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It Is True The Japs Get The Breaks, But!

The first step which must be taken in carrying the war to Japan is a nobvious one—to disrupt and to break the long-extended Nipponese supply lines. Hundreds and in some cases thousands of miles of water lie between Japanese bases and areas she has conquered. Her life line consists of her merchant fleet and naval convoys. So long as she has enough protected tonnage to carry the immense quantities of supplies needed by her expeditionary forces, she will hold the upper hand. Once substantial inroads are made into her transport and fighting fleets, she will have to battle against steadily mounting odds. And the farther she goes across the wide Pacific, the more shipping she will require.

Therefore, there is encouragement in the casualities our military forces and those of other United Nations have been inflicting on Japanese shipping. Much of this news has never made the headlines, which have been largely occupied by accounts of Japan's success in taking and mopping up Pacific positions. But it is the kind of news that, in the long run, will do much to determine the outcome of the war. As Paul Mallon puts it, "Day by day, in every way, our Navy and Army have been pecking away, mainly at the indispensable but unspectacular phase of the Jap attack—he transport, supply and tanker ships and their convoy protection."

The toll of Japanese losses is impressive. Up to March 19, the United Nations officially reported the sinking of 110 supply ships and damaging of 54, or a total of 164 put out of action. That, according to the most reliable estimates, is in excess of 20 per cent of all Japanese ship ping which can be used for supply purposes.

The United Nations further reported the destruction of 17 Jap cruisers, along with 27 damaged, and the sinking of 22 destroyers plus 12 damaged. Two Jap battle ships have been sent to the bottom.Andso have three air craft carriers.

The United Nations' ship losses have, of course, also been great. But the military importance of such losses can only be judged in the light of replacement capacity. According to Mr. Mallon, Japan's merchant shipbuilding capacity is 300,000 to 400,000 gross tons per year. We will build in the nei ghborhood of 6,000,000 gross tons this year and almost twice as much next year. In addition to that, our Allies wil produce a considerable tonnage.

This does not mean we should run the danger of minimizing Japan's existing fighting fleet and merchant navy. Her main battle fleet has not yet been in evidence in this war, and is perhaps being held in reserve for major engagement. It is likely that she has more fighting craft than used to be generally believed—there is certainly no reason for thinking that she carried out her part of the naval limitation agreements which she and al other naval powers signed back in the '20s. What this does mean is that, unless all authorities are wrong, Ja pan does not possess a ship replacement capacity in any way comparable to ours. Japan probably spent twenty years preparing for this war and she had a big edge at the start. Our job is to overcome that edge.

Are We Producing the Goods For MacArthur

The world-wide enthusiam which followed the announcement of General MacArthur's dramatic transfer to Australia, and his assumption of supreme command of all United Nations' air,army and naval forces in the Pacific theatre, is easily understood. He is the war's number one hero. His achievement in the Philippines alone makes him one of the great commanders of history.

But we must not make the mistake of thinking that General MacArthur, brilliant and daring as he is, will immediately turn the scales. He cannot produce miracles. He made that very clear on his arrival in Melbourne, when he said: "Success in modern war requires something more than courage and willingness to die. It requires careful preparation. This means furnishing sufficient troops and sufficient materials to meet the known strength of the potential enmy. No general can make something from nothing. My success or failure will depend primarily upon the resources which our respective governments place at my disposal."

NOT TOO HOT NOT TOO COLD

Don't Bleed Business to Death

Your typical American industry isn't trying to profiteer out of this war .It isn't trying to double and redouble its profits. It knows perfectly well that the bulk of earnings will be taken in taxes, and it has no complaint to make about that. But industry does want to retain the right to do business—and that hinges upon its ability to make enough profit to keep going.

It is one thing to tax profits after they are made. It is a very different thing to tax the wealth which make profits possible. It is one thing to assess profits for needed public revenue. It is quite another thing to take the money that is needed for expansion, for reasonable reserves, for experiment, for betterment and for other expenditures which are necessary to industrial progress.

One reason we're fighting thiswar is to keep freedom of opportunity and enterprise alive. After the war, we hope, there will still be private business, private jobs, opportunities for all. Business will need money then to change back from a war to a peace economy It will need a back log to carry it through the period when war production suddenly stop and peace production has not yet begun. It will need that, not primarily for its own sake, but for the sake of the millions of ordinary people who will want jobs and commodities and a place to invest their little savings.

This is what we must keep in mind in considering tax bills. We are going to have super-heavy war taxation—that's necessary. We are going to tax 'war profits" right to the hilt—that too is necessary and proper. But we must not adopt a sys tem of taxation which will take from us the ability to keep going and do business in the time-tested American way.

Thoughts on the Coming of Spring

The spring of 1942 is already under way. As the frost and snows of winter fade into the background on the world's battle fronts, one of the most fateful seasons in all history comes into being—the period of dreaded offensives, of untold death and destruction. The ebb tide of human misery and man's inhumanity to man is here. It will flow on the vast crimson battle lines in Rus sia, over the war fronts of Asia and Africa, and perhaps in Western Europe. Nor does the great convulsion end on land. The tragedies of war now pervade the seven seas, where death and destruction are today a commonplace. The skies of Europe, Asia and Africa are also scenes of human tragedy, of heriosm and sudden death.

