

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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State Guard

One of the headaches that Gov. Olson left down in California was a state guard. Olson not only recruited a big organization, he called it out and put it on guard duty all over the state. The burden was terrific. Men who had volunteered for some military emergency found they were stuck out on some guard detail, mere watchman duty, around some industry or at some bridge or some gas works. Soon the resignations were turned in by the thousands as the state guardsmen sought relief to get back to their own employment.

A committee of the state assembly has investigated the guard and reports that "no efficiency exists". It charges laxity, politics in promotion of officers and concludes that the guard is accomplishing no real good. It recommends abolishing the present guard and forming two new regiments of 1200 men each with reserve forces of unlimited strength.

That recommendation follows pretty closely the Oregon pattern. Here we have one "regular" regiment, with some 20-odd battalions of what might be called reserves. The state guard has not been called into active duty because no emergency has arisen demanding use of state military force. Policing here is done by local and state police plus guards employed by private industries. And under General Cowgill the state guard has been run entirely on a non-political basis.

It is desirable in a modern state to have a supplemental military force ready for emergency duty for defense or to maintain order. In this state a small but trained state guard is all that is needed now.

What the Soldier Eats

The American soldier is described as the best-fed soldier in the world. He needs to be. He carries a heavy pack and a gun. He must be able to march long distances, sleep out on the ground in all weathers, and stand the strain of battle for days. And the American soldier is a bigger man physically than most soldiers (compare him with the Japanese soldier) so he requires more intake of food than most other men.

The United States News reports the relative requirements of the soldier and the civilian in this country. The former requires 2625 lbs. per annum and the average civilian 1975 lbs. The greatest consumption of both is not grain products, and not meat, but dairy products—1023 lbs. for the soldier and 773 lbs. for the civilian. The soldier gets 800 lbs. of fruits and vegetables with only 528 allotted to the civilian. Likewise he gets twice as much of meat, poultry and fish as the civilian—365 lbs. compared with 181 lbs. It takes only 274 lbs. of grain products per year for the soldier, while the civilian, because of the abundant supply, is given 374 lbs. In all the other lesser categories, sugar, eggs, fats and oils, and coffee the civilian consumption is restricted below that of the soldier.

This military demand takes no account of supplies sent foreign nations, or the necessary reserve stocks for military use at all important bases, or for the wastes and losses in shipping and in action. Add all these up, and it becomes evident that the American farms are faced with a great job this year in feeding civilians, soldiers, allies.

California May Act

California is bewildered, the same as Oregon, with regard to the prospect for farm labor this season. So disturbed is Governor Warren and members of the legislature of California that they may take independent action to get organized for food production this year. Governor Warren described the present situation as one of "total confusion," and said: "I am convinced California ought to take some independent action with relation to the farm labor situation and with relation to other aspects of the manpower problem."

As related in this column Wednesday Paul McNutt, head of the manpower commission, assigned to Secretary Wickard of the department of agriculture the responsibility for recruitment, placement and transportation of farm labor. Secretary Wickard in turn assigned the responsibility in Oregon to the college extension service. This means either paralleling or duplicating or superseding or supplementing the employment service which has long had responsibility for employment not only for farms but industries, construction, etc. The extension service is not equipped to handle the whole job; the best it can do is to conduct educational campaigns and urge cooperation, but cooperation with what?

McNutt, meantime, has lost so much ground in Washington that he can't get his budget approved by congress. It is freely predicted that he will be an early "war casualty." Secretary Wickard himself is on the spot and under fire because many think he has been too complacent as the food crisis has developed.

Oregon may have to do what California contemplates doing: rally its own labor. Maybe that's what we need—more self-reliance and less dependence on Washington.

Twenty five years ago a chap was happy to have 3 As on his report card. Now he learns that 3-A on his registration card means an early call. Time changes all things.

Some of the recruits to Victory gardens have already made unconditional surrender to blisters, sore back and chilly weather. They can't take it!

Portland schools are offering a course in shoe selling. Merchandising is getting a toe-hold in education.

There is one comfort about getting allied bread again—the government for once changed its mind.

Feet have been dragging in providing the funds asked by the Red Cross. Too many people are trying to get into heaven on one dollar subscriptions. That may be the price of a membership, but everybody above the poverty level should do better than that. The dragging feet are not those of solicitors but of contributors. Dr. Erb of the state university had a good slogan for this Red Cross campaign, not "give till it hurts", but "give till it helps". More of our people could and should do a little of each.

Legislation to stop drafting of farm workers is not the best answer to the manpower problem of farmers. It is pretty hard to write into law the conditions of deferment, and such a law may prove a shelter tent for the slackers. The loss to farms has been due more to young men quitting to volunteer or quitting farms for more highly paid war work than to the draft.

Among the other reliefs the legislature voted for the people was to adjourn "sine die."

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 12—The OPA has swept the problem of getting around its own unfair fuel oil rationing formula.

Without admitting or correcting its mistake, it adopted the policy of the thrifty Finnish housewife in an Old World fairy tale. When she discovered that the blanket she had bought to keep her husband warm covered him only down to his knees, she immediately decided to cut a two-foot strip from the top of the blanket and sew it to the bottom.

"That," she said, "will make it longer."

The college men who devised the fuel formula soon found it was inadequate to heat the nation through the winter, so they moved up, from time to time, the date of validity of each of the five coupons.

On March 3, with nearly one-fourth of the heating season left, they advanced the date for use of the last coupon, No. 5, to March 7, 8, and 11, in the various zones. This was the coupon which was supposed to be used from mid-April to next September 30, largely for hot water heating.

Their device has actually increased the formula allotments for the winter about one-fifth in general, but they have now reached the end of the blanket. No more coupons are left to run until September 30. Public discovery of the error is at hand.

To ward off that discovery, the OPA has now come forward with an announcement that it intends to be more generous. Not by a single phrase admitting it made an error, it now invites "householders who face hardships" to get more coupons from their local rationing boards.

In an entirely different tone than last December, when it was cracking down on the nation, the OPA now promises wide discretion to local boards.

The formula, which refused to let the local boards allow for heating servants' quarters, or for hot water, and which did not take into consideration the cubic heating footage or the wide variety of efficiency in heating systems, is apparently to be forgotten—at long last.

You can get more oil if you prove that what you have is insufficient and that you are otherwise unable to meet your problem.

No effort is to be made to recapture oil from many who received too much under the unfair formula, but a benign policy is promised. An order has even been issued allowing additional coupons for the ill and infirm without getting certificates of approval from their plumbers—which were required up to March 5.

The best of all war news has been lost in the shuffle of more dramatic announcements from the battlefronts. We are now turning out more planes a month than Hitler has altogether spread around all the theatres of war in Europe.

War Under-Secretary Patterson announced that we produced 5000 planes in January, of which 65 per cent were fighting planes, and he moved the figures up to 5500 for February. This means we produced 3975 combat planes last month.

No current official estimate has placed Hitler's total air strength higher than 5000 planes, and his production rate is known to be declining. He passed the peak last year. Ours is approaching.

If we cannot win the war swiftly with such air superiority, there will be something radically wrong with other parts of our effort.

A Finnish blanket policy also seems to have been adopted by the war manpower commission. Its draft bureau has taken the middle-aged males of 38 to 44 back into threatening classifications, for the professed purpose of inspiring them to go to work on the farms, and that very same day the army divulged plans to release 546,000 of this same over-age class for reasons of physical unfitness.

The government thus is at one time releasing an over-age group for physical unfitness, and threatening to take in more of the same physically unfit class in an effort to force them to go out and do work which calls for even greater physical fitness than the army-farming.

This looks like an effort to enlarge the manpower blanket by cutting a piece out of the center and tacking it on the sides.

Evidence dug up by congressional committees indicates 75 per cent of the men who have left the farms have gone into high salaried war defense industry.

A check made upon one Texas project shows that of the 5000 men, mostly farmers, employed in camp construction, only 25 or 30 went back to their farms when the job was over. The others had a taste of high salaries and mainly sought the Pacific coast in airplane factories.

Financial officers here are looking skeptically at the mounting piles of war bonds being turned in by workers who say they need the cash to meet their March 15 income tax payments.

The treasury makes no money—and the war effort is hurt rather than helped—when a citizen must cash a treasury bond to pay a tax to the treasury with its own money. Any taxpayer who wants to help win the war will pay from his own cash.



Another Shortage!

Today's Radio Programs

KSLM-SATURDAY-1300 Kc.

