BUSINESS

Law Curbing Stockholders' Suits Called Wrong Approach to Matter

By ROGER BUDROW

STOCKHOLDERS' SUITS AGAINST MANAGEMENT are sometimes no more than thinly-disguised "shakedowns."

The New York State Chamber of Commerce made a survey of suits from 1938 to 1942 and claimed that most of them proved unfounded and were conducted "principally for the benefit of plaintiff's attorneys."

This survey apparently was made to pave the way for a bill introduced into the legislature the next day after the report was published.

The bill would make it much more difficult for small stockholders to sue directors of large corporations for alleged mismanagement.

"This is exactly the wrong way to rectify a great evil," Charles E. Kuhn, Fitch economist, declared, "an evil which needs correction in a constructive manner, both for the benefit of the investors and of honestly managed corporations. It cannot be denied that many corporations are managed more for the benefit of the "insiders" (the officers, their friends and relatives) than for the benefit of the true owners, the stockholders.

"To be specific, managements often have voted themselves exorbitant salaries, bonuses and valuable stock options, entirely out of proportion to the value of their services and in recent times a new scheme has been developed, by which large pensions and annuities are voted "deserving officers, at the expense of the stockholders, who in many cases have not received any dividends at all or very niggardly ones, for many years."

Mr. Kuhn suggested that the securities and exchange commission should be empowered to establish a "stockholders' grievance department" to which all complaints might be submitted for hearing and adjustment without depriving the complainants of resort to the courts, if no satisfactory agreement has been reached. A small registration fee could be charged to discourage the filing of frivolous or careless complaints.

# # #

RETAIL SALES in Indiana made news last month. They went down, for a change. It was a small decline, to be sure, less than ½ of 1 per cent.

Indianapolis stores, however, did much better. Their sales averaged 11 per cent over February last year and 7 per cent under January this year.

# # #

ODDS AND ENDS: P. R. Mallory & Co. is one of 75 plants in U. S. which have four-star army-navy "E" awards; there are no five-star plants yet. . . . Indianapolis department store sales in the week ending March 11 were 19 per cent over a year ago, best gain in the Midwest. . . . Henry Kaiser already has hired a publicity man for the automobile plant he expects to build in post-war China. . . . The Evansville plant of Republic Aviation delivered its 1000th Thunderbolt fighter plane Dec. 7, 1943, 20 months after ground was broke for the plant. . . . Management of the Bell and Curtiss aircraft plants in Buffalo don't like the Russian-Polish dispute; the city has a big Polish population and many of the planes they make go to Russia.

HOG PRICES GAIN UP TO QUARTER

Top Advances to $14.65 as 8000 Porkers Arrive at Local Yards.

Price increases ranging to 25 cents were made in hog sales at the Indianapolis stockyards today, the office of distribution reported.

Weights from 160 to 250 pounds advanced 25 cents above Saturday's prices; weights from 250 to 330 were 10 to 20 cents higher; and other weights were steady to 25 cents higher.

The top was $14.65 for good to choice 200 to 210-pounders. Receipts included 8000 hogs, 1900 cattle, 400 calves and 1600 sheep.

