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Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

INFLATION NOT STOPPED YET

Well, Congress went home without being able to kill the subsidy plan, so perhaps any more comment on the issue in this department is beside the point. But on the other hand, as long as our Congressmen feel the way they do about it, my guess is that they will try again to pry the lid off prices.

I am indebted to Gene Alleman, manager of the Michigan Press Association, for looking into the Congressional Record Bureau comments of some of our Michigan representatives on the subsidy issue.

Shallow Thinking "Trusting that the excerpts are not distorted when taken out of context, I am appalled at the shallow thinking of our delegates there in Washington with regard to the inflation problem.

Our own Rep. George A. Dondero is quoted as saying: "This morning I received a telegram from two farmers' organizations in my district, the Oxford Cooperative Elevator Co. and the Oakland County Farm Bureau, both saying this: 'Farmers and farm leaders are emphatically opposed to any roll-back in farm prices. So many unfavorable publicity from Washington. Absence of guaranty of stabilization probably returns to agriculture when labor and industry are taken care of for food at decent prices to the producer, when will they be able to pay for it?'

Dondero concluded: "If the people of this country, when wage scales and national income are the highest in the history of the Nation, are unable to pay for butter, coffee, meat and food at decent prices to the producer, when will they be able to pay for it?"

On the surface, that sounds quite reasonable: But what are making lots of money, let them pay for their groceries! People are making money thinking! In the first place, it is interfering with crop production. I know of no plan to roll back FARM prices; there is talk of raising back prices to the consumer on some commodities, and I believe this has already been done in the case of wheat. But like labor, farmers are getting the highest income in many, many years from their wheat. It is a tough one because of the shortage of labor. Yet any needed farm worker is practically exorbitant from the draft today. Returns to the farmer are stabilized to a large extent, for example, the govern-

ment recently supported the potato market. The tin smelting factor is the weather. And how would the Farm Bureau stabilize that? I disagree with Rep. Dondero's conclusion. When he speaks of the people, he seems to forget that while the industrial workers are rolling in dough, there are many others—perhaps half the wage-earners in the country, including the farmers—who are not getting the high wages and farmers buy at city stores, too.

Take the case of school and municipal employees right here in Birmingham. Without any doubt, the City is nearing the charter limit on its employees. Without any doubt, the school system soon would be in an awful mess if the cost of living continues to rise. Our own Rep. Dondero thinks it is all right.

The Amazing Spiral The dangerous thing to me is the failure of Rep. Dondero and most other Republicans from Michigan in Congress to see that if farm prices are rolled back, it will go up and up, and living costs spiral faster than the very slow increase today. How are we going to answer the labor unions, when they ask for higher and higher wages? And all of that adds up to real inflation! Moreover, higher prices mean that the war is going to cost still more money. It is a vicious circle for the taxpayers to pay limited subsidies than to try to pay for inflation.

Grim Necessity I mentioned LIMITED subsidies. I am not necessarily in favor of rolling back consumer prices from their present level. But keep them where they are, for Heaven's sake, and then subsidize the farmers if need be to stimulate production. I don't like subsidies particularly, neither do I like war, but we are in it, and what must be done must be done.

If certain classes of people are making too much money, the way to handle that problem is to take away from them in the form of taxes or bonds.

The strange thing about all this is that the Republicans who were shouting about the dangers of inflation a few years back are now shouting about the dangers of inflation. Deal with throwing money around on the W.P.A. and other alphabetic treasury schemes, not are pretty much silent about the danger of inflation. It no longer seems to worry them. They want the OPA subsidies, but they come forward with no concrete program to stabilize the cost of living and to head off inflation.

One wonders if they are not thinking that the greater the mess the OPA makes, and the higher that living costs become, the more certain will be their victory at the next election?

They may answer, "The President is going to run in 1944 and the Democrats are playing plenty of politics; why shouldn't we?"

Why Wreck the Country? Granted that New Deal is a thingy plenty about 1944, there is still no need of wrecking the country, which is a great danger if the mild inflation we now have gets out of hand.

