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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

By asking for emergency legislation to increase unemployment insurance, to lengthen the period for which unemployment insurance is paid, and to include a large group of workers not now eligible for unemployment payments, President Truman has made it clear that he is vitally interested in extending, rather than reducing, the government's social welfare program.

The President has asked congress to increase federal benefit payments to the states so that states can pay up to $25 a week to the unemployed and can continue such payments for six month of unemployment. He also has asked that provisions be made for unemployment benefits to federal employees and maritime workers.

Not only did the President's message making this request reveal his favorable attitude toward keeping social security in the hands of government, but it also is interpreted as indicating a fear of possible widespread unemployment following the war. Mr. Truman spoke of the "major gap" in the reconversion program due to the "lack of adequate benefit for workers temporarily unemployed during the transition from war to peace."

* * *

Although unemployment has already increased slightly, it is believed that this increase is temporary and is caused chiefly by the shifting of needs for manpower from some industries to others. For there are many industries which are still alarmingly short of manpower. The situation in the shipyards on the Pacific is an example. Secretary of Navy Forrestal says that 15,000 skilled workers are urgently needed to speed the repair of ships damaged in the Pacific.

A recent study also showed that there is a dangerous lack of manpower in the textile industry and that the production of clothes will continue to be curbed until this situation can be remedied. J. A. Krug, chairman of the War Production Board, said that 50,000 textile workers are needed immediately and that 150,000 would be needed to get the textile industry back into full production.

* * *

A trillion dollars—1,000 billion—is the estimated total cost of the war through 1944, according to an estimate released by Paul Douglass, president of the American University. That cost is for direct expenditures alone and does not include the billions of dollars worth of damage done to foreign countries. Experts who worked out these figures say that the Allies have spent $558,000,000,000 and the Axis $442,000,000. Of the Allies expenditures, $280,600,000,000, or just about half of the total, has been spent by the United States. Germany's expenditures, according to the figures, were almost as much as ours. They are estimated as $258,900,000,000. Japan's expenditures are estimated as only about one-sixth of ours—a total of $44,000,000,000. Expenditures by Russia are estimated as about two-thirds of ours, and those of Great Britain as about one-fourth of ours.

What to do with surplus airplanes is one of the big problems facing the government. It is estimated that as many as 500,000 heavy airplane engines, as well as many thousand complete planes will be in storage when the war with Japan ends. The quantity will be far in excess of all postwar needs. And, if they are released for sale, airplane manufacture might come to a standstill. One proposal is to scrap them and reuse the metal. But whatever plan is adopted, there is apt to be a bitter fight before it is approved. It is generally agreed, however, that it is more important to keep our big aviation industry functioning than to make use of the quantity of planes which will suddenly be available when Japan gives up.

Well, boys, there is always something to talk about. Well, what is going on now? Uncle Bill the batchelor, 85, and Aunt Sarah, old maid, 75, are about to tie up. Well, Jim, there is a chance for me yet. I have been struggling along all these 82 years and failed to win. So people, go to S. H. Jones' Store for a bag of Jones' Best Flour, and you are sure to win, if good bread will do it. Men's $1 hats 50c; chicken starter and grower for baby chicks; hog, cow and dog feed; laying mash for more eggs; books written by S. H. Jones, 10c, 25c, 50c. Buy one, it will do you good. Men's suits $5; boys' pants 50c; hake fish 25c pound; lemons, cakes, candy; men's shorts, undershirts, paint $2 gal.; roofing paper $1.25; Chevrolet truck $200; 3 cans tomatoes 25c; raincoats for the whole family; second hand tires. — S. H. JONES, Church Creek, Maryland.

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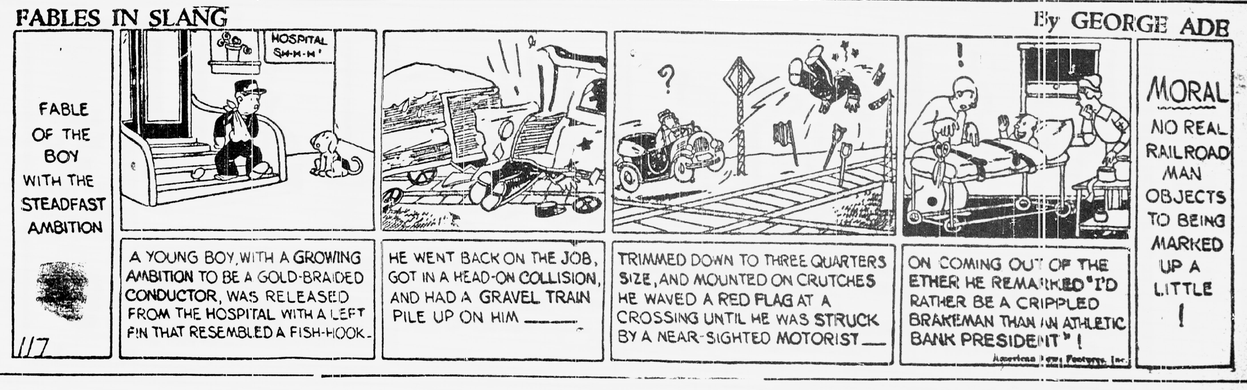

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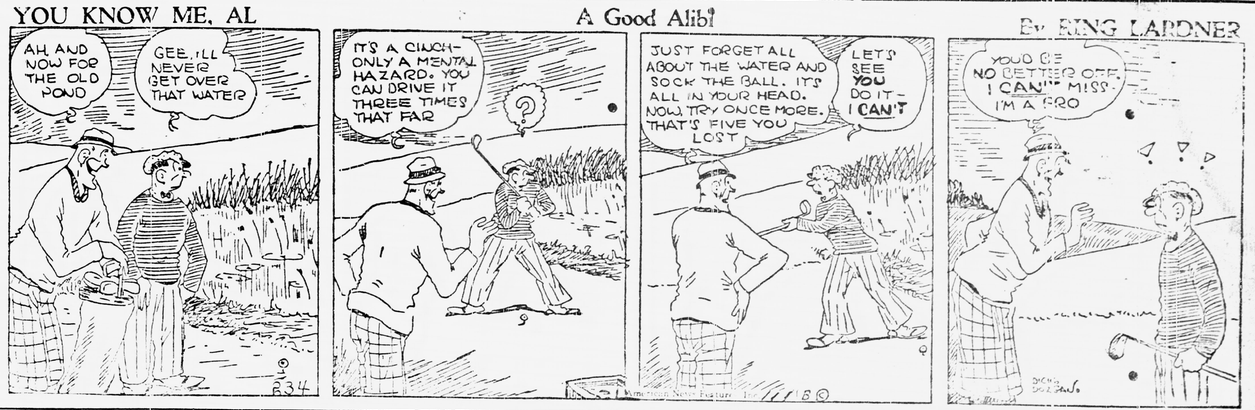

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