

Controls Necessary in Food Crisis

Export-Import Regulations Vital for Curing World Ills

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WASHINGTON.—The sudden descent upon Columbia's shoulders of the mantle of world leadership has forced the President to add all sorts of odd jobs to his other extra-constitutional functions. Traveling salesman is one of them. Almost before he learned his way around the White House, he had the United Nations assignment at San Francisco. Hard-

Baukhage

ly was he back from the Golden Gate when he was ordered to Potsdam. He already has become our "flyingest" chief executive. The Mexican trip was scarcely over when he was called to the wearying vigil at his mother's bedside.

Meanwhile he has conducted White House business without encountering too much criticism for being absent without leave. In fact, his popularity with the public has grown.

But at this writing some of his followers are growing a little restive about what they call his apparent neglect of certain issues which ought to be brought emphatically before the public.

What was considered a crisis in world affairs was met successfully by overwhelming congressional support for the post-UNRRA relief and Greek-Turkish aid bills. Although at times it has balanced upon a rather thin edge, the solidarity of bi-partisan foreign policy has been maintained. But there is another matter which those most concerned declare has not been brought home to the public—the world food situation.

There are two important facts:

1. Two years have passed since the end of the war and the world food situation is no better.

2. Although congress (the people) has been willing to vote huge funds for relief, it appears unwilling to continue certain controls on business, without which the machinery for helping the stricken countries to their feet will break down.

The first job is to bring home the seriousness of point one. The second job (which has been dumped into the President's lap) is to convince congress of the importance of point two.

Press and radio have been asked to help with the first job. They are trying. Here's one small contribution: In terms of dollars the destruction caused by World War II was seven times that of World War I. Recovery is, therefore, at least seven times as hard. Economic difficulties are multiplied more than sevenfold because of political diffi-

culties. It is impossible to estimate the "destruction" in terms of what has happened to social and political values.

As to point two, that becomes a concrete issue which ought to be in debate before these lines are printed; namely, the question of extending certain wartime controls over exports and imports.

Briefly, if export controls go off, foreign nations can bid against each other for food. Wheat, for example. That will send the price of wheat skyrocketing. What does that mean? In the first place it means the country with the most money gets the most wheat, regardless of its need. Others go hungry. It means the American taxpayer will have to pay a fancy price for the wheat the government buys. It means extra American dollars which could be used to buy other American products, which would encourage production, will be sucked out of foreign pockets and world trade will be stultified by just that much. That is an argument for extending controls on exports.

Fortunately there are also a lot of "selfish-interest" reasons for controlling some exports. It's this way: The man who extracts oil from soy beans, although he is quite willing to have his oil exported, probably can sell it here anyway. But he doesn't want beans from which he gets the oil sent out of the country. The man who refines the oil doesn't mind having his refined product exported but he doesn't want the unrefined oil (his raw material), which he has to buy, exported; the man who uses that refined oil to make margarine doesn't want to compete with foreigners for it, although he's quite willing to have foreigners buy his margarine. These mixed motives don't add up to a very good argument for congress, because the only controls desired are for the other fellow. It doesn't generate too much pressure because there are enough "agins" to balance the "furs."

But when it comes to imports, it's a different story. Take fertilizer. Britain and the United States, straining to increase production, now are using twice as much fertilizer as in prewar years. That is all right. But the destitute European countries with their very tired soil need every ounce they can get—and if there were no import controls they would get less—the rich buyers would get more. The pressure on congress is all against limiting importation of fertilizer.

Some imports into America are, of course, highly desirable—to get those American dollars abroad in order that foreign nations may buy raw materials and other things. But if we are to keep the rest of the markets alive until they can feed themselves, what we give out and what we take in will have to be made to fit the needs of the situation, not the desires of the American businessman who doesn't realize that if he is given too free a hand he'll be cutting off his own nose with it.



LIVING BARRIER PROTECTS CHILDREN . . . Whether the danger come from tigers or autos, mothers always are ready to protect their young. When a narrow residential street in Columbus, Ohio, became a speedway for motorists, aroused neighborhood mothers formed a living barrier to traffic to permit their children to cross the street from the school bus in safety.

NEWS REVIEW

Farm Budget Cuts Hit; Train Fares Increased

FARM FUROR:

Stormy Weather

Possibly the most violent storm of the year, according to the economic and political barometer, is the one which was raised when the house appropriations committee recommended a 32 per cent cut in department of agriculture funds for the coming year.

Slashing more than 383 million dollars from the amount asked by President Truman, the committee opened the floodgates for a deluge of protests from Clinton Anderson, secretary of agriculture, and Democratic congressmen, who claimed they would fight the action right up to next year's elections, if necessary.

