

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 24, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of the Associated Press

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper.

The President's Message

Most of the comments on the president's message to congress relate to his recommendation of a national service law, which is another term for conscription of labor. It is based on the theory of university service and democratic sacrifice in wartime. But while this recommendation draws the most attention because it would affect intimately the lives of thousands of citizens, it is quite improbable that such a measure will be passed. At a time when the problem of labor supply has been licked in the areas of greatest need, and when shutdowns of war industry are starting which release workers for other employment it will not be possible to convince congress or the country of the necessity for such an enactment now.

The truth is that the president picked this up only when the labor issue became too hot. He first proposed it as an antidote to the Smith-Connelly bill last summer. He now revives it after his unfortunate experience with coal, railway and steel unions. The president in recommending the act says that it will prevent strikes, though he does not make it clear why direct legislation against strikes in wartime is an improper solution.

In a time of grave national danger universal labor service may be necessary, along with universal conscription for military duty, but our immediate danger has eased since December 7, 1941. Our production has reached or exceeded the set goals so there is no apparent need for forcibly shifting workers in their employment. Why then a national service act now, unless as a device to head off strikes? Used for that end would not our national service fail to gain widespread popular approval as the response of the people to a great and pressing danger? Would it not partake rather of a penal nature and be applied largely to force people to stay on their jobs? If that is what it would mean why not attempt direct legislation against work stoppage?

The labor difficulties have been in considerable measure the result of conflicts in authority among the several federal agencies, and the overriding of decisions of responsible agencies by the president himself, either directly or indirectly. The results are deplorable. Labor itself feels aggrieved at its treatment; the public is scornful of the stability of administrative bodies in critical periods. To enact a national service law however would not erase the frictions necessary another bureaucracy.

The president will have to meet the labor issues head on now, and not dispose of them by the device of a national service law. Other specific recommendations of the president are:

1. A realistic tax law—which will tax all unreasonable profits, both individual and corporate, and reduce the ultimate cost of the war to our sons and daughters. The tax bill now under consideration by the congress does not begin to meet this test.

2. A continuation of the law for the renegotiation of war contracts—which will prevent exorbitant profits and assure fair prices to the government. For two long years I have pleaded with the congress to take undue profits out of war.

3. A cost of food law—which will enable the government (a) to place a reasonable floor under the prices the farmer may expect for his production; and (b) to place a ceiling on the prices a consumer will have to pay for the food he buys. This should apply to necessities only, and will require public funds to carry out. It will cost in appropriations about 1 per cent of the present annual cost of the war.

4. Early re-enactment of the stabilization statute of October, 1942. This expires June 30, 1944, and if not extended well in advance, the country might just as well expect price chaos by summer.

The country will go along on efforts to take undue profits out of war. The pending tax bill weakens the basis of renegotiation of contracts and will prevent the recapture of excessive profits. But the general burden of income taxation is just about heavy enough, with the only productive source remaining a general sales or spending tax.

Whether in his "cost of food" law the president proposes a new plan to sustain production and restrain consumer prices or merely wants to see the subsidy provisions continued is hardly clear. The objective is meritorious, it's the details that are controversial.

Once again the president left the people quite in the dark as to what happened at Teheran. His address on Christmas eve said he would give a fuller report to congress, but the president discloses little factual information as to what transpired there. He assures us that while military engagements were made for prosecuting the war, "there were no secret treaties or political or financial commitments." He reports that all the principals consulted at Cairo and Teheran were agreed on the desire for security—national security and economic security; but agreement on goals is far different from agreement on routes and methods. Evidently these subjects remain for later determination.

The president's message lacked a ringing challenge to Americans to unify for victory. Its tone was rather a complaining one, critical of a popular "let-down." The enunciation of a second bill of rights which remain to be achieved in the future is hardly as timely as a moving appeal to go forward in the immediate task of forging victory in the war.

New German Air Defense

The old axiom of warfare that improved offense is always met with improved defense was demonstrated again in Tuesday's air battles over Europe. The American Eighth air force admits the loss of 59 bombers out of 700 engaged in flights over the continent, while the Germans claim they shot down 124 four-engine bombers. We claim a bag of 100 enemy interceptors against a loss of five fighter planes. While our losses must be measured by the degree of damage to enemy industries rather than by the number of enemy planes shot down, the ratio of loss is unusually high.

The Germans used their newest tactics and their newest weapons. Their fighters flew in precision formation and threw out smoke to screen their operations. The new defense proved itself in the battles.

