



SCANNING THE WEEK'S NEWS  
of Main Street and the World

## Small Business Casualty of Defense; Meat Price Rules Confuse Consumer

**THE FOUNDATION THREATENED**—According to several national economic surveys made public in the last week or so, small business is becoming a casualty of defense. This is a serious and frightening fact for thousands of small towns, because about 3,670,000 small businesses form the foundation of the American economic pyramid, many of them located in the home towns of the nation.

In the first two years of World War II, 16 per cent of the small businesses of the country were forced to close down. There are reports that many observers believe the fatality rate in the present defense mobilization program may be even higher than in those years.

A Washington report revealed that congressional small business committees are receiving an average of 500 letters a day appealing for information and help from small businessmen.

Several reasons are given for the present difficulties. The most important are shortages of materials—allocation of steel, aluminum, etc., from civilian consumption to defense projects; the inability of small business to qualify for defense contracts; and the expansion of big business to avoid subcontracting, formerly a profitable source for small business.



**UP A TREE**—Mild mannered, popular Gen. Omar Bradley, remembered by thousands of World War II veterans in the home towns of America as the "GI's general," put the combined senate armed services and foreign relations committees up a tree during his testimony on the removal of Gen. Douglas MacArthur from his Pacific commands.

To begin with, General Bradley caused a stir among the Republican members of the committees by upholding the administration's actions with the sweeping statement that General MacArthur's Korean plans "would involve us in the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, with the wrong enemy."

But when he flatly refused to tell the senators about his private talks with the President on the recall of MacArthur, he chased the committees up a tree.

For a day committee members argued among themselves whether they should take some kind of contempt action against the general. They voted 18 to 6, however, against such action expressing the view that it might set a dangerous precedent.

To the home town veteran, however, it seemed more likely the senators remembered Gen. Bradley's popularity with the men that make up a big part of today's Main Street population.

**NEW DRAFT LAW**—Senate and house conferees, attempting to reach a compromise on the two bills previously passed by the groups, finally reached a settlement calling for extension of the draft until July 1, 1955, with men of 18½ eligible for induction for 24 months of service.

The old draft bill expires July 1. The new one will require all men to register on becoming 18. They would be examined and classified before they were 18½ and would be eligible for induction thereafter, providing the pool of men from 19 to 26 in their individual draft districts had been exhausted by the local boards.

The bill will put a five million person ceiling on the combined army, navy, air forces and marines. It also requires that all draftees, volunteers, and reserves have at least four months' basic training before being assigned outside the United States.

**UP TO OLD TRICKS**—After rejecting American plans for a peace treaty with Japan, the Russians reverted to their old tricks in proposing their version of a treaty. The Soviet plan, which was rejected by the United States, would bar foreign forces from Japan after the occupation ends and thereby block an arrangement for American troops to help provide Japanese security.

It was the same type of thing the Russians so successfully carried out in Korea and which led to the present situation in Asia. No one can believe the Russians thought the United States would accept their plan, but one has to give them credit for having the nerve to suggest it.

There is little possibility now of Russia joining in the American peace treaty which is nearing conclusion.

**BEWILDERED HOUSEWIVES**—Home town housewives entered their Main Street stores and meat markets on Monday, May 14, without their usual dread of visiting a meat counter. The government had just ordered a cut in meat prices.

After one quick look she became a startled and confused housewife. For the next 10 days she became more bewildered. Meat prices were not down according to her figures—but up!

What the home town housewife saw was porterhouse steak up 7 cents a pound and sirloin up 9 cents. Round steak was down 2 cents—not enough to mention, and short ribs of beef down 8 cents—as she had expected of other cuts.

According to the government, however, the up and down price juggling of beef actually produced an over-all savings to the housewife of one-half of 1 per cent.

