



## AS WE SEE IT

By DAN PATRICK

An elderly woman walked up to the counter of a drug store the other day and asked for a package of cigarette tobacco. The shorungs apparently had reduced her to rolling her own. When the clerk replied that he had no such tobacco, she stalked out of the place indignant, muttering in a low whisper:

"This terrible war!"

Apparently the war had finally reached her doorstep after more than three long years. She couldn't get cigarettes.

That same day we received a letter from a sergeant stationed in Paris. He didn't talk about cigarettes. They had jammed into the realm of the impossible many weeks ago. But he did talk of the weather within the bounds of censorship and relate he was concerned he wasn't griping too much about living in cold quarters. But he certainly felt sorry for the poor kids of Paris.

We wonder what our tobacco-less lady would say if she had to live for weeks on end in a heated apartment.

All of which brings up the question of the attitude of some people to the war. Now of course we don't mean those who are making a valiant and substantial contribution to the national cause.

Certainly the parents, wives and children of those in service have made a real contribution which is tantamount to sacrifice. Even more so have sacrifices been offered six years after the relapse of the men whose names are found on growing cemetery lists. Their contribution is beyond measure.

Nor can we忘却 those who have done their bit on the home front by responding to every call to service and cheerfully meeting the many inconveniences which war has thrust upon us. And we say inconveniences deliberately for nothing we have been called upon to do them for can be placed in the hardship bracket.

We specifically refer to a minority group comprising the men and women who have glided through those bloody years on the wings of inflated pay envelopes and unprecedented prosperity. This may be harsh conclusion but, judging from their actions, the longer the war goes on, the better they'll like it.

They haven't any relatives in the service. To them the country news and stock market reports are in the same category. They scream to the high heavens about the vicissitudes of rationing, tobacco shortage, snow, sashes or what have you.

The women in this group gasp at the bad news in the daily press. They're only going to get two pairs of shoes a year. What, they moan, is this world coming to — only two pairs of shoes a year. Not to mention the point system in rationing. It's a horrible nuisance as far as they're concerned.

As we mentioned before, a good percentage of these people are working at inflationary wages.

None of them could hold down an \$12-a-week job in normal times but now they're rolling in comparative wealth on a payroll of \$60 and \$80 a week. The withholding tax took paying proven an awful strain on the poor savings but they figure it out to this "horrible war."

These are the same people who are back of every restrictive measure proposed in Washington as long as it doesn't hit them. But when it does — then the government is killing before the birth.

Take the recent proposal to draft nurses.

We know a woman who's all for it. She doesn't like nurses because her daughter started in to study and couldn't make the grade.

Therefore, with her daughter out of the picture, a nurse draft is just the thing. She hasn't the least idea of the many complications that enter this picture. She doesn't concede that such legislation, affecting only one class of women, is regarded by some as unfair and discriminatory. If she and those of her ilk had their way, the nurse draft would go through without too much trouble.

Fortunately, there are clever heads meeting this problem and the consensus is well-formed. Writers of this writing seem to be that such a draft will not be necessary.

And so it goes, all the way down the line. These people are not making very real contributions to our effort. They don't know what war is all about. The war has passed by their window and instead of looking out the window, they are looking back over their shoulders to the home front.

When these people demand to know what food price and what material prices are all about, no sugar, no cigarettes and so on, many of them add, "Horrible!" we are inclined to reply in the classic words of General Macmillan as he answered the sur-ender ultimatum of the enemy:

"Not."

## FOUR DAYS

**MONDAY:** Mrs. McMillan, President; Mrs. Elizabeth Adams, Vice-President; Mrs. Anna M. Hayes, Secretary; Mrs. Mary E. Thompson, Treasurer; Mrs. Dorothy C. O'Farrell, Mrs. John J. Murphy, Mrs. John W. McMillan, Past President; Mrs. John J. Murphy, Past President.

A GOOD number of good men and women have been in touch with us recently. We are grateful for your interest and hope to keep you posted on our progress.

With the new year approaching, we are looking forward to a new year of good work and success.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

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