While our losses come as a severe shock it is recalled that after a similar experience in battles over Schweinfurt when the new German rocket gun was used the Americans adapted their tactics to meet the German methods and so reduced the loss ratio. Without doubt commanders and fliers will profit by this experience. In fact there is an intimation in the news that the Germans were tricked into revealing their new system of defense. If that is true Tuesday's loss may teach lessons that will save many planes in the collision of aerial fleets in the coming invasion.

This fact stands out, however, that we must press the war to a decision. Time is not a one-way street. The Germans are using it to perfect their defenses just as the allies are using it to polish up their plans for the great offensive. While we should not be premature in our attack, neither should we be tardy. Too late is as dangerous in war as too soon.

Gov. Wills of Vermont is afraid the professional politicians in killing off the Willkie nomination for the presidency may cause the republican party to commit suicide. But does he expect the professional politicians to let him get away with it and commit suicide themselves? A lot of them would prefer party defeat to success-with-Willkie.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

WASHINGTON, January 12—In and out of congress, the reaction to Mr. Roosevelt's many-sided new legislative program sounded partisanly squeaky or devastatingly quiet.

This was almost necessarily so. The ideas themselves defied straight comment or analytical sifting.

For instance, the president proposes to get the power to draft people into industry in order to prevent strikes. But there already is a law supposed to prevent strikes directly, the Smith-Connelly act, providing a cooling-off period, government seizure and penalties. (Union leaders shouted a few months back this was fascist robbery of their right to strike.) Mr. Roosevelt does not propose to amend that or make it stronger.

This new law which he now wants is not one to draft strikers into the army or make them work, but to allow him to draft everyone, women (18 to 50) as well as men (18 to 65) into any work he chooses by proclamation. Thus the proposition is to punish all for the sins of the labor unions.

Then again, this Austin-Wadsworth bill was proposed a few years ago strictly as a manpower shortage measure. But the president did not mention a manpower shortage as a justification for attempting to revive it.

His manpowerist McNutt testified to congress on draft-fathers some months ago that he expected to be "over the hump" on the then crucial problem by the end of last year. Senate Committee Chairman Truman said only a few days ago he expected the opposite condition—unemployment—to develop before the end of 1944.

At any rate, manpower necessities have been getting less and less government publicity since the draft threat was used so effectively to crowd people into defense industries and other related steps developed and the president did not seek to justify his draft act, extremely on that ground.

But even more perplexing, he tied his appeal for this measure to a condition that congress do all of several other things or else forget his recommendation, and some of these conditions they will never fulfill.

The senate practically rejected immediately his first condition—a tax bill five times as big as the one it will pass.

So what he proposed cannot be enacted, and the whole thesis he advanced therefore fails, as he knew it must fail when he chose the words of his recommendations. What then is this all about?

One new dealing senior private thinks Mr. Roosevelt yearned most to tell the army and navy people that he would handle labor properly. The method of doing it, in a message to congress for legislation he cannot expect to get, will not draw many to accept this conclusion whole—although it may contain some truth.

On the other hand, the anti-new dealers say it was just a fourth term political platform designed to enlist the popular appeal of the country against strikes (while the republicans were meeting in Chicago), that it was just smart politics.

This explanation has many defects also, especially as to use of the word "smart." The ideas might possibly appeal, on their face, to the 10,000,000 already drafted and enlisted, but how will the other 10,000,000 or so react politically at being made subject to industrial draft by proclamation?

More important, both radicals of the new deal stripe (left labor as well as right) and conservatives are against the proposal, and no votes are likely to be made in those groups. Thereby what it does do politically is to place Mr. Roosevelt in a more popular rhetorical position regarding union strikes without forcing him to do anything.

Therefore, any commentator seeking to furnish enlightenment might just as well go into a revolving door with this subject and spend the afternoon there.



