

# PUBLIC'S SPENDABLE INCOME DOUBLE

## Personal Mail Exerts Big Influence on Congressman

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There is a great mail mystery in Washington which public reaction sleuths are trying to solve. Recent reactions of congress presents a paradox. In fact, a pair of paradoxes.



Gradually, one by one, like a maiden plucking daisy petals to learn her fate and fortune, congress has been stripping the poor office of price administration of its powers, until said agency has little more control over prices than man over a skidding car on an icy pavement.

And yet, according to recent polls, 82 per cent of the public is in favor of "holding the line." The March survey by that reliable poller, NORC (National Opinion Research Center of Denver university) among other similar groups, points this out.

When the house virtually stripped OPA of its powers late in April, letters poured in supporting the agency, since then its head, Paul Porter, using the publicity machine built up by his predecessor, Stabilization Director Bowles, has omitted no word or act to keep his side of the arguments against ceiling-smashing before the consumer. Although congress is not now being needed as heavily as it was at the peak of the house debate, plenty of people are still asking for OPA continuation.

At the same time, of course, anti-control forces are keeping up their pressure, both through lobbyists of the interested groups, and through the paid advertising of the National Manufacturers' association, and other industrial organizations.

But as far as any one can gauge, the people themselves still want price control. Nevertheless, congress has managed to whittle it down, and many observers, at this writing, consider it as among the dead already.

Up until the unions threatened to tie up the railroads and ignored government orders, there was no chance to get any labor-control measure through congress. But the people wanted something, and when the President offered it, he received a response in the way of letters and

telegrams such as the White House has not known in the memory of its present staff, some of whom have served there since the days of Woodrow Wilson.

A lot of letters I receive indicate that a great many people think congress pays no attention to the voter. This is laughably inaccurate. The voice of the voter is the one thing a congressman obeys. In spite of this fact, 51 per cent of the people, if our old friend, NORC, is right, as it has proved to be on many occasions, believe that congress depends more on its own judgment than on public opinion.

Of course, the reason for this impression is that the organized voters, the ones which some organization controls, form the congressman's judgment because they are the most vocal. They make themselves heard in person, through their membership, and the people whom they influence.

In the two recent questions I have mentioned: labor control and price control, you have two powerful lobbies at work — the unions and the industrial organizations, but pulling in opposite directions.

I am not saying that either is right or wrong in the views they express and the causes they advocate. I am saying that they are active and powerful. And also that they naturally promulgate ideas in their own interest. If these interests happen to be the public's, as well, fine. If not, . . .

Most of the congressional secretaries I know well enough to talk with frankly support this view. Except, of course, when some strange political deal is involved, whereby the congressman feels it safer to displease some of his constituency because of its indifference, than to disregard the pressure brought upon him by other forces in or out of congress.

This particular inquiry by the Quarterly showed legislators rated the various influences on them, as follows:

- (1) personal mail; (2) visits to the public; (3) newspapers; (4) visits FROM the public; and (5) public opinion polls.

The bearing which these figures have on the importance of writing your congressman, in my opinion, is this: they show that mail IS important, and that when letters at one end of the spectrum of importance jibe with the poll (at the other end), it certainly puts a burr under the legislator's vote.

## People Are Buying More

Recently, I said over the air that America was eating better, and eating more than it had ever eaten before. Immediately I received a squall of stormy letters, vehemently denying my statement.

All of the writers regaled me with the same tale which my wife brings home each day — that the grocer's and the butcher's shelves are almost bare.

Nevertheless, America is eating better and more food. Americans who ate a yearly average of 127 pounds of meat before the war are now gobbling it at the rate of 150 pounds apiece. This statement is from Fortune magazine, a periodical not noted for making false statements.

You and I cannot get everything we want, but we aren't all of America by a long way. You and I have always had meat virtually every day in the week.

But millions of people in this country never had meat more than once or twice a week. These millions of people have more money today than they have ever had, but you, if you are one of the people who wrote me, probably never were conscious of that fact.

The little graph shows the facts. These figures on which it is based are compiled by the department of commerce, and the most anti-administration banker you know won't doubt them.

