

A free, responsible and aggressive Press is democracy's first line of defense

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SUBSIDIES?

President Roosevelt appears not inclined to budge on inch on his plans for subsidizing producers in order to keep down the price of food. Subsidies are bad, but after waiting a couple of months for the opposition to come forward with something better, I am willing to give them a trial.

Are you weary of this constant bargaining over wages and prices—strikes and threats of strikes? Well, I am, and I am convinced that the only way to halt the increase of higher wages is to let the rise in the cost of living. That is where subsidies enter the picture.

The crux of the situation is this: If farmers are allowed to get higher and higher prices, then the cost of food must go up and up; and the working people will demand greater and greater wages. It will be an upward spiral as long as there are shortages of food.

I believe that such a spiral would be disastrous, for it would multiply tenfold the inflation we now have. Anyone with a ounce of common sense should realize that we might fight inflation at home just as assiduously as we fight the enemy. Food, Hitler and Hirohito are a long way off and at this stage can do much to hurt us. Old Man Inflation is outside your door right now, brother, and is trying to get in!

The Case of Butter
What have subsidies got to do with it? Well, let's take butter, which is now selling at about 55 cents a pound in many sections. However, at that price let us say that dairy farmers are not producing enough; they are not expanding their herds to take care of the added burden of Lend Lease, a larger Army and military equipment, more who don't want margarine any more. So, in order to stimulate butter production the OPA is willing to allow the creameries to pay more to the farmer for his milk, but the OPA cannot allow the price of butter to go to 60 cents or 65 cents a pound at the grocery store, for that would mean price advances would touch off a thousand demands for higher wages, and the government would be forced to pay the difference as a legitimate cost of the war, the money going to the creameries who then give the farmer, but keeping the retail price the same.

This will bring problems and bad precedents, to be sure, but you figure out something better for some time. One product is citrus fruits, which the government has

Rioting Destroys, Settles Nothing

Living right on the doorstep of tragic race riots in Detroit...

which were the worst since the last war, and probably the worst ever to occur in any northern city, we in Birmingham have been shocked with the tragedy of it all.

One would think that the mobs taking part had lost all decency, all sense of democracy, all realization that this country is involved in a terrible war which demands the united effort of all, regardless of the color of the workers' skin. This was a black hour for Detroit, one which will take a long time to forget, and one whose wounds will take a long time to heal.

One hopes that it will be a challenge to Detroit's civic leaders, its churches and its schools to start anew and inculcate in the people of all races a new spirit of cooperation based on goodwill and not on force.

According to a poll conducted by the American Institute of Public Opinion, seven out of ten people of the United States believe that "an international police force" should be set up after the war "to try to keep peace throughout the world."

No such overwhelming sentiment is visible in Congress, which is unduly impressed by racial minorities.

One problem of democracy is to secure acquiescence in the national interest, without undue deference to the prejudice and opposition of small groups. Sooner or later there will be an appreciation of the rights of the majority to rule the country.

There is only one remedy for the repeated failure of Congress to expose the opinion of the majority of the nation. That is to leave some Congressmen at home. The sooner it is done the better it will be for the general welfare.

People Ahead of Congress

Brig. Gen. Claire L. Chennault, who has been in command of American flyers operating in China, reports that the Japanese air force has "hit its peak and is now on the down grade."

The general ought to know. He has been in China a long time, in connection with the Tiger and as our commander since Pearl Harbor.

Gen. Chennault does not share Ambassador Grew's fears about a war to the last lap. He says that when Hitler is crushed it won't "take long" to smash Japan.

Not only is this air officer a fighting man but he understands his part in the great war now engaging this nation. You do not hear him bragging via radio public prints, for additional planes, although we are sure he would like to have them.

Gen. Chennault says, "I'll not for me to decide global strategy. I'll fight on what planes we have until conditions permit larger reinforcements." This is a soldierly attitude, expressed by a man who has been exceptionally successful in actual operations.

If the war lasts long enough, you will hear more about Gen. Chennault.

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WASTE FATS—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your meat market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fats not wanted.

SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER—Leave in bin near Post Office or put at curb on your last City collection day of the month. Copper, rubber, tin plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, M.A.C.A. ZINES—You can donate them to Salvation Army, which will call for them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted.

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BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Cannibalism Excepted

Just to give some of our sentimental Americans a better understanding of the nature of our Japanese enemies, we recount the story of the Rev. George Yager, who is in this country after missionary work in China.

The Rev. Yager was in the Kiangsi area of China. Some of General Doolittle's flyers landed close by and were assisted by the missionaries and Chinese residents.

When the Japanese approached, the missionaries withdrew into the hills some twenty miles away, and upon the retreat of the Japanese, moved back to the mission. They found nothing but destruction and desolation confronting them.

Farms had been completely laid waste. The whole countryside wrecked by death in every home. The few country people who had stayed on, hoping to be allowed to continue to work their fields, had been savagely tortured and put to death.

"The Rev. Yager says that the few villagers who managed to escape death told stories too brutal and savage to relate. 'Just one charge was not heard,' he declared, 'cannibalism. Outside of that,' he added 'take your choice and you can't miss the savage nature of the Japanese army.'

