

I N F O R M A T I O N D I G E S T

CONTROLLING THE COST OF LIVING

Maximum Prices and Rents

The OPA issued Maximum Price Regulation No. 225 which lists 175 PRINTED PRODUCTS, and places a ceiling on their sales as well as on printing SERVICES used in producing them. At the same time, in two amendments to the General Regulation, OPA exempted from price control sales of products like books and magazines, whose price depends upon their editorial content or ideas or information expressed therein. The new order provides publishers and printers who are producing the articles with new pricing provisions which are better adapted to the practices of the industry than the General Regulation. The retailers and wholesalers reselling the listed commodities will repeat the pricing and record keeping provisions of the General Regulation in order that they may continue to follow the same practices. The order thereby simplifies the pricing problems of the many retailers who operate printing establishments in conjunction with their stationery business.

The articles and services covered by Regulation No. 225 are exempt from all price control when sold by printers whose total gross sales in 1941 of printing and printed paper products were \$20,000 or less. Price ceilings for printers subject to the regulation must be determined by the highest price charged for the same or similar commodity or service which the printer sold in March 1942. For all others who resell products listed under the regulation, ceilings are also established by reference to the same or similar commodity which the seller sold last March. The regulation covers such articles as greeting cards, loose-leaf binders and fillers, tablets, pads and composition books, and also the related services in connection with the production of these articles.

The regulation covers about 25 percent of the industry's \$2,500,-000,000 volume of business. However, approximately 60 percent of the industry — that part which engages in the production of books, magazines, periodicals and newspapers — is exempt from price control under the Price Control Act. OPA said the elimination of the products of the smaller printers exempted by the action would not weaken overall price control. In 1941 there were approximately 27,000 printing concerns with a volume under \$20,000, and they accounted for less than 7 percent of the industry's business.

Engravers of PRINT ROLLERS for textile printing may charge no more for their services than their highest charges for the same or similar services rendered during March 1942, OPA said. Any increase in charges above March levels constitutes a violation of prescribed ceilings and violators are subject to the penalty provisions of the General Regulation.

The OPA announced the upward adjustment of the maximum selling price for SILVER SALTS, stocks of IMPORTED SILVER BULLION, SILVER SCRAP, and

FABRICATED SILVER, to compensate for the recent increase in the price of silver to 45 cents per troy ounce. The new ceiling is retroactive to August 31, when the U. S. and Mexico reached an agreement on an import price constituting the same as the new ceiling.

Cotton oil mills were authorized to establish maximum prices for sales of COTTON BALE BAGGING to cotton ginneries by adding the customary markup of five cents per pattern with ties and four cents per pattern without ties to specific replacement costs and freight charges. The action will have no effect on prices paid by the cotton farmer and does not apply to resales of cotton ties alone.

Stabilization of Farm Prices

Agriculture Secretary Wickard outlined a six-point program to help alleviate the farm labor shortage by: retaining on farms as many as possible of the experienced managers who understand year-round farm operations; transporting workers to farms; training great numbers of inexperienced workers in fundamentals of agriculture; using large numbers of women and young people on the farms; recruiting for industry more in the cities and less on the farms; utilizing more fully the under-employed on farms by making it possible for them to increase their production to the extent of using their labor full time.

Mr. Wickard said his proposals represented "no panacea" for the farm labor problem. "At best," he said, "they can only alleviate what is certain to be a very difficult situation.... It is not simply a question affecting agriculture; it is a question which affects the entire war effort.... The very abundance of our production this year is lulling some people into a feeling of false security. It is because this danger exists that I feel so strongly that our 1943 requirements must be carefully planned now." He estimated agriculture would lose 1,000,000 workers between July 1, 1942, and July 1, 1943, if an 8,000,000-man army is mobilized by the latter date.

Rationing

Maps were issued by OPA to show how the fuel rationing area will be divided into four zones to adjust the rationing to climate conditions. Sub-zones will be established within the major zones to allow for local temperature variations, the Office said.

The War Front

Allied fighter and medium bomber planes made four severe attacks along the entire 60-mile stretch between Buna and Kokoda, damaging enemy shipping, buildings, gun batteries, ammunition dumps and supply lines, Gen. MacArthur's Australian headquarters stated. In two of the raids fighter planes swept along the trail between Buna and Kokoda, on the northern slopes of the Owen Stanley Mountains, severely damaging the most important bridge on the trail at Wairopi Village, 16 miles from Kokoda, setting fire to a big warehouse and many huts, blowing up ammunition dumps, and setting fire to three motor launches and a barge at Buna. There were no intercepting Japanese planes.

