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FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1940

FIFTH COLUMN

The vivid term "Fifth Column", has an ominous significance these days. It first came into use during the Spanish civil war, when an insurgent general announced that he had four columns of soldiers driving toward Madrid--and a Fifth Column, consisting of spies, saboteurs and other enemies of the Spanish Republic, within the city. And since then, we have seen Fifth Columns operating with almost demoniac efficiency and success in other parts of the world. The Nazis have developed the Fifth Column technique to an extraordinarily high level--to a very large extent, the collapse of Norway, Holland, Poland, and Belgium was due to the activities of Nazi sympathizers and purchased terrorists within those beseiged nations. Somber rumors of Fifth Column work have even come from France--as witness the recent wholesale dismissal of 15 or 20 French generals who had, according to Premier Reynaud, made inexcusable and impossible-to-understand blunders. And in the British Isles, the athorities have gone to unprecedent ends to ferret out and arrest any and all persons who might be expected to aid a German invasion.

That the high officials of the United States are tremendously worried by the specter of Fifth Column ativitiy here, goes without saying. The President has mentioned it in a speech. At the moment, the potential U. S. Fifth Column consists of avowed Hitlerites--the bulk of whom are organized in the German-America bunds and similar societies--and, to a lesser exent, the Communists, who have been running around in circles attempting to justify Lenin's denunciation of imperialism and conquest with Stalin's Communist-Nazi pact and the Russian invasion of Finland.

This April, members of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association of New York, received a "bonus" of $1,650,000. In other words, their milk brought them that much more than it would have brought a year before, under conditions obtaining then.

A number of factors were responsible for the improvement. And the most important was the aggresive work of such marketing cooperatives as the Dairymen's League. The farmers got together and stuck together—and better times were the result.

The President has appointed a national defense committee of seven members. It includes representatives of government, business and labor. And, of great importance, it likewise includes a member whose job is to represent the consumer.

It is essential that the consumer's interests be protected—many of us remember bitter times in the past when prices rose out of reason. Prices must be held to reasonable levels and inflationary trends discouraged.

Payments of unemployed benefits by the Maryland Unempoyment Compensation Board continue heavy, the aggregate for the first half of June being $460,639, compared with a total of $554,901 for the entire month of April.

New claims received are decreasing slowly, the number for the week ending June 15 being 2,153, which was 98 less than the figure for the preceding week, while the total of all claims last week--new and renewed--was 29,616. This was an average of about one hundred claims a week below the record for the ten consecutive weeks preceding.

CENSUS FIGURES SHOW INCREASE IN POPULATION

With returns still incomplete, census enumerators have passed 131,000,000 in their count of the population in the United States.

In 1930, the final count in the contintental United States was 122,775,046 persons. Birth and death statistics indicated the 1940 total would be about 132,000,000.

Venezuela is known throughout the world for making candles . . . its candle factories turn them out at a dollar's worth a minute.

Chile spends $7 a minute maintaining its government hospitals.

A PLEDGE THAT MUST BE KEPT

By J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., June—Every official statement from the United States Government pledges to the people of the United States that the tremendous sums, started at around 4 or 5 billions of dollars, are to be used for national defense and to keep this country out of war.

The fact must not be overlooked that the legislation that has rushed through Congress during the past thirty days is intended to build up a gaint system of military defense, and that if it is used at all it will be in a war wih one or more European nations.

The Washington ocrrespondent of the Midlad Journal feels that certain matters are of vital importance. First. Congress has the jitters. The proof of this is shown by the fact that they are voting approval to practically every suggestion that comes from the White House, even though a very large percentage of the members are in political disagreement with the head of the Nation. Second. I heard one of the very best newspaper men in Washington say on the radio this morning that the homefolks of this country have the jitters. I am not informed as to whether this is true, but I am of the opinion that as between a condition of jittery home-folks and jittery Congressman that the legislators of our country are the ones who have most of the jitters. Third. Congress crisis has passed. But, if Congress crisis ha spassed. But, if Congress is to do nothing more than approve recommendations from the White House then they might just as well vote extraordinary powers to Mr. Roosevelt and go home, because: Fourth. He has been complete master of all affairs in Washington that concern the war.

There is no use picking on the President about these details and problems because whether one agrees with his policies or not, he nas stated his program, and he backs his position with all his power. On the other hand, there are 533 men on Capitol Hill that are his bosses (?). It is pretty hard to commend the record of these 533 statesmen. They aren't doing their job.

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TAXES WILL NEVER BE LESS

For many years there have been hopes that Federal taxes would be reduced, and some people have been optimistic enough to believe that an annual budget might be met, sometime. The same optimists have believed the times would come when the national debt would be whittled down again, as it was in the days of Calvin Coolidge and Andrew Mellen.

The present 45 billion dollar national debt limit is now being boosted to 49 billion dollars, and 4 billion dollars worth of securities maturing within five years to be known as the "National Defense Series" will be issued. According to the present formula of the Govvernment new taxes that are being levied are intended to pay for this boost. Serious writers, who are not even making a joke about it, record the hope from Capitol Hill that "any surplus would go into the general fund of the Treasury". What imagination!

While statesmen talk about issuing 4 billion dollars worth of securities the House of Representatives on the same day passed a defense tax bill by a vote of 396 to 6 to raise a billion dollars a year for five years. That's 5 billion dollars--not 4 billion dollars.

