

RADICAL—Dangling on a dangerous presidential tight-rope, Leon Henderson has made a last, desperate publicity plunge to save himself from falling to the political ground.

The O. P. A. chief has affronted unions with some of his courageous statements before the National War Labor Board. To prevent inflation he asked the Davis outfit to grant increases only to workers receiving substandard wages. He joined several cabinet members in urging a ceiling on farm products. Naturally, he incurred the enmity of the two great blocs which have elected and re-elected Mr. Roosevelt. Hence it will astonish no insider in Washington if the price administrator, together with War Production Chairman Donald M. Nelson, is fired or demoted. Since the President, out of the goodness of his heart, never throws a man out of office, both Leon and Donald will probably be reshuffled—downward.

Mr. Henderson sees the handwriting on the White House wall. He knows that his hour of reckoning is near. So, although they have not been successful in the three or four jobs they have occupied in the last 10 years, he has hired Robert Horton and Robert Straus, ex-publicists for W. P. B., as his aides. The two "Bobs" are closely associated with the radical branch of labor, which is now begging the White House to discharge the rolypoly mathematician.

ENEMIES—Our relations with Argentina are going from bad to worse. The day may come — unfortunately — when Uncle Sam must pose as a big bad boss rather than as a good neighbor. This change may lead to a showdown with all Latin American republics.

President Castillo makes no bones about his sympathies for the Axis powers and their allies, particularly Spain. He is now negotiating a consortium with that country to provide it with a million tons of wheat and corn in the next two years. The bulk of the supply, of course, is likely to go to Germany. He insists on direct air connections between his capital and Madrid, Rome and Berlin. Everything possible has been done by Washington and London to knock off this aerial route which would allow interested parties to laugh at the Anglo-American blockade, but the Argentinians intend to bluff it out.

Buenos Aires is incensed at us for various reasons. Our naval and military experts are

rearming her most powerful neighbor, Brazil. We give trade advantages to her roundabout rivals, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, etc. We are strengthening them at her expense. So naturally she is playing along with our enemies.

NEW — * * * The greatest and most destructive war in history will not alter buying, thinking and economic habits of the American people. According to a survey of probable post-bellum purchasing conducted by government agencies in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, we shall still fight and work for the "little woman" and try to obtain household gadgets which make her happy and comfortable.

The interrogators tried to discover what a market-hungry people will do with their money some years hence, provided they have either cash or credit. Underlying purpose of the inquiry is to ascertain the bulk and type of orders which expanded and converted factories might expect, how many men and women they may be able to employ after the armistice, how much additional capital (federal or private) they may require. It is the soundest exploration of aftermath conditions yet undertaken.

But the study does not forecast any original and strange tendencies. Preliminary returns indicate folks will spend their incomes as they always have. They want to repair or replace their homes. They will rush to secure new cars, refrigerators, washing machines, furniture, etc. In short, they will be customers for the same sort of goods they acquired before the conflict.

PUP—* * * The War Department recently announced that it will organize a great dog army. Pooches will be trained to carry messages and food, to spot enemy airplanes, to patrol shores and to aid their human buddies.

But Secretary Stimson has a secret which he did not disclose. There are plenty of teachable canines but not many experienced and understanding instructors. Briefly, we have lots of pup privates but only a few kennel corporals, sergeants and shavetails.

Odd Facts

One of the first vehicles to discard its rubber tires due to the shortage of rubber was a milk wagon operated by a dairy in Waukegan, Ill. The new tires, made of wood, are mounted on iron wheels.