

**Timely Topics**

By HON. R. T. MOORE

A sailor, recently discharged from the Navy, desired to locate in this section and spent a few days in a Coos Bay hotel while looking for a job. At the end of his stay, discouraged and disgusted, he re-enlisted in the Navy in preference to enduring present civilian life. A marine re-enlisted rather than submit to labor union directives forced upon him if he elected to follow his chosen occupation. A G.I. complained bitterly of the inadequacy of the veterans' aid measure in the face of present inflated prices. The press carries stories of housing difficulties experienced by returning servicemen while trying to provide a home for their families. And over it all are devastating strikes as rival labor unions struggle for supremacy. None can be very proud of this welcome for war veterans.

The situation is similar to that prevailing in France during the twenty years following the World War I. In an emotional let-down following the terrific national effort the French forgot God and country to engage in a series of domestic fights for special privileges between rival pressure groups. Productivity dropped sharply with lessened labor efficiency until France slipped from a primary into a secondary world power.

In contrast to the French behavior, the Germans were confronted with the grim necessity of making a living while paying reparations. They had to work hard to survive and they did work hard. It has become the greatest tragedy in history that their work was lost through mis-direction. The prodigious effort of the German people should have brought benefit to civilization. Instead it became the potential destroyer of Christian humanity and was defeated only by the grace of God.

The distinguishing mark of a great people is ability to profit by experience and thus march ever forward toward better things. Americans have seen the fall of France from failure to work and the rise of Germany through universal labor of its people. How could the value of hard work and high production be more clearly demonstrated? It is inconceivable that Americans must learn this economic lesson the hard way and totally fail to profit from the unfortunate experience of France.

The United States is committed to world leadership to save itself, if for no other reason. We can not escape the responsibility of aiding the economic rehabilitation of war-torn nations by furnishing machine tools and by high production of our own goods. With our industrial machine in high gear, we can at once produce needed goods for other countries and furnish a market for much of their produce. But time is the essence. The distress in Europe is so general and so severe that prompt measures are imperative to save even a semblance of law and order. Most certainly this is not the time for Americans to indulge in the industrial-civil wars now prevalent. It is a time for bending every effort to produce goods for ourselves and for the rest of the world in a race against famine, disease and anarchy.

Much dependence is being placed on the deliberations of the labor-management conference to devise ways and means of ending industrial strife so harmful to the innocent public. But this conference shows signs of being sabotaged by clash of personalities among leaders of labor. If it fails we shall witness enactment of stiff regulatory measures for labor unions by the Congress in response to public demand. Such measures will afford only temporary relief, not a cure. There can be no freedom from industrial strife until honesty, truth, and justice pervade the ethics of industrial relationship.

**Happy Thanksgiving**

It was a happy Thanksgiving day and it will be a still happier Christmas at the W. A. Shutt home in the Fairview district, for Mr. Shutt was home Thursday and will celebrate his first Christmas in three years at home. Mr. Shutt has been a member of the U. S. merchant marine during the war hauling vitally needed supplies and ammunition to the armed forces and military theatres.

**Three GI's Go for a Center in Iceland**



Horseback riding, skiing, shooting, and other sports fill the off-duty time of American soldiers stationed in Iceland. The Regular Army, which offers travel, adventure, comradeship, vocational training, and security, is accepting enlistments now from qualified civilians 18 to 34 years of age, inclusive.

**October Fatalities Up Over 100 Per Cent**

Traffic fatalities in Oregon during the month of October totaled 42, an increase of 100 per cent over the fatality toll for the same month of 1944, according to Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, who said the October increase was one of the highest recorded in the state's history.

The increase in September was 76 per cent. During the first 15 days of November, there were 23 fatalities, which is a little more than a hundred per cent increase over the toll for the same period a year ago. For the first ten months of 1945, there were 254 persons killed in Oregon traffic, compared to 194 for the same period of 1944.

"The fatality toll for the first ten months of this year was four per cent greater than the toll for the entire year of 1944 when 245 persons died on our streets and highways," Farrell declared. The Secretary of State warned that if the present trend continues till the first of the year, the fatality toll for 1945 will exceed 300, the highest since the year 1941 when 299 persons were killed.

"Heavy increases in motor vehicle use, coupled with cars that are much older and in poorer mechanical condition, and drivers who have not yet readjusted their driving practices to conditions of congestion, are the chief factors in this tragic increase in traffic deaths," Farrell said. He urged drivers and pedestrians to bear these facts in mind as they drive and walk in traffic.

