

The Dallas Morning News

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1942 I do not agree with a word that you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

Also Within War Powers

President Roosevelt remarked at a press conference a few days ago that he assumed that his special war powers gave him the authority to force "nonessential" population to leave Washington, relinquishing their private dwellings and hotel and apartment rooms to the army of government employees who are now arriving in the national capital at the rate of 1,000 a week.

However, it might be called to the attention of the President that his war powers undoubtedly include the authority to settle swiftly and definitely the labor wrangles which continue to crop out in various parts of the country. The continuing quarrel between the A. F. of L. and an independent welders' union in the Pacific Northwest has been a disturbing factor in production for several months.

As a whole, industrial workers have shown a fine spirit of co-operation since the declaration of war by Japan, but the government is insisting that all-out means all-out in its other contacts with factions and factors entering into the defense program. The thoughtless labor leaders at Tacoma not only menace the defense program but disturb public morale and illy serve the cause of labor itself by putting a black splotch on a generally good record.

Staggered Work Hours

Efforts of the Dallas Retail Merchants Association to stagger Dallas business hours to relieve street and transit congestion should be met with co-operation and support. The present crowding of auto lanes and of streetcars and busses is bad, and the latter is bound to become worse as tires wear out and cars are stored, unless effective remedial measures are taken.

Because of war priorities, the local transit company probably will be unable to buy enough new busses or streetcars to satisfy Dallas needs. But staggering of hours to enable people to go to work at different hours can help a great deal. The adoption of daylight saving gives incentive to at least slight changes in the hours of some businesses and industries.

Even within one business establishment it is not always necessary or desirable for all employees to begin work and cease work at the same time. For firms that have direct contact with the public, a staggering of hours that keeps the doors open for customers for a longer period is useful and avoids the need for rushing. Successful working out of a stagger plan for Dallas should benefit both downtown workers and shoppers.

Tires From Mexico

Since the ban on new tire purchases in this country, the tourist department of the Mexican government has rather widely heralded the news in this country that tires can be purchased by tourists to Mexico and driven back across the border duty free under the allowance of \$100 per person granted to returning tourists. There has been no reply from our Federal Government except that purchases made in Mexico must be for replacement of tires that have actually gone bad.

One consequence of our entry into the war has been the drastic reduction in the tourist trade which has meant so much to the commercial prosperity of Mexico during the last several years. The Mexican government cannot be blamed for encouraging a revival of the trade, and it might be argued that the rubber supply to be depleted will be that of Mexico, not the United States. Nevertheless, it is a part of the available rubber supply of Pan-America which has supposedly joined in a common defense front against the Axis.

In some respects, our Federal Government is overdoing its Pan-American good-will program. Recently it was announced that part of our very limited new-car stock would have to be shipped to Latin America to satisfy trade commitments. The Department of Agriculture soft-pedals guayule rubber production in deference to a supply to be obtained eventually from Brazil. The good will of Latin America is desirable, but we have suddenly made a fetish of it. Our Latin-American neighbors have as much to lose as we have in event Hitler wins. They ought to go along with us. And, incidentally, new tires coming back across the border should be taken up by the Federal Government at market prices unless owned by those deserving tires for essential occupation in this country.

Sensational Soybean Rise No Place for Majorettes

The sensational peak price of \$2.05 a bushel for soybeans on the Chicago market, despite the all-time record indicated acreage of 9,000,000 for 1942, reflects the realization by processing industries that the nation faces a serious shortage of vegetable oils. Since most soybeans are used as a substitute food oil and a source of shortening and cooking fats, thus further restricting the markets for Texas cottonseed oil in that one great field, one is somewhat amazed at the short-sighted policy of government crop planners which fails to encourage a corresponding increase of cotton acreage—as a source of food oil, stock feed and explosives—all needed in this devastating war.