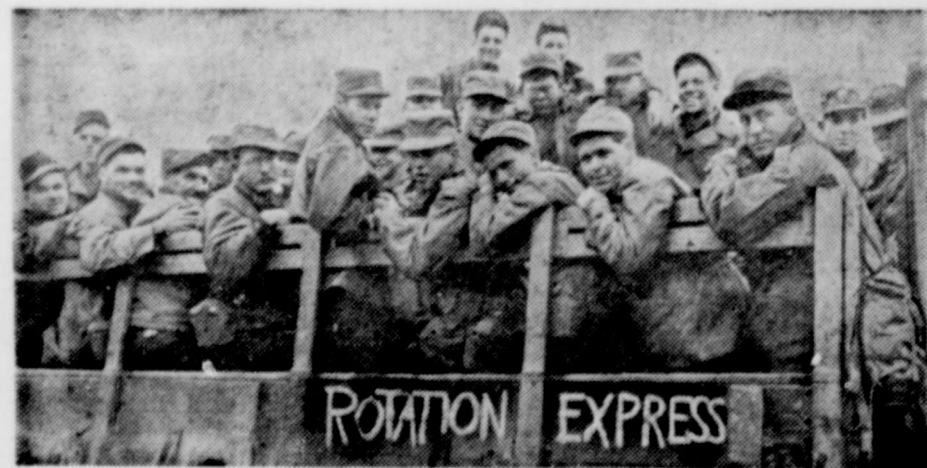
This she couldn't understand. One-half of 1 per cent didn't do a thing for her meat budget.

**FAIR TRADE RULING**—By a vote of 6-to-3, the supreme court ruled that merchants who did not sign fair-trade agreements are free to charge cut-rate prices if they wish.

Under the laws of 45 states, distributors of trade-mark or brand goods may enter into agreements with retail dealers to sell their products at filed minimum prices. Under the new court ruling, however, the home town merchant who did not sign such a contract or agreement can sell the product at whatever price he desires.

The only states not having fair-trade laws are Vermont, Texas and Missouri.

The ruling will have little effect on most classes of merchandise as long as business is good, most Main Street businessmen believe. This would not hold true, however, if business went into a slump.



Homeward Bound on Rotation Express  
American GI's, veterans of the Korean fighting board a truck bound for a rotation center where they will be processed for return to the United States. Tired GI's slugged the truck appropriately, "Rotation Express."



ACCUSED . . . Police say Miller brothers took Erickson's accounts.



REUNITED FAMILY . . . Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway was reunited with his family recently when his wife and small son, Matty, arrived in Tokyo. It was a big day all around for the general, new supreme commander of allied forces in the far east. President Truman nominated him for his fourth star, making him a full general, subject to senate approval. The general and his family were reunited at the airport in Tokyo on the big day.



INTIMATE CHAT . . . Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion (right) has a friendly talk with Professor Albert Einstein (left) at the professor's home in Princeton, New Jersey. The prime minister from Israel made the visit to the aged mathematician on the first leg of his planned nationwide tour to spur the support of the American public for the half-a-billion-dollar independence bond issue drive for Israeli relief.



NO SALE . . . A raspberry from the law was all two young men got when they tried to burglarize a candy store in New York recently. Here, we see one of the subjects, Ralph Dominquez, 21, being forcibly assisted from the window by a policeman after he and Harry Fanga-bean, 19, were caught in the act by the cops. The two boys were accused also of stealing a car which was removed before the owner knew it was gone.



SELLOUT . . . Mickey Cohen examines revolver from his collection of old guns that went on sale to raise money for his income tax suit. The Beverly Hills gambler's collection was valued at around \$7,000 before he decided to sell them.



ASKS TWO MILLION . . . Mrs. Eunice Walterman, Kansas City, has filed two million dollar suit against Myron Taylor, former U.S. representative to Vatican, charging conspiracy to prevent her claim she is his daughter.



BOLIVIAN REBEL . . . Victor Paz Estensoro, whose revolutionary group polled nearly half the votes in recent Bolivian election, says he is not pro Red. A military junta took over country and he fled to Buenos Aires for safety from attempts on his life.



REFUSES BRONZE STAR . . . Mrs. Avera Talley, Los Angeles, refuses posthumous Bronze Star for her son Sidney, killed in Korea, until the government will give more information on how he was killed. Star is for gallantry in action.

