THE VETERANS LIGHTHOUSE

Pending congressional disposition of the much-debated loan feature of the G. I. Bill of Rights, Gen. Bradley has ordered the simplification of some forms used by the Veterans administration for loan guarantees, and the total elimination of others, in an effort to strip loan guarantee procedure of unnecessary red tape. This decision should speed up the entry of qualified veterans into business and professional fields.

* - *

Watch the fight brewing in congress on the issue of whether Veterans administration should be deprived of the loan procedure or not. Both sides of the controversy have convincing arguments, and both think they are right.

* - *

The American Legion's election of two World War II veterans to positions of vice-commandership at its recent convention in Chicago is being construed in Washington as a smart political move against its rival, Veterans of Foreign Wars, who elected no veteran of the last war to any such spot of distinction.

* - *

Wondering if the states will be able to provide efficient and impartial service to veterans when the United States Employment service is returned to state supervision, a number of congressmen are considering the idea of placing all veterans' employment facilities under the authority of Veterans administration.

* - *

Veterans' claims for disability will hit a peak of 200,000 per month next year, with 1,387,241 having already applied.

* - *

Finding adequate housing for veterans and their families has become an issue of paramount national importance. t is no longer a secret that the matter has become one of grave concern to the national administration. This column repeats its prediction made several weeks ago that congressional action will soon be forthcoming.

* * *

The recent last against intolerance by G Cartoonist William H. (Bill) Maudlin on the New York Herald Tribune National Forum is being hailed as one of the most effective attacks on race hatred of recent times. The assault by the famous former GI was widely quoted in daily and weekly newssheets all over America.

* * *

A new booklet, "Opportunities in retail Trade for Service Men," released by the financial research experts, Dun and Bradstreet, Inc., should be of invaluable assistance to veterans who are considering going into business for themselves. Written in layman's language, it offers sound advice and counsel to the novice which, if taken, will assist him to eliminate many of the hazards of business ventures.

* * *

Peacetime military conscription seems in the bag. A recent Gallup poll disclosed that 80v of all World War II veterans were in favor of the proposal.

* * *

By the time this gets into print, the senate may have begun hearings on the operations of veterans' preference in the purchase of surplus war goods. Hearings will be conducted by the military affairs committee on surplus. The entire matter of veterans' preference in purchasing surplus war supplies, now a procedure under bitter fire, will be aired with the intent to recommend congressional action to rectify what is being universally criticised as an inexcusable injustice.

* * *

The increasing interest in veterans' welfare being evidenced by churches of all faiths is an encouraging omen. There is much that religious organizations can do toward community rehabilitation of the veteran, and to see these groups readily accepting the responsijbility will undoubtedly provide the discharges with a deep sense of gratification.

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Johnson Urges Servicemen to Use GI Job Training

WASHINGTON — (ANP) —Col. Campbell C. Johnson, executive assistant to the director of national selective service, urged Negro servicemen in an address Sunday to take advantage of the billion dollars' worth of education that is avaliable to them annually now and use it to equip themselves for long-range postwar jobs.

The colonel's address highlighted a special veterans' observance during which war trophies and souvenirs were displayed and 97 servicemen of World War II were presented peace awards in recognition of their contribution to the restoration of peace in the world.

Among those who received these awards were Col. Johnson, former Sgt. Joseph E. Albright of the Veterans administration, who represented Gen. Omar N. Bradley at the observance, and Rev. G. Dewey Robinson, pastor of Campbell and a former chaplain.

Col. Johnson delivered a practical informational address which touched on many problems of vital interest to veterans. He urged the veterans to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered under the GI Bill of Rights. Said he, "The government is willing to spend up to $1,100 a year for the education of each man and woman who served in this war. That would amount to over a billion dollars a year for Negroes alone—more money than has been available for the education of all Negroes since the civil war."

The colonel emphasized the importance of vocational training, pointing out that in our rapidly changing technology, it will be necessary for men to have such training five, or 10 years from now in order to get or hold a ojb.

Turning to loans and government insurance, Col. Johnson warned the veterans against dropping their insurance and against hasty decisions in obtaining a loan under the GI bill. He said that many servicemen may never again be able to get insurance at rates and in amounts equivalent to the government insurance they now hold and, therefore, should hang onto it.

As for loans, the colonel said that every serviceman entitled to aid under the GI bill was assured of at least one turn for a guaranteed loan up to $2,000. He urged veterans not to waste their turn by getting a loan for some trivial or unplanned purpose. "Take your time, wait until you're sure of what you want to do—build a home—go into business—or buy a farm before using up your turn," he said.

