

The Wheeler Times

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Editor and Publisher

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RECORD PORK BARREL

The non-controversial title, "Rivers and Harbors Improvement," is today being used to camouflage a number of costly proposed projects which, in reality, would do little to improve navigation in this country, and which would do much to harm basic industries on which we depend for victory in this war.

The largest rivers and harbors bill in this country's history, involving initial expenditures of close to one billion dollars, will soon be debated by congress. That bill would provide \$277,000,000 to start the St. Lawrence waterway project—a project which could not be completed for four or five years; which would go a long way toward disrupting such essential industries as coal, power and land transport, and which would take tremendous quantities of materials, money and labor needed for vital and immediate defense work right now.

It would provide almost \$198,000,000 for the Florida Ship Canal—a project which competent engineers regard as impractical in the extreme.

It would provide about \$50,000,000 for the Umatilla Dam in Oregon and Washington—an additional weapon to force the socialization of the private utility industry in that area.

So it goes, down a long list.

The billion dollars this bill proposes for undertakings which are largely destructive and unnecessary, would provide equipment for 4,300,000 soldiers. It would buy 12,350,000 Garand rifles. It would build 14,000 medium tanks. It would build 7,300 light bombers. It would build 20 superdreadnaughts. Those are the purposes for which every possible dollar of American public funds should be used today.

According to the Brookings Institution, this bill has been "repeatedly characterized in congress as the most flagrant illustration of the pork barrel system in our history."

What a farce to talk about public economy and reduction in non-defense spending and then consider such an omnibus measure as this.

RETAILERS VS. INFLATION

The new price control bill has an unusual distinction: It pleases no one. It is a complicated hodgepodge of conflicting points of view, and most economists are exceedingly doubtful of its ability to really hold down prices.

In the light of this, a report recently made by a sub-committee of the Retailers' Advisory committee is

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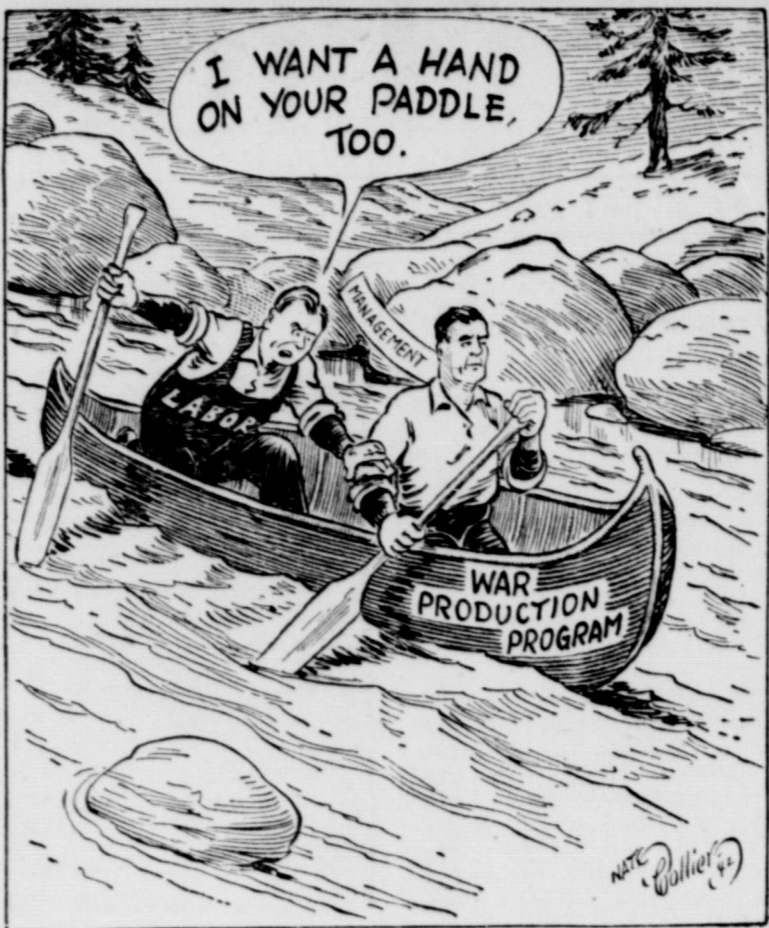
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Warner Bros. bring together these two stars for the first time—The combination is superb!