GOOD TO CHOICE HOGS (8000)	
120- 140 pounds	$11.50@12.25
140- 160 pounds	12.00@14.35
160- 180 pounds	14.35@14.45
180- 200 pounds	14.45@14.60
200- 220 pounds	14.55@14.65
220- 240 pounds	14.45@14.60
240- 270 pounds	14.35@14.50
270- 300 pounds	14.25@14.35
300- 330 pounds	14.25@14.25
330- 360 pounds	13.75@14.00
Medium—	
160- 220 pounds	11.75@13.75
Packing Sows	
Good to Choice—	
270- 300 pounds	13.60@13.75
300- 330 pounds	13.65@13.75
330- 360 pounds	13.50@13.70
360- 400 pounds	13.45@13.65
Good—	
400- 450 pounds	13.40@13.60
450- 500 pounds	13.35@13.55
Medium—	
250- 500 pounds	12.50@13.30
Slaughter Pigs	
Medium and Good—	
250- 500 pounds	9.50@11.75
CATTLE (1900)	
Steers	
Choice—	
700- 900 pounds	15.75@16.50
900-1100 pounds	15.75@16.50
1100-1300 pounds	16.00@16.75
1300-1500 pounds	16.00@16.75
Good—	
700- 900 pounds	14.50@15.75
900-1100 pounds	14.50@15.75
1100-1300 pounds	14.75@16.00
1300-1500 pounds	14.75@16.00
Medium—	
700-1100 pounds	12.50@14.50
1100-1300 pounds	12.75@14.75
Common—	
700-1100 pounds	10.75@12.50
Heifers	
Choice—	
600- 800 pounds	15.00@15.75
800-1000 pounds	15.25@16.00
Good—	
600- 800 pounds	14.00@15.00
800-1000 pounds	14.25@15.25
Medium—	
500- 900 pounds	11.75@14.00
Common—	
500- 900 pounds	10.00@11.75
Bulls (all weights)	
Beef—	
Good (all weights)	11.50@12.25
Sausage—	
Good	10.75@11.75
Medium	10.00@10.75
Cutter and common	8.50@10.00
Cows (all weights)	
Good	11.50@12.00
Medium	9.50@11.50
Cutter and common	7.50@ 9.50
Canner	6.00@ 7.50
CALVES (400)	
Vealers (all weights)	
Good to choice	15.50@16.00
Common to medium	9.00@15.00
Cull (70 lbs. up)	5.00@ 9.00
Feeder and Stocker Cattle and Calves	
Steers	
Choice—	
500- 800 pounds	11.50@13.00
800-1050 pounds	11.50@13.00
Good—	
500- 800 pounds	10.50@11.50
800-1050 pounds	10.50@11.50
Medium—	
500-1000 pounds	9.25@10.50
Common—	
500- 900 pounds	8.00@ 9.25
Calves (steers)	
Good and Choice—	
500-1000 pounds	11.75@13.25
INDIANAPOLIS CLEARING HOUSE	
Clearings	$ 5,564,000
Debits	18,338,000

IN BRIEF—

500,000 FIRMS DIE—More than 500,000 American business firms have ceased to function since 1941, bringing a "significant" decline to the proportion of the nation's economy in hands of small business, the commerce department said today.

CONTROLS TO STAY—A federal reserve board official said today that restrictions on consumer credit and instalment buying will be continued as long as their need as an anti-inflation device exists—probably into the post-war period.

O. K. DELIVERY GAS—To facilitate distribution of the few remaining new passenger automobiles, the office of price administration today authorized local rationing boards to issue special gasoline for delivery of cars to purchasers regardless of the distance involved. Heretofore, the limit on distance was 200 miles.

WARD PROFITS FALL—Montgomery Ward & Co. today reported a decrease of $1.10 per share in net earnings for 1943 and at the same time revealed that $105,000,000 worth of mail orders had been rejected because of shortage during the year ending Jan. 31, 1944. Net profits amounted to $20,677,098 or $3.69 a share on the common stock compared with earnings of $26,437,854 or $4.79 the preceding year, the annual statement said.

SEEK FEW DEFERMENTS—Aircraft war production council spokesmen today declared southern California aircraft plants will seek further draft deferments only in cases where men are of extraordinary value. A survey in January showed that out of 294,000 aircraft employees, approximately 1300 were under 22; less than 300 were 22 and approximately 15,000 were in the 23-24-25 bracket.

RYE PRICES DECLINE ON BOARD OF TRADE

CHICAGO, March 20 (U. P.).—Grain futures displayed a somewhat easier tone on the Board of Trade today led by a decline in rye.

At 11 a. m. rye was off ⅛ to ⅝ cent a bushel; wheat unchanged to off ⅛, and barley off ⅛.

Heavy local and outside selling of rye depressed prices from the start. Prices rallied somewhat in later dealings. The bearish trend apparently stemmed from an offer by General Goods to sell 5,000,000 bushels of the spot article.