SUNNYSIDE



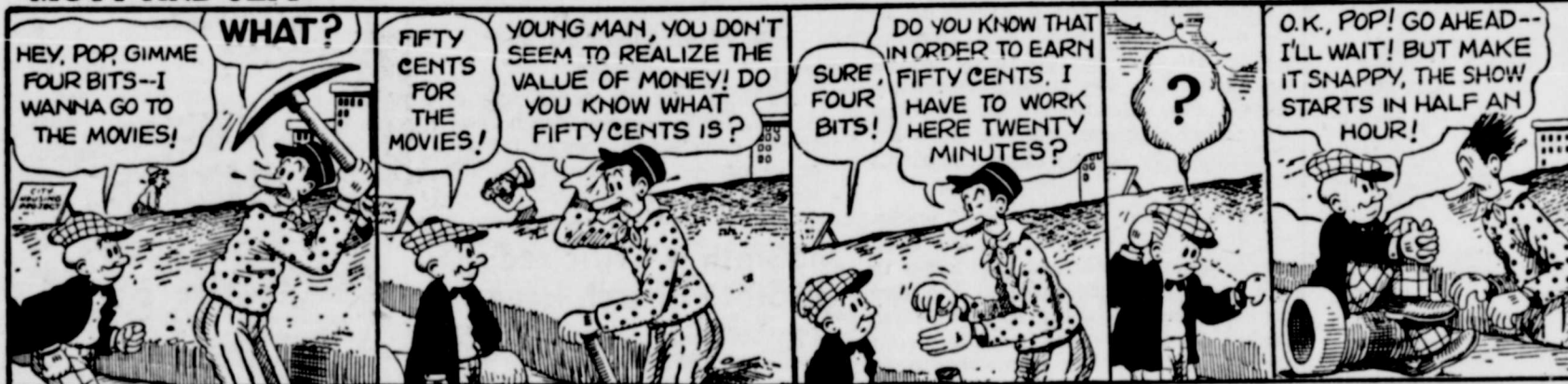
RIMIN' TIME



BESSIE



MUTT AND JEFF



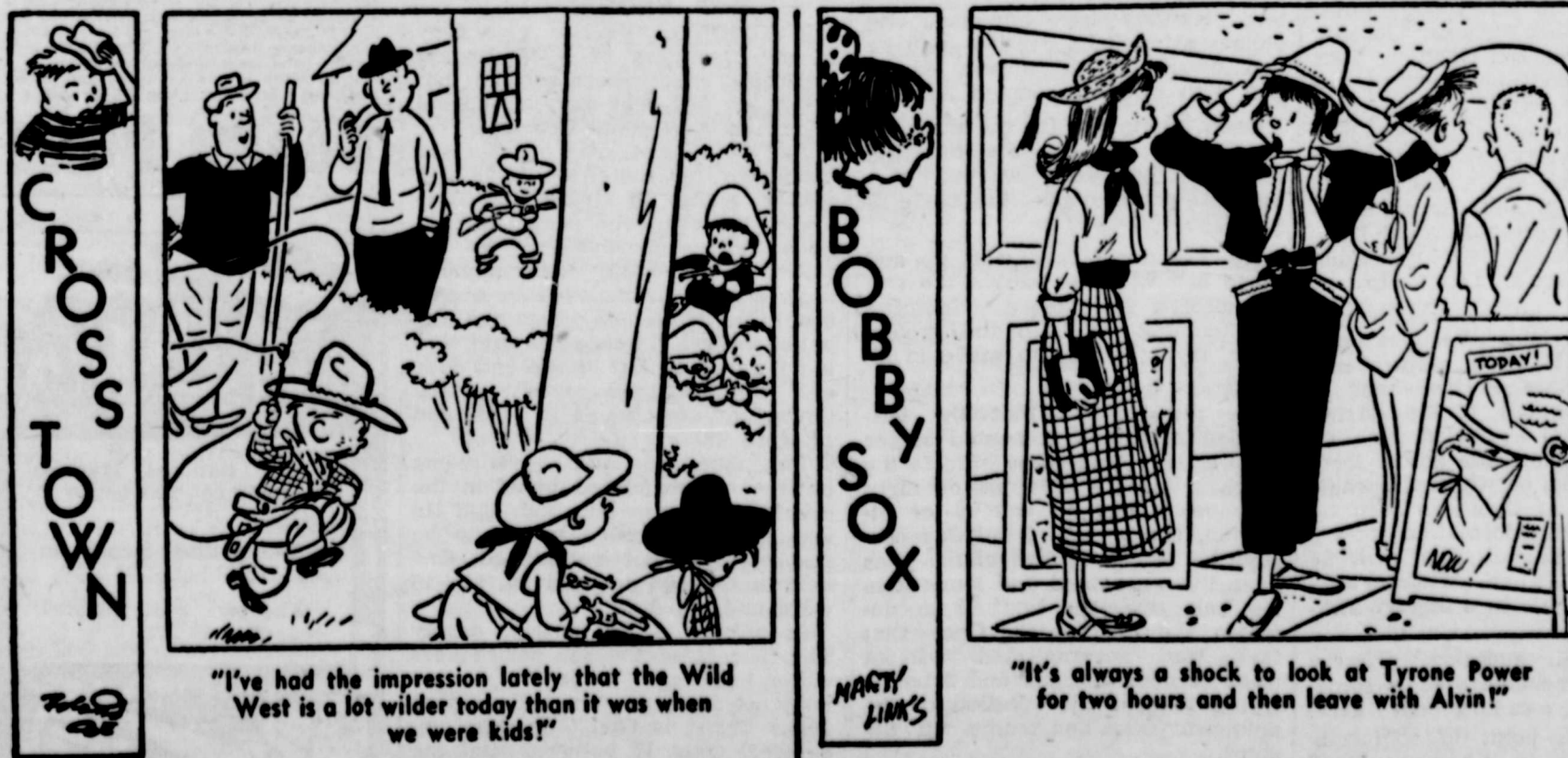
JITTER



WYLDE AND WOOLY



CROSSTOWN

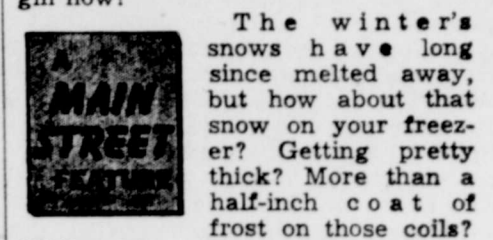


SHOPPER'S CORNER

By DOROTHY BARCLAY

STOCK UP THAT FREEZER

NOW'S THE time to stock up that almost empty freezer! For food prices will stay about where they are until later in the summer. That's the latest word from the U.S. department of agriculture, ladies. Supplies of most foods are on a par with last year's, they say, and while prices are some higher, they'll be higher if you wait to restock that precious freezer! So begin now!



The winter's snows have long since melted away, but how about that snow on your freezer? Getting pretty thick? More than a half-inch coat of frost on those coils? While it's comparatively empty, this would be the perfect time to defrost, take inventory of your supply and your needs, and give the whole works a spring cleaning!

So, first of all, assemble and line with newspapers all the cartons and wooden boxes your grocer can lay his hands on for you, to protect the frozen food for the few hours it will be out of your freezer.

Then, read carefully the directions in the book that nice salesman gave you, and follow that advice closely. Turn the control to "Off," transfer the frozen packages to the refrigerator as far as it will hold them, and stack the overflow in the cartons with their insulating newspapers. Then go to it! One smart way is to put all the vegetables in one box, and make a note of what supplement you will need from your grocer in that category; and do the same with fruits and meat. That helps to inventory what you have, and what you will have to buy for restocking. If you have a large freezer, and a lot of food left, it's smart to pack some dry ice in the boxes on top of the food, and insulate further with chilled blankets.

Then, when the defrosting is complete, a matter of anywhere from one to four hours, wash the interior of the storage compartment with a baking soda solution, just as you do your refrigerator. Then dry the walls and baskets thoroughly, turn on the "On" control, and let her run a while!

