

### Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

The exemption of agricultural workers from Federal taxes was presumed to solve the man-power problem on the farms by inducing labor to move back to the country where "take home" wages would be greater.

The harvesting of crops proceeded with a degree of success under this policy. Most farming areas, excepting the dairy industry, have managed to recruit enough labor to get crops gathered. But, unfortunately, the exemption from taxes applicable to farm workers does not extend to cannery workers. Therefore much of the produce harvested is now in jeopardy because labor shuns the canneries in favor of other war industries paying higher wages. Cannery operators are prevented by ceiling prices from raising wages to hold their help. So the food spoils and the harvesting goes for naught.

This is another chapter in the long book of economy to prove that rigid control of natural resources is a practical impossibility in spite of the really valiant efforts of OPA officials. A gallant stand is being made against inflation but human nature goes right on functioning to circumvent it. History will record which of the two systems of control has proved the more effective, the voluntary as in World War I or the compulsory as in the present instance.

It would seem as if our intelligent and enlightened people could do a better job if all of the cards were on the table and compulsion abandoned. The dangers of inflation are fully recognized. Public opinion will do a mighty effective job of policing once it is aroused. Chiselers would get the same quiet but terribly effective treatment as that used by the Norwegians to get the goat of the German. No one, no matter how caloused, can take that sort of thing very long.

Let the burdensome regulations that have caused spoilage of food be relaxed and let the problem be put squarely up to the public. I have a hunch that the canning would get done some way. The excellent showing of the public cannery at Myrtle Point is an example to show what the people can do when they pull up their socks and go after it.

The president's message to Congress was distinguished by the admission of some mistakes in domestic policy. Though he has repeatedly stated that he would be the first to admit it if a mistake were made, this is the first time, in a long while at least, that an admission was actually made. It is indicative of the trend towards the right taken by his administration.

No one can deny, or would deny, that mistakes have been made, and plenty of them. It is fortunate that they have been domestic and not military. The president, though trying to have his finger in every pie at home, has had the good sense to date to let the military leaders carry the ball. This has brought results with a minimum of casualties in accord with true American tradition and the Nation is grateful.

But the weakness of the president in trying to do it all himself on the home front has caused most of the hopeless confusion in Washington. Finding himself in a bad predicament, he has had to abandon his in-born hatred of industrial leadership in order to obtain the trained personnel with which to administer the war effort. The "wire-hairs" have had to be shelved temporarily in favor of trained executives and the order of the day is to march by the right flank.

Let no one be deceived by this right-hand trend. It is merely a temporary expedient. The president has the innate stubbornness of the Dutch. Opposition causes him to bow his back and stand by his guns, right or wrong. He has not changed his ideas about "cradle to the grave" or "lollipops to lilies," whichever you want to call it. He still believes in centralized government by decree, regulation, and directive, rather than the slower and more cumbersome government by the Congress according to the constitution. Because he finds the opposition too powerful, he joins it. He is the most astute politician ever to occupy the White House.

Though it is not fair to deprecate his accomplishments nor to attack his motives, it is fair to point out the direction in which his policies were leading us: The public has for quite some time been marching off in a totally different direction than that taken by his administration. He has made a great mistake in not recognizing this before. Now he will have to run like the dickens to catch up and grab the flag. And he will shake off a lot of excess baggage in his administration while running.

Along about 1910 there was quite a controversy over compulsory military training for young men in our colleges. Considerable heat was generated by the Congress in debate over the subject. A compromise was finally adopted to make the first two

years in college compulsory and the rest voluntary. This applied only to those colleges having military departments with federal aid. The wisdom of this move is manifest in the fact that many of our present able staff of field officers received preliminary training in college. The inadequacy of the program is evident in the fact that we are still woefully short of good field officers in proportion to the size of our Army.

It is generally agreed that the United States will have to maintain a powerful Army and Navy for years to come. We can not escape this burden. It will be necessary to insure an enduring peace.

Many thousands of our young men will have to adopt the military as their life work. Future generations must be protected from the re-occurrence of these past five years. The traditional distaste of Americans for the military will have to be altered to the extent that large numbers of well-trained soldiers and sailors must be available at all times. These trainees need not be trained to the thorough extent necessary during war. They should be well founded in essentials to the point where a short intensive training period will fit them for combat. They should be kept posted on all improvements in the use of arms and the practice of military strategy.