RUBBER CHIEF HITS NEW DRAFT

Young Technicians Needed To Continue Program, Dewey Says.

WASHINGTON, March 20 (U. P.).—More synthetic rubber is being produced today than the amount of crude rubber used in any year prior to 1941, Rubber Director Bradley Dewey reported today.

But demand still exceeds production and the program needs increased alcohol supplies and the continued use of its young technicians to supply vital war and civilian needs, he said.

Dewey revealed that primary construction of nearly all of the more than 50 synthetic plants originally planned had been completed.

"But," Dewey said, "war demands are insatiable and immediate. As military operations increase, so does the demand for the thousands of rubber products essential to a proper prosecution of the war. . . .

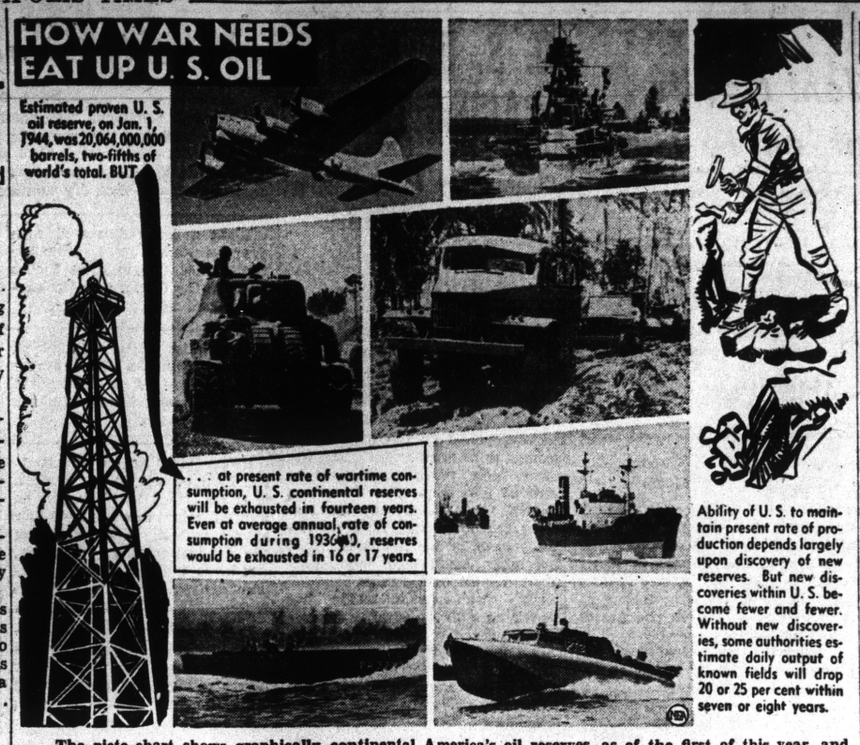
Explains Need

"Military trucks, bombers, jeeps, amphibious landing craft, additional trucking to supply outlying munitions factories—all have contributed to the increased demand."

Explaining the need for young technicians, Dewey said most of the rubber program started "from scratch" and its technicians grew with it.

"The industry now finds itself in a position where, if its young, highly trained technical men are drafted, it will be impossible to operate some plants satisfactorily or to carry forward some vital researches. It is hoped that a way will be found by which it will be recognized that these men, irrespective of their personal desires to join the fighting forces, are of maximum value to the country in their present positions."

HOW WAR NEEDS EAT UP U. S. OIL



The picto-chart shows graphically continental America's oil reserves, as of the first of this year, and at the rate at which war needs devour them. Discovery of new U. S. reserves has slumped for five years, and for the first time since petroleum become an important modern fuel, annual consumption has been greater than new discoveries.

TAX EQUALITY HEADS WILL SPEAK HERE

Officers of the National Tax Equality association will address a luncheon meeting of Indiana business men March 30 at the Columbia club.

Speakers will include Ben C. McCabe, association president and president of the International Elevator Co. at Minneapolis; H. Vernon Scott, executive vice president, and Loring A. Schuler, manager of the association.