But while human hope seems outwardly to have reached a new low, the prospects confronting humankind are actually much brighter than they were when the awful convulsion began in earnest in September, 1939. For today the bulk of humanity realizes it has something to fight for and, if necessary, to die for. It knows that it will win. It knows that it will win not through superior resources of men and material, but by proving that people fighting for freedom can fight with as much fervor as the hypnotized masses now giving their lives to the cause of barbarism.

Nineteen hundred and forty-two, after all, offers us a supreme chance to justify ourselves. Not since the days of Kengis Khan (when over half the known world was overrun by Mongolian hordes) has the cause of human freedom been so successfully challenged. It seems that every preliminary bout has been won by the forces of backwardness —won in most cases by a knockout. The main event, the battle that accounts, is about to go on. The time has now come for every free man to participate in the struggle to justify freedom.

Consumers' Price Control

The upward trend in the price indicators continues. While the increases are taking place at a slower tempo than in World War I, it is expected that before the end of this year the offcial cost-of-living index will climb ten to twelve pounds.

That this constitues a very serious problem fo rthe consumer, goes without saying. And it also imposes some very definite obligations on the consumer, which he must discharge in the interest of the country as well as himself.

First, don't hoard. The chain stores and other retail groups have been urging consumers to buy normally, and that advice is 100 per cent right. Hoarding can only produce abnormal price increases. And, if it goes far enough, the government will expropriate excessive stocks in the hands of either consumers or dealers.

Second, take full advantage of the information concerning commodities, which is being issued by retailing organizations. Adequate substitutes exist for most products which are either scarce or excessively costly. This applies to all foods, clothing and household supplies.

Third, don't waste. Make everything you buy or own, from a can of beans to a set of tires, do maximum duty. Waste creates needless shortages and needless price increases.

Manufacturers and retailers are doing their best to protect your stan dard of living under extremely difficult conditions. And you, in your role of consumer, must help.

"Give Uncle Sam a lift with thrift"

RAYON fabrics lose strength when wet. Never iron rayon until it's practically dry—or you'll injure the threads and shorten the life of the garment.

Invest the pennies you'll save by your careful handling of rayon in DEFENSE SAVINGS STAMPS, because you care for Democracy!

FOR SALE—Chevrolet sedan. Excellent running condition. Phone Stevensville 2424.

Letter From the People

AL QUIMBY

"Liberty isn't a vague word to me When I write it, I'm thinking that I can write or speak or worship or move about as I please—within obvious limits—and of nearly 400 million people in Europe who can't. I am thinking of boys and girls torn from their homes and shipped in cattle-trucks to do forced labor in the Reich; of hundreds of thousands of innocent men and women who spend their nights waiting for a visit of the secret police. I'm thinking of the millions of people for wheom of the millions of people for whom coat or a cocktail party ,but a bit of stale bread, the safety of their loved ones. and the possibility that some day again they may be certain of Life and Liberty.

"Most of us realize now that we shall need all our courage and self-sacrifice if we are to win this war. But we must realize too that we shall go on needing them, even when we are victorious. For liberty and justice are lost not only in war but in peace. It didn't take a war to produce Hitler; it took only a Democracy that didn't work. And Democracy will work for us only while we work for Democracy. This means, first, that we must be informed; that we must use our votes intelligently, and, so far as is humanly possible, without regard to our own selfish interests. It means we must end the rule of self-seeking politicians and pressure-groups. We must get over 'the grimmes'—the idea that our government has no other province than to pour the taxpayers money into our laps. We must remember that in a land of equal opportunity, there is no room for class-hatreds, or for a ruinous struggle between capital and labor. Otherwise what has happened abroad can happen here."

EXTRA SESSION OF ASSEMBLY IS CONSIDERED

As the result of cumulative evidence laid before it by heads of State departments of the need for lgislative as well as financial adjustments to meet conditions of the war emergency, the Legislative Council unanimously undertook yesterday to consider a recommenda tion to Governor O'Conor that he summon the General Assembly into special session.

The chief complaint of the heads of the various State departments is that, due to the appeal of higher paid war industries, they are having difficulty in maintaining operating staffs.

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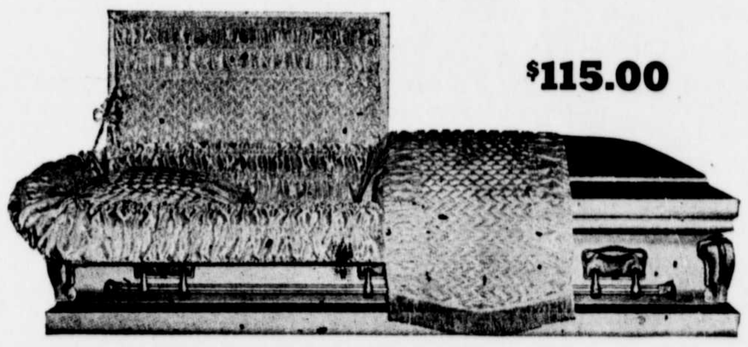

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