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The endeavor of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely represent Union Workers in their efforts to obtain economic freedom, particularly as advocated by the United Mine Workers of America. We solicit the support of All Unions. Material for publication must be authorized by the organization it represents, signed by the President and Secretary, and bear the seal of the Local.

The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of the combined circulation of the two largest circulated weeklies in Cambria County and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and the major mining towns.



ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE THE local auditors publish their report of the Patton Borough School District for the year ended on July 5th, 1943. This report is published to acquaint taxpayers with the financial affairs of the district.

THE COMING SOON OF FALL and its consequently cooler weather, will likely curtail the activities of the swimming pool at the Patton Recreation Park. This season has been a most successful one. Weather has been ideal for bathing most every day of the past couple months—a condition that rarely is the case in Northern Cambria County. There have been seasons recently in this section when the weather was so cool that swimming pools were unattended probably three-fourths of the summer season.

ONCE MORE A WAVE OF OPTIMISM is sweeping the United States. It is easy to find optimists wondering whether we might not even win the war in Europe before Christmas. Do not get false notions. Without doubt Allied prospects are brighter now than at any time since Dunkerque. But anybody who expects victory before 1944, at the very earliest is in for an unpleasant disappointment.

ABOUT THE BEST BET ON THE Quebec meeting of Roosevelt and Churchill this week is that they will talk on European politics, and prepare for any possibility that may follow military moves. They don't want to be caught unprepared again—and on some points they need to have a meeting of minds. Military campaigns for the rest of the summer have already been charted, Washington believes, but alternative ones may be improved; if this—and that—especially the new Russian offensive may show signs of defeating Germany decisively.

THE BETTING IS WASHINGTON is about 50-50 that Japan will attack Russia. Few in this country doubt but that she's under heavy

pressure from Germany to do so. The question is, can she? Some military men think that Japan can be knocked out of the war before Germany if she does.

PRE-PEARL HARBOR FATHERS can stop worrying about the draft despite conflicting statements from Washington, if they'll move into defense jobs. Most of the recent orders and talk about fathers have been for the purpose of goading them into essential industry, relieving acute manpower shortage on production lines. Some boards even threaten men over 38 with drafting unless they change jobs. And don't be too sure of any congressional action of the subject. Members will find blanket deferment for fathers means proportionately heavier draft for some states. Those states will fight.

OUR SOLDIERS IN NORTH AFRICA are even healthier than in the United States, Maj. Gen. Norman T. Kirk, Army Surgeon General, reports. There has been no yellow fever on any front, only four cases of typhus, no tetanus. Malaria remains the No. 1 health problem, but is promptly halted when controls are established. Such controls take time. At Guadalcanal, Japs had to be exterminated before mosquitoes.

PATTON FIREMEN ALREADY are formulating advance plans for the Volunteer Firemen's Convention in 1944. Of course the scale on which those plans will be laid depend entirely on the war status of the nation and on the gasoline and other restrictions that may be in effect in August, next year, but in any event the convention will be adequately staged within the scope of the conditions as they then exist.

THE MONTH FROM SEPTEMBER 15th to October 15th has been designated by the War Department as the time for Christmas mailing to the soldiers overseas. Presumably letters and packages for sailors, marines and other services should be sent at least as soon. It's going to be an enormous task to distribute Christmas mail to the two millions and more of American fighters scattered all over the globe. Transportation alone would be a problem, but before that must come the involved clerical work of ascertaining where each person is, so that the mail can be properly routed. If you want your service man to get a Christmas package from you, you must cooperate by mailing early and observing all regulations.

THE MOVE TO GET STATE OFFICIALS to obtain federal funds, now available, to defray the maternity expenses of service men's wives is gaining momentum. With Pennsylvania one of the last three states failing, refusing or neglecting to apply for such funds, the Pennsylvania American Legion, at its state convention in Wilkes-Barre last week unanimously endorsed participation in the nation-wide project. Before adjourning the delegates approved a resolution urging Pennsylvania to accept the benefits of the Federal Maternity Relief Act. The funds, from a \$4,440,000 appropriation voted by Congress for a specific purpose, are available to pay physician's fees, hospital bills, and nurse hire for every wife of an Army or Navy man whose pay is \$78 a month or less. As pointed out in Washington, the distribution of these funds does not amount to a charity. It is a federal benefit to which the wives of service men are entitled by Congressional act.

BUT GOVERNOR MARTIN'S OWN State Health Department delayed five months so far in applying for the funds, and the benefits have not been obtainable in this state. As a result an unknown number of servicemen's wives have been thrown on charity organizations. When the American Legion took up the justice of the movement, there was quite a bit of stir down in Harrisburg, and undercover men were hastened to the convention at Wilkes-Barre where for several hours last Friday night they were busy circulating among the convention leaders trying to kill the resolution on the ground it would "embarrass the Governor," and was an issue that "should be left to the doctors." But for some reason or other,



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the "campaign" was called off. SO, MAYBE BY THE TIME YOU read this, or at least in the near future, our Pennsylvania officials will see fit to hang onto the tail of the big parade of states that are availing themselves of these funds. —A two mile detour to visit the dentist cost Ronald Marshall, truck driver, \$6 at Doncaster, England, for misusing gasoline.

BUTTER SHORTAGE MAY PROVE ACUTE State agriculture officials are agreed that supplies of butter—already so short that grocers are unable to meet ration coupon demands—would become more severe this fall and winter. Housewives were warned, however, that if they begin a rush for the commodity its point value would have

to be boosted again to insure equitable distribution. Heaviest butter production months are May, June and July. Despite large output in those peak months and diversion of military and lend-lease supplies to civilians, many markets throughout the state were unable to fill orders the past few weeks. James E. Walker, chairman of the U. S. Agriculture Department's Pennsylvania War Board, pointed out that the shortages will become worse

as production falls off in the poorer dairy seasons. "While grocers have been trying to allocate their butter equally by limiting customers to a fraction of a pound, some families send each member to the store to get around this limitation," Walker said. —Shoe production in Norway is less than 50 per cent of normal because many shoemakers have been conscripted for compulsory labor.