Soybeans cannot now be grown extensively in Texas because of our failure to develop proper strains and techniques which would enable our cotton farmers to profit as Illinois and Iowa farmers do from the steadily increasing demand for soybeans. As The News has repeatedly stated, when the federal crop reduction program limited the production of cotton acreage it at the same time created shortages of cottonseed oil, cake and meal, upon which basic American industries have depended for half a century. When the supply of cotton seed was cut by around 2,000,000 tons a year the farmers of the Corn Belt States seized the golden opportunity and supplied the industries with soybean oil, cake and meal, thus taking away long-established livestock feed markets and adding to the poverty of cotton farmers. It is high time to reconsider the entire national vegetable oil and fat situation and give cotton its rightful place as an economical producer of not only fiber likely to be needed during a world war, but of essential human food, as well as stock feed and linters, which are even more vital to a wartime economy.

Defiance at Corregidor

However long the present war may last, one of its outstanding American heroes will be Gen. Douglas MacArthur, whose heroic resistance to the Japanese onslaught has evoked admiration the world around. In ignoring Japanese demands for surrender, MacArthur and the badly outnumbered Americans and Filipinos under his command are upsetting Jap plans for a quick conquest of the Philippines and a prompt grabbing of the much richer prizes in the Netherlands East Indies.

In addition to displaying courage of more than the usual order, the continued resistance of the American and Filipino forces probably indicates that they are supplied with food and ammunition for the immediate future. If they can hold out until reinforcements arrive, it may be possible for them to take the initiative and to recapture Manila, whose military, air and naval bases are of strategic importance.

But even if they are doomed to eventual surrender, MacArthur and his men will have performed an invaluable service in delaying the Japanese advance down the China Sea. It should be kept in mind here that the Philippines, despite their direct interest to us, are not the main objectives of Japan's thrust. More important than holding the Philippines is keeping out of Japan's reach the petroleum of the Indies and Burma and the rubber and tin of the Indies and Malaya.

Gratifying here, in viewing the Philippine situation, is the fact that the Filipinos see through Japan's promises to develop the islands for the profit of the Filipinos themselves if they will only surrender to their bayonet-carrying "friends." The islanders are too well informed on what has happened in Korea, in Manchukuo and in Japanese-held China to be influenced by such siren promises. Their attitude may prove to be a great help in gaining ultimate victory over the aggressors.

Price Control Act

President Roosevelt penned words of wisdom when he turned contemplative at the end of his statement in connection with the signing of the price control bill to remark as follows:

Finally, all bulwarks against inflation must fail unless all of us—the businessman, the worker, the farmer and the consumer—are determined to make those bulwarks hold fast. In the last analysis, as Woodrow Wilson said, "The best form of efficiency is the spontaneous co-operation of a free people."

This admonition from the President is of especial importance in view of the weakness of the price control act itself. With agricultural prices given leeway for wide expansion and with no ceiling on wages and salaries, the two most important factors in price making, according to basic economic law, are omitted from the bill.

As for the remainder of the field of effective jurisdiction, it is left to Price Administrator Leon Henderson, who has already remarked that the act hardly deserves the name it has been given. Nevertheless, with rigid enforcement of the effective provisions of the new statute and with coordinated tax, savings, priorities and rationing programs, it will be possible to make headway against the present inflationary tendencies. At a little later date, possibly, Congress will be convinced that it must sacrifice politics for a firm control measure. In the meantime, the "spontaneous co-operation of a free people" will help mightily.