Declaring that the reduction "directs a sharp cut at the interests of the American farm family and the general welfare," Anderson said that the "greatest harm" would be to the soil conservation program, the farm price support program and programs designed to help veterans and low income families become better established.

The 32 per cent cut would eliminate the Agriculture Adjustment administration by July 1, 1948. Currently, the AAA is carrying on its basic program of promoting soil conservation on 3,500,000 cooperating farms by paying farmers for following practices intended to increase soil fertility and, hence, to increase production. The proposed fund slash would mean that farmers this year would be paid about 50 per cent of what they previously had been promised.

In answering the criticism, the house appropriations committee said that its recommended cuts are "selective" and reasonable—based on actual farm needs.

HOUSING:

Unfounded Hope

Popular belief that any substantial reductions in the cost of new housing will occur in the near future is not founded on realities.

That assertion was made by James C. Downs Jr., president of the Real Estate Research corporation, who explained that besides being geared to a high national debt, housing costs, like prices of other hard goods, are directly affected by the large demand for American capital and production by other countries.

"The housing shortage today is worse than a year ago," he said, "and it will continue to grow progressively worse for some time."

He pointed out that increased earning power has put a greater number in the market for new homes, but at the same time builders are afraid to start new construction because of high costs. The theory that prices would drop kept many persons from buying or building homes last year, Downs said.

TRAVEL PAY:

Train Fares Up

To offset increased operating costs, Interstate Commerce commission authorized an approximate 10 per cent increase in basic passenger fares for 60 railroads operating east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers.

The change will boost one-way passenger rates from 2.2 to 2.5 cents a mile in coaches and from 3.3 to 3.5 cents a mile in sleeping and parlor cars. There will be an increase of about 15 per cent in coach round-trip rates and about four per cent in Pullman round-trip fares.

In granting the increase, ICC noted that those railroads which requested the new rates incurred a deficit of 54 million dollars from passenger train operations last year.

IT'S WONDERFUL:

Long Time Peace

Announcing the immediate abolition of capital punishment in Russia, Soviet authorities explained the move on the grounds that it was made possible by Russia's growing strength, the people's patriotism and the certainty of peace "for a long time."

Said the Moscow radio: "The international situation during the time after Germany's capitulation and Japan's capitulation shows that the cause of peace can be considered secure for a long time in spite of attempts by aggressive elements to provoke war."

Meanwhile, Herbert Hoover looked on the other side of the mask to charge Russia with attempting to bleed the United States through relief channels and blaming her for the economic paralysis of Japan and Germany.

He declared that further relief will remain necessary as long as the Soviets continue their obstructionist tactics and demands for reparations, thus blocking peace treaties with the two countries and keeping their economies paralyzed.

French Honor



Vincent Auriol, president of France, decorates opera singer Lily Pons with the rosette of the Legion of Honor. The French-born artist has been making a concert tour of France.



BASEBALL has known over seventy-five spring starts, but in all that time Dr. Abner Doubleday's discovery has never before known the tangled knot that belongs to the National League race of 1947.

As a starter, the National League still has a 3 to 5 shot trailing the pack by many lengths with corn on the cobb and watermelon just around the corner.

Eight National League managers are reeling around with the look that follows the arrival of a blunt instrument at the base of the brain. They can't find pitchers who can protect a 5-or-6-run lead. They find a flock of normally .300 hitters swinging savagely at a .123 clip, often lucky to get a foul. It is nothing to see pitchers hand out 4 or 5 passes in one inning, forcing over important runs. Star pitchers are far behind the 50-50 mark, struggling desperately to last three innings.

No one seemed to know whether the first-division teams had slipped, or the second-division teams had moved far up. There was no way to tell them apart, except to keep wondering how the tail-end Cardinals stayed where they were, as long as they were allowed to carry bats to the plate.

Anybody's Race Now

We have made a careful check of the long list of games played in recent weeks, and from this roundup, it is impossible to locate a sure first-division team, or to name a team that can't win the pennant by breaking just a trifle better than even.

Of course, this bizarre state of affairs can't last much longer. One or two teams are pretty sure to stumble over the lost element of consistency and move on forward. But no one can tell you who these teams will be.

The once ridiculed Giants suddenly rushed in with the best offense in either league, backed up by greatly improved pitching. Picked by many as repeating tailenders, they have been the best all-around team in baseball through the last few weeks. Mel Ott is due a number of rousing cheers for the late stand his hired men have made against some rasping luck, where the ball they have been playing most of May could easily win the National League flag.

Tigers and Red Sox have made the American League race the more consistent scramble with the Indians crowding in. The Red Sox are far from their stampeding form of last season. The Tigers are now favored as the best team in the circuit—certainly the team backed up with the best pitching, which is a pretty vital matter.