Also, Col. Johnson said, "Save your unemployment compensation privilege in reserve until you have to use it. If you can get a job now, go ahead and take it; and at some later time when you cannot get a job, then apply for your unemployment compensation under the GI bill."

The colonel cast a pall of sadness over the audience when he pointed out that many colored youths called up by selective service in the south could not read or write, had never seen a piano, or a telephone, had never handled money and didn't even know the difference between a nickle and a dime. However, the colonel said that the armed services had done a marvelous job of equipping many of the near illiterate men with the equivalent of a fourth grade education in a period of 13 weeks.

He pointed out that this illustrates how rapidly men can learn if given the proper opportunity. Also, he said that the men have learned about democracy. "It is our challenge," the colonel said, "to speed up the processes of democracy here in America in this atomic age."

Lt. Col. Ray to Take Gibson's Job

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Truman K. Gibson Ja. is resigning as civilian aide to the secretary of war. His position will be filled by Marcus H. Ray of Chicago, until last Saturday when he was separated from the service, a lieutenant colonel of artillery with the 92nd Infantry division. Gibson proposed Ray's name to the department.

Perhaps the primary significance in the change is the fact that, unlike the experience following World War I, the post of civilian aide to the secretary is likely to remain as an important function at least for the balance of the present administration in Washington.

The new civilian aide, a former employe in Chicago, was commanding officer of the 600th field artillery battalion with the famed "Buffalo" division, until he was flown back to Washington Monday a week ago, and informed of his new assignment. He preferred to be separated in the Chicago area.

Ray is also a former commanding officer of Company F. Eighth infantry, Illinois National Guard. He was activated with all other guardsmen and in January, 1941, went to Fort Custer as commanding officer of the second battalion, 184th field artillery regiment. Two years later he commanded the 93rd field artillery battalion at Camp Stewart, Tenn., and in September, 1943, went to Fort Huachuca with the 600th. The outfit arrived in Italy as a part of the 92nd division on November 2, 1944.

Lt. Col. Ray was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and from Crown Prince Umberto received the Cross of Merit of War, an Italian honor, September 1.

In succeeding Gibson, Ray becomes the second civilian aide to the war secretary. Gibson entered the department as assistant civilian aide to William H Hastie on Nov. 28, 1940. When Hastie quit on Feb. 1, 1943, Gibson became asting civilian aide and remained in this position until September of that year when he was made permanent.

Gibson was decorated with the Medal for Merit on Sept. 17, for outstanding service. His resignation goes in this week, and after a period of assisting his successor to acquaint himself with the work Gibson will return to Chicago where he will renew the practice of law.

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Bilbo Opposed To Franchise

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Polltaxer Bilbo is a stickler for following the constitution to the letter when such exactitude serves to stymie the democratic processes was the opinion expressed by Washingtonians this week when the Mississippi senator expressed opposition to extending the ballot to residents to the District of Columbia.

Bilbo wa asked his opinion regarding district residents voting the Washington Post in connection with a poll it conducted here to measure public opinion on the question. Their poll is said to have revealed that 84 percent of the Washingtonians favored naving the right to vote.

However, Bilbo, who as chairman of the district committee virtually runs the district, called on the constitution to defend his opposition to granting the franchise to voteless Washingtonians.

Said he, "Read the constitution. The founding fathers never intended that residents of the nation's capital should be allowed to vote."

Turning to the constitution at Bilbo's request, district residents have begun to ask whether or not the senator has read the 14th and 15th amendments. They point out that out of a possible electorate of over 700,000, "the man" was elected to the senate by less than 100,000 Mississippi voters, and that in violation of the constitution, over a quarter of a million Negroes are denied the right to vote by such techniques as poll taxes, lily-white primaries, and shear, blunt, brutal intimidation.

It is pointed out that 91,000 white Mississippi poll taxers have elected Bilbo to a position which gives him the authority to dictate to over a million Washingtonians.

Chemist Addresses Food Techonolgists

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, outstanding chemist, was the speaker at the November meeting of Chicago section, Institute of Food Technologists at Huyler's restaurant. Before a large audience, he discussed "Hydrolyzed Proteins," a subject of vast importance at the present time to the food industry and the medical profession. The lecture was illustrated with slides of data accumulated during the last three years of research on proteins and amino acids by Dr. Hall and his co-workers.

On Nov. 27, Dr. Hall was a lecturer at Brooklyn Polytechnic institute, New York, before the students and faculty of the department of chemistry, on the subject, "The Function of the Chemist in the Food Industries." Dr. Raymond Kirk, dean of the graduate school and head of the department of chemistry at Brooklyn Polytechnic is an old friend of Dr. Hall's dating from an acquaintance begun during World War I.

