

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., October 9.—Now we are told by Charles E. Wilson, acting head of the War Production Board (during the absence of Donald Nelson who is in Egypt and is not expected home for several weeks), that so far as producing alumina from clay is concerned, there may or may not be manpower difficulties in Oregon and Washington but that is not the immediate reason for refusing to permit the construction of an alumina-from-clay plant.

Not long ago, you may recall, the WPB announced refusal of permission to build such a plant—or plants—because of the shortage of manpower.

Now, Wilson says, we no longer need the additional aluminum supplies. In fact, and I quote him word for word: "We have aluminum running out of our ears." Some forms of manufactured aluminum are needed, he says, such as extrusions and forgings and castings—but not raw aluminum—there is plenty of that. So we no longer need to consider developing new processes for extracting the light metal from clay.

There is a small stockpile of bauxite that has been shipped in from across the Caribbean and shipping is easy from there now due to the elimination of the submarine menace. The bauxite deposits in Arkansas are sufficient to last about two years at the present rapid rate of mining. Wilson estimates, therefore, that we have ample raw aluminum for three years. He had already voiced the opinion that it would take about three years to get the three proposed alumina-from-clay plants into commercial production on a satisfactory scale.

This information was developed in a meeting of some Oregon and Washington members of congress with Mr. Wilson. Near the end of the conference, since I could not make certain things he said add up, I asked some questions. Here they are—almost exactly word for word (we did not have a stenographic report of the meeting):

Question: We only have three years of alumina supply in sight in this country?

Answer: Yes.

Q. And it will take three years to get the clay process into production on a quantity basis?

A. Yes.

Q. Does that mean that you and the War Production Board calculate that the war will end some little time before our three year supply of alumina is exhausted?

A. Oh—No!

In view of the well known fact that

we can obtain aluminum from only two sources—by boat from South America or by taking it from our own clay deposits—after the Arkansas deposits of bauxite are exhausted, I am still wondering just what sort of magic Mr. Wilson and the War Production Board would use to make airplanes to fight with if the war should happen to go against us and the Caribbean closed to shipping again. Sounds to me as if they would take a longer gamble on this vital metal than most folks would.

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We should, we must, develop our own sources of aluminum. We will be helpless in the modern world unless we do. We should do it now. If it is necessary to do it in spite of the WPB, it somehow must be done.

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The committee (unofficial) of members of congress from Oregon, Washington and California that was organized last week to investigate and protest the recent WPB directive stopping the allocation of war contracts on the Pacific Coast due to the manpower shortage is doing some effective work—and getting some amazing information.

Last week we interviewed some executives from "down town" and here is about what they told us:

Everything is going fine. Special committees from the Manpower Commission working in conjunction with WPB, and having local regional authority will review and pass upon future contracts (including renewal and new) and will approve them if local investigation reveals sufficient manpower available. Thus, they point out, no really deserving plant will be put out of business.

This committee is meeting again today and I am hoping we shall be able to dip up some further information that may be a bit more encouraging.

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Yesterday I heard Senator Brewster of Maine report on what he observed on his recent trip around the world with the party of senators. The five senators are reporting their finding to the Senate yesterday and today—in a secret session. The revelations are amazing—and are not encouraging. The press reports are merely the thin outline. The facts that fill in this skeleton report are convincing. Put into very few words, the report of Brewster is simply that, while our Army and Navy are doing a splendid job of winning the war, we are bungling the civilian follow-up and the British are doing a good job—incidentally taking credit to themselves for much of the relief work that we are doing.

Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore
The summer logging season has witnessed an unusually large number of bad accidents. It is probable that this unfortunate circumstance is brought about by the inexperience of crews plus heavy pressure for production.

Logging is a young man's job. It requires a high degree of agility, mental alertness, and experience. Often the difference between life and death is only the width of an eyelash. One deals with the raw forces of nature and the use of brutal, powerful machinery. In spite of strenuous efforts made to minimize accidents, they occur with disconcerting frequency.

As loggers in general are young men, with red blood in their veins, they are among the first to volunteer when their country is in danger. Because of this fact and because of the enormous quantity of lumber needed in modern warfare, an actual famine in lumber is threatened. Men without adequate experience, but with courage and determination, have sought to take the places of the regular crews in order that the flow of logs to the mills be kept at par. It is among these men that most of the casualties have occurred and a tribute should be paid them by a grateful nation for what they have done toward the defense of their country.

Such heroes are unsung and often receive little or no public acclaim. It is fitting that we pause to reflect that this war is not only being fought on land and sea with the armed forces but also in our industries by men who face death or injury with the same resolution as that of the trained soldier or sailor. One who gives up his life for this country in such fashion, merits the same high esteem in the minds of his countrymen as the heroes who do the front line fighting.

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The devastating tax bill presented by the Treasury Department for the consideration of Congress will focus attention on government expenditures and may result in the elimination of unnecessary government functions during the war.

The extremely frigid reception given the proposed bill by Congress and the angry exclamations of those who took part in the debate, make it sure that the bill will not be seriously considered.

There are two ways of financing the war effort, one is by taxation and the sale of bonds and the other by rigid economy to reduce all unnecessary expenses.

