

No one believes victory would be won quicker in this war if all pleasure was strictly forbidden. People, if they are to be efficient and maintain a high morale, must have some relaxation and fun. Gasoline and tire rationing obviously are going to limit people's use of golf clubs, but when used within these limits, there is no disposition on the part of the government to make a sin out of golf playing. People are stopped from taking long motor trips for pleasure, but they still need to get out into the open air. In such a situation, continued reasonable use and support of golf clubs may fairly be interpreted not as detracting from the war program but as supporting it.

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tive employment of the physical and mental capacities of free Americans, and edicts limiting the conscientious American's opportunities for keeping himself in best condition to do considerably more than his normal amount and grade of work.

These critics make the human mistake of forgetting they are dealing with human beings. They have stampeded some people away from a rational view of the war-time recreation problem, especially as it concerns golf. Unhappily some of these who have been stampeded indicate by their reaction that they are in need of what golf supplies to the civilized, emotional American in wartime. Already worrying about business, about sons and the sons of friends away in war, about civilian war activities, the sincere citizen, without knowing it, has worn himself down to a point where he is easy prey to the propaganda of the unbalanced theorist.

Consider some reasons as advanced by an intensely patriotic friend of mine:

- (1) Members should spend leisure time in war efforts, such as victory gardens;
- (2) Money spent at the club should be spent for War bonds;
- (3) Club employees should be engaged in war industries.

Let's take up these, one by one:

Victory gardens should be attended to, but the time required by them does not preclude golf. The wartime function of leisure is to keep the citizen from going stale. A variety of wholesome leisure occupations is recommended by the doctors, who are the really competent authorities in directing a balanced work-leisure program for wartime.

My friend's second point is theoretically lovely, but practically there's nothing to

it as long as humans are humans. Maintenance of national economy requires the continuance of tax contributing enterprises and golf clubs are probably the nation's leading source of sports tax revenue; even in excess of the various state revenues derived from race horse betting. Bond selling and war relief financing done by golf clubs may come close to equalling the annual revenues of most golf clubs. A lot of figuring on paper would have to be done before this possible objection could be precisely appraised.

As for the employees of clubs, switching to war industry, how many of them are there? This season they will be at a minimum and in the great majority of cases unqualified for war work, even with considerable training which, let it be remembered, will involve time, money and probable waste in material and man hours in attempting to fit round pegs into square holes.

It all adds up that golf loafers are out. But golf as a reward and refresher for those who are doing their level patriotic damndest is logical, legitimate and valuable. If it weren't it would have been folded long before this by those who are convinced—after due deliberation—that golf on its drastically revised basis should be retained as a corollary of intense war effect.

**Sliding Dues**—Brae Burn CC (Houston) has slashed its dues in half and will charge 50 cents a round to players until enough is paid in to make up the old monthly dues. Then play is free.

Board of Directors of the club explained: "The directors feel that the plan will be fair to all members, the active and inactive alike. The member who is fortunate enough to have time in which to play golf regularly will pay no more than he does now for the privilege, while the member who is working long hours to produce the materials essential to the conduct of the war and can get away from his office or factory only once or twice a month for an afternoon's recreation, will pay only the overhead charge, plus the small service charge when he does play.

"In other words, the man who can play several times a week will pay about the same he is paying now, while the member who cannot play regularly will pay his pro-rata share for the upkeep of the course."