They show, as you see, that in 1939, the public's spendable income was 68 billion dollars. The estimate for 1946 is 139 billion.

Now your common sense will tell you that the people who ate meat every day didn't get all of that 71 billion dollar increase in their spending money. The low-income groups got a large part of it. In other words, America (as a whole) is eating more meat (and other things) than it ever did before, and because so many MORE people are eating so much MORE meat, there isn't as much left for the people who ate all they wanted before.

The discussion of how much America is eating arose in connection with the question as to our ability to help feed starving Europe and Asia. Some people believed that because they couldn't buy as many things at the store as they were accustomed to buying, America didn't have enough to spare.

But the people (you and I) who

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Figure from Department of Commerce.

### NEW USES FOUND

## Demand for Potatoes Is Heavy

WASHINGTON.—With new uses for potatoes being found, along with a heavier consumer demand, is keeping the government out of the market for support purposes to a greater degree than department of agriculture officials expected, in view of the unprecedented potato shipments this spring.

One of the reasons for increased demand is the entry of the distilling industry into the buying field. Distillers are buying potatoes from the growers at prices above government support prices in order to convert into alcohol.

Potatoes were successfully used for livestock feeding in 1937, 1939, 1940 and 1941, officials pointed out, and in view of the feed shortage, may go into this channel. When processed into flour, potatoes also make an excellent poultry feed.

Starch, flour and glucose are other potato products for human consumption.

Potatoes manufactured into alcohol yield about 20 per cent in by-product livestock feed.

Shipments from potato producing states have broken the all-time high of 1,514 carloads a day on four successive days this spring. California has been the heaviest shipper.

To meet the situation, the department has set up support buying offices in California, Arizona, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. While peaks were reached last week in several states, North Carolina, California and Virginia marketings are expected to run even higher this week, with Oklahoma, Arizona and Arkansas just coming on.

Support buying at the announced price levels reached about 500 carloads last week, officials estimated, with 200 cars purchased in North Carolina alone. But the demand from all types of consumers, including distilleries, prevented the buying program from reaching the proportions such heavy marketing would normally mean. The market can normally absorb only about 1,000 carloads a day, compared with last week's daily average of 1,717 carloads.

The department will use some of its surplus for school lunch programs and relief needs, but it is apparent that the bulk will go for outside needs. Officials hope that a considerable amount will go into industrial uses other than the manufacture of alcohol, but admit that some may go to distillers.



Laid waste by war, area in front of battered reichstag building in Berlin is converted by Germans into vegetable gardens to help replenish barren larders.

## NEWS REVIEW

### Rats Cost Half-Billion a Year But New 'Rat Killers' Found; 1946 Crops Depend on Weather

#### NO. 1 ENEMY: Rats Increase

The rat population of the United States shot up during the war, due to a shortage of chemicals for rodenticides, and we now have over 25 million rats. They do an annual damage of 500 million dollars to food and property, exclusive of sickness and death caused by disease they spread.

Government officials estimate that from 12½ to 15 billion pounds of grain a year are consumed or destroyed by rats on farms. Each rat eats about 100 pounds a year, and spoils at least another hundred.

Scientists of the interior department are making use of two potent rodenticides developed during the war. One is "1080," or sodium fluoracetate, said to be the most effective rat poison known. The other is "antu," an abbreviation for alphanaphthylthiourea.

#### WEATHER: Rains and Drouth

The government weather report shows that recent rains in the Middle West have benefited small grains, but that more sunshine and warmth was needed for best growth and development.

Crop estimates are up. One expert predicts winter wheat production this year, as of June 1, at 751 million bushels, or 8 million bushels more than the government estimated last month. Spring wheat was estimated at 268 million bushels, slightly less than the 300 million bushels in 1945.

In many places in the Mississippi valley, wet weather slowed all farm work and especially corn planting. The extremely wet spots were rare, however, and in many places rains were needed.

#### WAR BABIES: May Curb Influx

The bringing of very young babies of war brides from Europe to the United States may be halted, if a recommendation of a special army board which investigated a recent outbreak of diarrhea on the transport Zebulon Vance when 30 babies were stricken and eight died.