Sponsoring organizations include the Associated Employers of Indiana, Hoosier State Press association, Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Grain and Feed Dealers association, Associated Retailers of Indiana, Indiana Bankers association, Indiana Association of Insurance Agents, Indiana Coal Merchants association, Indiana Implement Dealers association, Indiana Association of Small Loan Companies and the National Council of Independent Petroleum associations.

Skycombers, Inc., 1206 MacArthur Circle, Evansville; no capital stock; to teach flying; R. W. Young, Walter Hironimus, Lee Osterholm.

LAWYERS TO HEAR MILLER

Merle Miller, chairman of the American Bar association committee studying tax simplification, will speak at the Indianapolis Bar association meeting Thursday noon at the Columbia club. His subject will be "Progress to Date on Tax Simplification."

RIVKIN TO SPEAK

Dan B. Rivkin of the C. M. Bundy Co. will speak on the manufacture and use of smokeless powder at the American Chemical society luncheon tomorrow at Hotel Warren.

FOOD COSTS DIP SLIGHTLY HERE

Bureau of Labor Statistics Reports 1.1% Drop By Feb. 15.

Times Special

CLEVELAND, March 20.—Consumers' food costs in Indianapolis declined 1.1 per cent during the month ending Feb. 15, to a point 6 per cent below the peak level reached last June, according to William L. Phillips, Cleveland regional price analyst, bureau of labor statistics. The decrease in food costs for the nation as a whole in the mid-January to mid-February period was 1.2 per cent.

The food bill of the typical Indianapolis family was 1.5 per cent more than a year ago and 34.3 per cent more than in January, 1941, base date of the "Little Steel" formula, he said. Compared with August, 1939, the beginning of the present war, Indianapolis food costs were up 45.4 per cent in February.

Decreases of 6 per cent for eggs, 4.1 per cent for fresh fruits and vegetables, .2 per cent for sugar and sweets, and .1 per cent for both beef and pork accounted for the 1.1 per cent decline in food costs, he explained.

Prices of most fresh vegetables dropped sharply. Lettuce fell 19.9 per cent, carrots 18.3 per cent and spinach 7.2 per cent. Potatoes, however, were up 2 per cent. Oranges went down 9.1 per cent, canned tomatoes 1.7 per cent, flour .7 per cent, bacon .5 per cent, and round steak .2 per cent.

Prices advances included a rise of 3.8 per cent for apples, 2.4 per cent for canned peaches, and .3 per cent for pork chops.

DR. FOCKE TO SPEAK

Dr. A. E. Focke, research metallurgist at Diamond Chain & Manufacturing Co., will speak at tonight's meeting of the American Society for Metals at the Y. W. C. A. He will discuss tempering.

