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Draft Extension a Necessity

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Spaatz, commander of the airforces, and Secretary of War Patterson have again asked congress to extend the draft law indefinitely and to limit service to 18 months. If that is done, they stated, the army can release all the fathers by the end of August or early in September, regardless of how long they have been in service. If it is not done, they warn, the army will fall short by 165,000 of its needed strength of 1,000,000 on July 1, 1947. The selective service act expires on May 15 of their year, unless extended.

Eisenhower said that military strength is necessary to support the position of the Allies in the UNO and said that the smaller nations are looking to the larger ones to supply that strength. Patterson said that should the draft not be extended and the recruiting program fail to establish and sustain a volunteer army of the requisite age, "the military position of this country, and therefore our ability to preserve the peace we have won would become precarious." He advocated that draft extension should be coupled with a 20 per cent overall increase in pay and allowances for all military personnel.

The strength of the present army is around 2,500,000, with a net reduction of 1,000,000 expected between now and next June. Meanwhile, the army recruitment program will be vigorously pushed. There have already been 617,000 enlistments, half of them for a three-year period.

Other top military men have given and others will give much the same testimony. They are the men responsible for winning the war. They are not alarmists, nor predicting trouble nor prophesying war, but are assuming a swift improvement in international affairs, and that the UNO will become increasingly effective. Yet the international developments speak for themselves and prove the folly of unpreparedness, and army heads see "no assurance of meeting our obligations without a continuance of selective service."

These military chieftains know the needs and capabilities of our army and the responsibilities the nation faces in its global commitments. There have not been replacements enough to bring home men of long overseas service, no sure source of personnel on which plans can be made for the future while other nations witness the dissipation of our armed power and especially our fine airforce at the time most needed. Congress should heed the appeal of Eisenhower and his colleagues, an appeal made on the basis of minimum needs, for national peril lies in its rejection.

They Never Learn

In spite of the fact that the fallacy of announcing or even hinting at the possibility of rationing any commodity in advance was demonstrated in the hundred or more instances during the war, officials having to do with the apportionment and distribution of food supplies and other necessities continue to blunder in this respect and thereby defeat their own purpose. The latest instance of this blundering is contained in the recent announcement by Herbert H. Lehman, retiring director general of UNRRA, who a day or so ago publicly announced that rationing of foods should be resumed on a world-wide basis because there will be barely enough food to supply the world equitably next year.

While not as pronounced as the public reaction to advance notices of rationing orders during the war, Lehman's statement brought much the same response as did similar news concerning scarce articles during the war. Dealers report a perceptible rise in the demand for staple foods by the public during the past few days, indicating that the hoarding habit has not yet been uprooted.

Not even flat denials by OPA and other government officials of any intention of reverting to wartime rationing has dissuaded thrifty housewives from stocking up on such critical items as they have been able to lay their hands on. The effect has been to deplete the retail market of many items which will be used to help feed starving Europeans and to place an added drain upon reserve stocks which have been earmarked for foreign relief. The denials of officials that there will be any rationing, or that rationing would be feasible in the task of feeding a hungry world at this time, is shrugged aside like rain falling on a duck's back by a public made dubious by too much double-crossing when food sharing was tolerated as a military necessity. All of the pledges that rationing authorities may utter will have no effect in stemming the stampede of the hoarders whenever anyone so much as mentions the prospect of possible rationing.

Why Stop There?

Concerned with the rapid turnover in the ownership of beer taverns, which Administrator Conway described as amounting to "almost a racket," the state liquor control commission has adopted two new regulations designed to curb the practice. Some taverns holding state licenses have changed hands as often as three times in a single month, each time at an advance in price, he said.

One of the new rules provides that "in a change in ownership, no operation will be permitted until the new purchaser has been granted a license by the commission and the former license submitted for cancellation." The second rule stipulates that "after a change in ownership no new change in ownership application will be received by the commission for a period of 90 days."

If the new orders indicate a determination on the part of the commission to curb speculation in beer taverns and to avoid the evils which accompany such speculation, the commission is overlooking a bet in permitting the operation of slot machines, pinball and marble games and similar gambling devices on licensed tavern premises. There is every evidence in and around Portland that slot machine distributors are making a business of financing beer taverns and other places licensed by the commission in exchange for secret concessions arranged with the licensed owners for the exclusive privilege of operating their illegal devices in the licensed taverns and clubs. A ban on this practice would be much more easily enforced, for all the commission would have to do would be to forbid the possession or operation of these "mechanical bandits" on any property licensed by the commission.

Such a restriction imposed upon the uses to which licensed premises could be put would be far more effective in discouraging or breaking up speculation in the ownership of licensed taverns and night clubs than anything else the commission could do. But the slot machine racket seems to be immune from restraining action in all branches of law enforcement.

Snow Near Los Angeles

Los Angeles, March 21 (AP)—Southern California ushered in spring last night with snow. It fell within 20 miles of downtown Los Angeles—in the foothills—and reached a depth of 13 inches at Big Bear lake, 90 miles away in the mountains to the east.