Cotton Crop Short

CARUTHERSVILLE, Me .—(ANP)—A census report by M. J. Zaror, special agent for the department of agriculture, shows that only 15,453 bales of cotton had been ginned in Pemiscott county from the 1945 crop prior to Nov. 1. Last year 79,473 bales had been ginned. The slow showing is partly due to the heavy rains last year which caused late planting.

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Stressing the scientific theme the new Carver Xmas Seal is in colors this year. Proceeds go to the George Washington Carver Foundation. Tuskegee Institute. Ala.

Campaign Started For Prosecution Of Lynchers

NEW YORK—(ANP)—Mass action to force the department of justice to prosecute three lynchings and lynch-murders which come under the Federal Civil Rights law was asked by Congressman Vito Marcantenie, as president of the International Labor defense, Friday.

The ILD, Mr. Marcantenie announced, has opened a campaign for federal prosecution of the lynch murderers of Jesse James Payne, lynched in Madison, Fla., Oct. 11, Moses Greene, murdered by deputies at Ellenton, S. C., on Sept. 9, and Sam McFadden, lynched in Suwanee county, Florida, Oct. 21. All three are Negroes. The last two named are war veterans. In all three cases state and local authorities have refused to act.

"The power of the people must be made felt in Washington, for justice in these cases," Mr. Marcantenie said.

"Under a recent ruling of the United States Supreme court, the department of justice is bound to take action leading to prosecution in these three cases. The lynchers are guilty under federal law. In the past the department has weaseled out of such prosecutions on the excuse it lacked jurisdiction. That excuse can no longer be made. The lynch-murderers can be prosecuted under the Federal Civil Rights law, imprisoned for from one to 10 years, fined from $1,000 to $5,000.

"The Ku Klux Klan rides openly in Florida, announces 20,000 new members in Georgia, is being revived on a huge scale in the southern and border states. Negroes, veterans and non-veterans, are being maimed, murdered, persecuted, daily in a campaign of 'white supremacy' terrorism rapidly reaching the deaths set by Hitler's anti-Semitic orgy. In many cases the state apparatus itself is involved in this conspiracy of terror.

"All this has one main purpose; to create an atmosphere calculated to resubjugate the Negro soldier on his return to civilian life.

"The Federal government is not moving, and it must move, to safeguard our rights, our liberties, and the lives of thousands of American people.

"The International Labor Defense urges all friends of justice and decency to act now, demanding from Atty. Gen. Tom Clark, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., that he act swiftly and decisively in the lynchings of Payne and McFadden and the lynch-murder of Moses Greene."

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AD No. 2

Tenant Farmers Meet in St. Louis

MEMPHIS—(ANP)—The 12th annual convention of the Southern Tenant Farmers union will be held in St. Louis on Dec. 11 with approximately 150 Negro and white delegates representing 50,000 farm laborers in seven southern states attending the sessions at St. Peter's Episcopal church.

F. R. Betton, Negro, vice president of the union, in making the announcement, stated, "we have invited several nationally kown speakers to address the convention. Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president of the National Council of Negro women, has been invited to speak on the evening of Dec. 12 to a mass meeting to which both Negro and white citizens of St. Louis will be invited.

Mr. Betton said the convention will take up a proposal for a union contract on cotton plantations to insure every wage hand, sharecropper, and tenant on annual wage of $625 a year.

Tan GI's March Behind Trucks

BIRMINGHAM—(ANP) — Behind the fire trucks marched Negro soldiers in the second section of the Armistic Day parade Monday, Nov. 12 in Birmingham.

This arrangement had been fought by the Birmingham branch of the NAACP. The southern Negro Youth congress, the George Ruffin post, influential business leaders and a large group of War II veterans.

The second section of the parade—Negro section—was symbolic of second-class citizenship. This fact had been driven home to men like Levi Welch, supposed to be head of the Negro section, Robert Springfield and Wesley Watley, of the Birmingham unit of the Britton McKenzie Post No. 150 of the American Legion and C. L. Coleman, commander of the Julius Ellsberry post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I watched the parade on 19th street. White and black stood in line side by side. There was no friction. There would have been no friction in a parade improved to meet the recommendations made by SNYC and the NAACP.

When the Negro section moved along, the crowds began to break through.

Instead of the parade being improved, it has actually degenerated. The leaders were not content with a second section but went a step further to have a separate route.

Ashamed of their actions, some of the "leaders" at the last minute began to explain. One school principal is reported as saying that the parade plans were changed to conform with the NAACP's request, therefore he was putting his hand in it. The head of a service organization told me that pressure had been brought to bear under a threat to revoke the post charter.