Senator Byrd has stated that he believes the majority of what he terms "juvenile delinquency" and what others term "paragaphs troopers" that man the hundreds of bureaus could be placed in the armed forces without any great loss to the efficiency of government. It is interesting, in this regard, to note that several important agencies are now withdrawing requests for deferment for their help. The pressure of public opinion, plus the investigations by Congress, are bearing fruit.

But the best argument for the elimination of excess baggage in government circles, is that the thousands of bulletins issued under the authority of the Federal Government and purporting to state true facts for the consideration of the public, have had to be revised so often as to throw a doubt upon their accuracy. Either the machinery for accumulating evidence used in making up these reports is faulty or those who work up the data are not sufficiently trained to properly assemble the facts.

Just as the centers of learning in Europe, such as the universities at Brussels, Heidelberg, and Vienna, were discredited when it was found that the bulletins which they had issued for years with the integrity of the greatest scientists backing them, were not trustworthy, so are the hitherto valuable bulletins of our government apt to fall into disrepute if they are not strictly edited by men of integrity and of scientific knowledge. The very profuseness of these bulletins alone, have thrown doubt upon their authenticity.

It is to be hoped that Congress will set things right in this matter and the value of our Federal bulletins will be maintained at its present level.

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To absorb the untouched income of the millions in the lower brackets, a compulsory savings plan has been suggested. The theory is that these people, who should be taking steps to protect themselves from want in the event of a post-war depression, should be forced to do so through the purchase of Federal Bonds, negotiable only after peace has been signed.

The very suggestion of compulsion

MODIFIED.
We agree with this organization for, in our opinion, renegotiation of war contracts stifles incentive, slows down war production, costs more than it recaptures, and is a criminal waste of badly needed manpower.

is repugnant to the average American and it is not likely that such a plan will receive the necessary support to get it passed through Congress.

A better way is to look to economy of government, the elimination of duplication of government functions between states and nation, the return of most government functions to the states and municipalities. A greater confidence would be built up in this fashion, because people would have direct control over, and access to, those in immediate authority and the unwieldy centralization of power in Washington would be eliminated.

The manner in which the people met the challenge of the recent bond drive would indicate that they can be depended upon to raise any needed funds by voluntary effort. It is true that the vast sums needed for the war can only be raised through heavy taxation and extensive borrowing. But there appears no reasonable need for any methods of compulsion to bring about this end. When the people are acquainted with the situation and are told the truth, they will respond with whatever effort is needed to overcome the obstacles.

The average American resents being treated as a mere number, instead of a person. Methods effective in Europe will fail in the United States. Therefore, compulsion will be used only as a last resort. Rather the voluntary methods will prevail and, in my opinion, will be all that is needed.

To Launch "Oregon Trail" Saturday

Parade and pageantry will feature the launching of the S. S. Oregon Trail, thirty-fourth in the series of T2 tankers being constructed at the Swan Island yard of the Kaiser Company in Portland, on Saturday, October 16, 1943, and all Coquille members of the Oregon Trail committee here, of which Mrs. R. A. Wernich is chairman, have been invited to attend the ceremony.

The Oregon Trail Centennial Commission will present a contrast of transportation in the days of the Oregon Trail with the modern methods of shipbuilding and the implements used in the construction of tankers. Oxen pulling covered wagons, horse-drawn surreys and stage coaches, Indians in their tribal regalia, as well as groups attired in the costumes of the Oregon Trail period, will mingle with the giant "Whiskey cranes," tremendous trucks and trailers, the big Hysters, caterpillar tractors, and the shipyard worker and his steel hat and modern working clothes, to present a picture of Oregon's progress through one hundred years.

The tankers being constructed at Swan Island are the largest ships built in the Pacific Northwest and are 523 feet in length with a deadweight of 16,460 tons. The S. S. Oregon Trail is the second in a list of tanks to be named for important points in Oregon. The first was the S. S. Champoeg launched last week. Other ships in the order of their launching will be named: Corvallis, Gervais, Umatilla, Klamath Falls, Yamhill, Owyhee, Table Rock, Wallowa, Grand Ronde, Coquille, Jacksonville, Meacham, Nehalem, Tillamook and Pendleton.

How To Fit Up Guest Rooms Told In Bulletin

Families who are fitting up guest rooms and unused bedrooms for rental to newcomers to the community or war workers will be interested in a new bulletin just released by the School of Home Economics at Oregon State College entitled "Rooms for War Guests." It was written by Miss Maud Wilson, national authority on Housing problems.

"Caring for paying guests is a new experience for most home owners and many undertake the responsibility with a great deal of hesitation," says Miss Wilson, "and because it can be a pleasant and profitable experience, it is the purpose of my bulletin to bring about an understanding and respect for the needs of these persons, and yet manage it in a businesslike fashion."

