

SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS of Main Street and the World

Small Business Casualty of Defense; Meat Price Rules Confuse Consumer

THE FOUNDATION THREATENED—According to several national economic surveys made public in the last week or so, small business is becoming a casualty of defense. This is a serious and frightening fact for thousands of small towns, because about 3,670,000 small businesses form the foundation of the American economic pyramid, many of them located in the home towns of the nation.



In the first two years of World War II, 16 per cent of the small businesses of the country were forced to close down. There are reports that many observers believe the fatality rate in the present defense mobilization program may be even higher than in those years.

A Washington report revealed that congressional small business committees are receiving an average of 500 letters a day appealing for information and help from small businessmen.

Several reasons are given for the present difficulties. The most important are shortages of materials—allocation of steel, aluminum, etc., from civilian consumption to defense projects; the inability of small business to qualify for defense contracts; and the expansion of big business to avoid subcontracting, formally a profitable source for small business.

UP A TREE—Mild mannered, popular Gen. Omar Bradley, remembered by thousands of World War II veterans in the home towns of America as the "GI's general," put the combined senate armed services and foreign relations committees up a tree during his testimony on the removal of Gen. Douglas MacArthur from his Pacific commands.

To begin with, General Bradley caused a stir among the Republican members of the committees by upholding the administration's actions with the sweeping statement that General MacArthur's Korean plans "would involve us in the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy."

But when he flatly refused to tell the senators about his private talks with the President on the recall of MacArthur, he chased the committees up a tree.

For a day committee members argued among themselves whether they should take some kind of contempt action against the general. They voted 18 to 8, however, against such action expressing the view that it might set a dangerous precedent.

To the home town veteran, however, it seemed more likely the senators remembered Gen. Bradley's popularity with the men that make up a big part of today's Main Street population.

NEW DRAFT LAW—Senate and house conferees, attempting to reach a compromise on the two bills previously passed by the groups, finally reached a settlement calling for extension of the draft until July 1, 1955, with men of 18½ eligible for induction for 24 months of service.

The old draft bill expires July 1. The new one will require all men to register on becoming 18. They would be examined and classified before they were 18½ and would be eligible for induction thereafter, providing the pool of men from 19 to 26 in their individual draft districts had been exhausted by the local boards.

The bill will put a five million person ceiling on the combined army, navy, air forces and marines. It also requires that all draftees, volunteers, and reserves have at least four months' basic training before being assigned outside the United States.

UP TO OLD TRICKS—After rejecting American plans for a peace treaty with Japan, the Russians reverted to their old tricks in proposing their version of a treaty. The Soviet plan, which was rejected by the United States, would bar foreign forces from Japan after the occupation ends and thereby block an arrangement for American troops to help provide Japanese security.

It was the same type of thing the Russians so successfully carried out in Korea and which led to the present situation in Asia. No one can believe the Russians thought the United States would accept their plan, but one has to give them credit for having the nerve to suggest it.

There is little possibility now of Russia joining in the American peace treaty which is nearing conclusion.

BEWILDERED HOUSEWIVES—Home town housewives entered their Main Street stores and meat markets on Monday, May 14, without their usual dread of visiting a meat counter. The government had just ordered a cut in meat prices.

After one quick look she became a startled and confused housewife. For the next 10 days she became more bewildered. Meat prices were not down according to her figures—but up!

What the home town housewife saw was porterhouse steak up 7 cents a pound and sirloin up 9 cents. Round steak was down 2 cents—not enough to mention, and short ribs of beef down 8 cents—as she had expected of other cuts.

According to the government, however, the up and down price juggling of beef actually produced an over-all savings to the housewife of one-half of 1 per cent.

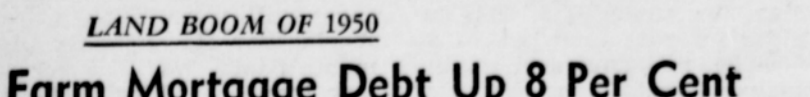
This she couldn't understand. One-half of 1 per cent didn't do a thing for her meat budget.

FAIR TRADE RULING—By a vote of 6-to-3, the supreme court ruled that merchants who did not sign fair-trade agreements are free to charge cut-rate prices if they wish.

Under the laws of 45 states, distributors of trade-mark or brand goods may enter into agreements with retail dealers to sell their products at filed minimum prices. Under the new court ruling, however, the home town merchant who did not sign such a contract or agreement can sell the product at whatever price he desires.

The only states not having fair-trade laws are Vermont, Texas, and Missouri.