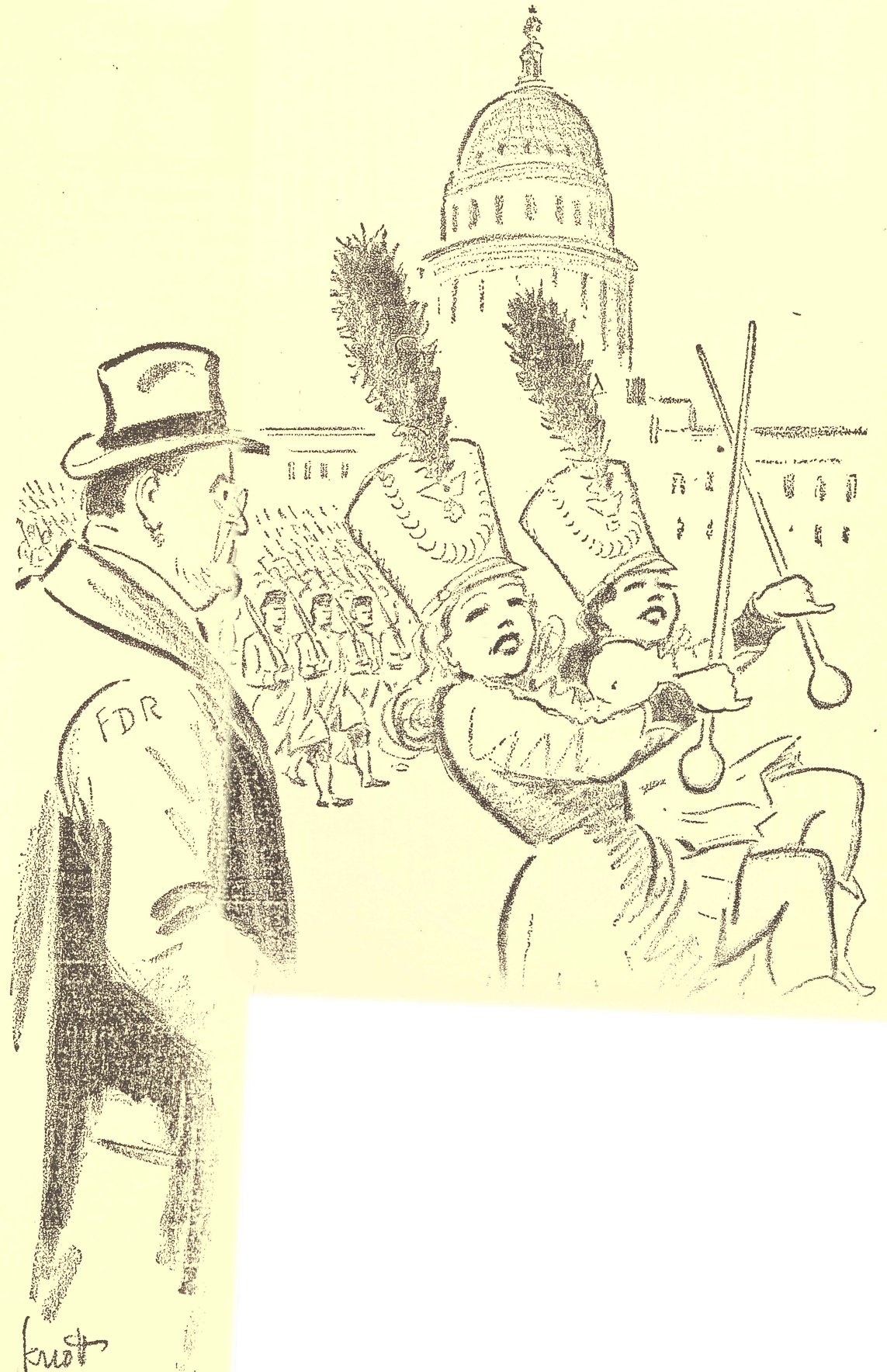
New Alien Registration

Although all aliens in the United States were registered last year as a general precaution against sabotage and other harmful activities, the present war situation makes it desirable for the government to keep a more detailed check on those aliens who have come here from Germany, Italy and Japan. These aliens will be required to register a second time Feb. 9 and will be given identification cards that they will be expected to carry at all times.

This move is as much for the protection of the individual aliens as for any other purpose. By carrying his registration card, which will bear his photograph, the alien will be able to show immediately that he has complied with federal regulations and should be presumed to be loyal to the country of his adoption. A large proportion of these aliens have applied for citizenship, but at present their papers are being held up.

The fact that a person has come here from what is now an enemy nation does not mean that he is himself an enemy of this country. In many instances, he is a refugee from persecution. In others, he has migrated to better his economic situation, just as others have been doing for several centuries. The new registration should help, however, in checking subversive activities of those few aliens who are disloyal to America and whose movements are being carefully scrutinized by the Bureau of Federal Investigation.

