AUTO TRAFFIC INCREASE CRITICIZED BY OPA HEAD

"I am afraid B and C gasoline ration books are being used rather freely . . . for other than occupational use," Leo H. McCormick, State director of the Office of Price Administration, sad this week after studyng a survey showing that Maryland automobile traffic has been increasing steadily for the past five weeks.

At the same time, he said that local boards and transportation committees in war plants will be ordered to subject gasoline applications to a closer scrutiny in an effort to weed out those motorists who have been using their cars for pleasure driving.

"We are going to have the boards go over the applications for additional books very carefully and that also applies to transportation committees in the various war plants because in the mase of war workers there is a very small margin left for pleasure driving.

"Any war plant worker found to have been using his car for pleasure driving will lose his ration book, regardless," Mr. McCormick said.

A survey by the State Roads Commission, made on Sundays, show that 24,453 cars were counted on February 28 by seventeen photoelectric recorders and 36,916 on March 28.

The OPA lifted the ban on pleasure driving on March 22, but doubled the period which gasoline ration A coupons must cover.

Washington's Largest Fir Tree

Street scene in North Bend, Wash., as the four sections of the biggest fir tree in the state were hauled on four huge trailer trucks to a lumber mill to be cut into 35,000 board feet of lumber. The fir was 200 feet in height and was cut into 20-foot lengths, each about 10½ feet in diameter, weighing 35 tons. There is enough lumber in that tree, experts say, to build a half dozen houses.

ADMINISTRATOR REFUSES INCREASE IN OIL PRICES

Price Administrator Prentiss Brown has denied the request of Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes for a general increase in crude oil prices averaging 35 cents a barrel.

Saying he acted in accordance with the President's hold-the-line order, Mr. Brown whote Mr. Ickes that he had decided against granting a general increase in crude prices, but that greater incentives might be extended to promote exploration for oil.

Mr. Ickes is asking higher crude prices and said he sought to stimulate an increase in new discoveries, to encourage the use of secondary recovery operations and to prolong the life of higher cost or stripper well production.

Mr. Brown said the increase recommended by Mr. Ickes would amount to approximately $500,000,000 annually based on present production.

The Price Administrator proposed instead that the Government partciipate in financing the drilling of wildcat wells.

He contended the Government outlay for drilling 4,500 wildcat wells would be less than $150,000,000.

The Government under the plan, would furnish capital through existing banking facilities to operators for wildcat operations. In return for this aid, the Government would receive a one-fourth interest in any well proving to be a commercial producer; if the well prove dto be a dry hole the interest would prove to be worthless and any obligation in connection with funds so advanced discharged.

Mr. Brown said that the cost of such an exploratory program would be small if not self-sustaining.

48-HOUR WEEK FOR ENTIRE NATION IS BEING STUDIED

The War Manpower Commission is studying the possibility of putting the entire country on a forty-eight hour work week, but s still far from a decision, officials said yesterday.

Thus far the forty-eight hour week has been ordered only for thrty-nine areas where labor is short, and for three industries on a nation-wide basis: steel, lumbering and non-ferrous metals mining.

A majority of business concerns are bound by law or by labor agreements to pay time-and-one-half wages for all work in excess of forty hours. Principal exceptions are local trade and service firms.

The WMC offcials, who would not permit quotation by name, told reporters that whether a nation-wide forty-eight-hour week would be ordered would depend largely upon the number of exemptions that would have to be provided.

"If too many exemptions would be necessary, we won't do it," they said.

The prospect has been under study by the WMC for two weeks or more as another means of dealing with the growing manpower shortage, these offcials said.

Mary, bring me a bag of that Jones' Best Flour. Mama thinks it is the best flour she ever used. It seems to go further and makes nice white bread. I don't blame people for using it. Say, old boy, where are you off to so soon? My wife sent me for a bag of that Jones' Best Flour. Also hog feed, chicken starter and grower. Go to S. H. Jones. Gladioli bulbs, I grew such pretty flowers last year I want to get some more this year. We bought out a large lot of cigarettes and are selling them at 10 a package. Look! Six cups and six saucers for six cents. Large lot high grade paint $2 gallon; washboards 50c and 75c; men's shirts $1; men's pants $1; men's hats 25c, 50c and up; men's suits $3; 2 cakes washing soap 9c; onion sets; ladies' smocks 79c; women's dresses, 79c; oranges 30c dozen; 2 large mackeral 25c; cakes 15c pound. Lot of Geraniums.—**S. H. JONES, Church Creek, Md.**

Aid to Enemy

"Any American who wilfully neglects to pay his taxes on time or to invest every cent he can in War Bonds is surely giving aid and comfort to the enemy . . . We have a job to do and we are all called for service to our country. Our dollars are called to service too. Let us all ask ourselves, 'Shall we be more tender with our dollars than with the lives of our sons?' " — Secretary Morgenthau.

