

WRITER'S WAR BOARD

000380

WRITERS' WAR BOARD

122 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Telephone, Murray Hill 3-6800

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THORNTON WILDER

July 24, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
War Refugee Board
253 Broadway - Room 801
New York City

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I am sending you herewith a copy of the letter the Board has just received from David Woodbury concluding his research into doing an article such as you asked the Board to assign, on the contribution of refugee scientists to the war.

It looks as though the Board will have to drop this angle, but I feel sure that as new problems develop on which you feel we might be helpful, we will be only too glad to cooperate whenever possible.

Cordially,

Frederica Barach

Frederica Barach,
Executive Secretary.

FB/gb

Enc. - cpy. ltr. 7-15-44

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C O P Y

/ COLLIER'S
The Crowell-Collier Publishing Co.
250 Park Ave.
New York 17 N. Y.

Shore Road,
Ogunquit, Maine.
July 15, 1944.

Mrs. Frederica Barach,
Writers' War Board
122 E. 42nd Street
New York City

Dear Mrs. Barach:

My research into the question of doing the piece you suggested on refugee scientists has finally ended with a letter to me from Dr. Vannevar Bush in Washington. I had written him setting forth the suggestion for writing such an article and asking his honest opinion and he has replied to my letter advising me strongly not to undertake such an assignment. He believes that to write anything just now that would tend to encourage more young foreign scientists to come to this country would add to a situation already seriously confused. He does not believe that a good case can be made out for the contributions of foreign scientists lately arrived here.

Dr. Bush, as you may know, is probably the foremost administrative scientific man in the U.S. today. As head of the OSRD and the Carnegie Institution his word is pretty final. And as a good friend of mine I cherish his opinion and his judgment too highly to go against them.

I hope you will believe me that I have given this a lot of careful thought and that I am declining the assignment for reasons that seem to be of great importance to American science in general. I shall of course be happy to undertake any other assignment in my field that seems to be in the public interest.

Cordially,

/s/ DAVID O. WOODBURY

DOW:S

C O P Y

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General Correspondence, Writers War Board

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MARGARET WIDDEMER
THORNTON WILDER

June 10, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
Executive office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a letter we have just received from David Woodbury in response to the request that he tackle that article on the contributions of refugee scientists to the war.

The Board will do nothing further until it hears from Mr. Woodbury again, as he would be the ideal man to write the piece. Is there data which you could get for us that we could send to Mr. Woodbury which might help him to a favorable decision? I believe the Board would be inclined to take his recommendations on the advisability of the article, so if you could round up any evidence on your side, it might be worth while.

Let us know if there is anything else we can do.

Cordially,

Frederica Barach

Frederica Barach
Liaison Officer
Office of War Information.

FB:EMB

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COLLIER'S
THE CROWELL-COLLIER PUBLISHING COMPANY
250 Park Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

9 Fieldcourt
Bronxville 8, N.Y.
June 7, 1944

Mrs. Frederica Barach
Executive Secretary
Writers' War Board
122 E. 42nd St.
New York.

Dear Mrs. Barach:

It is difficult for me to accept the assignment you suggest without first giving it very careful consideration. At the moment I am not very familiar with the figures on the number or achievements of the foreign scientists who have come here in the past five years. Nor do I know whether any of my magazine contacts would be interested in such an article, even if it proved to make a good story. My immediate reaction is that, aside from a very few internationally known research men, who are always thoroughly welcome, American laboratories are rather uneasy about the large number of refugee scientists coming here. The case of Fritz Hansgirg, who involved Henry Kaiser in serious difficulties with the FBI (in connection with his magnesium venture), and eventually in still worse difficulties with faulty engineering, illustrates one situation which generates much reluctance toward accepting refugee services. How general this reluctance may be I have no idea, and would have to find out by careful inquiry among the laboratories. I know that the optical firms of the country are engaged in a specific campaign to destroy the idea that German craftsmanship and German research are tops in that field. It is pretty certain that this group does not particularly welcome the refugee scientist.