The ruling will have little effect on most classes of merchandise as long as business is good, most Main Street businessmen believe. This would not hold true, however, if business went into a slump.



Homeward Bound on Rotation Express American GI's, veterans of the Korean fighting board a truck bound for a rotation center where they will be processed for return to the United States. Tired GI's slugged the truck appropriately, "Rotation Express."

LAND BOOM OF 1950 Farm Mortgage Debt Up 8 Per Cent

The agriculture department reported recently the land boom of 1950 boosted the farm real-estate debt 8 per cent, totaling \$5,900,000,000 at the end of the year. Likewise, the rising demand and increased prices for farm commodities led farmers to add to their non-real-estate debt. They borrowed heavily to buy additional equipment and machinery.

The department said the real-estate-mortgage debt, however, was only 54 per cent of the record reached in 1923. Twelve states have a higher mortgage debt than in the peak year of 1923. These are New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and New Mexico.



WALTER SHEAD, WNU Correspondent

Patriotic Farmers

SEVERAL WEEKS ago this reporter took issue with Allan Kline, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, that the farmers of America were as patriotic as any other segment of the American people. Mr. Kline took the position, as he does today, that the farmers of America need some dollars-and-cents incentive to bring out their patriotism for full production.

This reporter feels that the farmers of the country are in full partnership with the industry of America, and that their production of food and fibre is as important to the American mobilization effort as is the production of steel.

At a recent dinner given by the cattlemen's association in the National Press Club for newspapermen and congressmen under the auspices of the National Meat Institute, which means the big packers, neither Mr. Kline, nor any member of the meat institute were able to give the answers to members of the newspaper profession on how why and where anyone would be hurt under the price controls on beef cattle.

Result of this meeting was that most of the newspapermen walked out, many congressmen were disgusted and it remained for the reporter for the Wall Street Journal to sink the last barb when he pointed out that his paper was opposed to price controls, was not attempting to needle those in charge of the meeting, and merely wanted to know as a matter of public record for the Wall Street Journal how, when and where anyone would be hurt under beef ceiling prices. He did not find out.

Vote the Rascals Out

Lobbyists for the meat institute are going back to the farmers and the home towns of America and preaching a doctrine to this effect: "You are freeborn American citizens; you do not have to submit to this regimentation; you can vote the rascals out."

Of course, this is all true, but it completely overlooks the fact that, as we did during World War II, this nation is submitting to some regimentations of a few freedoms, and a few liberties in order to protect the overall privilege of living in a free country, a republic operating under a democratic constitution.

Incentive the Same

At this National Press Club meeting the threat was made that the nation would suffer from a shortage of beef as a result of ceiling prices. And this was the same reason given: that feeders would not feed their cattle out, and as a result, there would be a 200 to 500 pound loss on each steer; that under present prices the feed lot cattlemen received premium prices and ceiling prices were not an incentive to feed a steer out to prime grade.

Let's look at the ceiling prices for live cattle on the hoof at Chicago, for instance. Ceiling prices for feeders, that is what the packers pay at Chicago are: prime, \$37.05 per cwt.; choice \$34.20, good \$31.50; commercial \$27.30. These ceilings are set after allowances have been made for all offal \$3.80 for hides, \$1.35 for slaughter; \$1.00 for administration costs and after tongues, liver, etc., have been excluded. Prices were fixed on the experience of packers that prime steers dressed out 62 per cent; choice 59 per cent, good 56 per cent and commercial grades 53 per cent.

In other words, feeders have the same incentive to feed cattle out to prime and choice grades as they have today under premium prices offered by packers. And the question also arises, if they don't feed out, what are they going to do with their corn or other feed?

A Phony Issue

Remember this, the parity price of cattle, average on all grades throughout the country as of March 15 this year was \$19.70. Also, remember 1946 when a completely artificial shortage of cattle was created to make a completely phony issue in that congressional campaign. The same attempt is being made now.