The bulletin gives suggestions for increasing storage space of cupboards and closets as well as suggested room arrangements. Families who are not renting rooms but need additional space for their own members will also find the bulletin of value. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained for 40c or a copy may

Pimples Disappeared Over Night

Yes, it is true, there is a safe harmless medicated liquid called Kleorex that dries up pimples over night. Those who followed simple directions and applied Kleorex upon retiring were amazingly surprised when they found their pimples had disappeared. These users enthusiastically praise Kleorex and claim they are no longer embarrassed and are now happy with their clear complexion. Don't take our word for it, use Kleorex tonight. Only 50c. If one application does not satisfy, you get your money back. There is no risk so do not hesitate. Sold and recommended by

BARLOW DRUG CO.

be borrowed from Mrs. Dorothy E. Bishop, county home demonstration agent, Coquille.

Townsend Club No. 2

Ten members of the Auxiliary met with Mrs. Ernest Buckner on last Thursday afternoon, taking her flowers. Mrs. Buckner is confined to her bed at present but we hope she will soon be up again, as we miss her cheerful presence with us.

If the weather permits, our next meeting will be a picnic dinner at the city park on Oct. 21. Otherwise we will meet with Mrs. Maud Brockman.—Press Cor.

Norton's have a few new Rand McNally globes and Atlases in stock. If you want any for Christmas gifts, you should buy now.

Calling cards, 50 for \$1.00.

Old papers 5c a bunch.

Howdy Folks:

Check your mufflers and tail pipes.

We have been advised these parts are coming slow and already stocks are depleted on some makes.

AMZY ERNIE
M & W Auto Service

Friday, Oct. 22
Hallowe'en Carnival
Program - Games
Riverton Gym
Admission 25c and 10c
FREE FERRY

At Your Service

It is a pleasure to announce that I have become associated with the Great Northern Life Insurance Company, as District Agent. This Company is an old line legal reserve company with a long record of service to policyholders. It writes both Life Insurance and Accident and Health Insurance (income protection). I shall be glad to consult with any one on his insurance needs, and recommend a Great Northern Life policy to fit the situation. There will be no obligation, of course, and I am—at your service.

Fred R. Bull

DISTRICT AGENT

GREAT NORTHERN LIFE INSURANCE CO.

436 W. Front

COQUILLE

Phone 62-M

Renegotiation Law Irks Small Business

By GEORGE PECK

The National Small Business Men's Association recently sent out an inquiry to several hundred of its members as to their opinion of the Renegotiation of War Contracts Law. This inquiry was inspired by the statement of the Chairman of one of the Congressional Committees investigating that law, who said: "So far as the committee knows, small manufacturers are entirely satisfied with Renegotiation, otherwise we would have a storm of protest, and we haven't."

The replies received from small manufacturers would seem to indicate that they are even more incensed at the Renegotiation Law than are the larger industries engaged in war production. We quote excerpts from some of these replies:

A manufacturer in the heart of the Middle West declared that this act is, "a particularly vicious piece of legislation," and backs it up with this statement: "We do not believe that the Renegotiation Act is at all fair. When we enter into a contract with the government or when we accept any sub-contract from other prime contractors, we do it on a competitive basis, we being one of no less than three bidders and we take all of our work on what we term 'firm quotes'. If there is any loss suffered we accept that loss, and we accept it without wincing. If there is any profit made the margin is comparatively small, particularly now that we have the high excess profits tax."

A small company that produces floor cleaning devices made the following statement: "It is difficult in times like these, with the great labor turnover, to estimate costs for any large production of any item. In view of the uncertainty of costs, probably taken into consideration in naming a price, it may be too much or too little depending on what develops. Here again, if the margin of profit is too much the excess profit rates and income taxes will absorb any inequity in the asking price."

A company in the East converted 100 per cent for war work, answered: "In our opinion it is a backward step

for the government to assert its power to bring about Renegotiation of contracts that have already been filled or are being taken care of. A manufacturer who makes his quotation on a particular job must necessarily figure on getting some profit. This reasoning is granted without question. It is impossible, however, for a manufacturer to state exactly how much the job will cost. It is not to the advantage of everybody concerned if he is able to arrange his production schedule and equipment to bring about a complete contract earlier than stated in the contract? For the government to say that he may have only a certain percentage of profit, the manufacturer can have increased costs and slower production. There would be no incentive for any manufacturer to step up production."

A pulp manufacturer in an eastern city brought out the following facts: "Present taxes in our case will not allow ready cash to carry on the business properly, nor to build up liquid post-war assets. If Renegotiation reduces the gain or profit further, it only adds to the uncertainty of future means of smaller manufacturers to exist and furnish employment."

A small manufacturer in Wisconsin pointed out that Renegotiation is a threat to continued existence of small business, the backbone of the nation's economic structure.

An eastern manufacturer close to the war picture wrote: "It has been stated that it will be necessary to add approximately 200,000 employees to the public payroll, and approximately 300,000 employees to private payrolls to carry out properly the mandates of Renegotiation. A large percentage of these employees could be used for productive purposes. Renegotiation puts business in a position of uncertainty. A large percentage of war contractors of this country are wasting time worrying about what will happen when they are renegotiated."

From these and many other letters received, the National Small Business Men's Association is quite convinced that small manufacturers are not satisfied with the Renegotiation Law and states that "IT SHOULD BE REPEALED OR DRASTICALLY