

we're losing:

The Battle Against Sin

In full retreat in 1945, organized vice is flourishing again.

We have weapons to fight with, if we'll only use them.

By ALBERT Q. MAISEL

SEVEN years ago, organized, commercialized prostitution was all but wiped out.

Today, the vice racketeers have brazenly scored a comeback and are using a new generation of girls to victimize and exploit young servicemen and defense workers.

From Jacksonville to Tacoma, I have seen them openly operating, often with the bought-and-paid-for connivance of local officials.

The cold statistics of the experts testify to the success of this re-invasion. Early in 1945, undercover investigators of the American Social Hygiene Association found that only four cities out of every hundred surveyed deserved their worst designation of "Bad." With the lifting of wartime controls, the number of "Bad" cities jumped again. Today, nearly one fourth of the surveyed cities are either "Poor" or "Bad."

This growth of organized sin has occurred despite the valiant efforts of the ASHA, military authorities, a few courageous civic leaders and the financially hamstrung Public Health Service.

The tragedy of this degrading situation is that we have at our disposal the same weapons with which a tight nation-wide coalition of antivice forces, spark-plugged and largely financed from Washington, was able to effectively wipe out commercialized prostitution during World War II.

With the end of the war, this fight against venereal disease and prostitution was demobilized with indecent haste. The Social Protection Division of the Federal Security Agency—the center through which the armed forces, the Pub-

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Lonely young servicemen, seeking amusement and companionship, are "fair game" in corrupt U. S. cities.