The army may halt transportation from Europe of all babies under one year of age. More thorough physical examinations have been requested for war brides and their children at European staging areas before departing for this country. The war mothers themselves are somewhat to blame, it is reported, because of laxity of sanitary habits which might have contributed to the epidemic.

#### CANNED MEAT: 60% Set Aside

A new government order provides that federally inspected slaughterers may not produce canned meat for civilian consumption unless they deliver to government agencies 60 per cent of each week's total output. The order is designed to provide more canned meat for foreign relief shipments.

#### GRAINS: Bet on Prices

In Chicago, those who buck the board of trade are betting that the OPA extension bill will eliminate basic commodity farm prices from control. Bidding is constantly higher on wheat, oats and rye and are going higher.

The Kansas City board of trade from time to time has prohibited all grain futures trading on the exchange except in settlement of open commitments. Purpose of the action, the directors said, was to protect traders against losses caused by the increased ceiling prices established by the federal government.

#### CUBAN SUGAR: Price Pledge Given

If prices of U. S. foodstuffs imported into Cuba go up next year, the U. S. government has given that country assurance of a higher price for Cuban sugar in this country, says Oscar Siegle, president of the Cuban sugar commission.

The basic price agreed on for this year's sugar crop will continue to be 3.675 cents a pound, Siegle said. Any increase in American foodstuff prices, because of changes in the OPA, would be reflected "in force, on the price of sugar," Siegle reported after a trip from Havana to Washington.

#### TO TOKYO: New ATC Airline

The American flyers who spanned the oceans and flew the "hump" have inaugurated a new airline to Tokyo over the "top of the world," saving more than 18 hours of flying time each way. They are the pilots of the Air Transport command.

In announcing the new route for passenger and cargo planes, the ATC stated the trip will take 26 hours' flying time.

The new line will follow a one-stop route from Seattle to Tokyo by way of Adak in the Aleutian islands.

#### Oddities in the News . . .

With a full-sized hornet's nest built tightly against the outside of the breakfast room window of their



San Francisco, Calif., home, the Walter Ohms have a ringside view of the busy bees at work. Picture shows the Ohms' four-year-old daughter studying the nest.



### VANDEBURG GOP CANDIDATE

WASHINGTON. — Erudite Senator Vandenberg of Michigan not only has been doing a good job on foreign relations, but he takes it—and himself—seriously. Perhaps one is necessary to the other. Talking to a friend the other day, the Michigan senator opined:

"Well, we're getting along pretty well now that we have a Republican foreign policy."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, analyze it for yourself," shot back the man who may be the next GOP nominee. "It all goes back to my now somewhat famous speech of January, 1945."

NOTE—Van claims he is getting bored with politics. "One question I can't answer to my wife's satisfaction," he says, "is why I'm running for re-election (as senator). I've threatened to divorce her if she asks me again." (The answer, of course, is that if Van doesn't run again for senator, he won't be in the trial heats for President.)

### SENATE LABOR REBELLION

Deadliest backstage punches against President Truman's labor draft program were scored by CIO Pres. Phil Murray in a secret meeting held by the senate education and labor committee.

Those present included Murray; Lew Hines, AFL legislative representative; Martin Miller, representing Al Whitney's railway trainmen; plus Senators Jim Murray of Montana (chairman), David I. Walsh of Massachusetts, Elbert Thomas of Utah, Claude Pepper of Florida, Lister Hill of Alabama, Joe Guffey of Pennsylvania and Wayne Morse of Oregon.

The CIO president got right down to cases.

"My organization has always followed President Truman's recommendations in labor disputes and the record proves it," Murray declared. "Look at the auto, steel and oil disputes. We went along with the fact-finding boards. In some cases we had to accept much below what we asked, but we did so patriotically."

"Can industry say as much?" Murray continued. "Look what happened during the auto strike. General Motors held out for months against the recommendations of Truman's fact-finding board, which labor was willing to accept. That was a case of management striking against the government, but did President Truman call for a joint session of congress to uphold General Motors officials as he did recently against labor? He did not."

### NO-STRIKE PLEDGE?

Then, with a scowl, the usually mild-mannered CIO boss acidly added:

"Did he offer legislation then to penalize and enslave all management as he did in this case against labor? Well, I don't remember reading anything about it."