Joe Gordon, as one could figure in advance, has been one of the main factors in Cleveland's challenge—once more the Gordon that ranked high among the best.

It should be Tigers or Red Sox in the American League and you can do your own nominating in the now bewildered rival circuit.

Cards Should Come Back

No one expects the Cardinals to keep fluttering around the cellar and the swamps for any extended length of time. But their earlier crash-up has left the National League race wide open. Any pretty-fair ball club could step out and win this pennant against so much ragged and jittery opposition. No flag winner has much to beat, unless Dyer's young men suddenly throw aside their winding sheets and play the ball they should have played from the opening pitch.

On copy paper, they are still the class of the league in every department of play. But you don't win pennants on copy paper.

This 1947 National League pennant race may not be the fanciest joust on record, but it should make up in the way of action and upsets what it lacks in class and form. Giant power has been a spring surprise. So has improved Giant pitching. Here seems to be a pennant that almost any team can win—any team willing to hustle and work a little.

As the old philosopher, Dirty Dean, puts it—"There are a lot of good ballplayers around, but no good ball teams."

What looked to be a one-club stampede has now turned into a four-or-five-club scramble—meaning Cubs, Braves, Cardinals, Giants and Dodgers—with such teams as the Phillies, Reds, and Pirates still "dreaming of the hour."

More Than Power

The great majority link Babe Ruth's name with the word "power." They think of a 235-pound giant hammering out more than 700 home runs, with a ball much less lively than the one in use today. Too many forget that the Babe also had an all-around skill, a ratter of touch and timing, often approaching the delicate side, that certainly matched his power.

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Humanity Is at the Crossroads

Two reports in the news recently caused some interesting comments in Washington on the international situation.

Charles Reese, extension apologist of University of Ohio, recently reported that because of the late season and resultant scarcity of pollen on which bees feed, many of the drones (who do not work and are preserved for social purposes only) have been pushed out of the hives by the workers. Picket lines have been formed and the drones are not allowed to re-enter. They die in the damp and cold.

"Theirs (the bees') is not a very pleasant society," says apologist Reese. "Hive activity is communistic and utterly ruthless."

A statement by Andre Visson, French writer who syndicates a column in American newspapers, was the second inspiration for unofficial comment. Visson said:

"The world has indeed entered into a contest between Americanism and Communism."

This pearl of wisdom laid beside the dispatch from Columbus moved a certain engineer-economist-philosopher to the observations which follow:

For the first time, this pundit pointed out, the human race is really at the crossroads. Life has followed two paths, one taken by the animals, another by those who have in them something that distinguishes them from the beast. One path has been clearly visible to materialistic philosophers, Nietzsche, Hegel, Marx and the monster who was created out of their theories, Hitler. The other is the one illumined by the thought and action of those who from cot or castle, from work-bench or cloistered hall, lived in the belief that the activities of the state, or the individual, should be measured against something other than material forces.

It has been shown that animals, when they master technology, tend to form a perfectly regimented, totalitarian state. Take the ants and the bees. They long ago were able to do what Hitler planned and had begun to practice—change the nature of species, not only by creating a special environment for the young but also by feeding it certain foods.

The bees carefully segregate the babies (the eggs) and by feeding them three different menus produce three different classes, the workers, the drones and the queen. Hitler had well-worked-out theories for producing a slave-class by feeding the children certain vitamins, withholding others, weeding out all those undesired by the Nazi state, feeding and training a ruling class (Fuehrerprinzip).

And now, the followers of Marxist-Leninism are set up to carry out the principle.

APPALLING WASTE

Mounting Fire Loss Predicted

CHICAGO.—With fire losses continuing to mount, damage may exceed the billion dollar mark by 1950, Frank A. Christensen, president of National Board of Fire Underwriters, warns in urging support of the federal action program to save life and resources which was the result of President Truman's conference on fire prevention.

The increasing fire waste was attributed by Christensen to two causes, one physical and one psychological.

"The physical factor tends to increase the number of fires of all

kinds, and the size of losses where flames gain headway because of delayed alarms, poor fire protection, negligence or bad housekeeping," he explained.

"The psychological factor arises out of our careless and reckless habits," he explained.

Christensen pointed out that since 1941, national waste by fire has more than doubled, rising to 616 million dollars for the 12 months ended April of this year from 300 million dollars for 1941.

"Even more appalling," he said, "is the indication that the loss of

life may have risen to a figure never experienced before. Loss of life in hotel fires in 1946 was greater than in any year in our history."

Despite a 22 per cent increase in arson investigations, the national board had found a sharp decline in the number of fires started for profit during the last year.

The board pointed out that in the year ended April 30, juveniles accounted for almost half of the persons arrested because of incendiary fires, and persons mentally irresponsible for another large share.