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Michigan Mirror

(Continued from Page Two)

If enough Americans respond to his appeal for a dues-paying membership in the America First party, Smith's personal money-making racket, and thus proceed to persuade Congress to save the country.

Unless they do this, we will have 20,000,000 unemployed within a year. Next, an era of wild inflation. And finally the smash-

up of democracy by a "Red revolution."

It's all very simple, to listen to Gerald L. K. Smith who thrives on publicity and probably will be delighted to read this about him. Now you know and I know that Gerald does not believe personally in the above economic objectives. He does not believe that there will be enough non-thinking saps in the 88 counties of Michigan who might be induced to subscribe to the screw doctrine and to subscribe some of their own money into Smith's trust.

Contrasted to this sort of economic nonsense is some bread-and-butter plain talking and clear thinking by a Port Huron industrialist, F. L. Riggins, president of the Mueller Brass Company, the town's leading source of employment and its biggest payroll.

In a full page message recently in the Port Huron Times Herald, Mr. Riggins presented the ABCs about the business and its recent conversion problems.

From a 1939 average of 1,261 workers, the Port Huron company increased its employment to 3,781. Ninety percent of 1,185 Mueller employees in the armed services have in formed the boss they want their jobs back. "Taking out probationers, minors, part time workers and those who have since quit, leaves a total of 1,269 employees who want to work for this company," says Riggins. "Has Mueller Brass Company a problem to face now? Can it do a peace-time business equal to the inflated war-time business which was four times as great as ever before? Can the vastly increased payroll list, including returned veterans

"Again it is undisputed that nobody knows. Every department of management, however, is now devoting its best efforts to that end."

"How can post-war contracts be obtained? We are optimistic in the belief that, if common sense and good judgment are exercised by all parties involved, we can get

our share and more of business, and attain levels of peacetime business beyond any previous peacetime record of the company. To get this business in preference to our competitors, including all the large companies in the brass industry, we must be able to sell goods of equal or better quality at the same or lower price. We think these facts are undisputed also.

"Can it be questioned that prices are dependent upon costs? We know that the government has permitted no increase in the selling prices of our products from 1941 to date. We are still compelled to sell at 1941 prices despite substantial wartime increases in all elements of cost.

"Realizing all business difficulties, we are nevertheless confident that the company can maintain and improve its place in the brass industry if given a fair chance. The next 3 or 4 months are months of uncertainties, uncertainties as to costs, as to prices, as to productiveness, and as to business obtainable. The greatest concern to the company and to its employees is that the epidemic of strikes now sweeping the country might unnecessarily strike down our business effort, cripple our company, lose our customers and impair, if not destroy, our ability to provide jobs."

Riggins points out that "there has never been a strike in this company" over such matters as "union contracts or wages." "They have always been settled by the common sense method of collective bargaining with the aid, where necessary, of the War Labor Board, and we believe we can jointly continue to settle these matters by the same methods."

Neither, should there be strikes over grievances, Riggins maintains, as "the company has been willing and offers to submit to fair and impartial arbitration any pending disputes over disciplinary action."

"Can any fair minded person say that this is not a proper way to settle such matters, rather than by engaging in an economic war, which like all wars, results in a loss to both parties?"

That the present post-war period is one of widespread confusion is evident to any observer. Some of the self-evident truths surely must include the following:

First, war is an economic paradox in that it creates false and artificial prosperity instead of true and natural prosperity. To safeguard the people from enslavement by aggressors, government takes over all production for war needs. Payrolls are financed largely by adding to the national indebtedness — borrowing from the future.

Second, real prosperity is brought about only by a natural increase of production due to greater industrial efficiency — machines and men. This prosperity is measured, not in terms of money, but in an abundance of goods with which to gratify wants of the people.

Third, consuming power ultimately comes from production. In the long run, increased production means increased consumption.

The military war is over. If we are to attain prosperity without bankrupting ourselves by disastrous indebtedness and costly inflation, we must return to the

fundamental ABCs of economics. The Gerald L. K. Smith route is one of sheer nonsense — the road to ruin.

The F. L. Riggins route is one of plain, old-fashioned common sense — the road to prosperity through a cooperative partnership of management and worker whereby differences are settled by collective bargaining and impartial arbitration.

To which voice would you be willing to listen and to follow? At this period of our journey down the path from war to peace, we come to the end of a false prosperity that was made possible not by consumer purchases, but by adding 270 billions to our indebtedness — by borrowing from ourselves.

Surely now, if ever, is the time when we should think before we act.

Wash Machine Care
Don't think you are giving your washing machine all the care it needs just by keeping the machinery properly oiled and greased. Correct operation, but complete cleanliness is equally important.

Your washing machine should be cleaned thoroughly after each use. Pour in about a pint of clean hot water and let the machine run a couple of minutes. Drain, and wipe dry the inside of the tub and the metal parts.

Always loosen the wringer and wipe the rollers dry. Wipe the entire inside of the machine with a sudsy cloth, and then go over it with a dry cloth. When not in use, the washing machine should be protected from dust and dirt with a cloth or cover.



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Cleans Blanket

On a clear windy day hang your blankets across a double line. This will help blow out accumulated dust and raise the nap. Gentle brushing strokes going toward the binding — never across the blanket — will help using a dry stiff brush. Should the binding become soiled, wash it with a thick, mild soap lather rubbing it gently. Iron when damp-dry with a cool iron set on "rayon" or a temperature not to exceed 325 degrees.

Shirt, Starch

A stiff starch for men's shirt collars and cuffs can be made by adding borax to the mixture. Use ¼ cup of starch, ½ cup of cold water, 1 quart of boiling water, ½ tablespoon of borax and ¼ tablespoon of lard or ¼-inch square of paraffin. Mix starch with cold water. Add boiling water. Stir in other ingredients. Cook slowly for 30 minutes, stirring frequently.

Flax Curtains and Vests
Woven into a duck which is the strongest fabric for its weight ever made, nylon hangs in curtains in the interior of bombers to stop flak. The duck also is used in protective layers close to the body in the flak vest — keeps armor within the vest from piercing when hit by flak.

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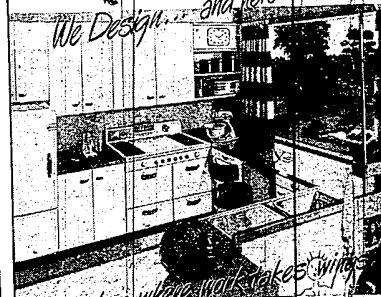
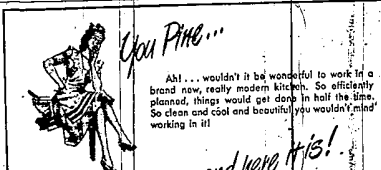
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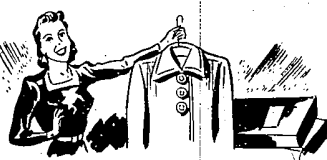
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