If THEY DO NOT BECOME A NUISANCE, and you do not have too many of them, you may be allowed to keep a few chickens within Birmingham's city limits. This was evident in the City Commission's attitude toward the problem at their meeting recently. 'You'll probably be wise to refrain from keeping roosters though, as they have a natural tendency to greet each daybreak rather rancorously.'

HAVE YOU ANY RAGS ABOUT YOUR PREMISES these days? Your Uncle Sam wants them for conversion to items needed in the war program. Now, ladies, don't try to be so patriotic that you argue with your husbands for new clothes to take the place of the "rags" you now wear.)

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What Your City Commission Is Doing . . .

June 21, 1943
Bills approved totalling \$13,014.75. (Outside Oakland County)

Compensation insurance policy continued with Michigan Mutual Liability Company.

Rice Men's Bible Class granted permission to hold picnic at Sprague Park.

Nurses Ordinance adopted.

Regulations re nurses approved.

IRENE E. HANLEY, City Clerk

Every day that the 12th Air Force fought in the last phase of the Tunisian campaign, Gen. Doolittle's air fighters needed as much aviation gasoline as would fill a railroad tank train of 40 cars each.

TURN IN WASTE FATS



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH OSTRICH? THE DIRECTOR OF THE ZOO RECOMMENDED IT.

Uncle Sam, D. D. S.—Painful Extractions



Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
JUNE 22, 1893

"Very hot weather we are having."
"Mortimer O. Bigelow is home from West Point on a furlough."
"President Cleveland is to again take the Schweitzer cure for obesity."
"Thin or gray hair and bald heads, so displeasing to many people as marks of age, may be averted for long time by using Hall's Hair Renewer."
"No program for the 4th of July in this issue. The committee having the matter in charge failed to bring around the copy for same."
"Married at the house of the bride's parents in Kilmartick, Alice S. Peabody and Edgar J. Hitchings. Pontiac papers please copy."
"Remember the graduation exercises tonight at the M. E. Church."

Red Cross Serves Worried Soldiers

Serving as a means of communication between men in service and their families at home, ordinary means of communication are not adequate in one of the most important tasks of the Home Service department of the American Red Cross. For this and other Red Cross services, a Red Cross field director is stationed in every Army camp and Naval base both in this country and overseas.

A soldier who has reason to worry regarding himself or any other emergency affecting his family, may contact the field director who will refer the local commanding officer, will permit Red Cross chapter. Investigation is made promptly by Red Cross authorities and information regarding the case sent by wire to the field director.

Set and Hatch It

Two small boys were out hunting in the woods and one of them picked up a chestnut burr. "Tommy," he called excitedly, "I've found a chestnut burr!"

"Set and hatch it," said the other boy. "You'll have a chestnut out of it."

20 YEARS AGO

JUNE 22, 1923
"Because his practice has grown to such an extent that the services of another is necessary, Dr. George F. Bayliss, with offices in the First National Bank block, announced this week that, beginning July 1, Dr. John Gordon, graduate of Tufts Medical College, Boston, will be associated with him here."
"Been in swimming this season? Don't forget to try the water in our new Quorton Lake, on West Maple avenue."
"Victor Peck, of Bates street, has returned to his home for the summer from Albion, where he attended college. Peck, who is now in the U. S. Army, will be associated with him here."
"Mr. and Mrs. John J. Garfill of Southfield avenue, and Miss Maud Hubert motored to Geneva, N. Y., and returned with Jack Garfill, who has been attending school there for the past year."
"The Herald is Said By E. C. Huston, prominent village merchant and builder of the new block of buildings including the new post office now under construction on Woodward avenue. 'I hope to see the building completed by August first so that at that time the post office will be able to move into larger quarters.'"

5 YEARS AGO

JUNE 22, 1938
"H. G. Wells, British author, says: 'I think Mussolini is more likely to attack the United States than Hitler. But much more of an ass.'"
"On the dawn Sunday morning as Birmingham peacefully snored—and then a barrage of high explosives from six-inch howitzers, announced the arrival of the First Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery. The city was saved, and the enemy fled under fire. The maneuver was part of the field practice routine of the First Battalion of the Army in Detroit."
"Howard C. Holah, manager of the Birmingham Theatre announces that he will be gone for the first-run pictures of the Louis-Schmelzing fight as soon as they are scheduled to be shown here."
"Miss June Pointer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pointer, of Southfield, road, will leave next week for Florida, to be gone for an extended period."
"In one of the season's loveliest weddings, Miss Edna Ramey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Ramey, of West Maple avenue, became the bride of Fred L. Saxe, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Saxe of Puritan road Saturday afternoon."

A Difference

"He calls her 'Queen of the Links.'"
"Ah, their courtship began on the golf course; I presume." "Yes, from it. She sells wieners at a hot-dog stand."

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Much of the appeal of this splendid snapshot lies in the fact that everything from the foreground to the horizon is sharply in focus. Strive for sharpness in your snapshots.

Next, there's the matter of correct focusing. If you don't have a range finder on your camera or among its accessories, measure the distance from camera to subject carefully, especially with close-ups, or, try pacing it off. If you know the length of your average step you can quickly estimate distances with considerable accuracy. Whatever you do, don't guess.

The third important point is correct exposure. Always choose the smallest lens aperture so that you'll get maximum depth of field. And for all practical purposes, hand-hold your camera on a tripod every time you take a picture, or at least resting it against a firm support, will mean sharper pictures consistently.

John van Quilder