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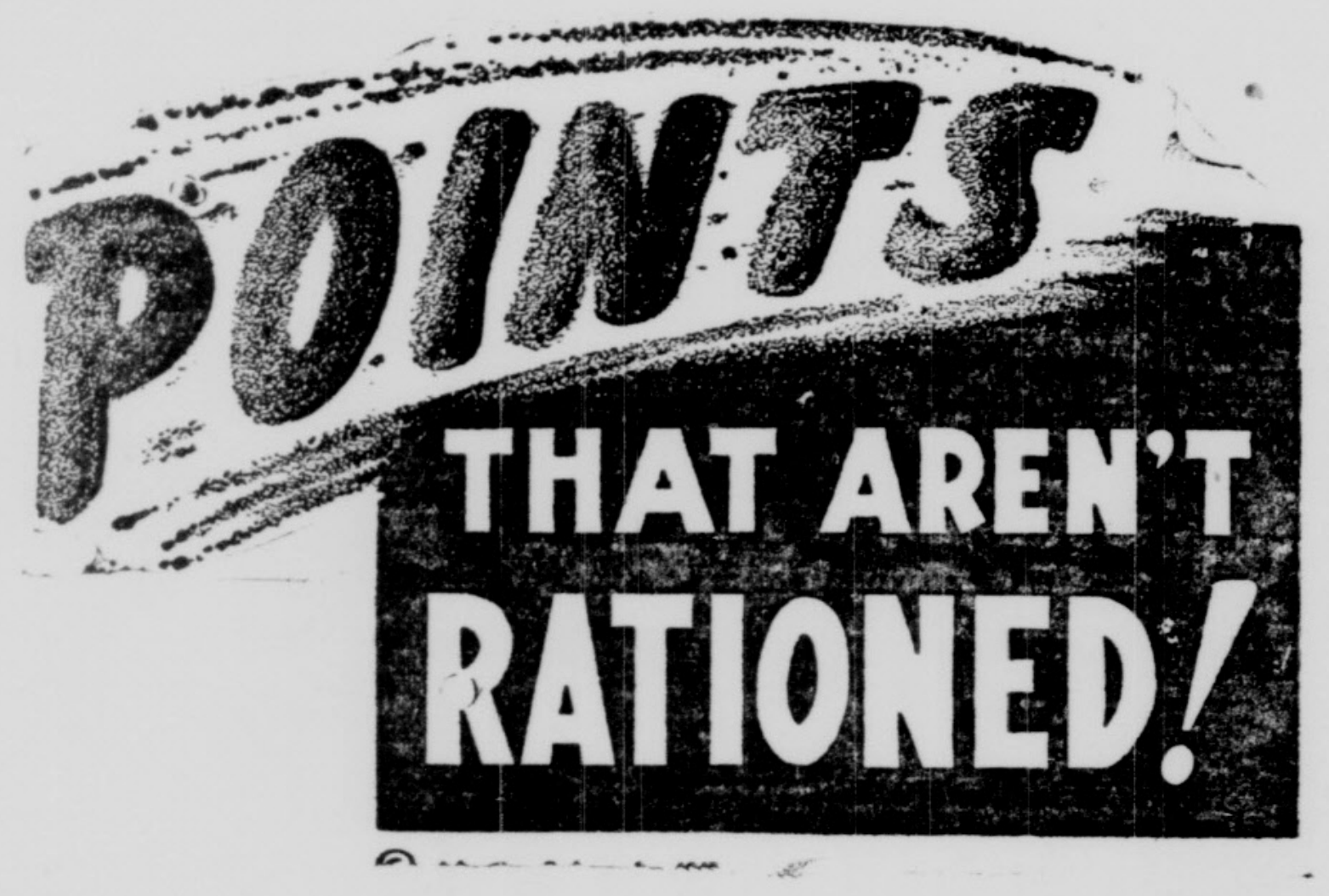

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