

GOVERNMENT statistics can justly be viewed with suspicion. When has caused endless gossip in social Prentiss Brown resigned as head and political circles. One theory is of OPA Oct. 21, he issued a statement in which he declared that ing the presidential mansion be-OPA had prevented inflation; that cause she wanted a home of her the cost of living was forced down own and was weary of being a and that the average weekly wage had been increased 33 percent, corporation profits after taxes were up 15 percent over 1941, and that the cost of living was up only 12 percent. The administration promptly took credit for keeping living costs down over a period of 22 months and putting brakes on inflation.

Secretary of labor Frances Perkins, one week later, Oct. 28, 1943, issued a report sinking the optimistic picutre of Prentiss Brown by reporting how prices had been going sky high since August, 1942.

In one week, judging from these two press releases, the picture was entirely changed and only a subsidy to the farmers would prevent wild inflation. Having first accepted the pleasing report of Prentiss Brown, two days after the report by Madam Perkins the president sent a message to congress demanding a subsidy and a roll-back as the only way to remedy the high cost of living, which is another way of referring to inflation. It is assumed that the two reports were based on the same statistics, but whereas Prentiss Brown saw only sunline and happiness Madam Perkins was convinced of gloomy times ahead.

For the purpose of scaring congress the president, naturally, decided the report of the secretary of labor was better than that by Mr. Perkins interpretation of the statis-Brown, and as a matter of fact, the tics showing the constant increase in living costs is more nearly correct, as civilian consumers are aware.

Then again, the president sometime ago stated that oil production in the nation had increased 65 percent since the start of the war. Harold Ickes, fuel administrator, who likes to go along with the president challenged the statement and said that production had increased only 15 percent. Subsequently the figures of "Honest Harold proved to be correct. The deduction is that

has to rely for his information merly the president would dig into a problem to satisfy himself, but his major attention.

WHY Harry Hopkins and his wife left the White House and rented an old house in Georgetown that Mrs. Hopkins insisted on leavguest of the Roosevelts. Harry. however, was quite content to be the "man who came to dinner" and wished to remain under the same roof with his pal, the president; but his bride's insistence prevailed. Latest yarn in the national capital is that Hopkins and Willkie understand each other and that it was Harry Hopkins who talked the prosident into assigning a plane crew for Willkie to circumnavigate the globe last year when planes and pilots were sadly needed in the European theater.

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figures are not carefully checked, power as well as navigation. This After all, the occupant of the was intended as the first step in White House has been so absorbed the development of the Columbia, in international affairs that he has but later a site was found at Bonneglected the domestic scene and neville. he project is assigned to Washington and Oregon as both upon the various bureaus. For- states will be benefitted although from a navigation standpoint it will be better for the Columbia basin came the war and that has claimed when the reclamation project is completed as it will furnish water transportation.

> THE recent order of the U.S. maritime commission suspending Sunday work in several of the large northwest shipyards is the forerunner of abolishing one complete shift in many of the yards. Before next spring it is expected the maritime commission will discontinue

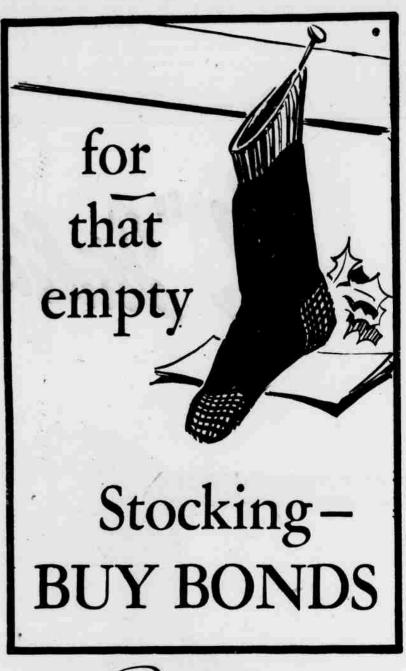
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not all the statistics presented by the Columbia river as a post war the graveyard shifts. Shipbuilding past year have been relatively the president held water, because project will be construction of Um- schedules have been maintained small as compared to launchings. they have been handed to him by atilla dam. It is estimated by the and production of freighters is well The United States now has the buraucrats who are anxious to put army engineers that the cost will in advance of present needs. Losses largest fleet in the world, and also their best foot forward and their be \$47,000,000 and that it will have from U-boat sinkings during the the largest navy.



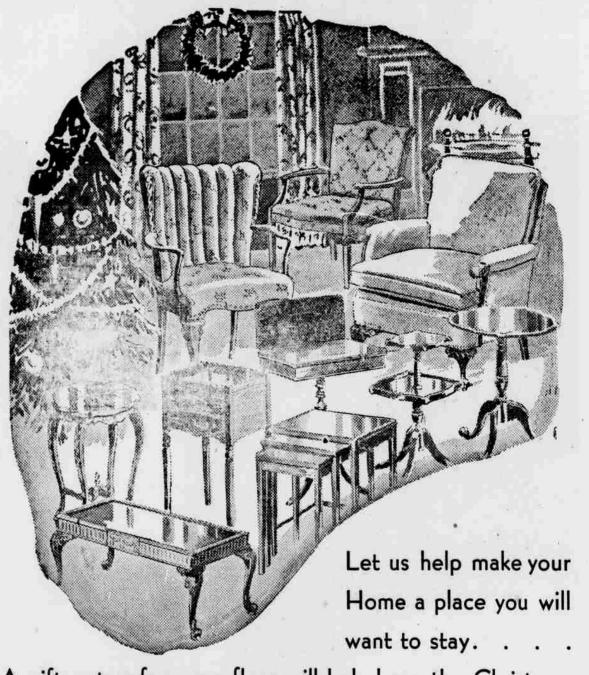
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