

WSM, JUNE 29, 1947

Good Morning, Friends:

After passage of the Taft-Hartley labor control bill over the President's veto and it ^{thereby} became the law of the land, President Truman was the object of ^{political} many rumors and even attacks to the effect that he ^{would} ~~had~~ not undertaken to administer ^{the law} ~~it~~ in a way ^{to} ~~that it~~ would make it work. After these political rumors had gained momentum, the National Labor Relations Board ^{members} ~~members~~ announced that they would undertake to administer the law as best they could. This, however, still did not set the rumors to rest, so finally President Truman issued a statement in which he pledged to give the new labor law the fairest and most efficient administration that lies within his power. The President, in my opinion, acted wisely in issuing this statement.

Oil is repeatedly and frequently mentioned in relation to problems ~~in~~ international ~~political~~ politics and peace. A few days ago a broadcast was made in Russia in which a Russian spokesman said that the American program for Greece and Turkey and the Near East smelled of oil. Just how important oil is to us in the future was pointed up during the week by the United States Navy which put Congress on notice that

Congressional republican leaders are mulling over the possible political effects of again trying to pass the Knutson tax reduction bill, ~~and~~

In this, as in other questions before Washington, politics is playing a large part.

The fiscal year comes to an end tomorrow. Customarily, the twelve regular appropriation bills making possible the continued operation of the government are all passed before the fiscal year ends. After tomorrow, the Departments of Government will have no authority to pay their employees unless Congress takes some action, because only one of the twelve regular appropriation bills has passed. The democrats are undertaking to make much of this, saying that it indicates the inefficiency and confusion of the republican party; and the republicans are saying that nothing of the sort is true, that quite on the contrary, it indicates that for the first time in many years the appropriation bills are receiving the careful deliberation to which they are entitled. And so the political argument goes but actually no serious damage will be done by the delay. Congress can and I am sure will pass a simple resolution authorizing the Departments to carry on their approved functions upon reliance of eventual passage of appropriation bills.

with informed opinion in America, notably with Herbert Hoover's recent advice that a peace settlement with Japan be begun at the earliest possible moment, even though the Soviet Union prove recalcitrant.

Nevertheless, the resumption of Japanese foreign trade on a private basis is noteworthy, taken in conjunction with other steps toward its economic rehabilitation. Furthermore, it all stands in melancholy contrast with the situation in Germany. Yet something similar might be occurring in Germany today if the economic policy laid down under the Potsdam Agreement of two years ago, that of treating Germany as an economic unit, had been honored and implemented. The nullification of that policy and its dire consequences are made even clearer by what goes on in Japan.

Sweet News for Housewives

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's announcement ending sugar rationing for homes, restaurants and hotels is pleasant news, although it should occasion no great surprise to those who have been watching the steadily improving sugar supply situation. In fact, Mr. Anderson had told a congressional committee several weeks ago that sugar might be taken off the restricted list before the end of June, if not earlier.

Although Congress was rushing action on a bill to abolish sugar controls through legislative decree, the administration won the race to break the welcome word to impatient housewives and institutional users of the once scarce commodity. But Mr. Anderson contends the race development was just a coincidence. Actually, the Secretary's announcement came close on the heels of the disclosure that the International Emergency Food Control Council has allocated to this country an extra 350,000 tons of sugar from the world pool. That allocation insures the United States of 7,150,000 tons of sugar for this year, which is nearly 500,000 tons more than our prewar yearly sugar consumption.

The war thus is over insofar as ration books are concerned. Sugar being the last of the many items of food and other necessities which were doled out on a coupon basis during the war, ration books now are relegated to the category of museum curiosities. Good riddance, now that they are no longer needed—but without them America would have been in a bad way during the height of wartime shortages.

Federal control of industrial sugar will remain in effect for the time being, however. That is a wise precaution against inordinate raiding of grocery stocks by large commercial consumers. Once the general situation has become stabilized, the final elimination of emergency sugar controls can be accomplished without seriously affecting the sugar supply for home use.

This and That

By Charles E. T...

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