N. Y. Stocks

	High	Low	Last	Net Change
Allis-Chal	38⅞	38	38	— ½
Am Can	86	86	86	— ½
Am Loco	19⅜	18⅝	18⅝	— ⅝
Am Rad & SS	10⅛	9¾	9¾	— ⅛
Am Roll Mill	13⅞	13⅝	13¾	....
Am T & T	157⅝	157½	157⅝	....
Am Tob B	61	61	61	— ¼
Am Water W	8½	8⅜	8⅜	— ⅛
Anaconda	27¼	26½	26½	— ⅝
Armour & Co	5⅝	5⅝	5⅝	....
Atchison	68⅝	67	67	— 1¼
Atl Refining	30⅞	30	30	— ¾
Bald Loco ct	21¼	20¾	20¾	— ⅜
Bendix Avn	37½	37⅜	37½	— ⅛
Beth Steel	60½	59⅞	60	— ½
Borden	30	29⅞	30	+ ⅛
Borg-Warner	37½	37	37	+ ⅜
Celanese	36¾	36½	36½	— ½
Ches & Ohio	47¼	47	47	— ¼
Chrysler	84¼	83⅞	83⅞	— ⅜
Curtiss-Wr	5⅞	5¾	5¾	— ⅛
Douglas Alrc	54	54	54	+ ½
Du Pont	145¾	145	145¾	+ ¾
Gen Electric	36⅝	36⅜	36⅜	— ⅜
Gen Foods	42¼	42¼	42¼	— ¼
Gen Motors	58½	57¾	57¾	— ⅝
Goodrich	47½	47¼	47¼	— ¼
Goodyear	43⅞	43½	43½	— ⅝
Greyhound Cp	20⅞	20⅝	20¾	....
Ind Rayon	39½	39	39	— ⅞
Int Harv	71⅛	71	71	+ ¼
Johns-Man	91	91	91	— 1¼
Kennecott	32	31½	31½	— ½
Kroger G & B	35⅛	35	35	— ⅛
L-O-F Glass	45⅝	45⅝	45⅝	— ⅝
Lockhd Aircraft	17¾	17½	17½	— ¼
Loew's	61½	61¼	61¼	— ¾
Marshall Fld	15	14⅞	14⅞	— ⅛
Mont Ward	46⅝	45½	45⅝	— 1⅛
Nash-Kelv	13	12½	12⅝	— ¼
Nat Biscuit	21⅝	21⅜	21½	+ ¼
Nat Distillers	34⅛	33¾	33¾	— ¼
N Y Central	19¾	19¼	19¼	— ⅜
Ohio Oil	19⅝	19¼	19⅝	+ ⅜
Packard	4¼	4⅛	4⅛	— ⅛
Pan Am Alr	33	32⅝	32⅝	— ⅜
Penney	99	98½	98½	— ½
Penn R R	29¾	29½	29½	— ¼
Phelps Dodge	22⅛	21¾	21¾	— ½
Procter & G	55	54¾	54¾	— ½
Pullman	43¼	43	43¼	— ½
Republic Stl	17¾	17⅝	17⅝	— ⅛
Reyn Tob B	30¼	30	30¼	+ ⅛
Schenley Dist	49½	48	48⅝	— ⅞
Sears Roebuck	89½	89¼	89½	— ⅛
Socony-Vacuum	13	12⅞	13	....
South Pac	31⅝	30½	30⅝	— ⅝
Std Brands	31⅝	31	31⅛	— ¼
Std O Cal	37	36⅝	36¾	+ ⅛
Std Oil (Ind)	33¼	33¼	33¼	....
Std Oil (N J)	54⅞	54¼	54⅜	— ⅝
Texas Co	49⅝	48⅞	48⅞	— ¼
20th Cent-Fox	22⅞	22⅝	22½	— ¼
US Rubber	47½	46½	46⅝	— ⅞
US Steel	53⅞	53⅛	53⅜	— ¼
Warner Bros	13½	13¼	13¼	— ¼
Westing El	98⅝	98	98½	+ ⅛
Young S&W	16⅞	16½	16½	— ¼
Zenith Rad	38¼	38¼	38¼	— ⅛

LOCAL ISSUES

Nominal quotations furnished by Indianapolis securities dealers.