You rather put me on the spot in this, for I feel very strongly that we should think first of what will help post-war America most. While it is undoubtedly an aid to these unfortunate expatriates to bring them here now, I am far from sure that it will be an advantage, either to them or to us, to have them later. There is a very general feeling among technical people that the much vaunted German scientist has been greatly over-rated, while great talent in these lines is being exhibited by our own native stock, and should be exploited to the limit before time and money is spent on outsiders.

I urge you and the War Board not to think me bigoted in this. Quite to the contrary, I am anxious to be liberal and to act in the way that will most help American engineering in the future. Thus, before making any sort of commitment to do

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the article, I must first enquire to see whether our own people feel that such an article would be in the national interest. If they do feel, so, then I shall be glad to do it.

Perhaps this is not a definite enough answer for your purpose. If not, I hope you will look for somebody else to do the work--somebody who is himself of the refugee class. In the meanwhile I will talk to various people and try to line up the facts of the matter.

I am always glad to undertake War Board work and would not hesitate if the question were not such a difficult one from the standpoint of public interest. Let me write you again when I have had time to inform myself in the matter. Is it possible that the Refugee Board would have a list of men and women scientists and their places of employment? Such a list would help immensely in tracking down the data.

Sincerely,

David O. Woodbury

DOW:S

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June 2, 1944

Dear Miss Barach:

We have received copies of the Writers' War Board Report for June 1, and your editorial mailing to local newspapers. CAN WE RENDER A HUMAN LIFE THE SAME COURTESY WE GIVE A CASE OF SCOTCH? is a swell piece. Thanks very much for your support.

Sincerely yours,

I. M. Weinstein
Special Assistant to
the Executive Director

Miss Frederica Barach,
Executive Secretary,
Writers' War Board,
122 East 42nd Street,
New York, 17, New York.

IMWeinstein/sg 6/2/44

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Executive Secretary

WRITERS' WAR BOARD

122 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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May 31, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

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THORNTON WILDER

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

I am sending you herewith three
copies of the Writers' War Board Report for
June 1 containing the paragraph about which
I have already spoken to you. Also three
copies of the editorial mailing to 1,600
local newspapers, containing your paragraph
under the title "Halo Polish."

Sincerely,

Frederica Barach
Frederica Barach

FB:hr.

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WRITERS' WAR BOARD REPORT

To Writers: Use the information in the Report in any way you think will help the war. That's what it is for.

Rex Stout, Chairman, Franklin P. Adams, Pearl S. Buck, Carl Carmer, Robert T. Colwell, Russel Crouse, Clifton Fadiman, Paul Gallico, Jack Goodman, Samuel Grafton, Oscar Hammerstein, II, Rita Halle Kleeman, Robert J. Landry, Margaret Leach, John P. Marquand, Katharine Seymour, William L. Shirer, Luise Sillicox. Frederica Barach, Executive secretary

No. 14
June 1, 1944

122 East 42nd Street
New York 17, N. Y.

CAN WE RENDER A HUMAN LIFE THE SAME COURTESY WE GIVE A CASE OF SCOTCH? Most people are good-hearted. But too few of them know what to do about it. Most people deplore the fact that millions of victims of Nazi intolerance are awaiting death in Europe only because most people can't seem to think of a way of saving them. We can't bring them in here, these people say, because our immigration laws and quota system doesn't permit it.

Did you ever hear of a free port? There are many of them around the world and some of them right here in the United States. A free port is a warehouse area near a harbor where importers can bring goods and where they can store those goods in bond without paying duty on them, without committing themselves to keep the goods. The goods remain in these free ports until the importer has sold them and is ready to send them into the country; and only at that time does he pay duty. Why not free ports for refugees? Let it be understood that these people are here temporarily until such time as they can be returned to their freed homelands. It doesn't seem much for us to do. It's merely giving a place where an exhausted enemy of Germany can rest, can eat again, can give birth to a child. As we say, it isn't much for us, but it can mean the difference between heaven and hell to thousands upon thousands of the most desperately endangered human beings in all the world. How about supporting this move with a letter to your local paper, a speech to an important local group?

