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National Advertising Representatives
AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
New York - Chicago - Detroit - Philadelphia

Friday, February 1, 1946.

The City of Bluff

It has remained for Oregon's United States Senator Ray Cunden to give the people a little picture of the false front that is gradually acquired by our public servant in Washington. On a recent trip to his home in Oregon, Senator Cunden said Washington is "the city of bluff." I firmly believe . . . members of Congress . . . should be compelled to return to their states about twice a year in order to get the blessing of the people and renew their sense of the true American way.

"In Washington, at times there is unrealism and unhealthy, and you are confronted by so many 'experts' that you know, if you are not very careful, the true American way of doing things. Then, when you get back to your own people you find that after all everything doesn't depend upon you, but upon the will of about 100,000,000 people who compose this great nation—and you feel better." Senator Cunden's remarks are worth remembering, for in the last analysis it is the 140,000,000 citizens and taxpayers who pay, from their earnings, every dime of the enormous appropriations that are asked of Congress for peacetime spending. Unless you want to pay more in future tax bills, don't demand public funds to do things which the people and industries should do for themselves.

Subsidies Run High

It is estimated that the United States Government is using about \$1,700,000,000 out of its Treasury to make payments to processors and distributors. The object is to keep prices of foodstuffs down. Most subsidies now amount to about \$800,000,000. Products that are slated for help from Government subsidies are milk, butter, sugar, cheese and bread. Farmers have been assured near-parity returns for their products or reduced cost of livestock food by way of subsidies to processors or distributors.

As a matter of fact the subsidies situation is beginning to be complicated enough to cause most officials to feel that the system should be ended as soon as possible.

Stranger still, powerful political influences are howling their heads off in behalf of continuing Chester Bowles in charge of the OPA governing contest. But Bowles indicates hopes that he may resign.

Have We Learned a Lesson?

Never did the people of the United States have such good reason to appreciate the value of their basic industries as the winter of the nation. Without American industries, the story of World War II would have been immeasurably greater. No industry played a bigger part in our industrial production than did coal. And coal is something that the average person takes for granted pretty much as he does air and water. Yet coal production definitely depends on American ingenuity and investment.

Producers of coal in the United States have made possible the breaking of all production records per man employed, through mechanized mining methods. And as a result, our country literally moves on coal. Without coal the steel mills would be idle. Without steel, we would have horses instead of automobiles, and our rail transportation would be something to dream about. Without steel, most of our factories and millions of jobs would exist. These are but a few of the basic things in American life that depend on coal.

Yes, the war taught us the importance of coal. We see Europe shivering for lack of coal. Have we learned anything from these graphic object lessons? Have we learned that we are all interested in labor policies, legislation and taxation that encourage or discourage American coal production? If we haven't, we don't deserve the good things that flow from a black lump of carbon called bituminous coal.

Why Kid Ourselves

It seems almost childish for price control agencies to try to regulate the economy of the nation on one hand while government goes on borrowing and printing and spending and giving away money as it sees fit.

Hold-the-line orders for a pound of butter, a pair of stockings, or an automobile, may temporarily get public attention, but it isn't long before the public finds it can't get better, stockings or automobiles when out-of-line prices block production. And it makes no difference whether the articles are rationed or sold in a free market.

What our regulators of human activities should concentrate on is encouraging production and admitting that the normal costs of war have caused some inflation which can be controlled if the costs of government can be controlled and if the people will work hard and produce. Our regulators of human activity must allow sufficient return to the producer and to the wage earner, based on our present inflation due to the national debt, so that both producers and workers will do their best to turn out goods, thus removing the scarcity which now aggravates inflation, thereby driving prices higher and higher.

The country can still look inflation if the people will go to work and if government will encourage rather than discourage business. We will have to make up our minds, however—we will either have to definitely express ourselves in favor of retaining our private enterprise and profit system, or we will have to accept government dictation and a failing standard of living as a substitute for a free economy. One-sided price controls which

ignore government debt and spending and cost of production, while trying to restrict the individual, drive us closer to socialism.

As a people, have we the courage to return to the risks and rewards of private enterprise, or seeking to dodge responsibility for our own destiny, will we go farther toward the dele system and regimentation?

All Praise for the Grocers

Little praise for a job well done has gone the grocer's way. Yet during the war his was a task of vital importance to our fighting men. For how can an Army win a war without adequate production at home? And how can a people produce at capacity without assurance of a fair share of proper foods?

