

PATHFINDER

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Job Freezing

Manpower controls laced tighter around employer and employes over 17 by WMC.

WMC Chief McNutt jerked manpower controls tighter last week with a semi-compulsory employment regulation order for all male workers 17 and older.

It meant less hiring privileges for employers and carried an implication that manpower sanctions would be clamped on both employers or employes if they refused to abide by the order. Critical necessity for "channeling all available male labor to jobs of greatest war production urgency" was the reason said McNutt.

The order calls for: (1) a priority system with employers hiring workers only through U. S. Employment Service, union hiring halls, or "other normal employment channels" but modified by local needs; (2) fixing the number of men to be employed in specified establishments; (3) priority committees to determine which industries are entitled to priorities, and (4) intensification of USE recruiting for transferring labor.

Civilian Goods

Steel items authorized as WPB approves more cheap clothes; food points changed.

Civilian production took a turn for the better last week. WPB authorized steel for coat hangers, steel wool, heavier cook stoves, and okayed manufacture of 421,500 electric irons by General Electric.

Other developments on the civilian front: (1) Plans for production of 10 million 55¢ men's shirts and shorts, \$1.70 women's house dresses and \$1 cotton slips, are in advanced stages; (2) dealers handling cheaper merchandise may be permitted to sell more expensive clothing because of shortages among low priced lines, and (3) OPA virtually removed coal and wood heating stoves from rationing by permitting issuance of certificates without regard to quota restrictions.

In the food line OPA made canned carrots, orange and grapefruit juices ration free; cut all cheese and cheese products, chuck beefsteaks and chuck roasts 2 points and reduced canned evaporated and condensed milk to half a point a pound.

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Small Business Speaks

President of group says USA's ruling in Ward case is threat to free enterprise.

Small businessmen lashed government bureaucracy and labor last week. In Chicago convention they condemned war industries strikes as "unpatriotic and in many cases treasonable," demanded labor law revisions assuring equal treatment for employers, employes, the public.

Keynote of the meeting was sounded by DeWitt Emery, Chicago, president. Said he: "The choice this fall is between two philosophies of government: centralized control of everything and everybody or constitutional government with the rights of the people guaranteed by a bill of rights."

He charged Attorney General Biddle's ruling in the Montgomery Ward & Co., case (PATHFINDER, May 8) threatened the existence of free enterprise and snapped: "Any man who doesn't take an intensive and active interest in politics is just a plain ordinary fool."

Before adjourning, members resolved: (1) single taxation on corporate profits by exempting dividends paid; (2) favored co-operatives but asked elimination of subsidies and exemptions from taxation; (3) price control, a necessary wartime evil, is a dangerous threat to freedom of enterprise, must be terminated as soon as possible; and (4) speedy completion of contract terminations.

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