country to stop playing into Hitler's hands and to unshackle our own. He said the U. S. should not "be forced to masquerade American-owned ships behind flags of our sister Republics."

"Most of the vital goods authorized by the Congress are being delivered," Mr. Roosevelt said. "Yet many of them are being sunk; and as we approach full production requiring the use of more ships now being built it will be increasingly necessary to deliver American goods under the American flag."

Aid to Britain and Russia
The American Red Cross instructed the British Red Cross to forward immediately to Russia 800 tons of

medical supplies. The American Red Cross will send replacement supplies to England.

Prices
Retail food prices continued to rise between mid-August and mid-September increasing 2.6 percent to reach the highest level since January 1931 the labor department reported. Consumer commissioner Elliott reported food prices have risen 29 percent since the war began as compared to 18.4 percent in the comparable World War period and farm products have risen 43.1 percent as compared to 12.6 percent during the last war.

Price administrator Henderson in speaking in support of the pending price regulating legislation said "even more frightening than the present level of price advances is the fact that these advances have been gathering momentum since the early months of the year." He said the cost of living last August was 7 1/2 percent higher than two years ago. Since March alone he said the cost of living is up 5 percent.

Priorities
The Supply Priorities and Allocation board ruled that no new public or private construction can be started unless it is essential for defense or the health and safety of the people or does not involve use of strategic materials. The ruling applies to federal, state and local government buildings, roads and highways, rivers and harbor improvements, residential building and all commercial buildings. Efforts will be made however to aid completion of construction already substantially finished.

The SPAB also voted to permit building of 228 commercial aircraft, with the reservation that the army can take them if they are needed. **Physical Rehabilitation for Selectees**
The President announced plans to "salvage" 200,000 of the 1,000,000 selective service registrants who have been rejected for health reasons. He also announced he would initiate a long range program of federal, state and local cooperation to remedy conditions which have resulted in 50 percent of men of army age being physically unfit for military service. The federal government would pay for medical and dental treatment of those men certified by local boards as subject to health improvement.

Selective service announced that starting January 1 all registrants will be given only one physical exam, by the army. At present registrants are examined by local board doctors and then by army physicians and cannot tell until the final exam if they will be accepted.

Air
OPM announced 1914 military aircraft were delivered during September, a new monthly record. The war department announced it will allow army aviation cadets 30 hours for flight training prior to enlistment thereby cutting in half the flying time necessary in the army to win wings. Mimic air raids began along the East coast from Boston to Savannah to test ability of civilian spotters and their communication system.

Nursing
The Red Cross announced a program to instruct 500,000 American housewives in home nursing in the next year. Courses will take six weeks of class work and practical experience. Miss Olive Peterson director of public health nursing for Minnesota will conduct the program.

Employment
The President's committee on fair employment practice asked any one denied a defense job because of creed, color, race or national origin to write the committee at Washington so an investigation can be made and remedial steps taken. The OPM labor division issued new reporting forms to speed up surveys by the U. S. employment service local offices of situations where civilian factories are closed by material shortages and priorities. The OPM advised the war department that 34 companies making most of the nation's washing machines can produce defense articles and asked they be given preferential treatment to avoid lay-off of workers.

Labor
The President in a message to the AFL convention in Seattle said the time has come when federal machinery "must be used" before any recourse is taken to a strike or lock-out." He said organizational rivalries and jurisdictional conflicts must be discarded for the duration. Labor secretary Perkins told the meeting it is of extreme importance that trade-unions develop in the near future a pattern of self-imposed discipline." She said the closed shop, closed memberships and high dues should be "re-studied with a view to the public welfare" and to provide for those who "are not joiners by nature."

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