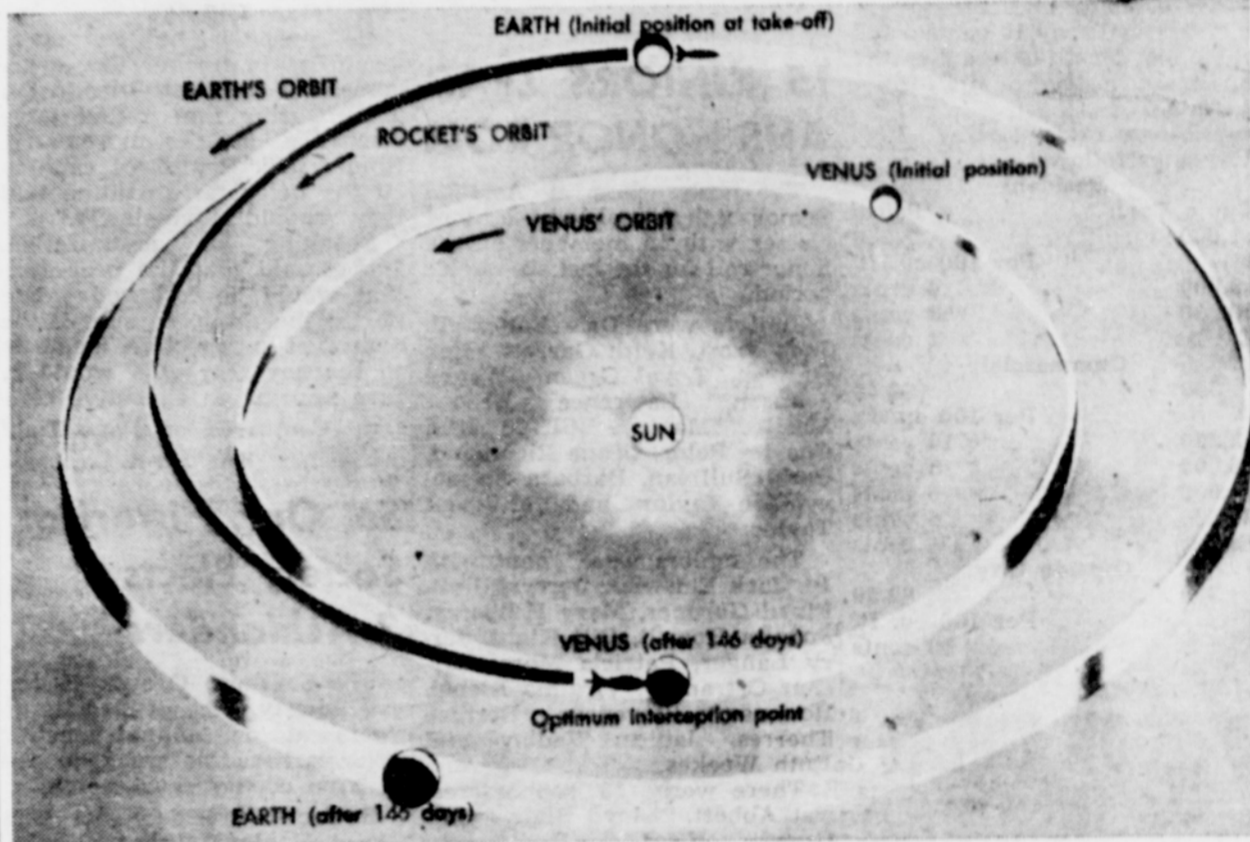
The department of agriculture reports there are 5 per cent more cattle in the country today than a year ago.

Where They Stand

The fact is that there isn't a chance of farmers or range cattle producers being hurt because of price ceilings on live cattle. Feeders are speculators, they buy cattle from the producers and they always stand a chance of being hurt, depending on what they pay for range cattle, but they now know exactly what they can get for the various grades they feed out. Agriculture Secretary Charles Brannan endorsed the beef price rolling back.



TRAIN TAKES NOSEDIVE . . . A supply train of the Communists plunges into a river through a bridge in North Korea. The bridge was just destroyed by B-26 light bombers of the fifth air force. The Communist train emerged from the tunnel (background) just after the huge span had been destroyed by the bombs. There was not enough time for it to stop to avoid plunging into the water. Photo of the mishap of the Red's train was taken by Staff Sergeant Gerald W. Raymond, Los Angeles, Calif. He is an aerial gunner whose hobby is snapping pictures instead of triggers.



PLOTTED ROUTE TO VENUS . . . John Wuerth, young Los Angeles electromechanical project engineer, has come up with a proposed space ship flight to Venus. His calculations are graphically portrayed. He would leave earth at the equator at a speed two times as great as gravity until reaching speed of 25,600 miles per hour in 13 minutes. This speed would enable space ship to escape into outer space, where it would become like a planet itself with a speed of 5,400 miles per hour. After 146 days of following its orbit, it would intercept Venus, Wuerth calculates.