* * *

COMING -- INFANTRY DAY: The Army has asked the Board to do what it can to make the general public aware of what the under-appreciated little guy with the gun, the ordinary Infantry man, is doing to help win the war. To assist in this work a committee is active, consisting of James Putnam (Chairman), Major George Fielding Eliot, Luise Sillicox, and Clifton Fadiman. Among the projects in work are plans for a nation-wide celebration of Infantry Day. On June 15, 1775, George Washington took over command of the Continental Army. That's when the Infantry started. This June 15 the Army hopes to schedule parades and other hoopla. Anything you can do to arouse interest in Infantry Day will be all to the mustard.

* * *

GERMAN IMPORT: From first to last race hatred has been a standard weapon, an export item of Germany. Now that Germany is cornered and desperately seeking an avenue of escape from the consequences of defeat, German confidence in the political potency of race hatred expresses itself in new flare-ups in other countries. The Germans, and their native American fascist admirers, are stirring up any and every kind of race hatred in the United States for the deliberate purpose of fostering a political and intellectual climate in which a confused and disgusted American people might countenance a soft peace for Germany.

But this is the point - we cannot, as writers, limit the blame for race hatred to enemy influences. It is not so simple. Race hatred is rooted in the native soil and the cheap labor racket of America. It is commonly excused, and even people with active consciences are drugged into insensitivity by the perpetuation of the myth that this is a white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant country and that Negroes, Mexicans, Jews, Catholics and "Hunkies" are, and of a right should be, considered inferior. Writers play a considerable part in furthering the "old stock" swindle in picking out only Anglo-Saxon names for their attractive characters and marrying them only in Protestant churches and giving them only inferiority-emphasizing relationships to menial Negroes, ignorant working class Catholics, shyster or comic Jews, slovenly if picturesque Mexicans, and so on.

In short, the time seems to have arrived for writers to stop shaking their heads about other peoples' race bigotry and examine their own very considerable contribution to it through the constant influence of magazine, book, screen and radio plus the snobbish inferences of advertising copy.

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ORIENTATION MARCHES ON: From time to time we have explained the manner in which requests for speakers to appear at Army camps and Army hospitals are being filled. This will bring you up-to-date; We are now supplying a speaker every week to Halloran Hospital, Staten Island; two speakers every month to England Hospital, Atlantic City; two speakers every month to the Army Air Forces Re-Distribution Center, also in Atlantic City. One speaker every month is being flown by Army Transport plane on a complete tour of fifteen Army Transport Corps bases in America. In addition, about ten requests a month for individual speakers at individual camps and bases are being filled. Who are these speakers? Well, they include Quentin Reynolds, John Roy Carlson, Clifton Fadiman, Robert Bellaire, Henry Fringle, William Agar, John Gunther, Carl Van Doren, George Fielding Eliot, Leland Stowe, and many others. What do they talk about? The war correspondents among them tell of war as they saw it and describe the nature of the enemy as they learned it. Others speak about our postwar plans, domestic fascism and the methods of its cure.

* * *

THREE-QUARTERS OF AN ANNIVERSARY: A member of the Editorial Committee of TRANSATLANTIC flew in from London the other day bearing with him -- the ink hardly dry on its pages -- the ninth (May) issue of this unusual periodical. TRANSATLANTIC is a monthly magazine, edited by Geoffrey Crowther in London and by a Writers' War Board Committee in New York. The Committee, working on a completely voluntary basis, has been largely responsible for making TRANSATLANTIC, in the course of three-quarters of a year, a valued British institution. The material, dealing entirely with the United States, is written almost completely by Americans, and read only in England. Gradually, issue by issue, a true and realistic picture of our country is being built up in the minds of thousands of Britishers; and we believe this to be a valid contribution to the war and the peace. Among recent contributors are: Edna Ferber, Vardis Fisher, Paul Gallico, John P. Marquand, Janet Flanner, James Thurber, Vincent McHugh, Henry Fringle, Fletcher Pratt and Christopher LaFarge.