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of great interest. It observed that there is no such thing as a good price control plan and that, when price control becomes necessary as a result of scarcity, the only fair method is to apply a cost-plus system. It then cited four policies adopted many months ago by the nation's organized retailers, chain and independent alike, designed to safeguard the consumers' interest in these unpredictable times.

- The retailers have discouraged speculation and scare advertising, either one of which could have caused serious and unjustified price increases.

- Inventories have been kept on a reasonable basis.

- Prices have been based on the cost of goods, and not on a replacement system.

- When increased sales made it possible, merchants have absorbed increased costs out of their own profits. That accounts for the fact that many large retail systems are doing a greatly increased business—but are showing little if any increase in net profits.

The results of these policies are clear. In the food field, for example, the price paid farmers has increased 56.2 per cent since June, 1939, and wholesale food prices have risen 31.5 per cent. Yet retail food prices have risen only 19.2 per cent. The future of legislative price control is shrouded in mystery. In the meantime, the consumers of America owe a vote of thanks to the thousands of far-sighted retailers who are battling price inflation with all the weapons they possess.

AAA TURNS ON HEAT

The AAA is putting pressure on farmers to plant the allotted peanut acreage or receive no benefit payments.

At least 80 per cent of the 5,000,000 acres assigned to the South must go into that important oil crop, latest decree from Washington states.

This may have become necessary because of considerable farmer opposition to increase peanut acreage, especially in cotton areas where growers much prefer to increase the acreage of the crop they know best and are equipped to handle.

Cotton apparently is misunderstood in high places as perhaps the most important source of vegetable food oil, stock feed and explosives which any region may be able to produce in time of great emergency. Cotton needs a friend at court, it seems, to correct some erroneous views held by our crop planners.

Even greater pressure, however, is put on rice growers, of whom Texas has a large number.

A penalty deducting 10 times the payment rate from each acre below the federal allotment ought to bring compliance, because in some cases it certainly would amount to total loss of government benefit checks if rice farmers failed for some reason to comply fully with the acreage assigned. Just why such severe penalties are to be placed on defaulting rice growers does not appear.

One wonders whether much of the Gulf Coast swamp lands should not be planted to rapidly growing bamboo, water chestnuts or chufas rather than to rice. Southern plantations are in need of cheap and plentiful carbohydrate hog feed, and paper mills and rayon factories need ever increasing supplies of cellulose which our pine forests may not be able to supply if the present drain continues indefinitely.—Dallas News.

TO "KEEP 'EM FLYING"

The typical automobile owner uses 15 barrels of gasoline a year.

To such a customer the orders placed by Uncle Sam are almost unbelievable. Our government is not only trying to get ample quantities of everything its own forces require, but it is buying tremendous quantities for the British, Chinese, Filipinos and others.

This purchasing has created a tough problem for United States industries which find themselves called upon for many times their normal production; often for things they never manufactured before.

A striking illustration of this has been made known by Jesse Jones of the RFC. The modern fighting airplane works best on a gasoline of 100 octane rating, which means a gasoline with a zero knock rating. Hardly a gallon of this grade of fuel was produced before the war. It was a scientist's dream. The regular commercial planes fly on 84 to 91 octane gas. Your automobile performs well on motor fuel with an octane number as low as 70.

So there was no occasion for the oil refiner to get into the production of fighting aviation fuel until the British began asking for it for their bombers and interceptors. Nevertheless, more than a year ago the Standard Oil company of New Jersey foresaw a demand for this special gasoline and began to build a unit for its manufacture, before it had an order.

Now the government is calling for a total of 150,000 barrels of 100 octane gasoline to be delivered every day, by the end of this year. It is estimated that it will cost \$300,000,000 to build the necessary plant facilities to turn out this extraordinary quantity. Already half a dozen companies have agreed to take on part of the job and the Standard Oil company of New Jersey has agreed to license them to use its patents.

Jones is preparing to advance most of the money required, although some of the oil refiners have elected to raise their own capital to cover that part of the new construction which they hope they can use after the war.

