



Rysticken Urges Power Economy As Defense Need

A way has been pointed out in which each individual can do his part to help in the defense of his country, beside adding a sizeable sum to his pockets.

It has been estimated by the town administration staff that Greenbelt residents use from 50 per cent to 100 per cent more electric power than the average home anywhere in the United States. If regular retail rates were charged in Greenbelt, the monthly electricity bill would be more than two times as much as the present charges. In a survey of the apartment basements as possible air-raid shelters, made by Town Manager Roy S. Braden, Assistant Manager Arthur L. Rysticken, Town Chemist Harry Rhodes and Director of Public Safety George Panagoulis, they found a hundred light bulbs burning in the basements, with no one using them, and in one basement alone five were burning. Many families turn on their ovens to heat their homes and dry clothes.

Mr. Rysticken, urging conservation of power by Greenbelt residents said: "All available power is needed for the national defense program, since Government departments which formerly worked 40 hours per week are now working 48; midnight shifts have been added in the War and Navy Departments, and building is increasing at a great rate to take care of the many defense workers moving to Washington and the vicinity." He also pointed out that constant use of the burners of the stoves when not actually in use burns them out more quickly, and parts are almost impossible to

2 Town Appointments Approved By Council

Ralph W. Powers and Arthur L. Rysticken were appointed Town Solicitor and Town Counsellor, respectively, by Roy S. Braden, town manager. Approval of the Town Council was given at the meeting on Wednesday, December 10 and the two newly appointed officers were sworn in Thursday, December 11, by Mayor Allen Morrison.

Mr. Powers, a Hyattsville attorney, is a native of Maryland and has been an aid to Greenbelt since its inception. Mr. Rysticken has already become known to local residents by his participation on the local civilian defense board, as well as his duties in the administrative office. He will serve in his new capacity without pay. It will be the duty of Mr. Powers, with the aid of Mr. Rysticken, to give legal guidance in the preparation of ordinances, and to give opinions on the legality of matters that come before the council.

In announcing the appointments Mr. Braden said, "Both of these gentlemen are excellently fitted for their jobs by reason of their training and experience, and I feel that the Greenbelt town government is exceptionally fortunate to have the services of these capable attorneys."

Community Tree

Is Lit Tonight

At 8 o'clock tonight Greenbelt's annual community Christmas tree will be lit with appropriate ceremonies. Mayor Allen Morrison is presiding over a program arranged by Mrs. F. A. DeJaeger.

The Greenbelt Band will play, a short talk will be given, and carols will be sung for the crowd which is gathering at the Shopping Center for the tree-lighting.

Braden Asks FWA F.S.A. Income For New Town Structure Funds May Affect 52 Survey Indicates

The Federal Works Agency has been requested by Town Manager Roy S. Braden to erect a management maintenance building in Greenbelt, to house the expanded office force that will be necessary when the new homes are occupied.

The expected expansion will include the tenant selection office, the accounting office, the management and the engineers. An estimated 30 per cent increase in personnel is expected.

Beside housing the office force the new building must have a basement that will be used as a work shop and warehouse.

More complete plans are awaiting an appropriation of funds by Congress, which is expected in the near future.

83 Turn Out For First Aid

Miss Doris Dungan this week announced that the schedule for first aid classes is nearly completed and will be given out soon. There are 83 now enrolled for first aid training in connection with the defense program, and others will be accepted as additional instructors are secured.

Minor injuries which might result from a possible local air attack will be treated at the basic first aid stations to be set up in each air raid shelter. More serious wounds will be treated at the cas-

Consumers Report On Prices Places Blame For Inflation

Profiteers and monopolists are largely responsible for rising prices, charges Consumers Union in a special report on inflation prepared in co-operation with the National Lawyers Guild.

"Inflation is not some abstract theory that interests only economists and students; it is a bread and butter problem affecting every household and every pay envelope," says Consumers Union. "It can slash living standards with blitzkrieg speed and destructiveness."

Prices of basic raw commodities are more than 50 per cent above the pre-war level, points out the report. "This increase is a red light to the country, giving advance warning of a future sharp rise in the cost of living unless effective action is taken by the Government."