Greedy Little Goldilocks

Today's Radio Programs

- 5:30-6:00-NEWS-THURSDAY-1230 Ea.
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-Martin County Farm & Home Program
- 6:30-6:45-News of Salem
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-Morning Moods
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-Program Parade
- 7:45-8:00-Sextette from Hunper
- 8:00-8:15-Tango Time
- 8:15-8:30-Pastor's Calls
- 8:30-8:45-It's the Truth
- 8:45-9:00-Cliff Edwards
- 9:00-9:15-Orchestra
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-Song and Dance
- 9:45-10:00-Ration News
- 10:00-10:15-Breelkin's Salon Orchestra
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-Symphonic Swing
- 10:45-11:00-Bits of Yesterday
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-Mid-day Matinee
- 11:30-11:45-Lum and Abner
- 11:45-12:00-Ray Noble's Orchestra
- 12:00-12:15-Melody Melodist
- 12:15-12:30-Spotlight on Rhythm
- 12:30-12:45-Dinah Shore
- 12:45-1:00-2:15-US Army
- 1:00-1:15-Kerstons String Quartet
- 1:15-1:30-Broadway Band Wagon
- 1:30-1:45-KSLM Concert Hour
- 1:45-2:00-Donateurs in Action
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-Teatime Tunes
- 2:30-2:45-Charles Magnum
- 2:45-3:00-Let's Reminisc
- 3:00-3:15-Orchestra
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-Headlines
- 3:45-4:00-War Commentary
- 4:00-4:15-Evening Serenade
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-Keystones Karavan
- 4:45-5:00-War Fronts in Review
- 5:00-5:15-Donateurs in Action
- 5:15-5:30-Laverne Sawyer
- 5:30-5:45-Mustangs
- 5:45-6:00-Polled vs. Hitler
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-Orchestra
- 6:30-6:45-News of the Lines
- 6:45-7:00-Serenade
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-3:15-News
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-News
- 3:45-4:00-News
- 4:00-4:15-News
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-News
- 4:45-5:00-News
- 5:00-5:15-News
- 5:15-5:30-News
- 5:30-5:45-News
- 5:45-6:00-News
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-News
- 6:30-6:45-News
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-3:15-News
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-News
- 3:45-4:00-News
- 4:00-4:15-News
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-News
- 4:45-5:00-News
- 5:00-5:15-News
- 5:15-5:30-News
- 5:30-5:45-News
- 5:45-6:00-News
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-News
- 6:30-6:45-News
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-3:15-News
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-News
- 3:45-4:00-News
- 4:00-4:15-News
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-News
- 4:45-5:00-News
- 5:00-5:15-News
- 5:15-5:30-News
- 5:30-5:45-News
- 5:45-6:00-News
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-News
- 6:30-6:45-News
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-3:15-News
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-News
- 3:45-4:00-News
- 4:00-4:15-News
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-News
- 4:45-5:00-News
- 5:00-5:15-News
- 5:15-5:30-News
- 5:30-5:45-News
- 5:45-6:00-News
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-News
- 6:30-6:45-News
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-3:15-News
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-News
- 3:45-4:00-News
- 4:00-4:15-News
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-News
- 4:45-5:00-News
- 5:00-5:15-News
- 5:15-5:30-News
- 5:30-5:45-News
- 5:45-6:00-News
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-News
- 6:30-6:45-News
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-3:15-News
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-News
- 3:45-4:00-News
- 4:00-4:15-News
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-News
- 4:45-5:00-News
- 5:00-5:15-News
- 5:15-5:30-News
- 5:30-5:45-News
- 5:45-6:00-News
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-News
- 6:30-6:45-News
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-3:15-News
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-News
- 3:45-4:00-News
- 4:00-4:15-News
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-News
- 4:45-5:00-News
- 5:00-5:15-News
- 5:15-5:30-News
- 5:30-5:45-News
- 5:45-6:00-News
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-News
- 6:30-6:45-News
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-3:15-News
- 3:15-3:30-News
- 3:30-3:45-News
- 3:45-4:00-News
- 4:00-4:15-News
- 4:15-4:30-News
- 4:30-4:45-News
- 4:45-5:00-News
- 5:00-5:15-News
- 5:15-5:30-News
- 5:30-5:45-News
- 5:45-6:00-News
- 6:00-6:15-News
- 6:15-6:30-News
- 6:30-6:45-News
- 6:45-7:00-News
- 7:00-7:15-News
- 7:15-7:30-News
- 7:30-7:45-News
- 7:45-8:00-News
- 8:00-8:15-News
- 8:15-8:30-News
- 8:30-8:45-News
- 8:45-9:00-News
- 9:00-9:15-News
- 9:15-9:30-News
- 9:30-9:45-News
- 9:45-10:00-News
- 10:00-10:15-News
- 10:15-10:30-News
- 10:30-10:45-News
- 10:45-11:00-News
- 11:00-11:15-News
- 11:15-11:30-News
- 11:30-11:45-News
- 11:45-12:00-News
- 12:00-12:15-News
- 12:15-12:30-News
- 12:30-12:45-News
- 12:45-1:00-News
- 1:00-1:15-News
- 1:15-1:30-News
- 1:30-1:45-News
- 1:45-2:00-News
- 2:00-2:15-News
- 2:15-2:30-News
- 2:30-2:45-News
- 2:45-3:00-News
- 3:00-