A Modern Columbus Teach—What is surprised at you Sammy Wicks, that you cannot tell me when Columbus discovered America? What is the chapter heading of the week's lesson read?"

Sammy—"Columbus, 1492." "America?—Well, that's plain enough? Did you ever see it before?" "Sammy—"Yes! But I always thought it was his telephone number."

"A FRIENDLY BANK" WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

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Stephan's "Escape"

Much as we depise the record of the traitor whose death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by President Roosevelt, we believe the commutation was in accord with impartial justice. Stephan was found guilty of aiding an escaped German flier, traitor; the record doesn't reveal any act of material damage to our nation's war effort. Stephan was arrogant and conceited, to be sure, but that, in itself, isn't a treasonable crime—for there are plenty of such people all over the world.

If you view this matter objectively, perhaps you will agree with Presidential clemency. (Haven't many of our so-called "leaders" today, by their own arrogance and conceit, their political pulling and hauling, done plenty to decrease this country's war output already?)

Some Light On Love? That June, traditional month for weddings is also the month with the year's longest days, is no coincidence, in the opinion of Professor Thomas Hume Bissonette, who has discovered scientific cause and effect.

The Professor concludes, from experiments on animals, that light, not temperature, "is the prime external factor in controlling love and mating."

We think the Professor will have to try again. While many weddings occur in June, the presumption is that most of them were arranged some months previously. If this is true, the happy days are set in the Winter or early Spring, when the days are not so long and the light not so good.

The soldiers of the United States will receive the finest medical care that science and lavish funds can provide, which is as it should be. It would be a disgrace if they were not.

The Army has evacuated 30,000 soldiers in flying hospitals, with the loss of only two patients. It has plans to use helicopters to remove wounded men from the battlefield, and gliders, with operating rooms, will also be used to carry our soldiers.

In every war theater, the Army has established elaborate hospitals and they are staffed by some of the best medical men in the world. Equipment is equal to that of any hospital, with every facility for the treatment of wounded soldiers.

FOUR YEARS AGO MICHIGAN WAS IN DEBT \$32,600,000; right now it has a credit surplus of nearly \$35,000,000. Every dollar of this was paid by citizens and business—so the possession of it reflects no great credit upon any one or more public officials—it is always the whole people who pay, and pay.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ADMITS that American newspapers did not start the feud between Vice-President Wallace and Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones; but the President criticizes the newspapers for the great publicity they have given this "feud." Well, just imagine Candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt remaining quiet in a campaign against a Jeffersonian Democrat or a Lincoln Republican!

more gray matter than is to be found in any village of a similar size in the State of Michigan."

20 YEARS AGO July 13, 1923 "In his home at 312 South Woodward, Ralph Upson, Birmingham, Democrat, entered in the American National Elimination Balloon Race, told how he and his wife, C. G. Andrews, ... fell over a mile in six minutes, landing in a farmyard near Wapakoneta, O., farmed near Wapakoneta, O., at 2 1/2 p. m. Thursday, July 5."

"Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Spain leave Saturday evening, July 8, one o'clock. As the parties are known it had better be returned and save public exposure."

"We are gratified to notice the names of Robert C. McBrine and Archibald McCracken among the 731 that graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. "Fifteen thousand miners at Long Run, Dillwore and Laurin mines on the Wheeling & Lake Erie, near Steubenville, O., went out on a strike because of the discharge of the check weighman."

5 YEARS AGO July 14, 1938 "Lightning struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Thurber, 604 Oak street, at 4:33 Sunday afternoon, during the electrical storm. ..."

"That Birmingham parents are concerned with decreasing the birth rate is shown by the fact that the city is evicted in interviews obtained by The Eccentric, in a campaign to decrease better cooperation between police and parents in reducing local accidents."

"Rev. W. C. McKnight of West Maple avenue, will leave Monday for Chattanooga, N. Y., where he will spend his vacation."

