

Washington Digest

Higher Prices Asked for Extra Effort by Farmers



Time and a Half for Factory Workers' Overtime, Manufacturers' Cost-Plus, Proves Demands Not Excessive.

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There is a package in Washington addressed to the farmers marked "Do Not Open Until After Congress Convened." It may never be delivered, but the people who are doing it up at this writing think it will be. It will make a nice New Year's present. It is labeled "Higher Farm Prices."

Several straws indicate that the wind is blowing in this direction. The house early this month unanimously passed a measure which directed that the cost of all farm labor be included in computing parity prices.

Since the election is over, nobody can attribute purely political motives to the congressmen who supported the measure. As nearly as I can find out, the vote reflected the mail—the opinions expressed in the letters that the congressmen have been getting since the election—plus a belief on the part of many people in the administrative as well as the legislative branch that if we are to ask the farmer to increase his production effort from 20 to 50 per cent, we will have to give him the incentive of higher prices.

One official said to me: "When you go to a contractor and say that he has got to double his production or get it out in one-half the ordinary time, you are not surprised when he expects a bonus. When you ask the farmer to raise more than he ordinarily does—he is usually raising all he thinks he can anyway—it is natural that he expects some sort of material reward. Time and a half for over-time has not been abolished, manufacturers are guaranteed against loss by the cost-plus system. Why shouldn't the farmer get his share?"

These are some of the arguments which you hear these days when the question of raising farm prices is discussed. This is quite a different attitude from the one taken when the country was demanding that something be done to prevent inflation. Proponents of higher ceilings claim that they are not inconsistent. They say: "There is no danger of uncontrolled inflation when you permit a stipulated limit to the rise in costs."

Subsidies Not Popular

Already it has been found necessary to subsidize the cheese markets. If you expect to get all the dairy and pork products you need, the argument runs, it will be necessary to pay the farmer a little bit more for his milk and hogs. Subsidies are not popular. If another way can be found, so much the better.

There is, however, another important consideration in connection with the whole food and fiber production program. This is a growing demand that processing and distribution be strictly regulated. Secretary Wickard, as food administrator, has the power to set up such regulations.

Officials who served in the department of agriculture through the last war will testify that although there was efficient food distribution, a lot of smart processors and middlemen feathered their nests at the expense of the farmer and the public. Farmers know this. One congressman said to me: "The folks out in my district do not object to working twice as hard and producing twice as much if they can. They do think, however, that they ought to get a little more money for their extra effort and they also feel they ought to have the guarantee that no speculator is going to make money out of the increased production the way many did in the last war."

The appointment of Secretary Wickard, with his powers over the processing and distribution of food products, was partly a result of opinions such as expressed by the farmer whom my congressman friend quoted. It is argued that since the department of agriculture is responsible for getting enough food and textiles to fill the domestic, army and navy and lease-lend demands, this same agency ought to have control over the preparation and distribution of these products as well.

Not Mr. Wickard's View

There are some, of course, who take an extreme view of this subject. They would like to see the government take over the whole processing and distribution industry, at least for the duration. This is not the view of Mr. Wickard.

Naturally, there will be strong opposition to increased farm prices from the Office of Price Administration and various other bodies, which are supposed to speak for the consumer or which represent the strong anti-inflationist views.

The President has made it plain that he will be the arbiter when such conflicts arise. The formula for parity cannot be altered without legislation since it is already defined by law. Even if the senate concurs with the house and agrees to include all farm labor costs in the parity formula, the President would still have the power to veto such a measure and the administration could probably muster enough votes to support the veto.

Secretary Wickard, who moves slowly and conservatively, has been gaining power as he advanced. There is more and more evidence of a return to influence of the old line departments as against the wartime agencies like the OPA. The former have more influence with congress and apparently the people have more confidence in them.

The department of agriculture will be there when the mushroom agencies have strutted their hour and disappeared.

Japan Must Learn

"Japan must not only be defeated but crushed . . . maimed and left helpless for a long period."

Speaking not, he says, in the voice of wartime emotionalism nor as the retired colonel or a sedentary editorial writer, Nathaniel Peffer, Far Eastern expert, makes the above statement. "Japan," he says, "must be taught a terrible lesson, a lesson that cannot be conveyed by defeat in itself."