* * *

SHORT AND SOUR: It may be that some of you have received a copy of the editorial in Common Sense for May. Here is the Board's reply to the editor:

"We have read the editorial "The Shame of American Writers" in Common Sense.

"The editorial is largely based on falsehood and such truth as it does contain has been distorted to emerge as falsehood.

"One point which should be made clear for the record: Rex Stout, our chairman, makes public his personal views on his personal stationery. He never speaks for the Board except with the prior knowledge and democratic consent of its members by formal vote.

"This letter is signed by all members of the Board present at their regular weekly meeting of May 17th." (Signed) Franklin P. Adams, Russel Crouse, Rex Stout, Rita Halle Kleeman, Carl Carmer, Hobe Morrison, Alan Green, Robert Colwell, Robert J. Landry, Luise M. Sillcox, Clifton Fadiman, Margaret Leech, Jack Goodman, Paul Gallico, Christopher LaFarge.

* * *

MOVIES

Movies can drop bombs, too, on our ignorance, our indifference, on our shortsightedness. Herewith, as rated by the WRITERS' WAR BOARD, the bomb-load of recent movies dealing with subjects related to the war. The maximum load is five bombs.

BOMBS

☹☹☹☹ "THE HITLER GANG" (Paramount). Factual history of Hitler and his satellites from November 3, 1918 to 1933. Told straight, well acted and well produced. Also rates four duds for its dangerous failure to make clear that Hitler and his gang are not our only enemies, and that the overthrow of Hitler does not necessarily mean the end of our troubles.

☹☹ "ADDRESS UNKNOWN" (Columbia). Well-intentioned, but only moderately effective version of the original story about Nazi terrorism.

☹☹ "ONE INCH FROM VICTORY" (Russian). Grimly graphic, but not too effectively assembled newsreels of the German invasion of Russia.

* * *

AROUND THE CRACKER-BARREL: Well, boys, they're starting early. The report has reached this country that the Nazis have already formed a new organization, the Black Party, to take up the cause of National Socialism after the war. Reports like this are accumulating. Apparently they no more intend to give up after this war than they did after the last war. What do we do about it?

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REX STOUT, *Chairman*
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WRITERS' WAR BOARD

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May 26, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
Executive office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Thanks for your letter of May 18th. The paragraph will be run as one of the suggested editorials sent by the Board to 1,600 local papers each month, as it seemed eminently suited to this purpose. The attached will be used as the lead article in the Writers' War Board Report for June First, which goes out to the Board's entire list of writers all over the country, who have been trained to use this as their assignment sheet. Six copies of the finished report will be sent you when available.

Concerning the magazine article which you discussed originally with the Board, and later with me over the phone, the Board does not believe that this can be divided in two, but will do its best to interest a writer in an over-all piece showing the contribution of European scientists and others to our war society. A letter is going to Waldemar Kaempffert very shortly.

Most sincerely,

Frederica Barach

Frederica Barach
Executive Secretary.

FB:hr.

Enc: "Can We Render A Human Life the
Same Courtesy We Give A Case of Scotch?"

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CAN WE RENDER A HUMAN LIFE THE SAME COURTESY WE GIVE A CASE OF SCOTCH? Most people are good-hearted. But too few of them know what to do about it. Most people deplore the fact that millions of victims of Nazi intolerance are awaiting death in Europe only because most people can't seem to think of a way of saving them. We can't bring them in here, these people say, because our immigration laws and quota system doesn't permit it. (Recently a plan has been proposed which would permit our offering them haven, without in any sense bringing them into this country or making them a part of its population.)