"Mrs. Frederick Robinson and daughter, Mrs. Edith, of Long Pine road, ... left Tuesday of this week for a two weeks' visit in New York."

"The Birmingham is small, but its population probably represents ..."

"A three-day birthday celebration, organized by some of his friends, marked the 89th birthday of Robert T. Stanton, known as Colonel or Dad to his friends all over the country."

People's Column RELATIVE WRITES Editor, The Eccentric: For that labor cause is heavy laden aren't dumb, Capital took our boys from the farms. Capital moves as labor needs Capital and planted them here. Look out, Capital! There will be war between Capital and Labor unless you mix the ingredients well.

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"It is true that a few orchards showed prospects of a 40 per cent crop, but these were many with no ..."

Japanese Kill Wounded Men

Here's something to remember when American and Chinese soldiers occupy Japan and beat themselves, in the cause of justice, by executing the criminals who have set a brutal record in the Philippines.

A recent news dispatch from New Guinea, tells how Japanese airmen, with throttled motors, glided over American and Australian casualty stations, pumping machine-gun bullets into tents filled with stretcher cases.

For fifteen minutes the barbarians, in ten planes, kept up the attack "in wanton disregard of 18-foot red crosses staked out about the station." The planes dived so low that "the faces of the enemy pilots could be seen."

Five wounded Americans and fifteen wounded Australians, in adjoining dressing stations, were killed. They are a small fraction of the thousands in China, Malaya, the Philippines and other places to perish through Japanese treachery and callous inhumanity.

When the arbitrament of arms brings the day of judgment to Japanese soldiers and sailors they will obey the law. So fleet the works of the service of their emperor and, with a grin, they will insist that they love us!

Our answer to this should be: "Tell it to the Marines."

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS the Italian people will do after this war is over, we prophesy will be to chisel the name of Mussolini from many of the buildings and various monuments that his evil regime. "So fleet the works of him."

Mussolini at first did some good for Italy; then his arrogance and conceit got the better of him, and he proves the truth of the axiom that "He who exalteth himself shall be humbled."

"WHEN THE BOYS COME HOME" we'll wager that they will be organized into a group so large that politicians will pay plenty of attention to them. So let us hope that their leadership projected from time to time will be so statesmanlike that only good for the whole nation will result.

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State College Cans Own Garden Crops First products of the Michigan State college's new growing and canning program are the 1200 number-ten cans of peas, holding nearly 1 million each, were processed and stored.

From now until the end of summer, Michigan State College is harvesting beans, lima beans, corn and other vegetables from the 210 acres planted in the spring. The canning factory, a gift from Henry Ford, will be used for college-consumed produce only, according to R. E. Marshall, horticulture professor heading the project, and who will be sole distributor.

Supervisor of the canning plant is William F. Robertson, veteran of several years of teaching and 15 years of practical food processing experience. Lansing and East Lansing high school boys and girls are used for the harvesting of the vegetable and fruit crops.

Consumer News Facts About Rationing and Wartime Buying BUY POTATOES The War Food Administration has given homemakers the "Go" signal when it comes to buying potatoes. Large quantities are being produced and are ready for immediate consumption.

This means that homemakers will have to use a lot of them right away. Because of the high yield and the large amount of water in these new potatoes they keep only a few days at a time. Take advantage of the plentiful supply, and serve them at both lunch and dinner, and even at breakfast once in a while.

Here are a few suggestions for using new potatoes. They are very attractive when buttered and created with chopped parsley and served on a large platter surrounding a meat loaf or roast. Have an appetizing dinner one night. Layer creamed new potatoes, carrots, beans and squash. Add frozen green peas to creamed potatoes for a colorful note. Serve boiled new potatoes with a little fish, or as a casserole dish with a cheese sauce to which chopped green peas and sliced mushrooms are added. New potatoes make good potato salad, either hot, German style, or cold. They are also good for fried, with lots of onion, radishes, cucumbers and chopped green peas. Potato hot pot or potato pancakes are good lunch or dinner. Potato hot pot is made by cooking a quart of sliced, new potatoes and a sliced onion in a little fat for about ten minutes, and then adding three cups of tomatoes and salt and pepper to taste. Cover and simmer for about thirty minutes, or until the potatoes are tender.