MRS. ROOSEVELT, TOO?

LaGuardia stepped down from his part-time job as director of civilian defense, as he promised to do following the protest from congressmen that he had too many irons in the fire to attend efficiently to all of them. This leaves Dean James M. Landis at the head of the organization, and President Roosevelt, in reply to a press conference question, said that Landis' decisions would be final.

There are those at Washington who doubt whether the new director de jure will be entirely director de facto as long as Mrs. Roosevelt retains her present official connection.

No one doubts the First Lady's high motives and industry; no one doubts her capability. Nevertheless, there are times when even these qualifications do not count.

Civilian defense has become a tremendously muddled situation, and the man at the head of it is going to have a difficult job bringing it to order. He ought not to be put under the handicap of even slight embarrassment in making his decisions and standing up for them.

Purely from the Roosevelt viewpoint, also, the First Lady would probably be exercising discretion in severing her connection with civilian defense. Whether she has been right or wrong, her policies have become the center of bitter controversy.

In the trying times ahead, there may be a turn of public psychology against Roosevelt. If it does come, he will be distinctly handicapped if there is public agitation over what we Texans might choose to designate as "two presidents for the price of one."

By promptly stepping down, Mrs. Roosevelt would receive general acclaim for her doubtful willingness to put the public need above her own wishes and contentions.

Labor Saving on Farms

Labor-saving devices were introduced into Texas agriculture at such a rate between 1930 and 1940 that thousands of farm laborers and tenants were forced to seek employment in villages, towns and cities.

Pertinent Paragraphs from Panhandle Press

Items of interest culled from newspapers on The Times' exchange list.

These "Dollar-a-Year Birds" are already building their nests. They start early, take over the whole works, crowd out competition and destroy all they can't take off with them. That's why they are called "Dollar-a-Year Birds" now instead of English sparrows. All of these dollar-a-year birds are not in Washington, either.—Donley County Leader.

Obtaining right-of-way for State Highway 170, (Gem road) to the Oklahoma-Texas line is one of the chief things being considered these days by the Hemphill county commissioners' court. A survey of the proposed new paved highway connecting with the pavement, already put down from the junction of U. S. Highway 83 and 60 to the Blue Ridge school house, is before the commissioners in their effort to obtain the right-of-way.—Canadian Record.

Last week you read on the front page of this paper that the government had used its surplus stocks to nip in the bud an upward rise of farm products. It is a brake on agricultural communities that enjoy none of the benefits of war expenditures. It is possible that this condition may not last. There is a chance that the cotton surplus may be wiped out and it is the most difficult surplus of all.—Wellington Leader.

Funeral services for Stephen Eugene Fitzgerald, postmaster in Miami for the past seven years were conducted Sunday afternoon at the First Baptist church. Fitzgerald passed away at his home Friday morning. He had been ill since last December during which time he had been unable to attend to his official duties at the postoffice.—Miami Chief.

No man should expect a business to run itself and pay a profit.—McLean News.

Congressmen are about to back up on pensions for themselves. The "Bundles for Congress" humorous campaign put the representatives and senators in such a ludicrous position that they realized that the American people aren't ready now to have the law-making bodies vote pensions to themselves.—Panhandle Herald.

An OEM bulletin drops the following fashion hint: "Women's styles probably will be altered... chances are we're to have a period of slim silhouettes and short skirts." Skirts are already short, brother, but use your own judgment. Remember, us

boys ain't gonna wear blinders.—Higgins News.

The postoffice department this week issued a warning against defense savings stamps chain letters, saying this practice was a direct violation of the postal fraud and lottery statutes. The department said that in all parts of the country the mails are still being flooded with letters related to the so-called endless chain schemes.—Clarendon News.

Now we have it and it is called boondoggling. That is just history repeating again. Looking back we find that Belshazzar held a feast as the enemy drove in. Nero fiddled while Rome burned under the enemy advance but in this 20th century it

would not do for us to feast or fiddle so we are to fan dance to the tune of mountain music while the enemy takes our Pacific.—Spearman Reporter.

