

places gave out reassuring statements that meat supplies were reduced in the first quarter of the year only about 8 percent below amounts available in pre-war years. We also reported the estimate of a reputable business journal that the available amount was so badly distributed that consumers in big cities were getting 70 to 90 pounds a year, while those near local slaughter houses would get around 160 pounds a year. Now it seems that these figures were too high. Confronted with angry protests from housewives who just weren't getting any meat, and analyses by observing newspaper reporters who pointed out in print that on the basis of allotted red points, the householder did not have nearly enough points to purchase the per capita annual allotment of 117 pounds of meat and 35.7 pounds of fats and oils a year, Chester Bowles, OPA Administrator, broke down and confessed.

Housewives will just have to eat *statistics*. It appears that the figure of something like 115 pounds of meat per person set by the War Food Administration as the civilian's share of meat was just one of those government figures, characterized in that remark "Figures don't lie" and the answer: "They're not supposed to. They are simply raw material in the hands of the expert." So Mr. Bowles comes up with the explanation that actually only about half of that figure of 115 pounds is available for consumers with ration stamps. (The rest is just what the officials used to make consumers *think* supplies were adequate and reasonably near to normal.) About 15 percent was supposed to be deducted for "shrink-

age" of the animal carcass before it was sold over the butcher's counter. A part of that amount was allocated for canned soups, baby food, pork and beans, and "even pharmaceuticals." Some people get their share of the nation's meat supply by eating in restaurants. In short, according to the OPA's chief, only about 60 pounds of meat on an annual average is supposed to be available at retail counters for consumers' purchase. Since a great many people do not have access to and cannot afford to eat in restaurants and do not use canned soup, baby food containing meat, or pork and beans, in more than strictly trifling amounts, Mr. Bowles' explanation quite obviously does not explain the present shocking mess of governmental failures at rationing and price control at all. Perhaps this is the proper point at which to remind Mr. Bowles that the officially avowed (and only justifiable) purpose of rationing is *the fair division of scarce supplies*; the purpose is certainly not to make scarce supplies still harder to distribute and to buy.

Canada does it much better—without rationing, by *encouraging* production and distribution of needed goods. In the light of Mr. Bowles' confession of complete and distinguished failure to divide up and distribute fairly the large supplies of meat that could be made available from the huge numbers of cattle on the range, it would appear to be in order to suggest that we take a lesson from our neighbors to the north, who have meat in their shops and on the table—take off the controls and let Nature and the system of free enterprise perform their customary functions.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

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†Indicates that listings of names or brands are included.



Please Note: Prices quoted in
mediate; C, not recommended.

ORCHESTRA

Gould: *American Salute & Boston Pops Orch.* 2 sides, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Slick music that may a

Lalo: *Symphonie Espagnole*. Philadelphia Orchestra under Set 564. \$3.50. This romantic who like a good tune and stori *Intermezzo*, generally omitted. At times, I feel there is more reveal and in a few passages it were not made at a constant hand there is concert hall atmosphere despite a few minor reservations its competitors.

Liadoff: *Kikimora*. Halle C Victor 11-8729. \$1. This ra Kikimora who grew up in the mountain region. Mature at night and ponders evil though nor the recording make the pressing is off center, causing

Offenbach: *Orpheus in the Underworld*. Philadelphia Orchestra under Krueger. A light overture, played with for nearly three generations. empty recording hall, is not a frequencies.

Rachmaninoff: *Symphony 1*. Orchestra of New York under Set 569. \$6.50. A 37-year-lived by beautiful, sweeping The performance and record competitive Victor Set 239.

INSTRUMENTAL

Bach: *Two Part Inventions & Preludes*. Balogh (piano). Bach wrote this music, it is belied for his son. To most listeners but the connoisseur will welcome performance all that one could sides offer short measure, however were not used to prevent free an "extra" to fill side 8.

De Falla: *Ritual Fire Dance* (piano). 2 sides, Victor 10-1 from the ballet, *El Amor Brujo* spect but unable to match the large orchestra for which th

VOCAL

Foster: *The Americans*. Cor. Cosaque. Richard Crooks (te