

WAR TRAFFIC MAY ALTER VACATIONS

ODT Director Believes Busy Trains and Busses Will Force Split-Week Holidays and Many Other Changes.

By JOSEPH B. EASTMAN
Director of Defense Transportation
(Written for the United Press)

WASHINGTON, March 31.—War transportation demands, which already have caused the American people to curb their natural fondness for travel, will require tremendous changes in vacation customs.

Staggering of vacations throughout the year, and commencement and termination of vacations in mid-week, will be necessary if railroads and bus lines are to accommodate the anticipated volume of vacation travel. Further curtailment of relatively nonessential travel also will be necessary.

It is estimated that the travel of approximately 25 per cent of the passengers on trains and busses today is comparatively nonessential.

Little Space Seen

The prospect is that there will be little space on trains busses during the coming summer for persons wanting to take week-end trips to the shore or the mountains or long tours around the country.

Vacationers should plan to use public transportation facilities only to go to, and return from, the place where the annual vacation is spent. And it will be necessary for them to spend their vacations at places near home.

Heavy war passenger and freight traffic, as well as lack of new passenger equipment, limits the ability of the railroads to provide passenger service. The railroads are now performing more than one and one-half times as much freight service as in the last war.

This traffic results not only from the magnitude of current war production, but from diversion to the railroads of a large volume of traffic that formerly moved by water between the coasts or along the coasts, and from shifting of part of the highway truck traffic to the railroads. There has been, as well, a large shift in the pattern of traffic flow.

See Further Change

While every effort is being made to keep as many trucks running in essential operations as possible, some further shifting of truck traffic to the rails is likely to make peace impossible.

Reduction in living standards, it continues, is our first contribution toward paying for the war. "Higher wages, higher profits, higher farm prices—any improvement in the position of any group would add to the costs of the war."

The level at which the halt has been called to prices and wages is described as "not unfavorable" to either farmers or workers.

The "ever normal pocketbook" is presented as a concept of keeping prices from going too high now so that they will not fall so far after the war. "All of us know that a family which saves wisely in easy money years can cushion itself against hard money days."

The booklet defends overtime pay for hours worked in excess of 40 as a "proven" incentive to labor morale and increased efficiency" and as a postwar advantage.

OWI BOOKLET HITS INFLATION

Peace Impossible if Rising Costs Upset Economy, Pamphlet Says.

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U.P.)—The office of war information today made public its handbook, "Battle Stations for All," describing the government's program to fight inflation and control living costs.

The booklet, based on explanations of policy by President Roosevelt and Economic Stabilization Director James F. Byrnes and other agency heads, emphasizes the need to hold wage increases within the "little steel" ceiling formula. Excess spending power, it said, should be drawn off through higher taxes and compulsory saving and people guaranteed minimum essentials of food and other necessities.

Pointing out that the longer it takes to mobilize the home front, the longer the war will last, the book says that inflation "makes winning the war difficult and makes peace impossible."

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FARM CREDIT AT NEW HIGH, PARLEY TOLD

Increasing production costs combined with farmers' efforts to meet food for freedom goals have brought about the biggest production credit business in Indiana during nearly a decade. F. L. Kerr of Louisville, Ky., told Hoosier credit association representatives yesterday.

Mr. Kerr, president of the Production Credit Corp. of Louisville, spoke before a one-day conference of Indiana production credit men. Attending the session at the Lincoln hotel were representatives of 10 production credit associations in the state.

During March, the biggest farm loan month in nine years, Mr. Kerr said, the Indiana associations have loaned farmers more than \$1,500,000, "helping them to produce the maximum amount of food with the greatest efficiency."

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