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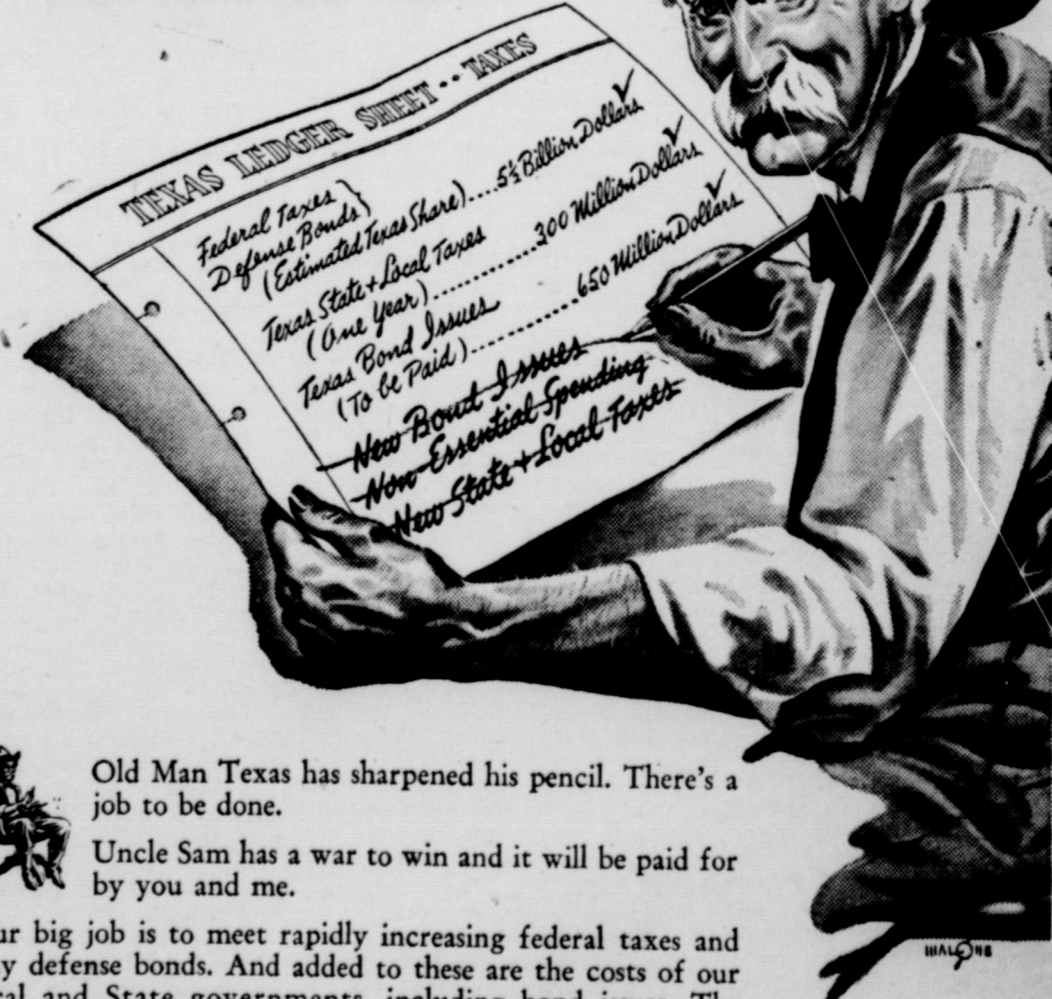
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PHONE 36

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Old Man Texas has sharpened his pencil. There's a job to be done.

Uncle Sam has a war to win and it will be paid for by you and me.

Our big job is to meet rapidly increasing federal taxes and buy defense bonds. And added to these are the costs of our local and State governments, including bond issues. The money to pay for them must all come out of the same pocket.

To make the bill fit our pocket, we're going to have to cut out some of the things we can do without. Among these are new bond issues, new State and local taxes and nonessential spending in every branch of government.

Old Man Texas is looking to taxing officials all over the State to be on the alert to effect economies.

Every local tax dollar saved for Texas taxpayers is another dollar available for victory.

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Home-Making Hints

By MISS VERA MARTIN
Home Supervisor, F. S. A.

