

Washington, D. C.

BITTER DEFERMENT FIGHT

The backstage fight over who is to direct the deferment of essential war workers is approaching white heat. It is being waged between certain of the biggest war chiefs in Washington, having developed into a row between the army-navy, WPB boss Donald Nelson, his vice chairman Charley Wilson, and Paul McNutt.

Only the White House will be able to straighten out the tangle.

Trouble began when Undersecretary of War Patterson and the army proposed that the question of industrial draft deferments be placed in the hands of the Production Executive committee of which WPB Vice Chairman Charley Wilson is chief. The army-navy, which started out by trying to cut Wilson's throat, now loves him, but continues to hate Donald Nelson. So their recommendation of Wilson to handle draft deferments was a slap at Nelson.

Nelson immediately slapped back. He and War Manpower Commissioner Paul McNutt went to the White House and told the President that industrial deferments were the job of the War Manpower commissioner. In fact, McNutt hinted that, if the President didn't consider the War Manpower commission competent to handle the question, he could get another Manpower Commissioner.

Donald Nelson backed him up. Since this meant taking the deferment job away from Nelson's own War Production board, it was a direct slap at Charley Wilson. Nelson even went further and indicated that Wilson and the Production Executive committee were controlled by the army.

More Civilian Goods?

This row over essential war-worker deferments also has brought to light another important inside debate over reconversion for civilian production. Chief battlers in this row are Nelson and Wilson, with the army-navy rooting for Wilson.

Wilson would like to begin production of 200,000 automobiles soon, but Nelson flatly opposes. Aside from autos, however, Wilson does not favor getting back into too much civilian production any time soon. To study the problem, he appointed a committee to formulate a policy on reconversion—which brought no enthusiasm at all from his nominal boss, D. Nelson, who disbanded the committee.

Nelson's cancellation, in turn, roused the ire of General Lucius Clay, General Somervell's chief production man, and Clay is now threatening to appoint an army-navy committee to study reconversion and make Wilson its head.

Behind this Nelson-Wilson row over reconversion is the basic conflict between big business and little business. Big business doesn't want any reconversion until it is finished with its war orders, and at present, it is chock-a-block with war orders. On the other hand, little business, which didn't get so many war orders, would like to begin right now making alarm clocks, electric irons, bicycles and a lot of small stuff which the public needs. Big business, however, doesn't want little business to get a head start.

In this row, Nelson sides with little business. His friends also claim that Wilson favors the big business viewpoint and wants to wait until the war is over, so everybody can line up at the starter's tape and get an equal start. The army sides with Wilson and big business for fear the second front may take more production than we realize.

Those are the issues. Meanwhile, some insiders, especially the army, are out again to get Nelson's scalp.

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JOB TO DO IN LONDON

Those close to Secretary of State Hull say he is not happy over the mission to London undertaken by energetic young Undersecretary Ed Stettinius. Originally, the trip was planned partly to please the British, who hinted that we had sent no important emissaries to London since Harry Hopkins' call on Churchill two years ago.

However, Stettinius is on the way to turning the mission into something really important. He is scheduled to discuss five important subjects with the British. They are:

1. Stabilization of the dollar and pound after the war.
2. A world bank.
3. Stabilization of commodities. This would mean the application of Wallace's ever-normal granary to all basic commodities such as tin, rubber, copper, sugar, with a system of buying and selling to keep prices stabilized.

4. Oil and the Near East. The United States wants to avoid a cut-throat battle for oil such as occurred with Britain after the last war and which is already threatened as a result of the Arabian pipeline wrangling.

5. The future boundaries of Germany.

German boundaries were tentatively discussed at Teheran, but now Dr. Isaiah Bowman, famed geographer, has accompanied Stettinius to London to talk details. Bowman was Woodrow Wilson's geographic expert at Versailles, and some officials are critical of his chopping-up of Europe.

This imposing agenda has irked Secretary Hull. Apparently, it is pretty well arranged while he was in Florida. Also, Hull was always jealous of the trips Sumner Welles took to Rio, Rome, London and Berlin, and now it looks as if his new undersecretary might also be crowding him for the limelight.

MORE HORSE LEATHER

Representative Calvin Johnson of Illinois has been badgering the war department and the War Production board to get more harness for farm horses. With leather short, and harness buckle metal diverted to war production, harness is scarce. Also, the army has bought up tremendous supplies of harness.

In campaigning for more harness, Representative Johnson suddenly bumped into the fact that the army was only just now releasing from its Jeffersonville, Ind., quartermaster depot a total of 30,000 sets of harness—carefully stored away since the last war.