However, thanks are few for the corner grocer's head aches in the role of a home front warrior. One quick glance on the eve of any day would find him weary from answering questions about merchandise shortages and such. Help through advertising and other media, explaining the reasons behind these shortages, from large food corporations, such as, The Best Foods, Inc., manufacturers of Nacora vegetable margarine, did not stop the constant flow of inquiries. "Why, can't I buy my favorite brand of this or that?"

Then there were other difficulties. Clerks and delivery boys were joining the ranks daily. Price ceilings, ration points and tokens created real-life bookkeeping problems—and where could he get help with his bookkeeping?

Margarine and other fats and oils are still on the critical list. Sugar, too. However, many of our grocer's big problems have dissolved as most rationing ended. The grocer's chin is up—shoppers are getting summer all the time and gradually everything will be right on Main Street, United States.

NOT TOO HOT
NOT TOO COLD

Prevent Tragedy

It may appear that reading to a person to study information is not to prevent fire in the home or in industry, because the home or place of work seems secure from the ravages of fire. But few things can pay bigger dividends to a family or to workers in an industry, than the study and practice of fire prevention. We are prone to feel that fire will never strike us individually. It seems impossible that a small home could become a death trap due to fire, so that the could move so rapidly in a factory that many companies could not escape, and yet every day we read where whole families have been wiped out or where numbers of persons have been burned in buildings where they were employed.

A recent example was in the city of Portland, Oregon, where five tragical deaths were the saddest story of their lives. Two of the brothers were burned to death.

Another tragedy on the opposite side of the continent was the hospital fire in Hartford, Connecticut, where supposedly preventive wiring on a Christmas tree is believed to have started the fire. Sixteen lives were taken, 12 more were overcome by smoke and many persons injured.

There are but two instances of over 10,000 deaths that occur annually in the United States from fire. Most of these lives could be saved by a demonstration on the part of individuals to study fire prevention methods and do their best to eliminate hazards in their homes and places of work. Try to control the factors it brings tragedy to you.

New Kind of Freedom

The United States apparently fought a second world war to bring

freedom to the world. But what has happened at home while men were killed abroad? A worker cannot get a job in a basic industry without first paying labor organizations for his constitutional right to work.

A married mother of four years standing—three years and two months overseas—within a hour and interesting letter. His home in Detroit he is anxious to work and just could be had by the thousands of other fathers did not permit. At such a time, while politicians wrangle about the passage of legislation for employment bills, and the nation is begging for men to work, he writes:

"Never drew unemployment compensation before, but decided to see if I got my check back. Boy, what a racket they turned into! One pay can't do a thing about it. The other days just sit around and let the officers pass anything they like. It's one big mess. To get it is a real deal, it's the union that runs the hell-out the men, the system."

And this man fought for freedom for foreigners. But he draws unemployment compensation in America while he is forced to remain idle regardless of his desire to work.

There's No Place Like Home

There is no question today the Government that it runs too loose with the demands of the G.I.s on services against being held in service. They have fought and won the World war and they want to come home. The President and heads of the military establishment insist that the veterans are being brought back just as fast as ships can carry them. Our boys agree that it is necessary to keep large numbers of soldiers in the service and maintain that were whipped. But there answer is: Send someone to take our place; we have finished the job we went overseas to do. Veterans have no much justice on their side that every effort to get them home will be speeded up. No one wants to keep them away from home any longer than is absolutely necessary.

The Low Down From Hickory Cove

You know, getting a neighborhood from a hickory in some station, I just got one—no I gotta tell you, I may be some split before I get another. If ever, Well, this hickory gets, he says to me, Jonathan, you got around more, tell me, he says, what there is to this "hickory home pay" I been reading about—I would like to try hickory home home, he says.

Well, I says—everybody calls him Hickory—I didn't know that hickory called. I says, oh "hickory home pay" read hickory stories. There is no much of mean where you take it home and keep much of it, if that is what you got in mind. "Take home Hickory" is a slogan, it sounds childish. And if you are head-man, then get the hickory Temple, it helps you keep your job. Or if you are a hickory you can make speeches on when, or anyway they been thinking no up to sound like. But with new ideas there in the office, it is looking old. I want to see more people get hickory and represent.



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