Conserving Sugar

Now that the nation's sweet tooth is undergoing a little discipline, many a homemaker is working out ways to make her sugar supply go further. In the following paragraphs, Dr. Louise Stanley, chief of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Home Economics, makes some suggestions along this line.

"In the first place, we can get along on a lot less sugar than we have been eating—and still have nutritious meals that taste good.

"For, as far as actual value is concerned—sugar is not an indispensable item in the diet for most of us. Sugar supplies food energy in an exceedingly palatable form. But as far as energy from food goes, any reduction in sugar can easily be taken care of by increasing quantities of other energy giving foods in the diet. There are many other inexpensive energy giving foods that supply, in addition, valuable vitamins and minerals. Whole grain cereals are one such food group. Starch vegetables and dried fruits are others.

Plans for diets that are nutritious, satisfying and palatable, worked out by the Bureau of Home Economics for years of normal sugar supplies have included 50 to 60 pounds of sweets a year. This figure, in addition to sugar, counts sirups and commercially prepared preserves.

Keep an eye open for out and out sugar wastes. One of the most obvious sugar wastes, of course, is the undissolved sugar in the bottom of a cup of coffee or tea. Other sugar wastes are over-sweetened foods, cake failures—or failures of any product that contains sugar.

Next, cut down on sugar in least noticeable ways. Experiment to see if the amount of sugar you've been putting on your breakfast cereal or in your coffee is just a matter of habit—whether you could be just as happy with a half a teaspoon or so less.

Try eating fewer rich desserts—fewer pastries and very sweet cakes. Fresh fruits are among the most nutritious and desirable of desserts and they carry their own sugar. Canned fruits also come in the class of not-too-rich desserts. Dried fruits are one of the best sources of natural sugar.

Finally, suggests Doctor Stanley, add variety and supplement the weekly white refined sugar with

other natural sweet foods. Available now are honey, cane sirups, molasses, sorghum, corn sirup and maple sirup. Molasses, cane sirups and sorghum contain a good deal of calcium and iron.

When honey is used merely to sweeten, it may be used instead of sugar, cup for cup. For it is of about equal sweetness. If you use honey in cakes or quick-breads, you have to make certain other allowances.

If you substitute medium thick honey for all sugar in a cake or quick-bread reduce the liquid in the recipe one-half. If you substitute medium thick honey for half the sugar in a cake or quick-bread—reduce the liquid in the recipe one-fourth. Bake all such cakes and quick-breads at a moderate temperature to prevent too rapid browning and to keep the good honey flavor.

Cakes made with much sirup are heavier than sugar cakes and they usually stay moist longer. Sirups are especially good in gingerbread and spice cakes.

Sirups, like honey, may be used merely for sweetening—on cereals, in puddings, sandwich fillings, sauces. It takes about 1½ cups of these sirups to equal 1 cup of sugar in sweetness.

Corn sirup is half as sweet as sugar. It also may be used as the only sweetening in many ways. When it is used in beverages, puddings, custards and sauces in the place of sugar—the other liquids in the recipe must be reduced by one-fourth.

Recent studies show corn sirup may be used in standard recipes for muffins, plain cake and drop cookies. The corn sirup may be substituted, measure for measure, for the sugar specified, and the liquid in the recipe reduced one-third. These products are less sweet than those made with sugar.

Corn sirup may also be used in candies, icings and mousses, but for these, special recipes are necessary.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Robison and Mr. and Mrs. Hazel Crowder and daughter, Jackie, of Morton came Sunday to attend the funeral of H. J. Garrison, uncle of Mrs. Crowder, who died Saturday night in Amarillo. They all returned home Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harris of Jovett moved to Wheeler the first of the week to Mrs. Linda Clay's property first door west of Mrs. C. H. Clay's home. Mr. Harris was quite ill last week, but will return to his work at the Panhandle Power & Light plant as soon as he is able.

The Beautiful Temple

By L. LOYD RICE

Jesus said, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man who built his house upon the rock, and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, and it fell not for it was founded upon a rock."

Any great building must have a solid foundation. It is not hard to find the foundation for building a Christian character, but it requires much time to erect the building itself. Peter, a great architect, has drawn the plans for the most magnificent temple that the mind of man has ever conceived. The plans are found in the first chapter of his second epistle general. Let us study them.