Did you ever hear of a free port? There are many of them around the world and some of them right here in the United States. A free port is a warehouse area near a harbor where importers can bring goods and where they can store those goods in bond without paying duty on them, without committing themselves to keep the goods. The goods remain in these free ports until the importer has sold them and is ready to send them into the country; and only at that time does he pay a duty. Why not free ports for refugees? Let it be understood that these people are here temporarily until such time as they can be returned to their freed homelands. It doesn't seem much for us to do. It's merely giving a place where an exhausted enemy of Germany can rest, can eat again, can give birth to a child. As we say, it isn't much for us, but it can mean the difference between heaven and hell to thousands upon thousands of the most desperately endangered human beings in all the world. How about supporting this move with a letter to your local paper, a speech to an important local group?

WRITER'S WAR BOARD
122 E. 42nd ST., N. Y. 17, N. Y.

000391

May 18, 1944.

Miss Frederica Barach,
Executive Secretary,
Writers' War Board,
122 East 42nd Street,
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Miss Barach:

In connection with our long range plan to explain the contributions European refugees have made since their arrival in this country, ~~there~~ seems to me that there are two possible magazine articles. One piece showing the contribution European scientists and technologists have made to our war effort and, second, an article for a women's magazine explaining what refugee women artists, musicians, writers, etc., have contributed to American culture.

You asked for a paragraph on free ports to be used in your monthly bulletin. I hope the following is satisfactory.

In establishing the War Refugee Board, January 22, 1944, the President of the United States announced to the world that the fate of the European Jews and other minorities facing death at the hands of Hitler's extermination squads is an official concern of our Government. The President charged the War Refugee Board with two duties, (1) to rescue those persons in imminent danger of death, and (2) to find suitable havens for them in neutral and allied countries. The various nations have cooperated with the War Refugee Board in its efforts to accomplish the first task. From the start they have looked to the Government of the United States to set an example for the rest of the civilized world by erecting havens of refuge in this country. Only through the establishment of such havens within our own borders can the United States Government continue to claim the

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Miss Frederica Barach

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May 18, 1944.

moral leadership it asserted in the Executive Order of
January 22nd.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very sincerely yours,

I. M. WEINSTEIN,
~~Executive Secretary to~~
~~the Executive Director.~~

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May 11, 1944

Mr. I. M. Weinstein
253 Broadway - Room 801
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The Board has asked me to assure you that they will do their best to help out in whatever ways they can on the publicizing of the Free Ports issue.

If you could let us have some background material, or clippings of pieces you consider a satisfactory presentation of your story, it would aid materially in the Board's getting to work to arouse other writers and commentators to an awareness of the seriousness of the problem of the war refugee, and of the program you desire to publicize.

They appreciate how much you are doing single-handed, but if you have available a list of the organizations already sympathetic with your program, they believe such a list would be most helpful in interesting others.

Sincerely yours,

Frederica Barach

Frederica Barach,
Executive Secretary.

FB/gb

200394

From WRITERS' WAR BOARD
122 East 42 Street
New York 17, N. Y.

1.
SUGGESTED EDITORIAL
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Take these - any or all - or leave them.
No charge. No credit. They were written
by good writers who don't care if you edit
them. (This service is limited to one
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HOW FAR CAN YOU WALK?

Today we give you the infantry, poetically known from time out of mind as "The Queen of Battles"; the "little-advertised, hard-bitten foot soldier," as General Marshall has called him; the "mud-rain-frost-wind boys," as Ernie Pyle put it; the men who meet the enemy, who occupy the ground, who form the little black line on the map that is the front, who shoot the rifle, toss the grenade, go in with the bayonet, who have courage for their armor, and who win battles after other services have done their heroic best. These characterizations are borrowed from men who know the American doughboy and are acquainted with his role in this war.

The basic infantry weapon since rifles were invented is the rifle. The layman may be confused by the variety of other weapons that go into action with the rifle -- the light and heavy mortars, the light and heavy machine guns, the flame throwers, the handy and deadly little grenade, the airplanes overhead, the guns behind the advancing line, the tanks. But, strictly speaking, the infantry is the outfit that goes where the enemy is, and establishes contact on foot. The motor vehicle has not killed the doughboy's walking powers. Every infantry unit must be able to hike twenty-five miles in eight hours. Crack units can do five miles an hour and have done -- like the Third Division in Sicily -- 100 miles in three days. And arrived in fighting trim.