American bombing planes attacked Benghazi Harbor at dusk on September 22, scoring direct hits on two Axis ships, U. S. Army Air Forces headquarters reported today from Cairo. One vessel blew up, the second was set afire, and bombs also fell near additional ships in the harbor. All of the planes returned safely, the report said.

A medium-sized U. S. merchantman was torpedoed and sunk by an Axis submarine about the middle of August in the Atlantic, several hundred miles off the northern coast of South America, the Navy announced. Survivors have been landed at an east coast port. The Department also reported a medium-sized United Nations merchant vessel was torpedoed and sunk in the Caribbean late in August, and survivors have been landed at an east coast port.

Relations with Fighting French

The Navy announced the Fighting French will train a detachment of their naval fliers at schools and bases in this country. Later a French unit using planes furnished by the U. S. will be formed to operate with United Nations naval air forces. "This agreement furnishes an additional example of the intimate collaboration between the American and Fighting French armed services, which further shows their resolve to unite closely their efforts in the conflict against common enemies," the Navy said.

Army Officer Training

Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Green, Commanding General of the Antiaircraft Command, issued a call for 3-A men up to and including the age of 44 to volunteer for Antiaircraft officer training. A nationwide quota of 500 Volunteer Officer Candidates per month for the Antiaircraft School at Camp Davis, N. C., has been set. Men who have completed trigonometry and algebra in high school have the mathematical training to qualify, Gen. Green said. Qualified men, after a course of basic training, will take a 12 weeks' course leading to a second lieutenant's commission, and if they fail they may return to a civilian status. Prospective applicants can obtain particulars from their local draft boards.

War Business Information

Businessmen who wish to obtain information from the WPB should go to one of the 12 regional or 127 field offices established throughout the country before coming to Washington, the WPB said. The offices, the Board stated, were set up "in order to save businessmen the trouble of coming to Washington, and also to prevent an overload of work in Washington." Furthermore, the businessmen can usually get quicker action in the field, the Board said.

Priorities and Allocations

The WPB's CHEMICAL FERTILIZER order was amended to permit the Army, Navy or Coast Guard to have unlimited use of nitrogen-bearing fertilizer for use on new plantings of grass on airfields.

Scrap Salvage

Public Buildings Commissioner Reynolds reported 4,680,878 pounds of scrap have been collected in Federal buildings throughout the nation. In Washington, he said, the removal of the old Dominion Railway Company's abandoned trolley tracks yielded almost 22 tons of scrap steel. The drive to collect this scrap throughout the country is continuing, he stated.

Housing Funds

The Senate passed and sent to the House a bill authorizing an additional \$600,000,000 for defense housing.

Communications

American troops in Alaska are going to receive at least eight hours of radio news and special programs beginning about October 1, OWI announced. Shows taken from the three major radio networks also will be transmitted. All programs will be piped from San Francisco for rebroadcast to four Alaskan stations located at Fairbanks (KFAR), Juneau (KINY), Ketchikan (KTKN) and Anchorage (KFQD). As equipment becomes available, the OWI will work with the Army Signal Corps to install low-powered transmitters at Nome, Dutch Harbor and Kodiak.

The State Department issued a series of regulations controlling international telephone calls to private parties in 13 nations -- Egypt, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Iran, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey -- through which information might be forwarded to Axis enemies.

Federal Courts

The Senate passed and sent to the House a bill authorizing the Chief Justice of the United States to assign circuit judges to temporary duty in circuits other than their own to speed up court business.

Labor Disputes

Secretary of Labor Perkins certified to the War Labor Board the following disputes: Baltimore Transit Co., Baltimore, Md.; Marcel-Schebler Carburetor Co., Chicago, Ill.; Harbison-Walker Refractories Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.; General Steel Castings Corp., Granite City, Ill.; and Twentieth Century Brass Works, Minneapolis, Minn. The U. S. Conciliation Service reported settlement of the dispute of Great Lakes Stamping Co., Toledo, Ohio.

Appointments

COL. CHARLES R. BAXTER of the Army Ordnance Department, formerly Works Manager of the Kendall Co., Boston, has been appointed CHIEF of the newly created Materials Redistribution Branch of the WPB. The Branch, taking over the functions and personnel of the WPB Inventory and Requisitioning Branch, will be responsible for movement to war industries of idle and excess stocks of strategic materials.