By Knott



From the Editor

MILK IN ENGLAND

A doctor speaking on the radio had milk for his breakfast and probably for his dinner. He emphasized the value of milk in the wartime dietary. "In many years milk drinking by English boys and girls of that age was discouraged. We had an idea of a heavy worker carrying a bottle of milk with him. It was thought to be nothing but ridiculous. Thank goodness those nonsensical opinions are now things of the past. Doctor, it is something to be thankful in England to be thankful indeed such nonsensical ideas are really things of the past. There will always be an idea we are told, and no doubt will be. But why retain an idea that thinks so little as a potato? The English doubt take to milk in the earliest infancy but, until they appear to have assumed of their test worker man who might be enough to take a bottle as a part of his lunch would be suspected of being friendly to the cows that brewed. He might deny it, but he was afraid of cows. A bottle of milk would be. Naturally he might be a milksop and would have fended his reputation as a by hitting his accuser with a milk bottle. But, we would it was that discouraged boys and girls of school drinking milk. Was it a organized effort to make and lasses believe strong made them stronger? We subtly led to suppose that would tend to give them a disposition? How would honor to John Bull and same time discredit milk? be that the boys and girls thought of associating with cow's milk, and our in this is to call their attention their oversight and their consistency. Our effort at attention in British psychology not have notable results. count of our extremely circulation in England, but the London Times will tell where we leave off.

MOUNTAIN MUSIC

Futnam News: The circus was visiting a town hills. The folks there had all the instruments of except the slide trombone. old settler watched the quite some time, then, his son beside him, said,

Auto men pledge all have already been to

You know, we have Sumner Welles is a big De Valera says we to land in northern Ireland can leave it on the table goes out.

Austin is talking about plates in the form of socially, we plan to run a windshield.

Letters From Readers

The News will print communications as far as limited space will permit. They must be free of libel and personal abuse, and they should be short, since many more are received than can be printed. If of undue length, The News may print excerpts instead of the whole communication. Authors' names must be signed for publication. Only original communications addressed to The News will be printed; open letters or letters primarily addressed to others are unacceptable. Writers should include stamps for return of unused communications.

SCOTT UP TO DATE

To The News: Breathes there on earth a soul so blind, who in his thought is so behind, admitting Hitler is a curse, a scourge of hell, or something worse; yet asks that we should make a peace where all our preparations cease, while Hitler moves to take the world, his bloody banners still unfurled?

Go mark that man, and mark him well. His brain has somehow failed to jell; or else with Nazi gold is hired; his heart with filthy gain is fired. But be he fool, or quite reverse, be he knave or Trojan horse, we can't afford his view to take, with life and liberty at stake. (Our soldiers all must be true blue, all men of faith and courage, too.) Refuse his help on land or sea; nor in the air corps should he be; but left innocuous among the cads unhonored, yet unhung. EARLY VAN DEVENTER. 617 Tenth, Wichita Falls, Texas. —Buy defense bonds and stamps—

BETTER CONVOYS

To The News: The sinking of three or four ships a week in American waters by German subs ought to wake America up. Why should a ship be allowed to sail alone in submarine infested waters? If three or more ships sailed together and were escorted by one or more destroyers, the dastardly subs would become shy and if one showed its periscope above the water the gunners on the several ships could send its crew to a place where it is warmer than on the Russian front.

But if a sub should disable a ship, the other ships could save its passengers. Just after we entered the last war, it was feared that many of our ships would be

they are offering their services in that proportion? I am afraid he does not. I know of some young preachers who are going when their names are up, not as chaplains, but as privates along with the other boys. Then not all of the preachers by any means could meet the requirements for the chaplaincy in education and in the matter of approval from the necessary sources.

In the third place I have not seen any mad rush of young married men with two or three children from other walks of life to volunteer. Most of our preachers are married and have families.

In the fourth place the sacrifices of war will fall more heavily on preachers than any other class. They meet in wartimes a difficult situation in their ministry. While others are benefiting from the advancing wage scales the average preacher gets no such raise. Few, if any, in any profession have as many calls made on them for use of their cars where there is no remuneration whatever for such service, as do preachers.

The unthinking may not believe it, but it remains true nevertheless that the "church is America's first line of defense." The enemies of Democracy are also the enemies of the church. The preacher as leader in the church is a most important man in America's defense and in the peace that shall follow.

C. H. WILLIAMS. Pastor Vernon Circuit Methodist Church, Vernon, Texas. —Buy defense bonds and stamps—

SLACKER CONGRESS

To The News: In this time of stress when the big headlines of our newspapers are devoted to the happenings on the battlefronts, we are prone to