FREE RADIO TIME

Broadcasters are wondering how many other congressmen will follow the example recently set by Maryland's Senator Millard Tydings. At the close of his regular weekly broadcast, he announced that he would discontinue the series because he did not wish to subject the radio station, WBAL, to charges of unfairness during the coming senatorial campaign.

OIL SUBSIDY

The OPA has now recommended a system of oil subsidies to Economic Stabilizer Vinson ranging from 25 cents to 75 cents a barrel for all low-producing wells, namely those oil wells averaging nine barrels per day or less. This would give a subsidy to about 80 per cent of the nation's wells and would cost the government about \$60,000,000 a year.

The plan was secretly worked out by some of the independents but, when the big companies heard about it, they raised such a howl that the little fellows backed out, stating publicly that they had not been cooperating with the government in devising the subsidy scheme.

However, it looks as if the plan would go through. Pennsylvania wells, which are the deepest, will get the highest subsidy.

ARMY FURLOUGHS

Young Congressman Henry ("Scoop") Jackson of Washington has just been mustered out of the army to go back to congress. One of his first acts after getting into civilian clothes was to call on Lieutenant General McNair, head of army ground forces, and effect a major change in handling men about to go overseas.

He told McNair that one big gripe of the boys was that they often got no chance to visit their homes before being shipped abroad. All men were given seven-day furloughs regardless of where they lived—even if their homes were on the West Coast and they were in camp on the East Coast.

So the army has now agreed to the following:

1. No man will be sent overseas without getting a ten-day furlough.

2. This furlough provides that he will actually get ten days at home, plus time to travel from his base and back.

CAPITAL CHAFF

King Carol of Rumania is reported readying himself for a Soviet call back to Bucharest by way of Natal. The diplomatic grapevine has it that he will be reinstated by the Russians.

Loyal General Jim Ullo, who served as best man to Captain Alf Heiberg when he married Mrs. Louise Atwill, the former Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, later was kidded about his wedding duties. He replied: "If Louise can come down from four stars to two bars, I can."

The United States is cutting off its nose to spite its face in regard to De Gaulle and the Free French. We are still freezing French funds in order to hamstring De Gaulle, which means that we will have to dig down into our own U. S. treasury to pay France's share of the UNRRA fund. Each nation is supposed to contribute a share to this world relief fund, and since we are tying up French funds, we will have to find the money some place.

In Recife, thousands of cheering Brazilians welcomed Mrs. Roosevelt by singing "God Bless America" in Portuguese.

A conspiracy is on to euchre another sizable hunk of the manpower problem out from under Paul McNutt. Undersecretary of War Patterson, rubber czar Bradley Dewey and WPB's production wizard, Charles E. Wilson, want to take the deferment of skilled industrial workers away from McNutt and put it under a special committee headed by Wilson.

Reason for sparse publicity on the First Lady's Latin-American tour was the war department's refusal to let the newsmen who usually cover Mrs. Roosevelt go along.

WEEKLY HEALTH TALK

As Compiled by the Medical Society of Pennsylvania.

Many persons seem amazed that Senora Diligenti, mother of the nine month-old Argentina quintuplets, is forty-two years old.

The health of a mother, rather than her age, is the important factor in childbearing.

About two per cent of first babies are born when their mothers are over thirty-five years of age.

One third of 1 per cent of first babies are born when their mothers are more than forty years old.

The risk to mothers is greatest with the first child and with the last of several children.

Every year in Pennsylvania there are more than 5,000 babies born to women more than forty years of age.

Between 400 and 500 babies are born in Pennsylvania every year to women who are between the ages of forty-five and fifty.

An average of about 10 babies are born in this state every year to women who have passed their fiftieth birthday.

Eighty per cent of women give birth to their first babies when between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five.

Half of the first babies born have mothers between twenty and twenty-five years of age.

That it is better for both mothers and babies if the first babies are born to women under forty years of age is generally accepted by medical authorities.

Some physicians claim all babies should be born before the mother is forty years old.

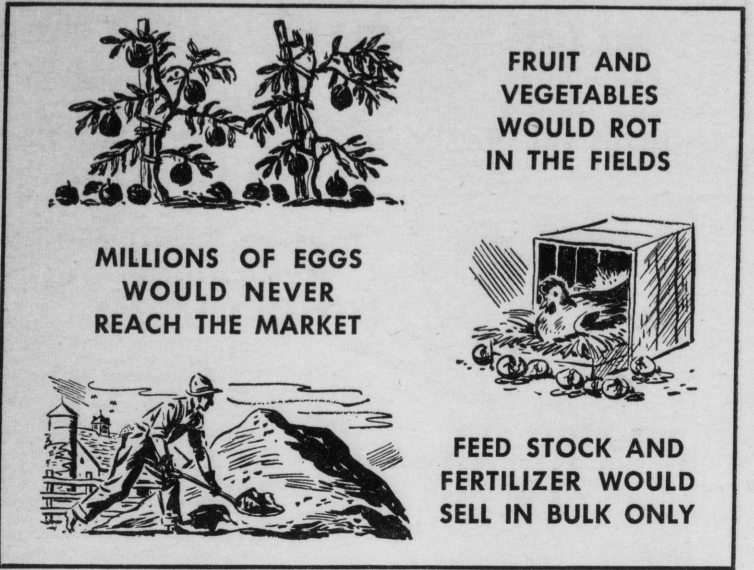
Senora Diligenti is an exception, as regards age.

