

Personally Speaking

All Out Mobilization

When Charles E. Wilson was appointed Director of Defense Mobilization a year ago, he was pressed by advisors on all sides to rush for all-out production of war materials.

But he knew that such a plan would bring nothing but confusion, and adopted a course that aimed at peak production a little more slowly, but a lot more surely. In the defense program as now set up, the target year is 1953. On this schedule, America will then not only have a big supply of equipment, but will have an industrial base strong enough to produce equipment as fast and as long as it may be needed during an emergency.

A parallel picture can be drawn in Scouting. We have a big part to play in strengthening our nation in this critical time. We do not take that responsibility lightly, because we know that the real strength of the nation will be determined in the long run by the character of its individual citizens.

To play such an important part effectively means that we have to be functioning at top pitch. Good as the Scout program is, its effectiveness is measured in the last analysis by the way it is administered in each Council, District and Unit.

Facing this challenge, our national leaders developed the Three Year Program. In this program each of our 540 Councils will take definite steps to steadily strengthen Council and District operation, and all Unit leaders are asked to do likewise, so that as soon as possible, and not later than 1954, every phase of our program will be functioning at a peak of efficiency worthy of the Movement's potential strength.

The parallel between the problems faced by our Federal government leaders and by Scouting could be carried further. The most difficult to overcome in both cases is the failure to recognize the need of the hour. It is hard to overcome the habit of just drifting along. In Scouting that means being satisfied to keep on doing it the way we always have, not constantly seeking better ways.

A final parallel is that of the importance of each Council and District, and of each Unit. Just as the total production potential of the nation can be no more than the sum of the production of all the individual factories, so in Scouting, the success of the Three Year Plan will be determined by the success in each local situation.

The Three Year Plan is a good plan, and if you and I do our personal parts enthusiastically, it will help Scouting make a great contribution to America in this critical hour.

Rex R. Lucas
Editor

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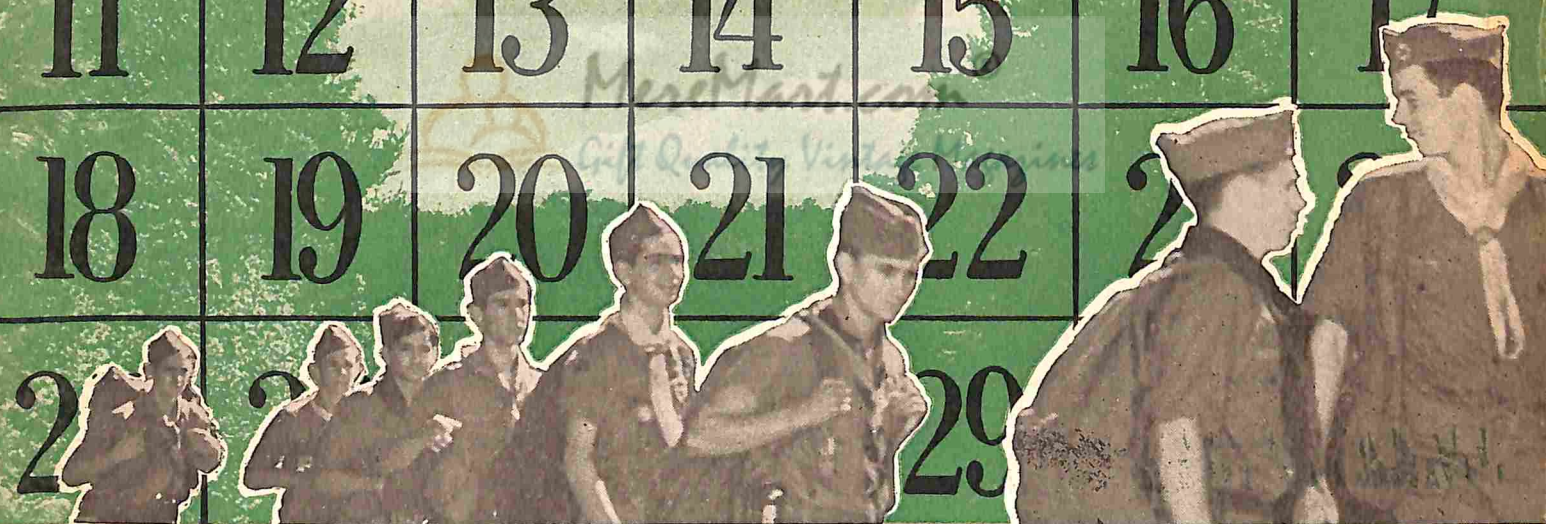
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