

Dear Mr. Veteran:

want to buy a car?

need a suit of civvies?

looking for a place to live?



while you've been away . . .

After you've got your discharge and button, you'll find things back home have changed some. Your family and friends and neighbors have had to make some changes because of the war, and some of the changes are being continued until we shift back into peacetime gear safely.

Two of the things you'll meet are **price and rent control**. They are **for your own protection** —so you won't be stung when you buy a car, or a suit of clothes, when you rent a house or apartment, when you buy food, and some other things. It will pay you to know about them.

**This leaflet is written to tell you what the score is. Read it and keep it, and save yourself money and extra trouble.**



"Th' blue plate's \$2.95 fer discharged sojers—that leaves ya \$5 fer th' street car..."



## Go-carts to guns, and back again

**When the Axis socked us,** factories were mostly making peacetime things — baby carriages, refrigerators, automobiles and the other products which make our country the most comfortable in the world. Suddenly we had to stop it all and turn to making things to help men win wars — tanks, planes, shells, ships, uniforms, food, all the rest. Management, workers, farmers, housewives and the Government came through, and did it. You've seen the shoes and tires and thousands of other things it took to run an Army and a Navy. It took a lot of groceries too.

The shooting is over now, thanks to the American fighting man and his allies. But it's going to take time to reconvert all the way from bomber plants to baby carriage factories and building projects operating at full speed. You can't do it just by pushing a button.

## DANGEROUS DOUGH

When there are ten buyers for every sirloin

steak (as there have been during these past few years), prices are sure to be bid up. That's why rationing and price and rent controls were started — to spread out the homefront supply on a fair and square basis, and keep down the cost of living. If the Government had let prices go their dizzy way without controls, many a serviceman's wife and kids, living on an allotment, would have had to eat less and wear poorer clothing. To avoid that, the ceiling price lid was put on just about everything. Rationing has been lifted now on everything **except sugar**, but price and rent controls still cover the necessities of living.

you're going to need civvies

**Clothes have ceiling prices.** On low and medium priced suits, shirts and underwear, manufacturers place official OPA ceiling price tags showing top legal retail price. Look for these tags. On higher priced garments, there are ceiling prices, too. You'll find them on tags or on posters near the goods on sale.

## want to buy a radio?

Manufacturers put official OPA retail ceiling price tags on washing machines, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, plumbing equipment, radios, and similar goods. These tags tell exactly what the top legal prices are. Be sure to look for them when you're ready to buy. These goods are coming from the factories rapidly, so don't rob your savings and your pay envelope by paying over-ceiling prices to get your radio a little sooner.

## do you need a car?

**Used cars** have ceiling prices. You can see an official OPA list of these top legal prices for all makes and models of used cars at your local OPA Price Control Board or at your dealer's.

**Know the ceiling price and don't pay more for phony "extras".**

**When you buy a car be sure you get a "certificate of transfer"**. This shows you the ceiling price. Compare it with the price you pay. Report any overcharge to your OPA Price



"Of course, the steering wheel costs \$750, but we knock off fifty bucks for ex-soldiers..."



Control Board. Wherever anyone is charging too much for a car the OPA wants to know, so it can be stopped and your money refunded. Here's another important thing about used car price ceilings. There are two kinds.

**First**, there is an "As Is" ceiling price. This is the highest that can be charged by an individual or by a dealer for any car sold in "as is" condition.

**Second**, there is a ceiling price for guaranteed, or "warranted" used cars. This is a higher price, and may be charged only by dealers who have been authorized to do so by the OPA. Such dealers must have a shop in which to make the repairs necessary to live up to their guarantee, and must keep the car in good operating condition for 30 days or 1,000 miles, whichever comes first.

**New cars are going to be scarce for a while, but they will all have ceiling prices. If you get a chance to buy one, check your dealer or your local OPA Price Control Board for the ceiling price. A few sharpers may offer to get you one,**

**for a hundred bucks on the side, but don't be a sucker and pay over the legal price.**

### **building or buying a house?**

Maybe you want to buy a house. The experts say we need ten million or more new homes. They also say three million veterans will be wanting homes of their own by the end of 1946. Some of them will want to buy, others to rent.

U. S. manpower has been tied up for years making war goods, and there haven't been men or material to build houses. With few available houses and millions of customers, the danger of building costs going sky-high is great. If that happened, your GI housing loan and your savings wouldn't even build a piece of a house.

That's why OPA put ceiling prices on all building materials. The prices of the most important materials are shown on official OPA lists in stores and at local Price Control Boards. Be sure and look them over if you plan to build or repair. Many contractors' services also have

ceiling prices, and you can get a list of them at your Price Control Board. Be sure and see them before you start to build or repair.

**OPA can't put ceiling prices on finished houses,** so before you buy a house, Stop, Look and Listen. Don't get caught with a fancy mortgage on a house that a few years from now may not be worth nearly what you paid for it. Consult a reputable appraiser and be guided by how much your bank will lend you on the place.

#### **if you're renting a house or apartment**

The OPA controls rents in most cities and towns. Rent ceilings have been set on rooms in hotels and rooming houses, and on houses and apartments. The top legal rent is usually the same as it was on the date on which rents were frozen in that community.

**When you rent an apartment or a house your landlord must show you a registration statement which gives the ceiling rent.** If you rent a room in a hotel or rooming house, check the

**ceiling rate posted in the room. Don't pay more than the rent on the registration statement or the rent posted.**

If anyone tries to collect a side payment from you or make you rent or buy some junky furniture in order to rent a place, tell the nearest OPA office. And remember, **you can't be thrown out for refusing to pay more than the legal ceiling rent.** If you're paying more, or if you're threatened with eviction for any reason, report to the nearest OPA Area Rent Office. They'll get you straightened out. You should be able to find the address in the phone book—or your local OPA Price Control Board can direct you.

#### **going into business?**

Before you make any business commitments that will tie up your money,—be sure to **get all the price ceiling information about the business,** and if it requires the use of sugar, better get the facts on that, too. You can find out from the Veteran's Relations Advisor at your nearest OPA Regional or District Office.



1920 style crash avoided —

SO FAR

During and right after World War I, prices went sky-high. The whole country suffered when people stopped buying, and the bottom fell out 18 months after the Armistice. This time the people have done a pretty good job of using rationing, price and rent controls to make sure they'd get a fair and decent share of scarce things at fair prices.

**Your own future is a little brighter, and your War Bonds are worth more because America has, so far, headed off booming prices and the crash that always follows them. But there are still great dangers ahead.**

the shooting's over —

BUT

You can help avoid high prices, inflation, and depression if you—and everyone else—refuse to pay or charge above ceiling prices and rents.

If you think you've been over-charged, go to your nearest local OPA Price Control Board.

You'll find some of your neighbors there doing the price control job, one of them probably a veteran. They'll be glad to help you. While you've been away, more than 250,000 men and women have been working in local boards, without pay, to see that your family, and everybody else, had a fair share at a fair price. Besides distributing price information to retailers and making checks to see that prices are in line, your Price Control Board receives and investigates reports of overcharges. It is for your protection. Use it.

### **Don't forget this.**

Don't get the idea that everyone is a sharpie, out to get you. Most people at home who are selling goods and services, and renting houses, are decent citizens who'd close up shop before they'd stick you, or anyone else. But there are always some chiselers. You can stick yourself by not knowing.

Either way, play it smart.

After you've read this book, keep it handy for further reference.







**If you have any questions about prices or rationing not covered here, be sure to talk them over with the Veterans Relations Advisor in your nearest OPA office. He will be glad to go over your problems with you.**