And now you know what you have, and what you have to buy, to fill her up while the filling's good! Smart freezer-owners number the packages to keep a good rotation. For instance, say you have five packages of red raspberries. Number 'em 1-2-3-4-5- according to age, and as you use them mark off the last number, and you'll know you have four to go, before those luscious berries appear in your grocer's windows and you buy more for your freezer.

Begin filling her up, with those home-grown or bought early spring vegetables for next winter's treats, those hamburgers for your summer picnics and barbecues—everything you can get at current prices, for now's the time.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

And how does your garden grow? Any beet tops rearing their lovely heads, any turnips, collards, mustard? Late, you say. Remember that the lateness of your garden is reflected at your produce market, too, so don't expect too much in the way of vegetables until shipments begin to take the weather in stride, as you have to do. Spring greens, however, are more plentiful daily, as you will notice at your store. Beet-tops, collards, turnips, mustard—and at long last, cabbage has found its place among the cheaper vegetables again. With all its virtues, with all its varieties of treatment, with all its nutritional gifts, cabbage is an all-time favorite.

Cabbage cooked, cabbage as slaw, cabbage made into sauerkraut, abounding in Vitamin C, lime, potash, iron, phosphorus and calcium—Cabbage is the crowned King!





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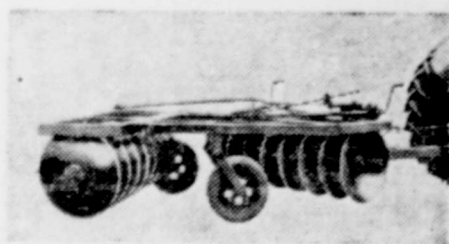
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**Farmers Added to List Of Critical Occupations**

Farm operators and assistants have been added to the list of critical occupations by the labor department. Secretary Brannon points out that the list of critical occupations is used as a guide in the selection of manpower for armed services. This addition will aid selective service in considering cases of key farm workers needed to produce record agricultural supplies for the nation's defense.