I know Mr. Peffer, have known him since I heartily disagreed with many of his ideas, clear back in college days. I know the great respect in which he is held by the wise men of the East—and the West—today. I know his hatred and contempt for the militarist. So I seized upon the above quotations from his latest book, "Basis for Peace in the Far East" (Harper & Bros.) in the hope that I would be able to tear his new tome to shreds in a pleasurable frenzy of humanitarian sadism and delight my pacifist friends. But later on, as I read this highly enlightening book and absorbed Mr. Peffer's program for post-war treatment of Japan, I saw I would have to temper my opinion of the author's unchristian preaching in the first chapter.

I discovered that Mr. Peffer was merely an old fashioned parent who believes in administering chastisement to a bad child.

Two sets of obstacles interfere with a healthy Japan that can live peacefully in the family of nations, Mr. Peffer explains. One group are external, one internal, self-made.

The external are lack of natural resources of her islands. Therefore, he says, after her period of repentance, the opportunity to buy raw materials and the opportunity to sell the finished products must be established. Internally, Japan cannot function like modern communities such as Detroit or the Ruhr or Lancashire, and at the same time operate a system in which people live in medieval villages. The terms under which we will help Japan rebuild the devastation which our bombs and shells will wreak upon her, will be the removal of internal obstacles to a more balanced social system.

No reviewer can adequately deal with another man's book. If he could he might just as well write it himself. I have offered these brief excerpts in the hope that the apparent paradox in point of view will whet your curiosity—for unless you read "The Basis for Peace in the Far East" you won't be able to discuss intelligently the basis for peace anywhere, when the time comes for it to be established.

PATTERNS SEWING CIRCLE



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juniper of velveteen or light wool crepe and the blouse with its ruffled collar of sheer white cotton. It is easy to hop into this outfit, too. Both blouse and jumper button down the front.

Pattern No. 8270 is in sizes 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Size 6 years jumper requires 2 1/2 yards 36-inch material, blouse 1 1/2 yards.

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Enclose 30 cents in coins for each pattern desired.
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A New Apron.

IT IS trim as a pin, big enough to cover your entire frock, and decorative enough so that it is fun to wear! Here is an apron to rely on. You slip it on over your head, tie it at the waist and it's in place to stay. Two patch pockets make it extra useful.

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Jumper Costume.

YOU'RE reminded of little Lord Fauntleroy by this picturesque jumper outfit . . . especially if you will make the slim fitting

Temple Bill Boards

The Hindus of India are the only people who permit the exterior walls of their temples of worship to be used as billboards, selling the space to advertisers who plaster it with large posters, proclaiming the merits of everything from malaria medicine to bathing hats, says Collier's. Even government offices often paste their public announcements on temple walls.

COLDS' MISERIES PENETRO

For colds, coughs, nasal congestion, muscle aches get Penetro—modern medication in a mutton suet base. 25¢, double supply 35¢.

Refuge of Weak

Idleness is only the refuge of weak minds, and the holiday of fools.—Lord Chesterfield.

Acid Indigestion

Relieved in 5 minutes or double money back. When excess stomach acid causes painful, suffocating gas, sour stomach and heartburn, doctors usually prescribe the fastest-acting medicine known for symptomatic relief—medicines like those in Bell's Tablets. No laxative. Bell's Tablets bring comfort in a jiffy or double your money back on return of bottle to us. See at all drugstores.

Fitting Minds

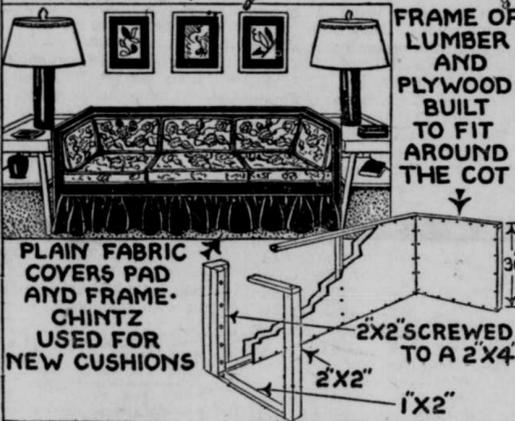
Little things affect little minds.—Disraeli.