Labor, Consumers Blamed

The defense program, labor's demands for higher wages, and consumer hoarding have all been blamed for price increases. These factors are unimportant, CU shows, compared to the inroads of speculation and monopoly. "Big business and speculators have raised prices, fostered artificial scarcity, and made huge profits from shortages which in most cases could have been avoided if the Government had taken action in time. The American people are now paying for the early failure to expand production of critical items like steel and aluminum, and to develop such transportation facilities as freight cars and pipe lines." The report lambastes the policy of giving most defense contracts to the corporations which have been gouging the public, while many small plants remain idle.

"The rising tide of profits is the best proof that profiteering and speculation have been permitted to run rampant," says the report. "The Federal Reserve Board reports that the net profits of large industrial corporations for the first six months of 1941 were 25 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1940 (which was an unusually good business year)." This would be even higher, points out the report, if corporations declared their entire profits. Many set aside

Based on replies received from 25 percent of Greenbelt families to the questionnaire on income limits, 52 percent of the town families will be affected by the Farm Security Administration's recent ruling on "excessive" incomes. About 25 percent of those not affected now will be affected within the next six months.

That the majority of Greenbelters do not approve of the F. S. A. ruling to expel families earning more than the established maximum income, is indicated by the replies to the questions asking opinions on the order.

To the question "Are you in favor of the F. S. A. regulation," 75 per cent replied "No." A majority of 90 percent indicated that they were "in favor of an upward rental adjustment in proportion to the income above the F. S. A. limit."

Those who have not turned in their coupons are requested to do so, in order to expedite the completion of the survey. The following are members of the committee who will receive questionnaires:

Harry B. Hyman, chairman, 21-J Ridge Road; Mrs. Linden S. Dodson, 2G Gardenway; H. Eugene Hesse, 6J Hillside; John Marshall, 20F Parkway.

The questionnaire is reprinted in this issue for the convenience of readers desiring to submit it:

ually station to be set up at the medical center. A base hospital to be located at College Park is being considered.

"tax reserve" funds which are much larger than any taxes they can be called upon to pay.

Wage Raises Met

Most wage increases have been more than met by increases in production. Big corporations running at full capacity have been able to decrease their unit labor costs tremendously. And, in addition, says the report, "the big corporations have also gained from increased labor productivity. Workers have been turning out more goods and products per working hour and day. Output per man-hour was 3 per cent higher in May, 1941, than in May 1940; it was 8.5 per cent above the 1939 average and 16 per cent above 1938. That is, 86 workers today are producing as much in one hour as 100 workers did three years ago."

Consumers Not Raising Prices

Consumer hoarding is another favorite argument of profiteers when raising prices. But there is no factual basis for the argument. "In the first place, low-income consumers spend about one-third of their incomes for food, which is plentiful," points out CU's report. "Secondly, many other consumer purchases besides food can in no way be considered as diverting materials away from armaments production. * * * The fact is that most critical shortages are due to the deliberate failure of big business to expand vital production. * * * Shifting the blame to consumers simply conceals the actual culprits; the monopolists and profiteers."

"Price control is no cure-all for inflation," says the report. "But an immediate, overall ceiling or prices would be the most important move that the Government could make right now to stop the rush to inflation." In releasing the report, Consumers Union urges that consumers work for the immediate passage by the Senate of the original administration-proposed Emergency Price Control Bill, H. R. 5497, but without the weakening changes that were made in the House bill, and without the wage ceilings or other curtailments on purchasing power which reactionary Congressmen will try to introduce.

Homeowners Co-op Cuts Red Tape Building Will Start In January

After a delay of nearly two years the Homeowners' Co-Op has secured a land lease from Farm Security Administration which is also acceptable to the Federal Housing Administration. Administrator Baldwin signed for FSA last Monday afternoon the document which deeds to the Co-op for 99 years some 15 acres north of Parkbelt for home building. The individual lots will be leased to home builders at about \$14 a year.

300 Volunteers Attend Opening Of A. R. P.

Approximately 300 defense volunteers were reached this week in air-raid defense classes held by Safety Director George Panagoulis.

Giving preliminary instructions for precautions to be taken in the event of an emergency, the classes were attended by approximately 50 people each.

Instructions included handling of bombs, air-raid warnings, shelters, and the effects of chemical warfare. In the bomb instructions, incendiary bombs were given the most attention. It was pointed out by Mr. Panagoulis that there are only two ways to put one of these out of commission. One is to smother it with sand, the other to cause it to burn faster—thus depreciating its damage—by spraying it with a very little water. A direct splash of water causes the incendiary type of bomb to explode, according to these instructions.

Greenbelt's air-raid warning will be the siren. Air-raid wardens will be appointed from the volunteer registration list, their duties being to discover and report all "incidents," know the people in their territory and educate them for emergency precautions, and enforce black-outs.

The apartment basements were decided upon as the best blast-proof shelters available in Greenbelt. Windows will be sand-bagged, so that nothing short of a direct hit will injure occupants of the basement-shelters. The social room at the elementary school will be used as a shelter for the school children.

Volunteers were requested for the air-raid warden service, first aid, and motor unit. From these volunteers selections will be made. Mr. Panagoulis emphasized that, although the danger of an air attack on Greenbelt in the immediate future is small, all precautions must be taken against any eventuality.

Assisting in the instructions were S. H. Downs, deputy chief air warden, and the police personnel.

Band Feted at Xmas Party

A Christmas party, sponsored by the Parents' Board of the Greenbelt Community Band and the Feeder Band, was held in the auditorium last Friday. High lights of the evening included a musical program by the Community Band, introduction of the founders and leaders of the two bands, and a speech by Town Manager Roy S. Braden about the part the band children have played in making better citizens of their parents.

S. Hartford Downs, presiding at master of ceremonies, presented Paul Garrett with a musical instrument repair kit, on behalf of the two bands. Guests included the parents of the band members Arthur L. Rysticken of the administrative office, Paul Barnhart, high school principal, Mayor Allen Morrison and members of the Feeder Band who did not participate in the musical program.

"To cure one's self of worry is not an easy task; it is not to be removed in two or three applications of the quack medicine of any cheap philosophy, but it requires only clear, simple, common-sense applied to the business of life."

The new lease supersedes the one given the Cooperative last summer by FSA, which was discarded when FHA refused to accept it as a workable lease. FHA approval was obtained in advance on the revised lease.

Plans Submitted

Henry Klumb, architect for the project, has submitted the detailed house plans and specifications for contractors' bids. The project's water, street, sewer and electrical systems have been drawn up by Pierre Ghent & Co., and are also ready to be bid upon. The contract for surveying and staking the lots is expected to be assigned early next week. Shortly after Christmas the clamor of steam shovels will be heard in still another part of town as Greenbelt's newest housing development gets under way.

Road Cleared

During the past several months members of the cooperative, working on their own, have done the preliminary clearing on the road, which will extend about 700 feet into the woods at the terminus of Woodland Way, then curve to meet an extension of Northway. The first 22 lots along the prospective builders road have been staked out roughly and assigned to prospective builders.

Each new member desiring to build must submit an application to the cooperative accompanied by \$90. Of this amount \$10 is a service charge, \$10 is for the first share of capital stock, \$20 is for utility designing, and \$50 is for the architectural fee. Of this sum \$70 is credited to the down payment.

Members are using two basic plans for building. One is a three-bedroom house estimated at approximately \$6,000, the other is a two-bedroom house at about \$5,500. Plans and specifications may be seen by calling at the homes of Mr. D. W. Hull or Mr. W. R. Volckhausen. Down payments on the homes will be 10 per cent of the cost of building, and closing charges before moving in will be about \$125 in addition. Both of these sums are included in the total house costs. Financing is being arranged through the Credit Union National Association.

200 Homes Planned

Originally conceived as a means of permitting over-income families to remain in Greenbelt by building their own homes here, the project has attracted wide attention in Washington. Ultimately it is hoped to build at least 200 houses through the facilities of the cooperative, but the members at present are bending their energies toward getting the first 25 constructed.

Boys Called To Join Messenger Corps

As part of the local defense organization a messenger service is being formed, Dr. James W. McCarl, chairman, announced this week.

Boys, 10 years and up, are being recruited for the job of insuring Greenbelt's defense groups efficient messenger service. The importance of this work was stressed by Dr. McCarl who stated that the success of the various local volunteer services would depend greatly on a loyal and active corps of patriotic boys willing to give their time and effort to aid their country.

All boys who wish to join this corps should report to the fire house at 10:30 Saturday morning, December 20.