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Where Will We Land?

The number of strikers during the past few months about equal the number of troops called into service for the World War. That rough estimate shows that it is about as hard to win the peace as it is to win the wars in foreign lands.

There has been a time in previous history when the efforts of the Government had failed to bring about agreements in industrial disputes. But now, Boards and Agencies created by Acts of Congress and established by the President of the United States have met with more opposition than ever before in their efforts to bring employers and workers together to settle their disputes.

The Administration made a serious mistake when it went into high-gear in its efforts to enforce wage increases and freeze prices of products at pre-war levels. That unreasonable method produced more strikes and less settlements.

On Abraham Lincoln's Birthday there was what amounted to a strike against the Government itself. The Mayor of New York City said that the eight-day taxicab strike had brought "the shortage of fuels to an acute and dangerous stage" and that business of every kind was demoralized in the metropolis.

Conditions in New York were matched by other strikes and troubles in all parts of the country.

In the opinion of b'hoys perched high the National Government has never met with so much defiance from its own people as it has in recent weeks.

Congress has been slow to pass anti-strike legislation because the legislative body hoped, and believed, that the President and his aides could re-establish industrial peace.

The returns to Congress and the White House have shown that the Government has not succeeded in fixing cheaper prices and higher wages. President Truman started out in a grand way, but he is having no end of trouble with his industrial wage-price plans. His conferees and his Administration have hardly made a dent in smoothing out industrial troubles.

When one surveys the entire national scene he looks upon skies that are, blacker, ed over.

Remove This Bottleneck

One of the planks in the American Legion platform for maximum aid for veterans' employment calls for adequate funds for the U. S. Civil Service Commission.

Returning veterans in vastly increasing numbers are filing applications for Federal Civil Service employment. The law specifically provides for preference for veterans in Government jobs.

Yet in spite of the fact that Government jobs are expected to play an important part in veteran's employment, the U. S. Civil Service Commission has been forced by shortsighted budgetary limitations to embark at this vital readjustment period upon a program of retrenchment due to lack of funds.

Clerks and typist had been processed for war agencies. Then with no other work in sight, the Commission facility had to drop back to a 5-day week. The combination of reduction of hours and further decrease in personnel has crippled its ability to process applications by at least 50 per cent. There is a prospect of a still greater reduction in its efficiency due to further restricted operational appropriation.

As a result applications of veterans for Government jobs are piling up in the Chicago, St. Louis and other offices of the U. S. Civil Service Commission.

Meantime the veteran waits and watches for the mailman.

In our humble opinion, the veteran, who has waited and waited far too much since VJ-Day, is entitled to more considerate treatment.

There are too far too many such impediments to his re-establishment.

This particular bottleneck—the lack of funds for the Commission—need not exist and should be removed immediately.

We back up the Legion's demand for adequate funds for the U. S. Civil Service Commission Now when they are so pressingly needed!

Now It's Fuel Oil

The country seems headed for a fuel oil shortage. Again, as in butter and countless other commodities, the reason goes back to maladjustments in prices. PA ceilings encouraged gasoline production during the war, at the expense of heating fuels. The Mayor of New York has frankly stated that a price increase for fuel oil is necessary. A spokesman for one of the largest refiners and distributors in the East says that, "An increase in fuel oil prices would undoubtedly promote a larger output."

This our era of regulated shortages continues. As long as free entreprise exists, the natural tendency will be to produce those things that result in a reasonable degree of profit. OPA has neglected to recognize that the war is over. Millions of consumers need oil in other forms than gasoline. Free markets would have recognized changing requirements months ago.

So This Is Peace!

There is something frightening in the let-down that has followed the war. It runs deeper than mere relaxation of weary people after years of strain.

Our military disintegration, the mass demonstrations of American troops in foreign lands, the lawlessness and strikes at home—they all add up to an abdication of individual responsibility that can mean the destruction of democratic government in the United States.

Referring to the present state of collapse in the Armed Forces, the New York Times says: "Peace apparently has brought a release from the feeling of individual responsibility that showed itself during the war at home as well as on the battle fronts—the feeling that what each was doing, even if it was only playing a small role, was a part of the whole national and international effort. Now each apparently is willing to let the other do it. Each parent is willing to let some other parent's son stay overseas if only he can get his own son back. Every possible influence is brought, every possible string is pulled, to secure preferred treatment. A recent report from a European command said that two officers were kept busy doing nothing else but running down inquiries from just one senator as to the status of the sons of his constituents."

Part of the fault for our scuttle and run attitude lies with the policy of the government which sold millions of people to the idea that war was an investment rather than an expense. Were not war bonds sold on that basis? And now instead of settling into the harness to pay those expenses, we are sitting back on our laurels waiting to collect on our "investment."

NOT TOO HOT NOT TOO COLD

Pearl Harbor Investigation

It seems as though the Pearl Harbor investigation will never end. Only one thing seems to have been established and that is that there were inaccurate slips in Washington, D. C., where the information was received by "somebody" that the Japs would attack Pearl Harbor. Apparently big chiefs in Washington didn't believe there would be an attack—and so they went to sleep on the job, without giving orders to the Navy.

Competition Vs. Price-Fixing

Figures and estimates on the price of manufactured goods of all kinds show that cost prices are going up. At the same time the old style method of competition would bring down the prices to a point where the producers would receive reasonable prices. If this is true then why allocate quotas of foreign prices in the hands of "brain huts" employed by the Government.

How Do They Get That Way?

One of the best news authorities in Washington tells us: "The United States outlook for the next two or three years is bright; it is one of prosperity, high production, rising dividends of living." That may be clairvoyance but it is not conclusions that are contained by current facts and trends. We all hope that will continue to rise, and eventually will continue to rise, and eventually produce a sort of fairyland.

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