	Bid	Asked
Agents Fin Cop com	7⅛	....
Agents Fin Corp pfd	20	....
Belt R Stk Yds com	37	41
Belt R Stk Yds pfd	53	....
Bobbs-Merrill com	4⅛	....
Bobbs-Merrill 4½% pfd	50	....
Circle Theater com	42	45
*Comwlth Loan 5% pfd	101	104
Delta Elec com	11¾	12¾
Hook Drug Co com	15	17
Home T&T Ft Wayne 7% pfd	51½	....
*Ind & Mich Elec 7% pfd	113	116½
Ind Asso Tel 5% pfd	102	105
Int Hydro Elec 7% pfd	89	93
*Ind Gen Serv	105½	....
*Indpls P & L pfd	106	109
Indpls P & L com	17	18¼
Indpls Railways com	13	14½
*Indpls Water pfd	106	....
Indpls Water Class A com	18	19½
Lincoln Loan Co 5½% pfd	93	97
Lincoln Nat Life Ins com	33	37
*P R Mallory 4¼% pfd	26¼	27½
P R Mallory com	22	23½
N Ind Pub Serv 5½% pfd	103	106
N Ind Pub Serv 6%	106½	109
N Ind Pub Serv 7%	114	117
Pub Serv of Ind 5%	101¼	104¼
Pub Serv of Ind com	16	17½
Progress Laundry com	14	16
So Ind G & E 4.3 pfd	102¼	105¼
Stokely Bros pr pf	16¼	17¾
United Tel Co 5%	97	....
Union Title com	23	27
Van Camp Milk pfd	69	....
BONDS		
Algers Wins'w W RR 4½%	100	....
American Loan 5s 51	97	100
American Loan 5s 46	99	101
Cent Newspapers 4½s 42-51	95	82
Ch of Com Bldg Co 4½s 61	78	82
Citizens Ind Tel 4½s 61	103	106
Consol Fin 5s 60	95	100
Ind Asso Tel Co 3½s 70	108	....
Indpls P & L 3¼s 70	107	109
Indpls Railway Co 5s 67	77	80
Indpls Water Co 3½s 68	107½	109
Kokomo Water Works 5s 58	105	....
Kuhner Packing Co 4s 54	97	100
Morris 5 & 10 Stores 5s 50	100	103
Muncie Water Works 5s 66	105	....
N Ind Pub Serv 3 s 73	101½	103¼
N Ind Tel 4½s 55	88	91
Pub Serv of Ind 3¼s 73	104	105½
Pub Tel 4½s 55	100	103
Richmond Water Wks 5s 57	105	....
Trac Term Corp 5s 57	85	88
U S Machine Corp 5s 52	99	102

*Ex-dividend.

LOCAL PRODUCE

Heavy breed hens, 23c; Leghorn hens, 20c.

Broilers, fryers and roosters, under 5 lbs., 26c. Leghorn springers, 23c.

Old roosters, 16c.

Eggs—Current receipts, 54 lbs. and up, 28c.

Graded Eggs—Grade A large, 30c; grade A medium, 29c; grade A small, 26c; no grade, 26c.

Butter—No. 1, 60c. Butterfat—No. 1, 49c; No. 2, 46c.

Tenants Are Warned Spring Renovating to Be 'Difficult'

Indianapolis tenants were warned today by the property management division of the Indianapolis Real Estate board that "it will be difficult if not impossible to have very much done" this spring in the way of cleaning, wall washing and decorating.

"Rents in Indianapolis were set back to the 1941 level while the cost of almost everything involved in the proper maintenance of rental property has advanced sometimes as much as 50 per cent," the division said. "Ceiling prices have not been imposed on the type of labor used in this work and there has been a constant and rapid increase in the cost of materials. In addition to this there is an extreme shortage of manpower, particularly for seasonal work, regardless of what one is willing to pay, and this applies even in cases where absolute necessity demands that certain vital repairs must be made at once.

"The problem is especially acute in relation to apartment units because their management and maintenance costs involve custodian hire, and utility and coal costs which are not encountered in single or double houses.

"Very recently OPA announced that since the advent of rent control tenants throughout the country had been saved billions of dollars by having their rents reduced from prevailing levels. This is undoubtedly true and the income of owners has obviously been reduced in a like amount. A good portion of the money thus saved to the tenants is the same money that would have been devoted to upkeep and maintenance in normal times and which all tenants had a right to expect under former operating conditions. It appears that under present conditions owners will find it difficult if not impossible to have very much of anything done simply because the money available for maintenance work has vanished or is so small as to be insignificant in relation to what needs to be done. And, even where necessity demands certain structural repairs for the preservation of the property the manpower situation will force delays in service beyond anything heretofore experienced.