There are other services that stir the laureates of battle to their finest efforts. The infantryman does not begrudge these services their laurels. But he has his own fierce and justified pride in his division, his regiment, his company, his squad. He is the lad who stands firm in the fires of hell, takes ground a foot at a time and offers his living body as a sacrifice for his country, for liberty and for the honor of his service. Hats off to him!

NOTE TO EDITORS: "Infantry Day" is June 15. The date will be officially announced.

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HIM TODAY -- ME TOMORROW

A nation founded on democratic consent and now at war for democracy ought to have no difficulty in providing for "the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color or national origin." Nevertheless the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice is having some trouble in persuading labor unions and employers to live up to this reasonable ideal. In theory the Committee can force compliance under the war powers of the President. In practice it cannot.

Discrimination in employment against Negroes, against Jews and other religious minorities, and against some foreign-born groups persists, in about that order. It is true that the shortage of labor in most war-industry communities has caused the upgrading of many members of these minorities. Specifically, the Negro, whose problem is of longest standing, is being given better jobs. But at least twenty-four important unions still refuse to give him equal status.

No question of the social mingling of races is involved. The question is solely one of equal opportunity. We may hope that both employers and white workers will realize this simple truth, and that they will also realize that if opportunity can be denied to any group, for reasons of color, religion or national origin, no minority group's rights are safe. The principle of equal opportunity is not divisible. It ceases to exist if all do not have it.

There is here a shining chance to make our democracy sounder and safer. There is a corresponding danger that workers who have been discriminated against will be forced into strike-breaking after the war, destroying unions and ending all prospect of industrial peace. Wisdom and justice both cry out against discrimination. Fair play helps every one and unfairness, in the long run, hurts every one.

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STOP THIEF!

How many American citizens would be willing to sneak up to a neighbor's car after dark and siphon out his gasoline to use in their own cars? Not many, certainly, outside of a small group who make a living by stealing things and generally wind up receiving free board in the penitentiary. There may even be professional burglars and pickpockets who wouldn't knowingly steal gasoline from a housewife who has to take her children to school, a doctor who has to visit patients, or a workingman who has to get to his job.

But a citizen who deals with the black market in gasoline actually is stealing gasoline from those who need it. The total gasoline supply for the United States is limited. The deficiency is national and is no longer due to lack of transportation. War is drinking up petroleum products -- and we dare not let our war machines get thirsty for gasoline for fear that the deficit will have to be made up in blood. The black market takes from the honest who need gasoline to give to the dishonest who don't need it. It takes the equivalent of about 45 miles' driving a month from the hardest-hit motorists -- those who have to depend on "A" rations.

The overwhelming majority of American motorists are honest and patriotic. So are the overwhelming majority of gasoline dealers. Neither group wants to see gasoline distribution turned into a racket. Whenever this truth is driven home, black market operations dwindle. Punishment of the guilty can help and is helping, but the real victory depends on the private and community conscience.

If every motorist limits himself to coupons lawfully issued by his Ration Board, doesn't buy gasoline without using such lawful coupons, and endorses every coupon with his license number the black market menace can be and will be killed.

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THE VICTORY AND THE HOE

A year ago the American victory gardeners were like an army going into boot training. Some of them knew all about gardening -- they were the old vets who can sleep anywhere, eat anything and live off the country. A lot more were raw recruits, who didn't know good topsoil from the south side of a pumpkin seed.

But they learned. Twenty million victory gardens, with Heaven only knows how many millions of victory gardeners, marched toward victory.

This campaign wasn't just one of those things that help morale. It produced ten million tons of food. It created four billion cans of edibles -- or about thirty cans for every man, woman and child in the United States. It did not save us from starvation. It did save us from some mighty dull meals. It helped our soldiers. It helped our friends abroad, who are helping us.