DON'T go on! SUFFERING!

from the fiery itch of dry eczema. Quick soothing relief usually follows the use of Resinol

ON THE HOME FRONT with RUTH WYETH SPEARS

STEEL COT WITH GOOD SPRINGS AND COTTON PAD



THIS good looking davenport gives no hint that its early life was spent as an iron cot with a thin cotton pad. The sketch shows how the frame is made. It is covered with rather heavy green cotton material. The pad of the cot is also covered with this goods and

Wedding of Kimonos

Marriages between both animals and inanimate objects sometimes take place in the Orient with elaborate religious ceremonies, says Collier's. India has had weddings of trees, monkeys and statues, and Japan of rocks, flags and kimonos. For instance, a famed kimono wedding took place in Kyoto in 1934 with full Shinto rites, the bride being a celebrated, hand-painted silk garment while the groom was a renowned, hand-embroidered cotton robe.

PREPAREDNESS by the AMERICAN RED CROSS

THE Junior Red Cross is the American Red Cross in the schools of the nation. It is also the world's largest youth organization, with more than 14,000,000 members in the United States.

The principal duty of the Junior Red Cross in war time is the making of comfort and recreational articles for our service men everywhere. During the past year, Junior Red Cross members made more than 3,000,000 such articles, such as games, recreation room furniture and writing kits.

The Junior Red Cross has also taken a very active part in the making of many essential articles for Civilian Defense organizations throughout the nation. These items included splints, stretchers, and first aid cabinets.

"Earn, buy, make, give," are the four steps all Junior Red Cross members take in raising and using the money they get in their national enrollment drive. They must earn the money to buy the materials to make the articles to give to the hospital, army camp or Civilian Defense organization.

Junior Red Cross members have also been very active in salvage campaigns of all kinds throughout the nation, contributing more than half of the salvage gathered by children of school age throughout the country.

In addition to furnishing opportunity to learn by making these articles for service men and others, the Junior Red Cross affords children of school age basic training in civilian preparedness so that they may take their places later on in the volunteer activities of the Red Cross or the Office of Civilian Defense.

Prepared Exclusively for WNU.

Belief in Future

A little more courage of our storm-driven ancestors would stand us in good stead. I have wondered where the Puritans got their courage. They were strong men with an unshaken belief in God and their destiny. They believed in the future. We, too, must believe in the future of our country. It is worth fighting for. It is worthy of our confidence. Courage and enterprise will win.—Anon.



A Bit on the Humorous Side

Other Pursuits
For the fiftieth time the two rather careful boxers had fallen into a clinch.

"Turn out the lights!" shouted a voice from the gallery. "Them two lovin' earts want to be alone!" "Leave the lights alone!" shouted another voice. "I want to read!"

Or Manned

"So you were at Louise and the Lieutenant's wedding? How did the bride look?" "Remarkably well groomed."

Earned It

Last night I met a chap with a black eye, so I said: "That's a beauty! Who gave it to you?" "Nobody gave it to me," he said. "I had to fight for it."

BIG GAME



May—Old Mr. Gold is well-off, and if he wasn't such an old grump, I think I'd fish for him myself.

Etta—Fish for him? You mean you'd go bear hunting?

Beyond Capacity

Murphy was paying ten dollars a week for room and board. One day his landlady said to him: "Pat, I'm afraid I'll have to charge you two dollars more. You're such a big eater."

"Oh, no, don't do that!" replied Murphy. "I'm killing myself already tryin' to eat ten dollars' worth."

Time Out

An aspiring politician had a speech written for him by a friend, who included instructions in the manuscript for the speaker.

The would-be politician duly delivered himself of the oration and, when loud applause was accorded a statement he read out, he turned over a page and immediately convulsed the audience by adding: "Here blow your nose and take a drink of water."

Household Hints

When cream will not whip, add the white of an egg and stand the bowl for one hour in a vessel of cold salt water. It will then whip easily, and the white of egg will add considerably to the bulk of the cream without affecting the flavor.

