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FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER?

A letter from members of the 750th Tank Battalion, Company A, at Fort Knox, Kentucky, to workers who recently struck in a war industry, said in part:

"We feel deeply hurt to think you would let the boys overseas down. Just what do you think would happen to this country if the boys overseas would sit down, and quit fighting, because they just make \$50 a month? We need more fighting equipment. What do you Americans want? More money now and slavery later, or less money and freedom? Just think how some of your sons and brothers over there would feel if they knew how you were selling them out, and that's what you are doing when you stop production."

There is a bible story of a sell-out for 30 pieces of silver. Read it.

NONE TOO SOON

There are growing indications that good news is in the offing for civilians. The retail distribution industry may be relieved of some of the voluminous regulatory red tape which is now hampering operation. This means, if it actually occurs, that merchants can spend more time meeting the needs of customers, and less time filling out government blanks. It would also mean that the regulatory authorities are beginning to realize that a smooth functioning retail distribution system is essential in these critical days.

Government spokesmen have been crying for greater efficiency and better utilization of manpower. We have heard grim warnings of a labor draft, yet government has been a great offender in causing a waste of manpower. The distribution industry has pleaded for simplification of rationing and price controls. Retailers are desperately short of able employees. But attainment of greater operating efficiency has been difficult because of cumbersome government regulations.

In recent months, the problems of distribution have grown to proportions that actually threatened a breakdown in the movement of necessities to consumers. Retailers have warned officials that the steady drain of key employees by the military services and war industries, and unworkable price and rationing controls, must be corrected.

If streamlined operating rules for the merchant are actually in the making, they will not have come a moment too soon. The next step should be prompt clarification of the draft status of key employees.

The merchants, the farmers and the business men will give everything they possess if need be to win the war. But if their efforts are to succeed, government must give, too. It must give cooperation and intelligent control.

BUREAUCRAT'S DREAM

Humanitarian idealism often outstrips common sense. Such is the case with plans for compulsory health insurance.

Perhaps the most startling revelation contained in the Northwestern University report on compulsory health insurance, is the extent to which bureaucracy would expand under a government health insurance program. As the report observes, there are between 50 and 55 million gainfully employed persons in the United States at the present time. This, with members of families and dependents, would swell the number of potential beneficiaries to over 100 million, depending, of course, upon the type of coverage embraced in the system. Approximately 50,000,000 cases would receive medical attention each year in the United States. All of these cases would have to go through the process of certification, filing, inspection, payment, complaints, and adjustments. If an adequate staff and organization were provided, it would mean an army of government employees.

In the words of the report: "To practical politicians . . . such an expansion in the number of Federal employees means primarily one thing, namely, 'patronage,' patronage for whatever political organization may happen to be in power and a patronage that would surpass anything that politicians have dreamed of in the past."

Congress is struggling to curb bureaucracy, well knowing that unless it is curbed the American form of government will be destroyed. A broad compulsory health insurance program would make the bureaucratic menace virtually uncontrollable.

If a woman does house work for \$4 per week that's domestic service—if she does it for nothing, that's matrimony.

THE RIGHT APPROACH

Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown deserves the wholehearted cooperation of all citizens. He speaks a language which our people understand and appreciate, instead of the "\$10,000 fine and 10 years in jail" lingo.

When enlarging the rationing program, Mr. Brown said: "The necessities of war have once again compelled the government to ask the American people to bear the burden of another rationing program. I should like to ask the forbearance of the public . . . while the trade is adjusting itself to new demand and supply conditions."

That's the American way. Freedom-loving Americans should cooperate 100 per cent.

REMOVE THE MILLSTONE NOW

The Florida National Bank of Jacksonville has been running some striking newspaper advertisements on the necessity for changing the Federal income tax laws to meet present day needs of the taxpayers. One of its recent advertisements said:

"Remember how a few years ago the government solemnly talked about 'Freedom from debt . . . freedom from want . . . freedom from fear, etc?'"

"The 'Freedoms' theory is a great one—but why doesn't Uncle Sam practice it with income taxes? Instead of freeing his taxpayers from debt and fear, the present income tax system perpetuates a peculiar type of peonage because the taxpayer is never out of debt."

"Last year's income taxes hang around his neck like a millstone. Let's adopt the pay-as-you-go plan now and make the 'Freedoms' an actuality rather than a pretty theory."

THE LION'S SHARE

The investor of \$100 or \$500 in the stocks or bonds of an industry in our country, has a tremendous interest in the nation's tax policies, both national and local.

The Southern California Edison Company is typical of electric properties owned by thousands of small stockholders. Vice-President Mullendore of the company said that with war absorbing more than half of the currently produced wealth of the country, enormous tax bills can be expected.

To show how the government depends on the earnings of private enterprise, Mr. Mullendore said: "Whereas last year our common stockholders received only \$1.50 a share as dividends, taxes equaled about \$5.25 a share." He then pointed out that by comparison with publicly owned electric utilities, which are financed with public credit, and which are wholly or partially tax exempt, private electric companies bear an unfair tax burden.