Peter seems to take it for granted that the builder, according to his plans, understands that faith permeates the entire structure. Faith is the framework—the ribs of steel anchored in solid concrete that defy the mightiest attacks of wind and storm. Faith is the tough skeleton that supports the main body of the building as it rises higher and higher above the treacherous quicksands infested by the agents of hell.

Filling in the framework is an active quality of power, virtue. The framework is hid, but everyone knows that it is there or the building would not stand. Virtue, a moral excellence, has covered it up and when the great inspector comes he finds no flaws in the excellent material that is now displayed.

So well has this second part of the building been put together that the inspector finds an abundance of evidence that the builder has studied the plans carefully, and has an unchallenged knowledge of what they call for.

In the quarry of temperance, self-control, great solid blocks of marble are being cut out by powerful machines and skilled workmen. The great master builder then patiently polishes these rough stones with Godliness until they shine as brilliantly as fresh fallen snow in the sunlight.

Inside, the building is decorated with paintings of the angels, and a picture of the beautiful city where there is no night. The draperies are of the richest velvet, bright mirrors are tastefully placed, and the carpets give one the feeling that he is walking on air, for brotherly kindness lives there.

Crowning the structure with glory,

honor and power is a wonderful dome inlaid with pure gold, and studded with sapphires, rubies and diamonds; that sparkle and shine like the stars of heaven, for this beautiful temple is crowned with the dome of love.

"And now abideth Faith, Hope, Love, these three; but the greatest of these is Love."

Movie Chatter

(By a Rogue)

Gracie Allen

Gracie Allen of the radio team of Burns and Allen is the main star in the picture Friday and Saturday at the Rogue Theatre. The title is Mr. and Mrs. North and it promises to bring a lot of comedy to those who see it. We believe that you will enjoy seeing something different from the usual western for just this one time. So remember the date is Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21.

It Started with Eve

Deanna Durbin and Charles Laughton are the stars of It Started with Eve, which comes to the Rogue Preview-Sunday-Monday. It has been some time since patrons of the Rogue have seen Miss Durbin on our screen and we are sure that you will welcome her in this, her newest picture. And remember that Charles Laughton really carries his part of the entertainment, to say nothing of Robert Cummings who furnishes the male side of the romantic scenes. All in all, you will find that the picture offers some very fine comedy and a good story.

Cadet Girl

For Bargain Nite, Feb. 24, you will have an opportunity to see a very new and timely picture, Cadet Girl. And as you might guess, this picture has to do with the boys in the armed services and more especially does it concern itself with those incidents revolving around one Cadet Girl as played by Carol Landis. Then, too, the new star, George Montgomery, adds a brilliant performance to the story.

One Foot in Heaven

Rarely, if ever, do we mention a picture in connection with the ministry of the churches. And never do we of the picture show industry ask for the endorsement of the churches for any picture. But in the case of One Foot in Heaven we have a very fine picture that not only do the churches recommend but one that they had a part in directing and making. This picture, starring Frederic March and Martha Scott, is the story of the typical average small town pastor and his family.

It is acclaimed, not only by the ministry, but by everyone alike, as one of the best pictures to come to the great American screen. We, therefore, offer it to the public Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 25-26, as a picture carrying our personal guarantee and urge that you see it. And this recommendation, on our part, is from the standpoint of the actual good you will receive therefrom. Do

not miss it. Ask anyone who has seen it.

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Lucky Lady

Lucky indeed is the lady who can organize her work at home so that she has free hours—precious hours—to devote to the nation's war effort . . . Red Cross, civilian defense and the multitude of other activities so important to America's victory.

It isn't easy to find these extra hours in the crowded, busy days of homemaking. Dependable Natural Gas Service is helping our brave ladies in their work for our country. It has lightened the burden of home duties, providing precious extra freedom so important in these days of emergency.

Natural Gas has provided also valuable fuel for industry, creating greater payrolls for Gulf South citizens. Now Natural Gas takes on new responsibilities, serving in WAR as efficiently as it does in peace. All of us in the Gulf South appreciate fully the need for unified action in this great crisis to assure VICTORY!



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for the Gulf South

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