STIFF SENTENCES . . . Humnade Calonge (with glasses) gives Communist salute as she leaves Manila, P.I., courthouse after being sentenced to death. Handcuffed to her is Josefina Adelan, co-defendant, who received sentence of 10 years imprisonment. Both young women were among 29 Filipinos on trail for Communist activities. Six received death sentences. Miss Calonge was go-between for the Huks to Moscow and the Soviet.



QUEEN OF SPORTS . . . Penn University's Caroline Labrum proves queens of sports can be queens of beauty. She is daughter of secretary to Bert Bell, pro grid czar. She excels in basketball, hockey and studies.

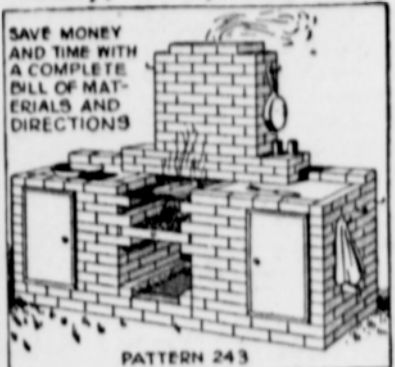


DECOLLETE PRINCESS . . . Quite a furore was reported in the British royal family over a Parisian gown made for Princess Margaret. It was reported that the dowager queen and Queen Elizabeth had put down the royal foot on the gown as too revealing. But here, the princess (center) wears the strapless creation as she attends a benefit ball. She chats with her sister, Princess Elizabeth (second from right), and Lord Louis Mountbatten.



BEACH NOVELTY . . . Giuliana Gazdini, Rome beauty, is the first to use a cute Italian back scratcher. It is fashioned like a hand, made of plastic, and does away with "Please scratch my back" requests.

Outdoor Fireplace Is Easy, Cheap to Build



Build An Outdoor Fireplace THIS PATTERN shows every step in making the unit to use wood or charcoal. Notice the two storage cabinets. Directions for making the sliding grill and charcoal drawer are included. Complete list of materials. Ask for pattern 243 and enclose 25c. WORKSHOP PATTERN SERVICE, Drawer 10, Bedford Hills, New York

Hard Fate "The thing for you to do," said the doctor to the man with the frazzled nerves, "is to stop thinking about yourself—to bury yourself in your work." "Gosh!" returned the patient, "and me a concrete mixer."

RID YOUR HOME OF INSECTS



Press the button and the handy dispenser ejects a cloud of aerosol fog which kills flies, mosquitoes, roaches, ants, bed bugs, moths and silver fish. Leaves no unpleasant odor and is harmless to humans and pets when used as directed. Sold at drug, hardware and farm supply stores.

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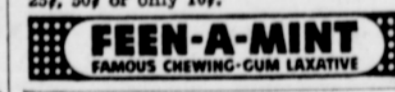
KIDNEYS MUST REMOVE EXCESS WASTE

When kidney function slows down, many folks complain of nagging backache, loss of pep and energy, headache and dizziness. Don't suffer longer with these discomforts if reduced kidney function is getting you down—due to such common causes as stress and strain, over-exertion or exposure to cold. Minor bladder irritations due to cold, dampness or wrong diet may cause getting up nights or frequent passages. Don't neglect your kidneys if these conditions bother you. Try Doan's Pills—a mild diuretic. Used successfully by millions for over 50 years. While often otherwise caused, it's amazing how many times Doan's gives happy relief from these discomforts—help the 15 miles kidney tubes and filters flush out waste. Get Doan's Pills today!

DOAN'S PILLS

It's Wonderful the Way Chewing-Gum Laxative Acts Chiefly to REMOVE WASTE -NOT GOOD FOOD

Here's the secret millions of folks have discovered about FEEN-A-MINT, the modern chewing-gum laxative. Yes, here is food you need for health and energy. You feel weak, worn out. But gentle FEEN-A-MINT, taken as recommended, works chiefly in the lower bowel where it removes only waste, not good food! You avoid that typical weak, tired, worn-out feeling. Use FEEN-A-MINT and feel your "peppy," energetic self! Get FEEN-A-MINT! No increase in price—still 25¢, 50¢ or only 10¢.



Do you suffer distress from Periodic FEMALE WEAKNESS

which makes you NERVOUS several days before?

Do female functional monthly ailments make you suffer pain, feel so strangely restless, weak—at such times, or just before your period? Then start taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound about ten days before to relieve such symptoms. Pinkham's Compound works through the sympathetic nervous system. Regular use of Lydia Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against this annoying distress. Truly the women's friend! Note: Or you may prefer Lydia E. Pinkham's TABLETS with added iron. LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND