

BUSINESS

Survey Shows Corporations Think U. S. Wants Too Much for Its Defense Plants

By ROGER BUDROW

EVEN THOUGH IT IS EARLY IN THE GAME, we are beginning to hear ideas about what should be done with the new war plants the government built—and still owns.

Vice President Wallace and some union leaders say the government shouldn't sell them but lease them or operate them itself in competition with private industry, on the "yardstick" idea. On the other hand, Bethlehem Steel has already bought the mills the government built for it to operate, paying the full wartime cost of them, to keep the government out of its business.

What the government policy will be is hard to predict but an idea of what business thinks about these plants is shown in a Wall Street Journal survey of top auto management.

The auto and auto parts executives say three things: The plants are "too deluxe" for competitive operation; they cost so much to build in wartime that prices for them are likely to be too high; and there are too many for peacetime industry to absorb. Thus, the article concluded, the more than \$8 billion invested in 1800 factories owned by the Defense Plant Corp. are likely to end up being "white elephants."

Many of these were hurriedly erected under the pressure of war with the result that much of the work was done at overtime rates, adding much to the cost. Moreover, prices for materials were far beyond peacetime prices.

Many are fireproof, air-conditioned and have 12-inch thick concrete floors which could support almost any machine an auto manufacturer would use and some even are over-laid with wooden floors for precision manufacture but which would not be needed in many ordinary types of manufacturing.

One manufacturer said he would rather buy from a private source, unless the government price would be too low to disregard, in order to avoid the risk of being hauled before investigating committees "for 15 to 20 years" after the war.

Despite prices or deluxe quality, a manufacturer wouldn't be likely to buy a factory unless he saw it could be used profitably. And, until he can get a good idea of what the post-war demand for his product will be, he will be in no mood to buy. Thus, although some may be sold as soon as the war ends, most of the sales won't take place for several years later.

ODDS AND ENDS: Living costs declined 0.6 per cent in Indianapolis in February and 0.2 per cent in Evansville, says the National Industrial Conference board. . . Douglas DC-4 transports will be manufactured in Canada by Canadian-Vickers. . . Liquid savings reached \$37.7 billion in U. S. last year. SEC reports. . . McQuay-Norris Manufacturing Co. netted \$813,700 in '42 or \$7.12 a share against \$5.34 in '41.

Business Week says WPB has decided to let one company make several hundred thousand new autos, possibly Hudson, before the European war ends "if that is long in coming"; other auto manufacturers are expected to fight the plan. . . The war department reportedly has recently refused to allow costs of publishing a company magazine in two cost-plus fixed-fee contract cases; most are o. k. d. however, being considered "morale builders."