Senator Hill inquired if labor would be willing to offer Truman a compromise on the strike issue, such as a six month no-strike pledge.

"That is impossible, as far as the CIO is concerned," replied Murray emphatically. "My organization is run on Democratic lines and such a pledge could never be enforced. When members of a CIO union are working under intolerable conditions, I couldn't dictate to them not to strike. Therefore, I would never agree to such a pledge."

### RATIONING FERTILIZER

Agriculture department experts are worried over a new drive by Dixie democrats. They now want fertilizer rationed. Hitherto, potash fertilizer has been used mainly for food growing, but now the southern bloc wants it rationed so more can go for the cotton and tobacco crops.

Midwest farmers do not object to the idea of rationing of potash, provided rationing regulations recognize the supreme importance of food. The Civilian Production administration, however, has always allocated scarce materials on the basis of a base period, and the southern representatives are insisting that any new rationing program be based upon 1944 consumption of fertilizer.

In 1944, five southern states used 44 per cent of the nation's fertilizer but produced only 10 per cent of the nation's food. In the same year, five midwest states produced 50 per cent of the nation's food but used only 6 per cent of the fertilizer.

### CAPITAL CHAFF

The exit of young men continues. Josiah DuBois, one of Secretary Vinson's crack assistants, has resigned to practice law here and in Camden, N. J. . . . Secretary of the Interior Cap Krug ended a six-hour fishing trip in the Virgin Islands with a painful sunburn, then proceeded to sweat out 12 days of hotter negotiations with John L. Lewis.

. . . At Fort Washington, Md., is a half-empty veterans' hospital which costs the taxpayers \$211 a day per patient.

## ASK ME ANOTHER? A General Quiz

### The Questions

1. The cornerstone of the White House was laid during whose term of office?
2. What fish has used the radar principle for millions of years?
3. What does "sotto voce" mean?
4. What color is the rectangular flag with a white center that is hoisted when a ship is about to sail?
5. Who would wear a burnous?
6. When do we start dying?
7. For whom was the month of July named?
8. What type of ship was the old Constitution?
9. Who was the youngest President of the U. S. ever inaugurated?
10. Is it true that elephants live for hundreds of years?

### The Answers

1. George Washington's.
2. The electric eel has used a process similar to radar in locating food.
3. Speaking in an undertone.
4. Blue.
5. An Arab (a cloak-like garment and hood woven in one piece).
6. At birth.
7. Julius Caesar.
8. Frigate.
9. Theodore Roosevelt (42 years old).
10. No, an elephant is old at seventy-five.

### Stuttering Names

In a number of past issues of the Los Angeles Telephone Directory, two firms have vied with each other for first-place listing by prefixing their names with additional A's.

In the current book, the firm previously holding the coveted position with 25 A's has been supplanted by the other which now uses 30 of these initials.

## Gas on Stomach

Relieved in 5 minutes or double your money back. When excess stomach acid causes painful, inefficient gas, sour stomach and heartburn, doctors usually prescribe the fast-acting medicine known as SCHIFFMANN'S ASTHMADOR. This medicine is a powerful antacid. No laxative. Relieves heartburn, gas, indigestion or double your money back on return of bottle to us. See at all drug stores.

## QUIT DOSING CONSTIPATION!

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Just eat a serving of crisp, delicious KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN every day and drink plenty of water! Do this regularly—and if your trouble is due to lack of bulk—you may never have to take another laxative the rest of your life! ALL-BRAN is not a purgative—not a medicine. It's a wholesome, natural laxative food, and—

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Because it's made from the vital outer layers of wheat, in which whole-wheat protective food elements are concentrated. One ounce of ALL-BRAN provides more than ½ your daily iron need—to help make good, red blood—to help build bones and teeth. Vitamins—to help guard against deficiencies. Protein—to help build body tissue essential for growth. Eat ALL-BRAN every day! Made by Kellogg's of Battle Creek and Omaha.

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## Kidneys Must Work Well-

For You To Feel Well 24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood.

If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulate the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

## DOAN'S PILLS