

APR 30 1945



A World To Live In

Checkup on Congress

By Dorothy Norman

If you want to keep a close eye on Congress during this crucial transition-period, subscribe now to a unique Congressional newsletter issued by the Union for Democratic Action, 9 E. 46 St. (It is prepared by Paul Sifton, issued weekly, and gives up-to-the-minute, inside news and it is only \$5.00 a year.)

Here is the picture that emerges: the rise on the stock market on Friday the 13th was no doubt closely related to gains made by the meat packers' lobby, which in turn was "fronting" for textile, coal, oil and other commodity groups in a campaign for amendment of the Price Control Act.

It becomes clear also that the same forces that are fighting price control are also optimistic about the possibility of a softer postwar tax program, and shelving of the Murray Full Employment Bill, the Wagner-Ellender Housing Bill, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Social Security Bill, Missouri Valley Authority legislation, and all other social legislation as well!

Let it not be forgotten for a moment either that right in the middle of the fight against price control, and the fight to achieve an early reduction of taxes on big incomes is, of course, the American Bankers Assn. with its attack on the World Monetary Stabilization Fund aspect of the Bretton Woods plan.

Opposition to reciprocal trade agreements, Bretton Woods, Dumbarton Oaks, lend-lease, a world bill of rights, full employment, fair employment practices, decent housing, social security, wiping out of the poll-tax all go hand in hand with lack of reservations about inflation, isolationism, letting the rest of the world starve — man's inhumanity to man in general.

Relate this part of the picture to another picture: that of our harrassed Allies. Here are some of Paul Sifton's summaries of foreign needs: In Greece 70% of the children are reported as tubercular or pre-tubercular. Fifty per cent of the total population is tubercular or pre-tuber-

cular! In France 40 to 50% of the children are tubercular or pre-tubercular! In Holland in some cities adults get only 450 calories a day, and are now in dire need of "pre-digested" (baby) foods in order to gain back their strength at all. *Some 360 million Europeans need food; much of it (though not all) must come from the U. S., if we are to keep our pledge that "food will win the war and write the peace."*

With shortages of meats, fats, oils, and dairy products, not only in the U. S., but throughout the world, there must be a further step-up of production in this country both this year and next, just as there must be better use by civilians and the armed services of all available supplies. There must also be a new eagerness to save and to share, based on full, frank knowledge of food, clothing and health needs, of the suffering peoples of the world. And don't forget for a moment that many people, though now

liberated from the Nazis, are even hungrier than before!

What are we doing about all this? We have the Anderson Committee in the House investigating the food crisis. Rep. Dingell (D-Mich.) has introduced a bill (HR 2793) providing up to 10 years in jail for black marketeers; life for second offenses. *But:* in the Senate, the Agricultural Committee is encouraging the vicious drive for higher prices, and the wrecking of any anti-inflation program. Which side are you on, and what are you going to do about it?

The U. S. has reversed its "bare shelf" policy, and is sending Lt. Col. Ralph Olmstead to help feed Germany with food, he didn't stock-pile, while in charge of the WFA food distribution. The WFA and the OPA have raised hog price-support by 50 percent a hundred pounds, but the urgent need is for the public to realize the crucial nature of the entire food and relief picture, and for farmers, food middle-men and consumers to plant adequately, to tighten belts, not to waste, and to help win the peace with food! *A little fat poured down your kitchen drain, Sifton reminds, means death to another child in Europe!*

"While millions are hungry, wheat and corn rot on ground in Midwest," he reports, "elevators are choked, flour mills are shut down because of shortage of box-cars for moving grain to the seaboard, and because the St. Lawrence Seaway was never built. Prewar 'smart' railway managers turned down U. S. aid for reconditioning roads and rolling stock. Had they accepted the aid of New Deal so-called 'theorists,' more food would now be better distributed both here and abroad. Sen. Reed (Kan.) has asked for 'an investigation' of box-car shortage—which request comes, unfortunately, six years too late."

If we want this to be a great administration, it is up to us to be on the job. We cannot be on the job unless we know what is going on in Washington. We cannot affect the political picture if we do not take our responsibilities seriously. It is the duty of the enlightened to bring pressure, and of the unenlightened to become more enlightened! Know your Congress! Get it to vote the way you want it to!