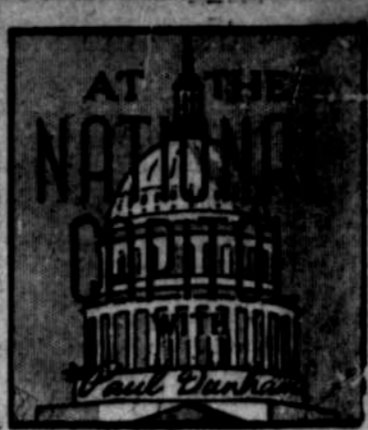
General Leonard Wood went about the land preaching preparedness in 1912. He succeeded in persuading the Congress to permit the establishment of camps for the yearly training of the National Guard. It was but a gesture to humor the General in deference to his long and splendid record of service in the Army. We soon regretted that his warning had not been heeded. Let us not make the same mistake again. It is too costly in lives of our young men.

There is danger that constant military drill and training will induce a desire to make use of the things taught, just as the purchase of a rifle makes the small boy want to go out and shoot something, quite often himself. We must guard against this by concurrent training in duties of citizenship, sound statesmanship, and fundamental principles of democracy and non-aggression.

A late wise-crack floating around Washington, that we should practice Lease-Lend by leasing Churchill and lending Roosevelt, brings to mind the goings-on at Mackinac Island where leaders of the Republican Party met to formulate a foreign policy plank for their 1944 platform.

The brief text of the final document was printed in one of the magazines for the public to read. It advocates the relentless prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion, the disqualification of the Axis to construct facilities for the manufacture of war goods, the maintenance of permanent armed forces at home sufficient to insure peace, the participation in a cooperative organization among sovereign nations to insure justice to all, and the doing of these things with careful regard for the vital interests of the nation and the bearing on foreseeable international developments.

The thing seems to be about the most sensible that has come out yet. It differs from the idea put forth by administration spokesmen in that it makes Uncle Sam a committee member but not the chairman. The theory behind the Republican declaration is that we should look after our own interests first but at the same time keep an eye on international affairs. It should be remembered



Washington, D. C., Sept. 30—One of the new rackets by some citizens and slick lawyers continues while Congress is attempting to curb them. This racket is the "informer" by which a "citizen" or lawyer, who knows nothing about an attempt to defraud the government brings a civil suit knowing that under an old law, passed in 1865, he will receive 50 per cent of the judgment. At this time there are 35 such suits and they involve millions of dollars. Two suits of this character have been filed against a western railroad and an oil company for a sum representing \$1,200,000,000.

The department of justice is asking a curb on these racketeers, for on the floor of the senate the activity of these lawyers has been called a racket. It started back in January, this year, when the supreme court upheld a judgment of \$315,000. The so-called "informer" receives half the money under the law. But it is declared that the "informer" contributed nothing to the case; he had simply copied the indictment which had been drawn by the department of justice.

Recently there was testimony before the Truman committee that a certain war contract firm had chiseled the government. The department of justice investigated and found the testimony was insufficient to bring a suit. However, based on newspaper reports of the Truman committee testimony, three different people in the midwest filed suit. Beyond the news-

that the chairman of a committee is apt to do all of the work, get all of the blame if things go sour and none of the credit if things turn out well. Ask any one who has served as committee chairman.

The idea that Uncle Sam should be the leader in setting up a world-wide democracy of nations is all right if he can avoid being the whipping-boy for the rest of the gang. But to have Uncle Sam step in as umpire over the ancient European squabbles is just asking for trouble. It would seem as if the Republicans hit upon the right idea.

The significant thing to come from the Mackinac meeting was not the foreign policy itself but the source from which it came. Our young Republican governors, seeing the old wheel-horses about to fumble the ball, just grabbed it themselves and came up with this very sensible and substantial declaration. It is a sign of health in the party when younger men come through in the pinch with vigorous, determined action.

All of this means that the Republican party will sponsor a return of government from Washington to the several States and the restoration of local control in place of bureaucratic directive. The party will sponsor private enterprise and the incentive system for labor and capital. It will base its hopes for success on domestic rather than foreign issues although the latter will receive close attention.

paper reports they knew nothing.

The senate is attempting to change this ancient law and proposals have been made to reduce the "informer" cut from 50 per cent to 25 per cent, or even 10 per cent. Even a 10 per cent slice of a judgment for a few million dollars would not be "hay." On the other hand, there is a desire to retain sufficient features of the old act to enable a person who by his own investigation has "something" on an alleged crooked war contractor and yet at the same time discourage the racketeers.

