

Michigan Mirror

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islature will be limited, by gentleman's agreement, to matters pertaining to the war and the state budget.

Law-makers will not convene at Columbus to engage in the traditional toppling practice of introducing bills which they know will be killed in committee, holding hearings "for the record," and otherwise spending a lot of time and money just to appease pressure blocs, large and small, in the district back home and thus fulfill campaign pledges.

At least, so says the Ohio governor who was re-elected for his third successive term last month and who has been mentioned prominently for the 1944 Republican presidential nomination.

At a conference of Republican senators, held recently in Kalamazoo, a number of ideas were suggested for speeding up Michigan's war-time session.

One proposal is to eliminate the printing of bills and to substitute for them the use of "short title." This is an abbreviated summary of the measure in a dozen or so words.

The bill would be announced by the clerk for first and second reading by reciting the short title and would be referred to committee.

It would not be printed officially until the committee reported out the bill, whereupon it would be recorded in the house or senate journal.

Committees have a habit, now and then, of releasing bills most unexpectedly. It is conceivable that the legislature might unintentionally invoke public wrath by acting on the measure without having provided adequate notice to interested parties. Legislative language also can hide nullifying "jokers."

One thing is fairly certain for the 1943 session. Legislative results should be conservative.

The Republican landslide in November is hailed as a rebuke to the national administration, and then the field of legislative action has been limited by the war. Washington has already regimented our daily lives; labor relations have been jelled for the duration; wages and prices frozen.

The day of experimentation has been superseded by war's rigorous demands.

Lobbyists forecast a minimum of "acare" legislation, some of which was always intended to improve the bank accounts of the sponsors more than the welfare of the "people."

We hear biennial talk among partisan stalwarts about the "state highway department machine."

Some Republicans would like to abolish the job of G. Donald Kennedy, state highway commissioner. This eventually is not expected to happen in the Republican-dominated legislature, if counsels of party leaders prevail.

The constitutionality of such a convention is questioned by some lawyers. Senator Elmer R. Porter, Blissfield, has a legal solution. He would create a state highway commission effective July 1, 1945 when the term of Kennedy will expire.

The commission would be appointed by the next governor. It would appoint a full-time director. This, so Senator Porter believes, would eliminate "politics" from the highway department, a bone of contention among Republican critics.

Because of the temper of the public, some legislators are shy away from "C" gasoline rationing cards.

OPA regulations permit "government officials" to use gasoline in excess of "A" and "B" allowances which ordinary folks receive.

It is interesting to note that some law-makers announce they will travel by bus or train and thus shun "special favors." What will the folks back home say? They're taking no chances!

Uncle Sam isn't going to require

the University of Michigan and Michigan State College, and close their doors to other students.

These institutions are apt to become officer training centers for men in the Army, Navy, or Air Corps. The men will be under military discipline and pay. Their military training will be subordinated to academic work. Courses would last from nine months to more than two years.

Reason: "Preparedness for a long war." The rate of liberal arts, and hence, small colleges, is uncertain. Military leaders feel that a liberal arts education is not relevant to combat training, and hence is a "luxury."

Definite announcement is expected soon from Washington.



Victory

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transportation. We must save those tires.

There's No Pool to Draw On. The need for economy in every form of transportation is urgent for our combined transportation systems are interlocking, and there's no pool of new equipment to draw from. By reducing the number of passenger stopping places on bus and street-car routes from an average of eight to six throughout the country, more than 2 1/2 billion stops would be eliminated, representing a tremendous total saving in bus tire rubber, and in running time for both buses and streetcars. The Office of Defense Transportation recommends that "Victory Stops" be placed not less than 600 to 1,200 feet apart.

Another danger, both to war economy and to war production, is the manpower shortage, which has grown more acute with each month and will continue to be critical for the duration of the war. The simple truth is that we have set ourselves the biggest job in the history of the world—to put into action huge land, air, and sea forces, to feed and equip them, to supply our essential civilian needs, and to minister to those of our allies, the United Nations. The president has said, "No one will go hungry or without the other

AT THE REDFORD THEATER



MAYOR 44 STREET

"Mayor of 44th Street" starring George Murphy and Anne Shirley, and Freddy Martin and his orchestra playing the "Piano Concerto" which made him famous, is coming to the Redford Theatre Friday through Monday. "Give

WEST POINT PARK

Mrs. William Zwahlen

means of livelihood in any territory occupied by the United Nations, if it is humanly within our powers to make the necessary supplies available to them." When we engage to do that it means that all our potential manpower must be fully employed toward wartime ends, and no other.

Large Shortages Grow Clearer

There will be need of many more women workers in our war plants next year—the manpower shortage will be even greater than it is today. Already the inter-city bus industry is critically short of good mechanics and service men, and so is the truck-for-hire industry. Track workers are needed on Western railroads, and there are 60,000 job vacancies among the public carriers. Farm labor of all kinds must be found in order to boost agricultural output by ten per cent next year. Radio, telegraph, telephone and street railway companies have been warned that they are war industries and should not refuse to hire workers because of prejudices involving race, creed, color, or national origin.

Industrial and other accidents, on and off the job, cut deeply into our manpower supply. More than 100,000 workers have lost their lives during 1942 in various ways; twice as many have been injured. Absences have cost war production more than 120 million man hours, or enough to have produced 5,000 extra bombers. The more than 1,500 labor-management committees in war industries are helping to cure this complaint and to save manpower by encouraging training programs, finding shortcuts in production.

Another great saving in manpower and materials will be accomplished under the Retailers' Economy Drive for Victory Plan—a program for curtailing many peacetime retail services without reducing selling prices. The plan also includes wider use of self-service, reduced inventories, pooled deliveries, staggered pay-rolls and work hours, shorter store hours, and encouragement of economy ideas from employees.



TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS:

Electricity is one of the cheapest things the housewife can buy because the price has been reduced so often and so much.

You probably haven't got an electric bill dated twenty-five years ago, but the records show that electricity cost 5.87 cents then; and now it is only 3.16 cents. Almost half price. There have been many rate reductions in twenty-five years.

Most other prices have gone up. Food, clothing, taxes, transportation. If your husband rides to work on the street car he may have heard that twenty-five years ago he could have bought seven tickets for a quarter. In 1917 the Detroit tax rate was \$13.81—this year it is \$28.97. I used to have an "Ingersoll Dollar Watch" that kept fairly good time, but you can't get a dollar watch now. And you know how much less a \$5 bill will buy in rent, round steak or clothes.

The price of electricity is low. If other things cost as little, the cost of living would be half what it is.

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CUT YOUR FOOD BUDGET

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for a hot cereal

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for pancakes like mother made

FAVORITE ROLLED OATS

for the oldtime hot cereal

WHITE or YELLOW CORNMEAL

for a variety of servings

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BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS FOR OUR BOYS