**Soil Testing**



An accurate and inexpensive soil testing kit, which may be obtained from local garden supply or hardware stores is now on the market. The kit contains all the solutions needed to make tests for nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. The kits come with complete easy-to-understand instructions and may prove of great value to home gardeners.

**Spring Is Time to Check All First-Aid Supplies**

"Be ready with gauze and first-aid remedies, Mother, lest you're caught napping in an emergency," is the advice of Miss Marguerite



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Briggs, family life specialist, at the University of Illinois. Miss Briggs suggests that now is the time to check first-aid supplies, replace antiseptics and salves that have lost their strength and replenish tape and bandages to take care of the summer accidents.

**New Jersey Farm Prices Behind National Average**

New Jersey farmers have gained less from increasing prices than have the nation's farmers, according to Rutgers University agricultural economists. Farm prices in the state have increased 13 per cent since the start of the Korean war compared to 26 per cent for the nation as a whole. Most important New Jersey commodities are milk, eggs, fruits and vegetables.

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### News and Views From Washington

By John J. Dempsey  
 Congressman from New Mexico  
 Washington, May 31—Attracting some of the top attention in Washington now are the efforts of the House Ways and Means committee to draft tax legislation to bridge the expected gap between receipts and expenditures during the 1952 fiscal year.

It is difficult job that faces the committee, and I am in sympathy with the problems which they face. No-one likes taxes, and it isn't a pleasant task to find ways of increasing them. But I have been disturbed by press reports of how the committee plans to meet these problems, and I put myself on record on the matter last week.

One of the means which is proposed is a one billion dollar increase in excise taxes. I have always considered these taxes to be the most unfair in existence because they are extracted secretly, so that the taxpayer doesn't realize he is paying the tax until it is gone.

These taxes, which are paid by the same people who have to pay increased income taxes, are levied on the theory that the affected items are "luxuries." This interpretation falls apart, however, when it is noted that it is proposed to hike automobile excise taxes from seven to 10 per cent, a 42 per cent increase, and the tax on trucks from five to eight per cent, a 60 per cent raise.

Certainly, the time is past in America when an automobile could be considered a luxury. The people of this country have come to depend on their vehicles for transportation to such an extent that they are virtual necessities in many instances. If all the automobiles of this country were to be suddenly withdrawn from use, the effect would be paralyzing on the economy of the entire nation. Is this the mark of a luxury item?

What is true of passenger cars is true with even more force of trucks. For the trucker who makes his living with his vehicle, or the farmer who uses his truck to haul his products to market, there is little of a luxury nature involved. Yet this tax increase will be asked not only on the vehicle itself but also on parts and accessories.

That isn't all. The committee has also voted to increase the federal gasoline tax from one and a half to two cents a gallon. This will make the motor fuel, already rather precious stuff in New Mexico, even more expensive. Which leads me to wonder why the automobile industry is being made a whipping boy by the Administration?

I am not pleading any special consideration for the automobile industry, but I do not believe that any one business or group of individuals should be made the victim of an increased tax program to the benefit of any other business or group.

This proposed automobile excise tax increase is only one aspect of a tendency which worries me greatly. That is the trend toward confiscation by taxation to redistribute the American wealth to the poorer countries of the world.

As I said in my remarks which were included in the Congressional Record, "Some of our so-called 'experts' here in Washington seem to think that there is no bottom to the American tax barrel. Well, there is and we are very likely to hit it soon."

"Some of them think that our resources are like the Biblical story of the five barley loaves and two fishes—that they can be made to supply everyone and still have plenty left over. I would like to remind them that this is the story of a miracle is exactly what is going to be required to save this country unless we restore some sane financial policies in our national Government."

Same old Lion. A leopard doesn't change its spots, and apparently the British lion goes along pretty much the same too. A British court in Hong Kong recently voided the sale of 40 American-made transport planes by the Chinese Nationalist government to General Claire Chennault's Chinese Corporation.

This was on the grounds that the sale was "hostile to the interests of the Chinese people." Then the judge turned over the planes to the Chinese Communists. Previously, the British had turned over to the Reds an assembly plant in Hong Kong. One day, the British agreed to embargo strategic materials and the next day, a British judge turns over to a branded aggressor nation 40 transport planes—just what they need most. And then the diplomats wonder why anti British feeling seem to be growing in this country.

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