The victory gardeners' reward for doing so well is high praise from high quarters -- and a request to do more this year. As the war speeds up the demand for food speeds up, too. More soldiers are overseas. Liberated territories need a tangible evidence of liberty -- something to eat. Enough has to be left at home to keep the home population in good health.

So the call this year is for twenty-two million victory gardens, bigger gardens, better gardens and twenty-five per cent more output. We need gardens working all summer and into the fall. We need better-cared-for gardens.

The victory gardener who does his level best needn't feel ashamed when he sees a soldier. The hoe is an honorable weapon.

JUNE, 1944

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YES, WE HAVE A WAGE POLIOY

No part of our Government's war program has been more misunder-
stood and more often misrepresented than its wage policy. Some wage
earners, some employers and some miscellaneous critics have asserted that
it had no wage policy.

It does have one, laid down by Congress in October, 1942, in
an attempt to prevent inflation by keeping prices and wages at the levels
of September 15, 1942. This policy recognizes that runaway wages and
runaway prices would hurt worker and consumer alike. It recognizes that
real wages could not be raised in wartime to any great extent for the
simple reason that the supply of civilian goods and services which makes
wages real is strictly limited.

Where wages have been raised since September, 1942, the pur-
pose has been to guarantee a decent standard of living, to correct the
injustice of unequal pay for equal work, or to pay for increased production.
Basic hourly wage rates have hardly moved. Actual "take-home" earnings
have gone up because workers have produced more by the hour, have worked
longer hours, have been promoted or have moved from poorly-paid to well-
paid jobs. Overtime work is a big factor in filling pay envelopes, but
overtime wage rates are also a factor in preventing an unhealthy extension
of the working day and week.

Wage rates by the hour mean nothing unless they are checked
against production by the hour. The actual labor cost of goods is the
unit cost - the money it takes in labor to produce a given article -
not the time cost.

The National War Labor Board, with the cooperation of American
workers, has kept unit labor costs down. If this isn't a policy, what
would be?

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A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE WAC (II)

The women of England know what it is to be under enemy fire -- and to return that fire. The women of Russia fight shoulder to shoulder with their men in the front lines. All over the occupied countries of Europe young women and girls and old women are today risking their lives in guerrilla bands, in dangerous missions for the underground.

What are American women doing while our men are at the front? Oh, we're making sacrifices! We're doing without nylon stockings. We're doing without a maid. Sometimes there isn't enough gas in the tank to take us into town for a shampoo and finger wave. It's pretty hard to figure out those ration points, too. Grim, isn't it, girls? Of course the Yugoslavian girl wounded by German gunfire, who wraps her bloody feet in strips of rag, might not think we're doing very much. And perhaps she's right at that.

The Women's Army Corps needs Volunteers desperately. Thousands of American women from the ages of twenty to fifty are needed to fill key positions in the Army; to work side by side with our young men here and abroad; to free fighting men for combat duty. Our soldiers are calling to us for help. In a speech just the other day General Marshall told of the vital need for WACs. So far our response has been shockingly disappointing.

There are plenty of magnificent practical reasons for joining the WACs -- the splendid training the organization offers for post-war jobs -- the better-than-usual chances to meet men -- the opportunities for promotion. But most important of all is the way a woman feels when she asks herself the following question:

Am I doing everything I can to help bring our boys home as quickly as possible?

If the answer is no, then there is one certain way to change it to yes -- join the WAC.

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HALO POLISH

In establishing the War Refugee Board, January 22, 1944, the President of the United States announced to the world that the fate of the European Jews and other minorities facing death at the hands of Hitler's extermination squads is an official concern of our Government. The President charged the War Refugee Board with two duties, (1) to rescue those persons in imminent danger of death, and (2) to find suitable havens for them in neutral and allied countries. The various nations have cooperated with the War Refugee Board in its efforts to accomplish the first task. From the start they have looked to the Government of the United States to set an example to the rest of the civilized world by erecting havens of refuge in this country. Only through the establishment of such havens within our own borders can the United States Government continue to claim the moral leadership it asserted in the Executive Order of January 22nd.

JUNE, 1944

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