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THE POISON PEN.

If there is anything more contemptible and despicable than the anonymous poison pen letter which brings grief, sorrow, suspicion and hate in its wake, we know not what it is. Oddly enough, international conflict and the shadow of war stimulates the flow of such letters. Just now, these letters keep a considerable number of FBI agents busy. The Bureau investigates every one of them. In the government agencies, many persons are anonymously charged with being Communists or with being disloyal. The thing has reached the proportions of a fad and hundreds of persons in the FBI and in the various government departments are now engaged in investigating their fellow employees on the basis of an anonymous tip. It is but a shadow of the hysteria which prevailed in the days of the World War.

ONE WAY TRAFFIC.

Have you ever fumed while driving a motorcar in a large city only to find that every other street seemed to be a one way street? Or, did you ever live on a street on which the authorities cut down the trees and tore up the pavement to widen the street so it could accommodate more traffic? Believe it or not but that same basic problem will be in our laps one of these fine days as we begin to wrestle with the problem of crowded skyways and inadequate landing fields. Sounds a bit impossible don't it? But the problem is in fact already here and Congress, Army, Navy, and the Civil Aeronautics Administrator is already dealing with it. It will be an age old problem. Once upon a time, the oceans, seas and lakes seemed limitless. Ships were few and travelled slowly. Then came steam and diesel power. Then came more and faster vessels and soon there grew up a multitude of laws and regulations covering water traffic and use of harbors. Once, our highways seemed adequate enough for Old Dobbin and any kind of a vehicle he might pull. Then came high-speed autos and surfaced highways. Then came parking limits, No Parking signs, one-way streets, parking garages, parking meters, divided highways, and what not. The same problems now spring up as the skyways and sky harbors become congested as a result of the amazing expansion of commerce in the skies.

OPACS.

Suppose you were suddenly given complete authority to control prices of all kinds of goods and commodities during the present emergency period? What would you do? After a little study, your reflections would run something like this: To keep prices down requires among other things that cost of production be kept at reasonable levels and that means that the cost of raw materials and the manufacturing cost be kept in line. The other important factor would be to keep supply and demand of all kinds of goods in balance. To keep demand from expanding too much, heavy taxes might be imposed to decrease the purchasing power of the public. Taxes serve to drain away excess purchasing power. Then too, one might put the government in the market as a big purchaser whenever necessary. The supply of goods might be regulated in a number of ways. Tariff duties might be reduced to increase the flow of foreign goods into the country. Some factories might be subsidized to stimulate greater production. Rationing of supplies to certain industries and the creation of definite priorities might be imposed. It will be a tremendous job with so many regulatory powers available, it could possibly be done. Well, this is what OPACS will do and OPACS by the way is the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, so recently created by Executive Order of the President and placed under the direction of Mr. Leon Henderson. It may well become one of the most powerful economic agencies in the government.

SKY ZONING.

On the eastern and western seaboard and all thro the south, one finds a multitude of sky activities. First one finds the regularly scheduled flights of the civil air lines which fly nearly 3,000,000 passengers per year. Then comes the Army and Navy with it's training and practice activities. Then comes the thousands of planes and pilots now engaged in civilian pilot training. When 500 or 1000 planes are in the air at one time, how shall they be safely brought down and who shall come down first. There must be a timetable. There must be a zoning of different altitudes. There must be traffic cops. There must be sky lanes. So the sky must now be zoned. It is both a defense and a civil problem. But here's another problem which is now rising up to haunt municipal airports. In a number of cases, cities have made heavy investments in airport facilities only to find that a smokestack, a tower or some other obstruction has been or is being built a short distance from the airport. This impairs safety because planes glide into airports at high speed with a 30 to 1 angle of glide. If this area around an airport has not been zones to prevent such obstructions, and the airport happens to lie outside the city limits, a city is powerless to prevent it. To remove such an obstruction therefore becomes a real problem because it is costly and involves the conflicting jurisdiction of cities, counties, states and the Federal government. To cure it will be like the problem of widening an existing street to diminish traffic hazards