Equip the guest room closet with plenty of hooks and clothes hangers. Add a shopping bag to hold soiled clothing. If a private bath is not connected with the guest room, towel racks on the back of the closet door will prove convenient. A waste basket, clock, ash trays and good lighting equipment for reading and dressing should be included.

Vaseline will prevent patent leather from cracking. Rub a little on your shoes before venturing out in the cold.

Lipstick stained napkins and towels should be cleaned before laundering with a spot remover.

Raisin and Apple Sandwiches.—Cover slices of brown bread, first with butter, then with raisins which have been seeded and minced finely. Put two slices together with wafer-like pieces of juicy apple between.

Beware of bubbles when varnishing. Have the varnish and the work at a temperature of at least 70 degrees and keep the work out of the dust.

If a tablecloth is badly tea-stained, rub the stains with ordinary washing blue some time before the cloth is to be washed. Then boil as usual and both blue and stains will disappear.

Turkey in the Straw
"On the right—form platoon!" roared the sergeant.

The recruits carried out some kind of maneuver which left the sergeant speechless.

He looked at them for a moment. Then his voice returned—and no words can describe the tone of it. "All right—now take your partners for the dance."

Untouchable
"What kind of a fellow is Smythe?"

"Well, if you ever see a man trying to borrow money from another, the fellow shaking his head is Smythe."

Bank of Monte Carlo

Breaking the bank at Monte Carlo is not quite such a prodigious feat as it sounds. Each table for roulette starts play with its own individual bank, or reserve of money. The table's bank, therefore, is held to be broken when a player has won the whole of this reserve sum, together, of course, with the accumulation of previous wins by the table from other players, and the game has to be suspended whilst fresh cash is being brought up from the vaults.

The last time the bank was broken at a table in Monte Carlo's casino—shortly before this war—the lucky player gained about \$24,000.

But without technically "breaking the bank," some gamblers have won very large sums indeed. Others have lost fortunes.

TO RELIEVE MISERY OF COLDS quickly use 666 LIQUID TABLETS SALVE NOSE DROPS COUGH DROPS

Knowing Man
It is far easier to know men than to know man.—La Rochefoucauld.

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

A single bicycle tire and tube gives rubber enough for the insulation of six Army radio sets.

Just because the synthetic rubber program has been speeded to 1,100,000 tons production capacity by the end of 1943, the chances of car owners getting synthetic tires before 1944 have not been increased. War needs will take the bulk of the synthetic.

In normal times, say 1940, the average car owner expended only \$15 a year for tire and tube replacement. He spent \$117 for gasoline and \$10 for oil out of his annual \$189 expenditure for car maintenance, exclusive of heavy repairs.

Picture 16,000 automobile tires and you have an idea of the amount of rubber used in the construction of a battleship—75 tons.

Jerry Shaw

In war or peace B.F. Goodrich FIRST IN RUBBER

SING A SONG OF KITCHEN THRIFT SINK YOUR DIMES IN WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

AND BILL, TELL YOUR WIFE THIS, TOO—THE FLEISCHMANN'S WE BUY THESE DAYS KEEPS PERFECTLY IN THE REFRIGERATOR, SO SHE CAN GET A WEEK OR MORE'S SUPPLY AT A TIME, AND GET HER TO SEND FOR FLEISCHMANN'S GRAND NEW RECIPE BOOK. IT'S CHOCK-FULL OF WONDERFUL NEW BREADS, BUNS AND ROLLS!

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BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

The maritime commission has approved names of 24 Liberty ships submitted by the nation's school children in connection with the recent school salvage campaign. Included among the names suggested by children in 24 states are those of Presidents, a vice president, senators, famous Indians, surgeons, Colin P. Kelly Jr., an archbishop and an aviatrix—Amelia Earhart.

At Yorkshire, England, Aviation Cadet Derek M. Sharp fell out of a training plane 500 feet up. As he plunged through space, something bopped him on the head. Instinctively he raised his arms and found himself hugging the tail of his own plane. He managed to wiggle himself up on the plane's elevator. The pilot made a quick landing. Cadet Sharp was unhurt.