Also, he stressed the unfairness of applying the so-called "excess profits" tax to the earnings of a regulated utility, for, under public regulation, utilities are not permitted to earn more than the rental value of capital—true "excess profits" are prohibited.

If government wishes to continue to collect the lion's share of the earnings of industry, it should correct inequalities in tax laws which can destroy private enterprise.

CONTROL BUREAUCRACY NOW

Advocates of a socialized bureaucracy invariably introduce their schemes as part of broad, benevolent programs that are hard to criticize because superficially they sound so good. Always they are represented as coming direct from the heart of the masses and are therefore an inexorable demand which it is undemocratic to oppose.

Most of these schemes, as their first objective, seek to destroy private ownership and management of basic industries. Basic industries such as mining, electric power and oil are the bulwark of free enterprise. They are easy to attack for the simple reason that they seem remote from the welfare of the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker. Actually if they should fall under domination of boards and bureaus and patronage-loving politicians, the end of individual liberty for all of us will be nigh. A bureaucracy that controls a people's source of jobs, soon lays a heavy hand on personal freedom.

That the people of the United States want no part of alien bureaucracy is abundantly clear. Robert Watt, a labor leader of great prominence in government, has said: "After this war, I want no gigantic governmental Reconstruction Finance Corporations to finance business and dominate it; and I want no gigantic governmental Works Progress Administration to employ labor and dominate it."

And again, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, has warned: "If this country ever gets a system of governmental regimentation, labor will suffer most. Labor, therefore, is deeply interested in the preservation of private business; and labor should everlastingly maintain that the owners and managers of business are entitled to a fair and just return upon their investments."

Americans want to remain free under a regulated capitalistic system, protected by constitutional government. They must not be fooled by the false promises of the get-something-for-nothing philosophers.

Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of a powerful feeling.



"They Give Their Lives—You Lend Your Money"

OUR TOWN

By Jim Gould

With the U. S. Armed Forces in Florida.—Odds and Ends: The boys down at Key West say it isn't any hotter there than you'd expect only you should expect quite a lot because you'll get it. We were down that way for a day and at one of the local, ordinary restaurants we paid 95 cents for scrambled eggs, toast and something the waiter called coffee. Local Inn keepers have gone money mad as is the regrettable case in so many places where military men are stationed, and a room at his alleged hostelry that normally rented for one or two dollars—and probably still does to the natives—now comes at six, seven or even eight. Imagine, eight bucks for shut eye. That's a buck an hour. The old park bench has come into its own once more and the cops close their eyes to the practice.

Such conditions are, of course, disgusting. Like the Black market. Human beings—that is some human beings—will do anything for money. Witness the quiskings. A young navy ensign who is down here for instruction in celestial navigation tells us that the little county seat town where he has been stationed in Ohio is no exception, so all the jipping isn't confined to any one section of the country. He says the merchants in this Ohio town are really doing a job on the boys in uniform and he doesn't mean just a once over lightly. But good!

And it isn't just the little merchant that is dipping his greedy fingers into the bountiful profits created by a war. The big fellow is right in there batting, too. One of America's most famous and exclusive department stores recently carried a page ad in which was the usual display of women's finery. This part of the country swarms with Air corps men and their families and this merchant wants to be right in step so he advertises something absolutely new in women's more intimate garments known as a "Bra" in such lovely colors as Air Corps Gray, Nurse White and Navy Blue. Paaahleese!!!

During World war one a lot of us very young and very smart boys over in France thought we were really slickers when we bought Schraft's chocolates at the Army Canteen and took them into the town of Vichy where the civilian population hadn't so much as seen candy for two years and, of course, where they would pay most any price for same. We would

"I WAS SO NERVOUS and ALWAYS FELT TIRED"

says Mrs. Rovin, Chicago

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POETS' CORNER

FOUR THINGS

There are four things a man must learn to do
 If he would keep his record true,
 To think, without confusion clearly,
 To love his fellow-man sincerely,
 To act from honest motives purely,
 To trust God and securely.
 —Henry Van Dyke.

SOUL GALES

My soul is full of stormy gales
 Tempest-tossed above life's sea,
 O'er paths in hills and lovely vales,
 Storming the jeweled sky for me.

What need I for ship that sails
 To take me o'er land and sea,
 My soul is full of stormy gales
 And weird thought that sails for me.

My soul is full of magic things,
 Things of mine that cannot be,
 My thoughts have magic in their wings.

When they sail the blue sky for me,
 —W. E. Nesmith, Kingstree, S. C.

home and was considered something of a maestro with the subject. He hastily added that he has now decided he never really got past his eights in the multiplication tables and that by the time he has completed his Celestial Navigation course he'll understand everything Mr. Einstein has been trying to tell the world for so long.

(Syndicated by Our Town, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York City)

If every man, woman and child in the United States lays aside \$100 the aggregate will be about \$13,000,000,000 or the amount the Treasury must raise in its Second War Loan.



CONFUCIUS WIFE SAYS



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