

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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READY RECKONING.

In the age groups from 18 to 38, one can roughly figure that there are a million men in each age bracket. Since it includes a 20 year period, that means 20 million men. By the law of averages, figure that a little less than one third are physically disqualified. That means 6 millions. It leaves 14 million available. If the armed services reach their objective of 10,700,000 for Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard Service, it means that 10 out of every 14 able bodied men between 18 and 38 will be called for duty. The effect of this course upon our civilian economy is such that Congress is taking a careful look at the size of the army to see what can be done about preserving business and agriculture.

DOGS FOR DEFENCE.

Do you have a dog? Do you have one of these friendly little pooches who bites you ever so gently and who jumps up on you when you come home from work? Do you have one of these vivacious little purps who is the joy and delight of the family and who is worth his weight in gold as a companion and friend? Surely, it makes you ponder on the recent press release from the Office of War Information that dogs are now in action on several fronts to attack, guard, carry messages and do other military chores. The release also states that many of these dogs trained for war are household pets and will be returned to the owner when the war is over. We got to wondering whether they'll still be pets. War is a grim business. Even man's best friend--the dog--must be trained to do his part.

WILL ANYTHING BE SIMPLE AGAIN

In the week from January 31 to February 6, 1943, five war agencies issued 221 press releases on matters within their jurisdiction. There were 37 from the Office of War Information, 90 from the War Production Board, 9 from the War Manpower Commission, 9 from the Office of Defense Transportation and 66 from the Office of Price Information. From OWI came such releases as Questions and Answers on Filling Station Hours and Dates With Your Government. From WPB came releases like Jewelers May Now Apply For Copper or Frozen Musical Instruments Halved. From War Manpower Commission comes releases titled Synthetic Rubber Manpower Plans Developed or Charlotte Carr Joins War Manpower Commission. From ODT comes New Farm Transportation Plans and War Wagon Trailer Tested. From OPA comes New Ceiling Set On Feathers and Indian Handicrafts Exempted From Price Control. Think of 221 releases from only 5 agencies in a single week. Will things ever be simple again?

MR. HENDERSON SERVES A PURPOSE.

Leon Henderson, one-time Price Czar and now a member of the Ex-Society (meaning an ex-official) was not popular with a substantial group of our citizenry but he has served a most useful purpose. In fact he may have unwittingly made a substantial contribution to balanced government. By prescribing rules and regulations on prices and rationing and by statements which were at times not too courteous in sound, he incensed many people. Their indignation was reflected in Congress. Senators and Congressmen were incensed. Their indignation was not appeased. Their indignation was not appeased when Mr. Henderson departed from government service. They quietly determined that an investigation should be made to see whether a government bureau could exceed its powers, infringe the rights of the people, and punish people without an impartial trial. Having so determined, a resolution was introduced and enacted to investigate the rules, regulations, forms, orders, directives and procedures of all agencies of government. That investigation is now under way. Out of it will no doubt come a proposal to create a committee of Congress to pass on such regulations, rules, forms and orders before they become applicable to the public. If this is done, it will be the greatest single forward step in a generation in curbing abuses and excesses in government. Thus did Mr. Henderson furnish the moving reason for Congressional action and better supervision of the operations of the executive agencies of government. What was it Mr. Shakespeare said about sermons in stones, books in brooks and good in everything?