

Michigan Mirror

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state the purchasing power of money through gradual, insidious rise in prices.

OVERTIME: When the federal wage-hour bill was first introduced in Congress, sponsors declared it was needed because of a depression surplus of labor. "Spread the work" was the slogan at that time. . . . Now Washington orders a 48-hour week with overtime beyond 40 hours for workers in certain critical war areas, and the reason is given as just the opposite: Alleviating a shortage of labor. Which is true. . . . And if overtime is good for the industrial worker, how about the farm laborer? If food is just as essential to

the winning of the war as munitions, why does Uncle Sam favor one group and not the other?

COUNTRY PRESS: Many small town newspapers in Michigan have quit during the past 18 months. The coming manpower shortage in 1943 may bring suspension of many more. Here's a list of war casualties: White Pigoot News, Atlas Mirror, Bancroft Commercial, Birch Run News, Bridgeport Examiner, Columbiaville Press, Ewen Cloverland Press, Kalamazoo News-Advertiser, Marshall Calhoun County Advertiser, Muskegon Observer, Burton Banner, Galesen News, Horton Journal, Jackson Republican Oak, Northport Leader, Sawyer News, Baroda Booster, Rockland News-Review, St. Louis News-Advertiser, Spring Arbor Times, and Webberville Index. . . . Shortage of labor, chiefly printers and operators, has been

critical for months and may get worse in 1943. . . . Printers and operators, as well as editors, are in "essential" classifications for war deferments. If draft boards decline to grant deferments in these classifications, the above list of small town newspapers will be doubled or tripled by next Christmas.

CONDENSED NEWSPAPERS: Today's newspaper still is today's biggest bargain! Weekly newspapers which sell for \$1.50 a year represent a consumer enjoyment of only 3 cents a week. . . . What else can you get today for 3 cents a week, and delivered too? . . . An increase to \$2 a year, or from \$2 to \$2.50, is less than a penny a week. . . . It may mean the difference between a newspaper surviving in your community or suspending

for ever. . . . Daily newspapers, farm security administration of the United States department of agriculture. . . . Boys recruited for farm service will be drafted and will remain on the "food front" for the duration. . . . As this column has hinted before, Washington is gradually relapsing into the "serious food shortage." Last year we consumed and exported more food than we produced, and the 1942 growing season was unusually favorable. . . . Have you planned your Victory Garden yet?

TIME: In view of the time confusion in certain areas of Michigan, the following comment from the column of Jan. 28 is worth repeating: "From a war production viewpoint, eastern war time for the industrial war worker and eastern standard time for the farm worker would result in the

greatest efficiency in output of munitions and food, respectively. . . . But regardless of what is done, you cannot escape the inconveniences. . . . Everyone must expect sacrifice. . . . The annunciation of who patronize the "black market" sets of time is insignificant. . . . When you think of the price paid by 3,000 American boys who are direct bearers on inflation, for the loss of their lives in the open market. . . . or that of the most essential products trainload of 175 wounded soldiers that should be fairly and equitably divided among the body of Americans, share and share alike.

WILLOW RUN: Because of the need of heavy air field, the government phase a prairie called Willow Run near Ypsilanti as a site for a bomber plant. The Ford Motor Company was given a contract to operate it. . . . Today, 30,000 persons are at work producing bombers. . . . The production is far from the published one bomber per hour objective. . . . Here is an illustration of critical manpower problems. . . . Housing and transportation facilities are poor; most workers had to be trained; turnover of labor has been high. . . . In one area where the government reports that 11,000 persons were hired in two summer months to achieve a net increase of 5,000.

ABSENTEEISM: Illness and sickness still are the big burden in the path of all-out war production. . . . The Public Health Service estimates they cost 300,000,000 to 400,000,000 working days a year. . . . If accidents could be eliminated and if physical fitness of workers could be improved even 20 per cent we would save 60,000,000 to 80,000,000 working days each year. . . . That is why safety programs and food nutrition programs are important in winning of the war.

The average American does not follow a properly balanced diet, according to a new Gallup survey.

STRIKES: Production time lost through strikes in war plants is the largest of the time lost through sickness and accidents. . . . The production loss in November due to strikes was three one-hundredths of one per cent of the total output. . . . As for absenteeism, that's another matter. . . . Living conditions of many workers are poor. . . . Transportation facilities are overburdened. . . . Prices are high. . . . Low-paid workers, getting inflated pay checks, tend to be irresponsible at times. . . . Pre-employment drinking is high. . . . Morale, as judged by newspaper headlines herald "victories" on one Pacific island and readers forget there are thousands of other islands yet in Japanese hands.

additional part of the Nation's goods or income without hurting all the rest of us." . . . One class of citizens, however, trying to dodge the issue of a general wartime restricted economy. . . . The small minority of persons who patronize the "black market" practices on a wide scale, have a direct bearing on inflation, for they remove from the open market. . . . or that of the most essential products that should be fairly and equitably divided among the body of Americans, share and share alike.

If in any area, for example, the total supply of the scarce meats is limited, every carcass sold through a black market operator cuts into the total supply, and leads to competitive bidding, by the selfish or gullible, for meats that are offered without benefit of sanitary inspection. . . . One of the broadest measures for blocking a tendency toward inflation is rationing. . . . By giving every individual a share in the national stock piles of scarce goods and of certain foods of which there are limited supplies, the pressure of dollar buying is relieved by the most democratic of processes—one that is at the opposite pole from the black market. . . . Rationing cannot guarantee us against shortages that may be extremely acute, but it can guarantee that no one will have a "head start" in securing a share of the country's limited goods and products. . . . And that share generally speaking, is much greater than the portions received by the citizens of other Allied countries. . . . It is so much more ample that we have scant reasons for grumbling or dissatisfaction.