**Some Facts Listed**

1. The number of cars passing given points is, in many cases, double what it was a year ago.
  2. Cars are, on the average, five to seven years older than those normally driven by most people. Older cars are more likely to have mechanical defects.
  3. Many drivers have forgotten the hazards of congestion, and many new drivers never experienced these conditions before.
- "We can prevent these accidents by regulating our driving and walking to the new conditions of congestion and vehicle deficiencies," Farrell said. Let's stop this tragic increase in the traffic death rate in this state."

**Attends Cottage Grove Eagles Meeting**

L. R. Hickenbottom, Jr., past worthy president of the Coquille F. O. E. Eagles lodge, visited the Cottage Grove meeting of the Eagles in that city Wednesday, November 21st. He reported a good attendance and lots of interest.

**S. Sgt. Tom Newton Released from Army**

S/Sgt. Thomas Newton was released from the U. S. army last week. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Newton of Coquille. Before entering the army he was a student. He is the wearer of the European Theatre of Operations ribbon with three battle stars, the Air Medal, Victory Medal, and American Defense ribbon. He served five months in the ETO.



Washington, D. C., Nov. 22—One of the best shows in the national capital is the Pearl Harbor investigation, conducted in the caucus room of the senate office building. Crowds are cluttering the hallways long before the doors open; for there are always hundreds of people in Washington who have nothing to do than to haunt the galleries and to appear at every open meeting. The hearings, held in the marble walls of the ornate caucus room, are punctuated by the flashlights of the press photographers. The committee members sit at a long table and in front of each is a microphone which carries the questions to everyone in the large room. Witnesses also sit in front of a mike.

Members of the capital police force (this is a political force, the patronage of senators and representatives and is not a part of the metropolitan police) stand around to keep the spectators in order. Standing room is at a premium and those who do manage to obtain a seat hold it until the committee recesses. The working members of the press are provided with two long tables, and there are no vacancies at the press tables. There is so much sensational testimony and so many wrangles between the Democratic and the Republican committee members (the hearings are saturated with partisan politics) that the press can report only a few fragments of the fireworks.

Whether all the angles of the Pearl Harbor disaster, and who was responsible (aside from the Japanese) will be brought out is anyone's guess. The Republicans suspect more than has so far developed, and they probably will not be satisfied unless they can hang something on the late Mr. Roosevelt.

The army air force has purchased 30 helicopters and these are now in production, although the war is over. General "Hap" Arnold says that while the helicopter has not been fully developed, it must be developed at as early a date as possible because there are some places where only a helicopter can be operated. The helicopter can ascend straight up or come down without a runway, and this is an advantage not possessed by airplanes. The air command hopes to test out its 30 units and learn all the answers possible.

Complete reorganization of the national guard is slated for July, 1946. The plan is for 25 national guard divisions, 22 divisions to be infantry, and two armored. There will be 85 air squadrons. The national guard will be under state control, with federal recognition. National guard officers did well by themselves during the war. Of 17,752 inducted 13,383 are still in service and 70 per cent are now majors or better and only 30 per cent are still captains or lieutenants. The reorganization of the guard has been inspired by the monumental report of Gen. George Marshall, chief of staff, made public October 18, and which is becoming a best seller in the book trade. In this report the general proposed a "healthy and strong national guard, ready to take its place in the front line of defense in the first weeks of an emergency."

Decision as to what to do with the public and private papers of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt was left to Mary Hopkins and Miss Grace Tully, his personal secretary. They selected what they considered should be saved and these papers were shipped to the monument to Roosevelt built at Hyde Hopkins and Miss Tully were the sole judges of what should be retained for the inspection of future historians, and it has been asserted that nothing which might reflect on the late president was salvaged. It is this belief which has aroused the suspicions of Republican members of the Pearl Harbor investigating committee.

Basil O'Connor, head of the American Red Cross, who has had charge of the collection of funds for the Warm Springs foundation for infantile paralysis, is the target of the Red Cross group in the national capital. They are anxious to get rid of him and would like to have him resign. The trouble seems to be that O'Connor is less conservative than the old regime and they do not like his tendency to broaden the field of the Red Cross and inject new life into the organization. During the war the Red Cross occupied a mansion on Massachusetts avenue, where they supervised the making of bandages, and those in charge are said to have been "snooty" to women who came to aid in the work and by their lofty attitude discouraged hundreds of volunteer workers. The public, in Washington at least, is rallying to the support of Mr. O'Connor.

**Honor Mother's Birthday**

Mr. and Mrs. John Martin from Prosper motored to Lakeside to honor Mr. Martin's mother's birthday on Friday of last week.

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