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# REPORT FROM FR

BY MARGARET HICKEY  
Public Affairs Editor of the Journal

*With their hopes and budgets stretched thin, desperate French families are unable to afford horse meat once a week.*

PARIS, FRANCE. A FEW weeks ago a young American, Harry Burks, told me, "Some people don't believe it's our job—this business of helping to reconstruct Europe. Nobody seems to know where to start. And nobody has an idea where it will end, or how. But we can't give up now. Hope's the most important thing there is in Europe today."

To understand what is happening in France it is necessary to know the kind of work Harry and Pat Burks are doing and to see, also, the other side of the picture—the confused and confusing picture whose center is Paris. This city is, outwardly, still the same alluring, beautiful place. War and the Nazi occupation have done nothing to change the façade of Paris. But behind it are the millions of French people who queue up to get bread at controlled prices. They are actually hungry, thousands and thousands of them. It's the great French middle class, professional people, "white-collar workers," students, which is hardest hit by disastrous inflation.

For example, take the family of a post-office clerk. Jacques is married and has two children: a son, 9; and a daughter, 13, who earns 2000 francs a month as an apprentice. They live in a one-room kitchen apartment, the rent for which, under a long-established maximum, is 1830 francs a year. Jacques' wife does all the laundry and cooking. There is meat on the table once a month. Horse meat. Jacques' pay, plus his government family allowance, amounts to 15,000 francs monthly. This, with his daughter's earnings, brings in a monthly income of 17,000 francs. To add to this, the family sell their tobacco rations, any fat rations they can save, and the meat stamps which they cannot afford to use.

But every month their food costs about 14,000 francs. Taxes, social insurance and pension fund take another 1000; gas and electricity, 500; rent, 150; clothing and transportation, 6570. This makes a total of 22,220 outgo against 17,000 income, leaving a deficit of over 5000 francs.

Or take the case of a young married couple, children, and both work in an automobile factory, where working conditions are good. Their monthly income is about 42 francs an hour. François' monthly salary is Louise's 7000, with tax and insurance not deducted, the 15,000 francs a month. They cause both take their money to the company canteen for lunch.

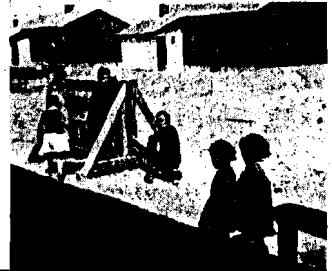
Their monthly budget is 3000 francs for food; 3000 for electricity, heat and gas; and transportation; 1000 for rent. So François' net income is pretty, with an outgo against an income of 10,000 francs.

Last month, however, they added to their budget a saving fund for the baby's way. When the baby is born, difficulties, for Louise's salary until the baby is left in a municipal crèche to work.

No wonder the French Associations here in America are so vigorous in their efforts to help the birth of a family which has been a disaster in the home.

No one suffers more from the inflation brought about by inflation than the 1000 university students who are left with no clothing and textbooks. They are left, while the financial students remain the same because these young people are a maturity, serious study which are truly have suffered long periods in concentration camps. Hundreds of students are deported to forced laborers. They have taken a toll of the month. Most of the time, they have taken a toll of the month. Most of the time, they have taken a toll of the month.

It is impossible to find a room for the month. Most of the time, they have taken a toll of the month. Most of the time, they have taken a toll of the month. Most of the time, they have taken a toll of the month. Most of the time, they have taken a toll of the month.



Play is a serious business. Teeter-totter, la...