As the situation stands, any war contractor can be sued by an "informer" if some witness tells the Truman or other investigating committee that such-and-such shipbuilding company of Puget sound or Columbia river hornswoogled the government. The tanker "Scheneclady," which split and sank at the outfitting dock in the Vancouver-Portland area after its test run, is now the subject of an "informer" suit against the Carnegie-Illinois Steel corporation which supplied the steel, in which the "informer" writes Senator Langor he hopes to recover \$25,000,000 for the government.

Northwest members of congress are hopping mad over the so-called shortage of wood fuel in Washington and Oregon. They can't see eye to eye with OPA's Joe Dean, national fuel administrator, who predicts a critical wood and coal fuel shortage this winter for the northwest. Mr. Dean cites the manpower shortage as the real factor behind the coming fuel shortage. The many lumber mills of the northwest which are operating at capacity have trainloads of slabwood, mill ends and sawdust stacked around their plants waiting for customers. Many of these mills are located very close to the larger population centers in both states, hence, the train, truck or barge haul in many cases would not be over 50 miles, and seldom more than 100 miles.

While the lawmakers admit transportation facilities are not always ample to move this fuel to the larger cities on schedule, they can't see the critical shortage angle as advanced by Dr. Dean. They also argue that there is enough available manpower to do the transportation job if OPA would adjust the price ceiling on wood fuel. Fuel dealers would then be in position to absorb the additional transportation costs and ample fuel would be available for every home. By the tone of the letters received here, lawmakers can't see why a fuel shortage when the northwest is chock-full of wood.

National postwar planning, now in the lap of congress, has many wrinkles which will have to be ironed out before the bugle blows cease firing. The one big wrinkle in any post-war plan is labor costs. Most everyone agrees that industry will not be able to return to the pre-war wage level for labor. On the other hand, industry can't be expected to pay boom war-time wage scales, and that's where the unions come into the picture. Labor unions now have the largest membership ever attained and millions of dollars in their treasury. They will battle any move which would reduce the hourly wage of any craft; and on the contrary may even ask for more money. Unions now hold closed shop contracts with many lines of industry which will be in effect after the war. Wage increases have been written into these contracts and also into federal and state wage-hour regulations. Therefore, any national postwar planning act

will have to contain an average hourly wage rate close to the current rate of hourly pay, think the lawmakers. Naturally, the revision of any and all postwar scales will be downward, and that's the big wrinkle to be ironed out.

#### Even Minor Traffic Accidents Must Be Reported At Once

Oregon law requires reports on any traffic accident that involves personal injury, death or property damage in any amount. Secretary of State Bob Farrell has said in reminding drivers involved in accidents to file these reports within twenty-four hours.

There is no minimum property damage clause in the Oregon accident reporting law, as there is in some states, he said. Newcomers to Oregon sometimes think they are not required to report an accident in which the damage is \$25 or under, but the law in this state requires the reporting of every accident, no matter how minor the damage.

"No business man can compute his costs and operate his business successfully without all the facts pertaining to that business," Farrell declared, in explaining the reason for the Oregon law. "In the field of traffic control, we cannot intelligently plan a program of accident prevention unless we know all the facts pertaining to accidents, where they occur, when they occur and the driver actions involved in them. "Just as a five cent item must be considered in business costs, so must minor traffic accidents be considered in traffic control. The same causa-

tive factors that result in a minor fender dent one moment may result in a fatality the next moment."

Accidents which occur in urban areas must be reported to the police department. Accidents in rural areas must be reported to the sheriff of the county in which they occur. These reports are required by law within 24 hours of the time the accident occurs.

Farrell urged drivers in accidents to be accurate in the information noted in the reports. Accurate information, analyzed and studied, presents an accurate picture of the accident situation, showing the cause of accidents and indicating preventive measures, he said.

#### Registration Dates At Ashland For Southern Oregon College

All preparations have been completed for the fall quarter registration at the Southern Oregon College of Education. The registration schedule is as follows: Registration of Freshman students Thursday, September 30. Psychology test for all Freshmen and transfer students Friday, October 1. Registration of sophomores, junior and students Monday, October 4. Stanford test to all Freshmen and transfer students Tuesday, October 5. Regular classes begin Wednesday, October 6.

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