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Bishop Wright Urges for U. S. Secret'ry of Peace

MEMPHIS — (ANP) — At the meeting of the Ministerial Council held here Tuesday Bishop R. R. Wright Jr., presiding bishop of the AME church in Tennessee and Kentucky, argued the need for a new officer in the President's cabinet, and the ministerial council passed a resolution approving the same and authorized sending a letter to President Truman in support of the request.

Bishop Wright said, "Goodwill is the only guarantee of peace. We must not only just talk it, we must study the methods of educating people into goodwill and the techniques of implementing Goodwill into all of the structures of our society.

"When our government was established, our constitution plainly gave as one of the purposes of this union, to promote domestic tranquility and domestic tranquility is on a equality with common defense. We need a department of peace as much as a department of war or a department of the navy. This nation like the rest of the world has devoted much of its best brains and its largest financial appropriations to developing the art of war with the excuse that common defense made that necessary. With the development of science to the point where we have poison gasses, atomic bombs, etc., we need now to specialize in the promotion of peace — at home, and in all the world.

"I know the preaching of peace has been left chiefly to the church, and the church under severe handicaps has done a good job. But what we need now is more than preaching—we need implementation on a scale that only the government can do it."

"We have spent hundreds of billions in war. Can we not spend a few millions in developing the ways of peace, at home and abroad?"

Man's Body Found in Well

ATLANTA — (ANP) — Atlanta and Fulton County police last week were probing the mysterious circumstances surrounding the murder of Lynwood Jennings, of Fairburn, whose bullet-riddled body was found in an 18-foot well.

Jennings had been shot with a shotgun and let down, head forward, into the well. A searching party found the body after the man had been reported missing for some time. Police Homer Almon, of aFirburn, and a coroner's jury ordered him held in connection with the slaying. He had told police that Jennings came to his house earlier, asking him to go on an opposum hunt that night, but later accounts conflicted.

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Health Program Draws Praise

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Despite the bugbear of state administration and the lack of clarification as to how the plan relates to other pending health legislation, President Truman's health proposal is a definite step forward in slow effort to extend medical services to those at the bottom of the economic ladder, says Dr. Montague W. Cobb, president of the Medical Chirurgical society of the District of Columbia and a state vice president of the National Medical association.

Interviewed by ANP shortly after President Truman's health proposal to congress was made known, Dr. Cobb said, "The President's proposal represents a realization of the importance of health to the national welfare."

He added, however, that it was not clear to what extent poorly circumstanced groups would benefit by this or any other plan now before congress. Said he, "Any for mof prepayment medical insurance presumes a regular income by the participants. It would seem, therefore," Dr. Cobb continued, "that many farm people and others with irregular and uncertain incomes may be left out—and they, of course, are the ones who need it most."

Fear was expressed by Dr. Cobb, who is a member of Howard's medical staff, that even if the proposal becomes a law, administration by the states might prove a bugbear. He believes that some states may be inclined not to administer the services equally when it comes to minority groups. The medical society head said it is extremely doubtful whether or not adequate, workable safeguards can be written into the proposal.

Also, Dr. Cobb said that it is not clear what relationship the President's health proposal bears to other health legislation now pending such as the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, the Hill-Burton Hospital bill, the Pepper Maternity Welfare bill, the program of the National Science foundation, and the work of the U. S. Public Health service.

The President's health plan has five points: 1. A compulsory national health insurance system through which participants would make prepayments of premiums; however, needy persons would be covered through premiums paid for them by public agencies.

2. Federal financial aid to states and localities for enlarging, modernizing and building new hospitals and other health facilities.

3. More generous grants to public and nonprofit private institutions to promote medical education and research.

4. Larger federal grants to states for public health services, maternal and child care.

5. Payment of benefits to replace at least part of the earnings that are lost during periods of sickness and long-term disability.

On the whole, Dr. Cobb feels that the plan will be helpful to low-income groups who have never received adequate medical care.

However, the American Medical association has gone on record as opposing the President's plan on the basis that it may lead to politically controlled medicine.

It is thought that the AMA claim is not valid, because of the range of freedom allowed under the Truman plan. Patients would be free to choose their doctors, and doctors would be free to accept or reject patients.

S. C. Disabled Vets Organize

ORANGEBURG, S. C.—(ANP) —The first chapter of disabled Negro veterans was organized here at S. C. State college Sunday, an affiliate of Disabled American Veterans.

In ceremonies conducted by Joe K. Duckworth, comrade commander of the state department and State Chaplain L. J. Spires, the chapter elected the following officers in their Luther Blackley post:

John H. Wrighten, commander; Ernest Malley, treasurer; Charles F. Dendy, adjutant; Collie Platt, chaplain; Samuel Zimmerman, officer of the day and, George Howard Jr., sergeant at arms.

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