You might just as well shut your eyes right now and think about the probabilities of 10 billion dollars for the National Defense Series--and expect it to be voted by Congress.

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TROJAN HORSES IN MANY TOWNS

Federal, State and local officials have found disloyal groups, organizaions and agents of foreign Governments in localities that were believed to be as free from suspicion as Caesar's wife, on her own front porch. When Congressman Dies first began to tell the country about spies and enemies, cries of remontance arose against him, but he has convinced everyone that there are Nazis, Facists, and Communists moving around, where they might least be expected to be found. So it behooves every locality to conduct its own careful survey to discover the differences between honest persons with sound opinions about war conditions and the objects of other persons who may be disloyal to the Government of the United States.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

By THE W. C. T. U.

THE certainty of a national ground swell against the social effects of repeal is indicated by certain "straws in the wind."

Some of these are:

Definite and frequent statements by wet leaders that the industry must reform itself, or else—.

Increasing recognition by the public of the part alcohol plays in traffic accidents and deaths; plus a strong tendency toward enforcement of laws aimed at drinking drivers, with increased severity of sentences.

Isolated, but increasing, steps to close taverns charged in court with having helped cause delinquency of youthful defendants.

Increasing editorial and "Voice of the People" criticism of alcohol's social effects. This is considered to be very suggestive, as editorial comment, from a press in large part pro-repeal, is certain to be following, and not leading, a change in the public's thinking.

A projected current effort to reorganize the women's repeal group, which publicly led 1933's legislative fights, evidently in an effort to strengthen alcohol's public and legislative position.

A noticeable movement, despite financial needs, in the daily and weekly press toward further banning of alcohol advertisements.

This winter's effort in Washington to prohibit beverage alcohol advertising by radio and the action last year of some chains and many individual stations in banning such advertising.

Growing strength of movements dedicated to national rebirth of spiritual and moral values.

Labor Saved Money.

Clark Warburton, economist, who personally was opposed to prohibition, said in his book "The Economics of Prohibition," (published in 1932 by the Columbia University Press):

"The expenditure of the working class upon alcoholic beverages is probably a billion dollars less than it would be without national prohibition."

And that "during the first three years of prohibition the liquor bill was reduced about two billion dollars per year."

A Cause for It.

A "loose tongue" often puts one in a "tight" spot. What loosens the tongue to the undoing of its owner more quickly than beverage alcohol?

FACTS WE MUST FACE

This is a moment in our history when hysteria comes easy, but there should be no hysteria. This is an hour in democracy when the souls of free men are tried, but no free man should yield to a sense of defeatism.

As the bastions of liberty fall one by one abroad, here in America we have a job to do, and it is largely a job of self-preservation, of protecting and perpetuating a system that has been handed down to us by men who gave their brains, their brawn and their lives to make this a land where no tyranny can flourish. This rich heritage is ours to have and to hold, and it is ours to pass on to succeeding generations. That is the first big fact we must keep sharply in mind, for all other facts in our present situation stem directly from it.

As Amerians, we are endangered in many ways today, but it would be the height of folly to grow hysterical because of that, or to feel that we are not equipped to cope with the wild forces running loose in the world. Excitability and defeatism constitute a Fifth Column all their own, at a time when cool heads and resolute spirit are essential to safeguard the security of the nation.

America's position is a difficult one. Whether there is a quick peace in Europe or a protracted war, our immediate task is to build our moral and physical defenses in this hemisphere. The best we can expect at the moment is an Allied victory, and the worst we can expect is a triumph for the dictatorships. But whatever the outcome, we Americans shall probably have no real tranquillity for the rest of our lives, and we may as well face up to that fact with all the fortitude the American spirit can command.

We shall have no real tranquillity because the fortunes of our nation will be deeply affected by the outcome of the war. For the rest of our lives, we shall have to support such an arms burden as was never before necessary in our history.

These are not happy days for anybody in this world. These are days when heavier and heavier taxes become the least of our worries. These are days when all of us must see to it that men of high competence are elected to office and that we our selves have the moral fiber to arise above petty partisanship or mean and narrow selfishness. Above all, these are days for a militant reaffirmation of faith in our American system. — The Pathfinder.

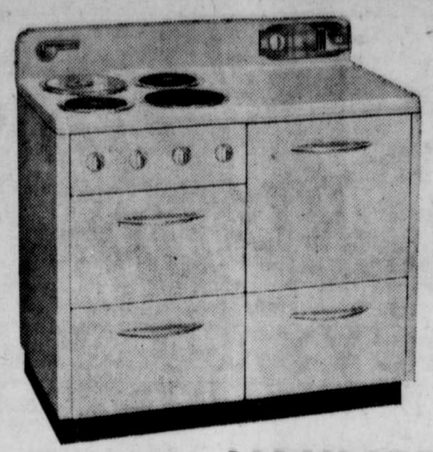
The newly planned anti-aircraft equipment and ammunition for the United States Army will cost the U. S. more than $120 every 60 seconds.

With some people excitement is a pretty fair substitute for contentment.

The U. S. movie industry is a business colossus—and it costs a dollar a second just for the insurance on movie theaters and studios in the U. S.

Biggest U. S. export item is automobiles and parts—average value of shipment is $500 every 60 seconds of the day and night.

Some men are born small, some shrink and some others never find out how small they really are.



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