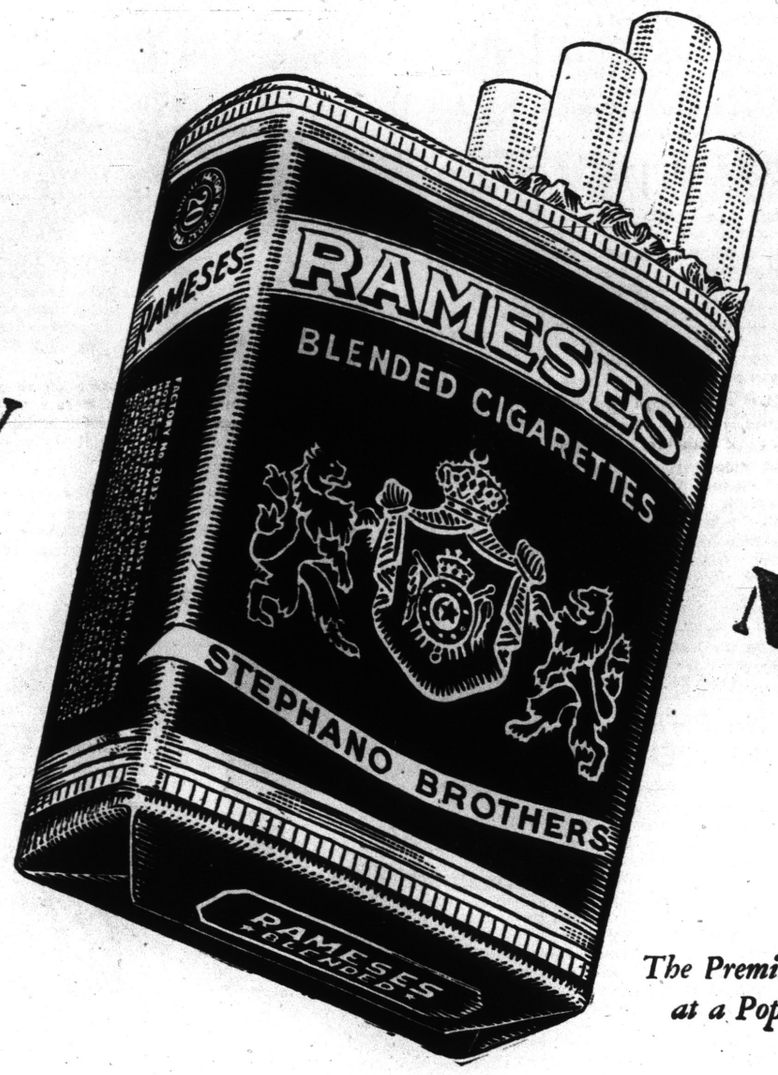
Part of the savings received by tenants under OPA can and in many cases has been and will be used to do a minimum amount of work deemed necessary for their comfort and which owners cannot afford to do. Such work will seldom amount to even as much as half of what the tenant has saved under the lower rental rate over a yearly period. Owners are bearing a double burden first because of curtailed revenue which prevents proper upkeep and secondly by the loss in property value resulting from deterioration caused by lack of proper maintenance."

Curtains
ALL KINDS
WET CLEANED
OR
DRY CLEANED
PRESSED . . SIZED
. STRETCHED
. . STARCHED
Depending on Material and Soil
Act Now! Phone CH-1923 or See Your Crown Routeman.
Send it to Crown
LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING CO.
DRY CLEANING DIVISION

Wife Wins Relief From Neuritis Pain

Thousands of sufferers from the torturing pains due to rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, neuralgia and neuritis—are mighty happy over their discovery of NORITO. Now they have found a quick-acting formula which speedily relieves those exhausting muscular aches and pains. NORITO is trustworthy and dependable—really works fast. If you want to feel again the joy of relief from pain—so you can work in peace and sleep in comfort—be wise and try NORITO under this ironclad guarantee. If the very first three doses do not relieve that cruel pain to your satisfaction—your money will be refunded. Don't suffer. See your druggist today and get NORITO on this guarantee.

NEW NEW NEW NEW



NEW NEW NEW NEW

The Premium Cigarette at a Popular Price

Like to INHALE?

You'll be at ease with

RAMESES

The new cigarette that's blended especially for smokers who like to inhale.

{The Aristocrat of Cigarettes}

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