

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

Film Branch

NOTE: The following information is being sent to you as a supplement to the War Information Manual. Its purpose is to give further amplification to the Government's war program, and to provide material for short subjects and feature pictures. If more detailed information is desired, it will be furnished to you, on request, by the Office of War Information. Should you wish to use this material in your short subject or feature program, kindly communicate with this Office in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.

WAR AGAINST WASTE

THE PROBLEM: SHORTAGE OF RAW MATERIALS.

"Production capacity is outstripping deliveries of raw materials," says Donald Nelson, Chairman of WPB. "In consequence, the scrap collection drive assumes increasing importance." A production crisis is here...today. Not tomorrow or next week or next month, but today, right now, the war production program needs every bit of scrap available in this country.

War plants are running at top speed, but they won't be able to stay there unless they can continue to be fed sufficient raw materials. The problem of getting in the scrap is not a matter of a few days or weeks of intensified effort. It must be a continuing thing, a perpetual determination to waste not one single ounce of

material that is needed.

WHY THE SHORTAGE?

Expansion, conversion and speed-up of production have been carried on at an astronomical rate. Many stockpiles are near to depletion. Mines cannot supply ore in sufficient quantities to meet the demands for metal. Moreover, there are some 14 strategic materials which must be imported, entirely or in part, from other countries. Among these are manganese, nickel, chromium, tungsten, antimony, tin, and mica. Their availability depends on ships and free transport lanes. We are critically short on ships, and the transport lanes are menaced by submarines and mines. Hence the shortage.

WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHY

This war, more than any other war, is a war of metals. Every kind of metal except tin cans (which contain very little tin) must be salvaged. Specifically:

- (1) SCRAP IRON. Half of every tank, destroyer, merchant ship, and gun is made of scrap iron. The steel industry operates on a "50-50 basis", 50% pig iron, 50% scrap iron.
- (2) COPPER, BRASS, ZINC, ALUMINUM AND LEAD. These are used to make bombs and shells, rifles and mortars, bullets and binoculars.
- (3) RUBBER. 97% of the world's crude rubber is in the hands of the Japanese. Our rubber stockpile is diminishing. It will be many months before synthetic rubber can be produced

in sizeable amounts. Meanwhile there is barely enough rubber to fill military needs. Scrap rubber is the only hope of keeping civilian cars on the road. All rubber that is not in use and would not have to be replaced should be turned in. The scrap rubber drive must continue for the duration.

- (4) RAGS, MANILA ROPE, BURLAP BAGS. These make wiping rags for guns to wipe up the Axis. They are used to ship munitions in bulk, for sandbags, insulation, etc.
- (5) KITCHEN FATS. They make glycerine. Glycerine makes explosives. Two pounds of kitchen fats will fire five anti-tank shells. These fats should be saved: pan-drippings, broiler-drippings, and deep-fats of all kinds.

Every garage, backyard, every vacant lot, has pounds of scrap material that must be added to the national stockpile. Every kitchen has waste fats that can be saved - and sold to the meat market for five cents a pound. The civilian job is to get the scrap to the factories in order that the factories can get the machines of war to the boys at the front.

OTHER BATTLEFRONTS IN THE WAR AGAINST WASTE

Salvage is not the only answer to the shortage of essential materials. It is not enough to keep useful waste materials from lying idle. The civilian's responsibility extends further.

(1) He must conserve what he has. He must be thrifty. He must repaint and repair, for it is many times more costly to replace. Every article he buys has to be manufactured. The manufacturing of consumers' goods keeps factories, machines and men away from war production...keeps guns, tanks and planes away from our fighting men.

(2) He must prepare for Simplification of all consumers' goods to cut down on material and labor; for Substitution of available materials for critical or strategic materials (i.e., plastics for metal); and for Curtailment of hundreds of consumer articles requiring materials, machines and labor that cannot be spared from war production.

AMERICA DOESN'T KNOW

Americans are patriotic. They are eager to help the war effort. But they do not realize that a production crisis exists today because of the shortage of raw materials. They have been told, yes. But today they are being deluged with words -- slogans, campaigns, exhortations. They have not seen with their own eyes, the what, where, how and why of raw material shortages. They can see them, be convinced, be made to understand their part as individuals in the war program, be stimulated to a tremendous new effort that will carry us to victory. How? Through motion pictures.

The subject of "WAR ON WASTE is hottoday, tomorrow, for the duration.