N. Y. Stocks

High Low Last Change Net

Allis-Chal. 36 1/2 36 1/2 36 1/2 + 1/2

Am Can. 85 1/2 85 1/2 85 1/2 + 1/2

Am. Corp. 17 1/2 17 1/2 17 1/2 + 1/2

Am. Dist. Co. 13 1/2 13 1/2 13 1/2 + 1/2

Am. T & T. 157 1/2 157 1/2 157 1/2 + 1/2

Am. Tob. B. 62 1/2 62 1/2 62 1/2 + 1/2

Am. Tuber. W. 72 1/2 72 1/2 72 1/2 + 1/2

Amcana. 25 1/2 25 1/2 25 1/2 + 1/2

Amour & Co. 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 + 1/2

Am. Zinc. 64 1/2 64 1/2 64 1/2 + 1/2

Ati. Refining 28 1/2 28 1/2 28 1/2 + 1/2

Bald Loco. 19 1/2 19 1/2 19 1/2 + 1/2

Bald. Atn. 36 1/2 36 1/2 36 1/2 + 1/2

Bald. Steel. 30 1/2 30 1/2 30 1/2 + 1/2

Borden. 30 1/2 30 1/2 30 1/2 + 1/2

Borg-Warner 35 1/2 35 1/2 35 1/2 + 1/2

Car. Corp. 36 1/2 36 1/2 36 1/2 + 1/2

Cies & Ohio 45 1/2 45 1/2 45 1/2 + 1/2

Chrysler. 83 82 1/2 82 1/2 82 1/2 + 1/2

Curtiss-W. 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 + 1/2

Diamond Atg. 50 1/2 50 1/2 50 1/2 + 1/2

Du. Pont. 143 1/2 153 1/2 143 1/2 + 1/2

Gen. Elect. 36 1/2 36 1/2 36 1/2 + 1/2

Gen. Motors. 55 56 1/2 56 1/2 56 1/2 + 1/2

Goodrich. 45 1/2 45 1/2 45 1/2 + 1/2

Grumman. 42 1/2 42 1/2 42 1/2 + 1/2

Int. Harvester. 71 70 1/2 70 1/2 70 1/2 + 1/2

Kennecott. 31 1/2 30 1/2 31 1/2 + 1/2

Kodak. 24 1/2 24 1/2 24 1/2 + 1/2

L-O-P. Glass. 44 43 1/2 43 1/2 43 1/2 + 1/2

Lockheed Aircraft. 16 1/2 16 1/2 16 1/2 + 1/2

Marshall Field. 14 1/2 14 1/2 14 1/2 + 1/2

Mont. Ward. 44 1/2 44 1/2 44 1/2 + 1/2

Nash-Kel. 12 1/2 12 1/2 12 1/2 + 1/2

National Bk. 28 1/2 28 1/2 28 1/2 + 1/2

Nat. Distillers. 33 1/2 32 1/2 32 1/2 + 1/2

N Y Central. 18 1/2 18 1/2 18 1/2 + 1/2

Oil. Corp. 18 1/2 18 1/2 18 1/2 + 1/2

Packed. 4 1/2 4 1/2 4 1/2 + 1/2

Pan Am. Air. 30 1/2 30 1/2 30 1/2 + 1/2

Pan Am. 29 1/2 29 1/2 29 1/2 + 1/2

Penn. RR. 29 1/2 29 1/2 29 1/2 + 1/2

Pfeiffer Dodge. 21 1/2 21 1/2 21 1/2 + 1/2

Pullman. 41 1/2 41 1/2 41 1/2 + 1/2

Pure Oil. 16 1/2 16 1/2 16 1/2 + 1/2

Republic. 17 1/2 17 1/2 17 1/2 + 1/2

Roy. Rob. B. 44 1/2 44 1/2 44 1/2 + 1/2

Schenley Dist. 51 1/2 50 1/2 50 1/2 + 1/2

Sears Roebuck. 87 1/2 86 1/2 86 1/2 + 1/2

South. Pac. 29 1/2 28 1/2 28 1/2 + 1/2

Sid. Brand. 30 1/2 29 1/2 29 1/2 + 1/2

Sid. Oil. Co. 36 1/2 36 1/2 36 1/2 + 1/2

Sid. Oil. Ind. 12 1/2 12 1/2 12 1/2 + 1/2

Sid. Oil. N. J. 55 1/2 55 1/2 55 1/2 + 1/2

Texas Co. 48 47 1/2 47 1/2 47 1/2 + 1/2

U. S. Carb. 47 1/2 47 1/2 47 1/2 + 1/2

U. S. Rubber. 45 1/2 45 1/2 45 1/2 + 1/2

U. S. Steel. 51 1/2 51 1/2 51 1/2 + 1/2

U. S. Steel. Bros. 96 95 1/2 95 1/2 + 1/2

Westing. El. 96 95 1/2 95 1/2 + 1/2

Young. R. 157 156 1/2 156 1/2 + 1/2

LOCAL ISSUES

Heavy breed hens. 236; Leghorn hens. 206.

Breeds. Ixres and roosters under 16. 26. Leghorn 26.

Eggs—Current receipts. 54 lbs. and up.

Graded Eggs—Grade A large. 23c; grade A medium. 21c; grade A small. 18c; no. 6. 16c.

Butter—No. 1. 50c.

No. 2. 46c.

Incorporations

Brookville Electric Co. Brookville, division.

The Bedford Publishing Co., Inc., Bedford.

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Cooperative Assn., Inc., Crawfordsville, Indiana, increasing the capital stock to \$300,000.

Riverside Investment Co. Inc., 1309 W. 29th St., Indianapolis, agent John E. Stach, 1309 W. 29th St., address without name value: John E. Stach, Ralph Stach, 1309 W. 29th St.

LOCAL PRODUCE

Heavy breed hens. 236; Leghorn hens. 206.

Breeds. Ixres and roosters under 16. 26. Leghorn 26.

Eggs—Current receipts. 54 lbs. and up.

Graded Eggs—Grade A large. 23c; grade A medium. 21c; grade A small. 18c; no. 6. 16c.

Butter—No. 1. 50c.

No. 2. 46c.

IN. STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, March 29 (U. P.)—Government receipts for the current fiscal year through March 27 compared with a year ago.

Expenses. \$67,834,000. Year. Last Year.

War spend. . . 63,190,513,380 45,518,672,711

Net deficit. . . 30,181,682,486 14,034,109,173

Cash balance. 16,694,112,886 3,750,555,681

Outstanding. 16,694,112,886 3,750,555,681

Purp. deficit. 16,694,112,886 3,750,555,681

Gold reserve. 21,389,730,972 22,305,201,000

INDIANAPOLIS CLEARING HOUSE

Clearings. . . 4,181,000

Debits. . . 17,382,000

MEMO

Mengel Co. 1943 net income \$745,360 or \$1.40 a common share vs. \$770,423 or \$1.45 in 1942.

MEMO

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