LOCALS

Mrs. Myron Carrier slipped on the ice last Thursday and fractured her right arm.

Mrs. James Noutjian returned Sunday night from Defiance, Ohio, accompanied by her mother who will spend a few weeks here.

Mr. Tom Simpson of Tom's Tavern has returned from Pittsburgh, Pa., where he was called by the death of his mother.

Mrs. Leo Boggs entertained Saturday afternoon at a Valentine bridge luncheon. Her guests were Mrs. Thomas Brennan, Mrs. Earl Whitman, Mrs. Frank Labadie, Mrs. Harley Walters, Mrs. Walter Coon, Mrs. E. J. T. Wise and Miss Mildred Prindle.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene King spent Sunday with Mrs. King's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Bell.

Mrs. John Marian is visiting Mrs. Fred Cook for a few days.

Mrs. Fnuetschy of Ulrichville, Ohio, is visiting her sister, Mrs. George F. Schulkins.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Yull attended a 43rd wedding anniversary at Ann Arbor on Sunday, Feb. 11.

Victory

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We have erected a variety of dikes and dams, some of them designed to check the flood at its sources, and other broad barriers established at lower levels where the pressure is greatest. . . . We have tapped the stream of money at its sources, through the Victory Tax, for example, and by campaigns to induce everyone to invest to the limit in War Bonds. Heavy war income taxes also help to absorb surplus income. . . . But all these expedients would not suffice to hold back uncontrolled rises in living costs because the shrinkage in available civilian goods and services in relation to expansion of national income becomes increasingly an inverse ratio and without price controls, consumer competition for scarce goods would batter down all barriers to inflation. Yet price fixing, the bulwark of our resistance to inflation, is constantly in danger of being undermined from two directions—wage increases and the prices of agricultural products. . . . Stabilization of labor and farm incomes is like the levees built along the Mississippi for flood protection. A break-through at any point may affect vast areas lying below the fissure. To match a rise in food costs, labor demands a pay increase, and that pay increase enters into the farmer's cost-of-living as he pays more for manufactured products. To avoid this endless mounting spiral, the process must be halted at every threatened point and the inflation flood kept pouring over or through the restraining barriers. . . . And if we call a halt to such price rises, we must equally assure that our industries will not profit from the blood and sweat of our fighting men.

No Group Preference is, as Director Byrnes has said, "no way of giving any one group of our people a sub-

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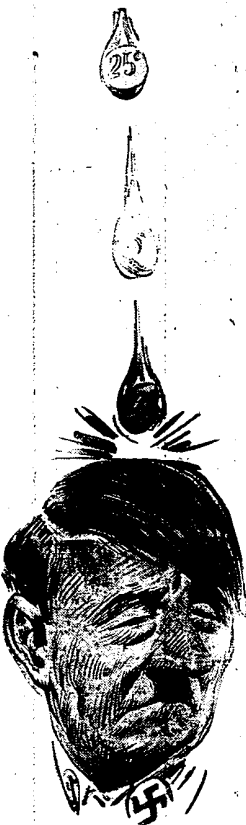
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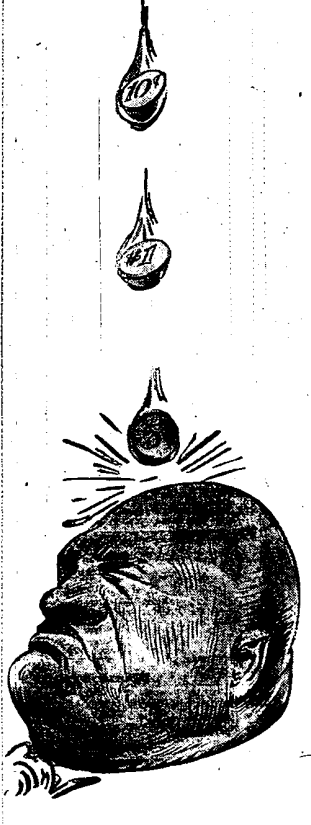
Out of the pockets of free men they come—nickels and dimes and dollars—fighting dollars.

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You will be very glad to have these War Bonds ten years from now in peace. They will help furnish your new



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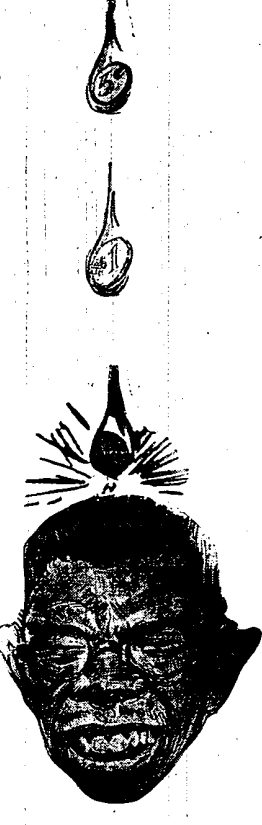
home, educate your family, or buy you quiet, pleasant leisure days in the peace that is to come.

If you need the money at any time before then, you can get back every cent you put in, after the first 60 days.

If you turn your spare dollars into fighting dollars by buying War Bonds on a regular weekly or monthly basis now, you are not only securing victory, but you are securing your own future—and guarding against the possibility of dangerous inflation!

How many of the dollars in your weekly pay envelope are you willing to send to the front with our men? Think it over. Every one will help shorten the war.

Try and set aside at least 10% of your pay—let Uncle Sam have your pledge.



DRIP

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