7:00-News in Brief
7:05-Rise 'n' Shine
7:30-News
7:35-Morning Moods
8:00-Eaton Boys
8:00-News Briefs
8:30-Tango Time
8:30-Pastor's Call
8:15-Dickson's Melody Mustangs
9:00-Popular Music
9:00-World in Review
9:00-Jack Peasey
9:00-Organ, Violin, Harp Trio
11:00-Campus Freshmen
11:30-Hits of Yesterday
12:00-Organized
12:15-Hillbilly Serenade
12:30-Williamette Valley Opinions
1:00-Meet the Grange
1:30-Sincerely Yours
1:45-Harry Brewer's Novelty Orch.
2:00-Isle of Paradise
2:00-Sing Along
2:30-Broadway Band Wagon
2:30-KSLM Concert Hour
4:00-Harry Horlick's Tangos
4:15-News
4:30-News
5:15-Let's Reminisce
5:30-Violin
6:00-News
6:15-War News Commentary
6:45-War Fronts in Review
7:00-Facts About Taxes
7:30-Williamette Valley Opinions
7:30-Five Novelties
8:15-Teddy Powell's Orchestra
8:30-Stanley's Melody Orchestra
8:45-This My Story
9:00-News
9:15-Times' Dance
9:45-Johnny Mezmer's Orchestra
10:00-Let's Dance
10:30-News

KALE-MBS-SATURDAY-1330 Kc.

6:45-Uncle Sam
7:00-News
7:05-Texas Rangers
7:30-Memory Timekeeper
8:00-Haven of Rest
8:30-News
8:45-Old Songs
9:00-Buyer's Parade
9:15-Little Blue Playhouse
9:30-Wartime Women
9:35-Hello Again
10:00-News
10:15-Stars of Today
10:30-This and That
10:30-Journal Junior
11:30-Concert Gems
12:30-On the Farm Front
12:30-News
12:45-Shady Valley Folks
1:00-Front Rigadoos to Rhumba
1:30-New Orleans Races
2:00-New Bulletin Board
2:00-Hey! New York Singing
3:30-Hawaii Calls
4:00-My People
4:30-News
5:00-Halls of Montezuma
5:30-Norman Nesbitt
6:05-Charles Dan Orchestra
7:00-John B. Hughes
7:15-Movie Parade
8:00-This is the Hour
8:30-Churchman's Saturday Night
9:00-News
9:15-Musical Hall
9:45-Music
10:00-Orchestra
10:30-News
10:45-Let's Learn to Dance
11:00-Johnny Richards Orchestra

KEX-NBC-SATURDAY-1100 Kc.

6:00-Musical Clock
7:00-The Cadets
7:15-Little Blue Playhouse
7:30-Bank Lawson's Knights
8:00-Breakfast Club
8:30-Christmas Country Program
9:15-Reading is Fun
9:30-News
10:00-National Farm and Home
10:30-Washington Luncheon
10:45-Farmers in Melody
11:00-Metropolitan Opera Company
12:00-Musical Cocktail
12:45-Sol Lewis Country Editor
1:30-Dinner Music Concert
2:30-News
3:00-News of Israel
4:00-Kid With A Stick
4:15-Ambassador Hotel Orchestra
4:45-Little Blue Playhouse
5:15-Boston Symphony Orchestra
6:15-Edw. Tomlinson, Commentator
6:30-Spotlight Bands
7:00-John Gunther
7:15-Music of Lou Bring
7:30-Red Ryder
7:45-Fox Porter, News
8:15-Sol Lewis
8:30-Dan Thomas Show
9:00-Melody in the Night
9:15-News Briefs
9:45-Novelties
10:00-Bridge to Dreamland
10:30-News
11:00-This Moving World
11:15-Bal Tabarin Cafe Orchestra
11:30-War News Roundup

KOIN-CBS-SATURDAY-800 Kc.

6:00-Northeast Farm Reporter
6:15-Breakfast Club
6:30-Texas Rangers
6:45-KOIN Clock
7:00-News
7:30-Dick Joy, News
7:45-Consumer News
8:00-Jack Wheeler, News
8:20-Tachikovsky Serenade
8:30-News Summary
8:35-This and That
9:00-Kid Critics
9:15-News in Song
9:30-Country Journal
9:45-Adventures in Science
10:00-Report From London
10:15-Melody Time
10:30-Spirit of '42
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