A mother of quintuplets is incomparable at any age.

When to Plant Garden.

The time to plant the garden is determined by local conditions as well as the kind of vegetable to be planted. Penn State vegetable specialists remind.

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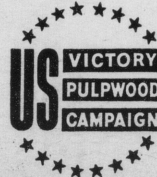
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WHO IS DELINQUENT?

BY RUTH TAYLOR.

Today, wherever we turn, we find the problem of juvenile delinquency staring us in the face. We are all deeply stirred by the attacks of hoodlums in our big cities. But—we can't pass off hoodlumism as just the acts of children. Behind every child there stands an adult. Every act of juvenile delinquency convicts some adult of neglect or indifference amounting to criminal negligence.

Children are not born with a sense of right or wrong. It is the family that has the first chance to civilize the child. The kind of behavior a child displays depends upon the kind of adults after whom he has patterned himself. And the adults cannot dodge their responsibility or shift it to the schools.

The other day I was talking to a truant officer. He said, "There aren't any bad children, but there are a great many bad parents. They are lazy or neglectful. They don't realize that sending a child to school isn't enough. They have to condition his attitude towards the school and towards other children. And they have to see to it that he has spiritual food as well as material. In most of the cases I have to investigate, I find that the parents are unwilling to turn out on Sunday to go to Church with their children. They don't seem to see that religion is one of the biggest necessities in a child's life. It's the stick on which the vine has to grow."

Lack of religious and ethical training is one of the greatest factors in juvenile delinquency. If a child has no standards by which to grow, he is groping in the dark. If he learns it is smart to dodge the law, that the only sin is getting caught, he is on the road to crime. If he hears his parents lying, he sees no reason for the truth. If at home he hears violent diatribes against any group, whether it be of religion, color, nationality or class, his first impulse is to attack them.

The parents may be only careless or thoughtless—but a child believes what he hears and takes it seriously. It is from the home that hoodlumism springs and it is in the home that it can be and must be stopped.

It isn't the child alone that is delinquent. It is the parents who stand convicted before the bar of public opinion.

It isn't just a wave of delinquency among children that is sweeping the country and causing so much trouble. It is a wave of delinquency among parents. Let's do something about the delinquent parents—and juvenile delinquency will take care of itself.

—The chap who cashes in his war bonds without necessity is the same as the soldier who quits in battle.

STATE VEGETABLE GROWERS DOUBTFUL OF THE LABOR AID

A doubtful labor supply was blamed the other day by the federal-state crop reporting service for vegetable growers' delay in signing contracts with canneries for 1944 production. The growers, with many of their employees subject to the military draft, and labor recruiting uncertain of success, have been hindered in their spring work by low temperatures and rains, the report said.

In its first weekly summary of conditions, the service listed these crop prospects:

Strawberries, below average; asparagus, better than average and a first cutting due soon; fruit buds, coming fast and prospects quite promising in the southeastern counties.

Winter wheat crop may exceed last year's 13,277,000 bushels by 3,500,000

bushels because of 20 per cent increase in seeded acreage.

Rye, 77 per cent of normal, compared to 83 per cent a year ago; pasture 80 per cent in 1943; hay, better in southeast than northern counties.

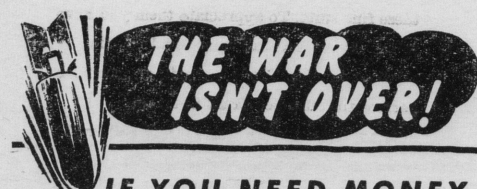
Corn, wheat and oats on Pennsylvania farms April 1 were 9,000,000 bushels below last year's holdings.

The Farm Security Administration disclosed, meanwhile, that the 3,470 families participating in its program expect to increase their 406,541 acres farmed last year by 8 per cent in 1944.

Carson F. Mertz, FSA director, said efforts were being made to surpass all of last year's higher production, which ranged from a 5 per cent gain for soy beans to 91 per cent in the amount of beef sold.

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