CHILDREN are an inexhaustible source of good pictures. There's natural charm and appeal in any child—awake or asleep, active or quiet. And if you use your camera wisely, you can get all this appeal into your pictures.

What makes a good child picture? Well, usually a top-notch child picture tells a story—it deals with some natural interest or activity of the child. It is clear and sharp. The background behind the subject does not detract from the main subject. And there is no waste space at the top, bottom, or sides.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Try to make your pictures of children close-up—like this picture of our young bathing beauty.

general picture. The remedy for the situation is to move in closer to the subject before the picture is made. Don't crowd an action subject too closely, however, but give it enough space to show the action or movement happening or about to happen.

Of course, there are splendid picture opportunities which must be caught on the wing—when there's no time to maneuver for distance or perfect viewpoint—and you must get the shot without waiting. But once you've made the picture, you'll find that it can generally be improved by enlarging and cropping—during which all unessential surroundings can be eliminated.

Here's one last tip. When you snap pictures of your child give him or her something to do. Tell little Jill you're going to take pictures showing how she dresses-doll. Let Jack show how he repairs his toy wagon. Or when the kernels make the tray. When the kernels make the tray, when the kernels make the tray, when the kernels make the tray.

John van Guilder

head. Be sure to remove the outer leaves before eating; if you have dusted or sprayed with an insecticide. Head lettuce is cut just above the ground. With leaf lettuce, a full row's going to take picture. With brussels sprouts, the hearts broken or cut off from the stock.

How to Tell Rippe Corn The most important thing about harvesting it is to take the product when it is young and tender and at the best stage for consumption. It is ready to pull by feeling of the tassel. When the kernels make the tassel at the tip, the ear is ready to pick. It shouldn't be necessary to strip the husk. Sweet corn is best about three weeks after the silk has fallen.

This is about the last year for growing sweet corn in lower Michigan. In the northern part of the state, it may be ready to late for a fine showing.

State Man Seeks Good Apricot Tree Having addressed a year which has discouraged most apricot trees in Michigan, one of the Michigan State College experiment station superintendents, Stanley Johnston at South Haven, seeks information on any apricot trees that indicate special vigor and a good crop of fruit in 1943.

A year ago the search was on for outstanding trees based on age, size and quality of fruit and the size and quality of trees. Several excellent trees were located.

Plant injury and poor pollination kept most apricots from bearing this year. Supt. Johnston has in mind the possible mating of the trees found superfluous with the trees showing ability and willingness to bear in 1943.

The apricot has been a notoriously shy producer in Michigan, apparently due to the fact that blossoms are exceptionally early in the spring and almost always encounter a bad weather, says Johnston.

It is possible that one or more apricots are bearing in this state this year. Such trees are of great value in the apricot variety development work being done at the South Haven experiment station. Owners of bearing trees will be performing a service if they send information on regular asper for trees to the South Haven Experiment Station, South Haven, Mich.

Poppy Seeds The seed in this poppy is so small that about 900,000 are required to make one pound.

GARDEN FOR VICTORY



By PAUL R. KRONE Chief, Victory Garden Section, Michigan Office of Civilian Defense

Although not many of us will be going away for extended vacations this year, if you are planning to be away better figure out when your various crops will be matured so that you can be at home to harvest them and do your canning.

Make a chart of your garden showing the days on which you planted these crops and calculate the date on which you will be eating delicious fresh vegetables from your garden.

Now that some of your vegetables are starting to mature, perhaps you are wondering how to harvest them. With some to fruit, the stem is broken off at the joint. With cucumbers, the fruit is cut with a knife. Harvest the loose outside leaves should be pushed down and the stock cut just below the

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