Two-Sides

By Beck

I FEEL SO SORRY FOR THE CRAWFORD BOY, LIVING IN THREE FURNISHED ROOMS WITH HIS FOLKS BECAUSE OF THE HOUSING SHORTAGE. NO BIG YARD TO PLAY IN, NO HOUSE TO ROAM THROUGH, NO HOME LIFE... YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE.

AND HE HAS NO WOODWORK TO WASH, AND NO ASHES TO LUG OUT, AND NO LAWN TO CUT, AND NO GARDENS TO WEED, AND NO ATTIC TO CLEAN UP, AND NOBODY NAGGIN' AT HIM TO BE DOING SOMETHING ALL THE TIME...

Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

The clamshell bucket used on the dragline to take the last vestiges of loose dirt from the basement of the new First National bank building next to the home of our favorite paper, had one of its teeth knocked out in some former bout with rocks, dirt and debris. We intend to propose its name as an honorary member of our FT & BA at the next meeting of the executive board. Anything humorous or machine that can dig in and come up with as big a bite as that clamshell with one tooth knocked out will have a high place on the honor roll of our great organization.

While it has long been known, as heretofore spoken annually in this column in a well known condition of plagiarism that a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love in springtime. It was never until we read Steve Stone's symphony to spring did it occur to us that an old man's fancy heavily turns to thoughts of lawn-mowers. It's what we'd call a heck of a drop from youth to age. We'll stick with daffodils if an old guy has to have any fancies stirred up by spring.

Salem Still in the Running (Medford Mail-Tribune)
Astoria and Eugene are mentioned as possible sites for the 1947 state basketball tournament, instead of Salem. The first two-named burgs can get more people under one roof, to view the contests, and are never handicapped by a session of the legislature, lasting longer than scheduled. The customer from the sagebrush areas, and the hinterland, can get rained on as persistently, and get his feet just as wet in Salem, as Astoria or Eugene, but no more so.

The Hutchins family out Hazel avenue are the first to report a humming bird for the season, stating one came nosing around the place yesterday.

There's been a plethora of press dispatches from Washington lately carrying sensational tidbits which, in each case, have been credited to some "official" who declined to be quoted by name. We wish somebody would ferret out this anonymous bird and get him on the dotted line. When there's sensational news from the nation's capital the people should have some idea who to hang it onto other than an "official" who declines to be quoted by name.

It seems this is the guy who, under the present administration is taking the place of the "authoritative source" so frequently responsible for news stories under a late regime.

Expensive Vote
Buenos Aires, March 21 (AP)—The Buenos Aires voter who put three winning lottery tickets in the ballot box with his vote in last month's presidential election can breathe easier today. An election judge who found them said he'd send them back. They're worth 80 pesos, which is 20 bucks, American money.

What Size?
Portland, Me.—March 21 (AP)—The men's clothing situation is no better here than elsewhere. So police scratched their heads when William A. Glen brought in a brand new man's suit, complete with tooled leather belt and \$21.30 in a pants pocket, which he said he found laid out in the entryway to his home.

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MACKENZIE'S Column

State Jobs for Vets Discussed

Paris, March 21—Europe's food shortage, which former President Hoover is here to investigate, presents a decidedly grim problem, complicated as it is by the fact that there is hunger in many other parts of the world, thus adding to the difficulties of bringing adequate relief to this continent.

Spring and early summer are going to be a critical time. This is the in-between period for crops. Indigenous food supplies have been largely exhausted and many countries are mainly dependent on imports.

But unfortunately the crisis isn't likely to end there. Although this first day of spring gives promise of an early season for the tillers of the soil, it doesn't bring the cheer of normal times. The discouraging fact is that misfortunes are swarming the farmlands like an army of locusts, making it certain that the fall harvest will be far short of the customary yield in most areas. The early vegetables will brighten the situation, but this will be a comparatively slight and passing relief.

One of the worst handicaps is a great shortage of fertilizer. The soil already is impoverished for lack of nitrates which were diverted to war purposes, and now the nitrate plants aren't functioning. That's heart-break enough for any farmer, but there is an even worse trial in the scarcity of seed, especially grain.

There is a great scarcity of farm implements, owing partly to destruction wrought in the war and partly to curtailment of the manufacture of such tools. And then, of course, the conflict has robbed thousands upon thousands of farms of the sturdy youths who were their mainstay.

Even if crops were normal, there still would be great problems to meet. One of these is the feeding of the displaced persons who have been moved in huge numbers about the continent. An example is the current difficulty of caring for the host of Germans who have been sent from Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland into Bavaria, which already had a food problem.

Even if there were food

The possibility of employing veterans in the state departments of Oregon under the GI on-the-job training program was discussed at a meeting Wednesday afternoon of more than 20 state department representatives.

The meeting was called following a letter by Governor Earl Srell earlier this week advising department heads to confer with officials of the job-training program to learn the steps necessary to put the program into effect in state departments.

Winston D. Purvine of the department of vocational education outlined Oregon's employment training program as it ties in with the Veterans' administration in providing subsistence allowances for veterans in job-training.

For the state departments to enter the program, he said it probably would be necessary for a state employer-employee sub-council to be set up, to work out job and training requirements in cooperation with the state apprenticeship council, which approves apprentice training agreements in Oregon.

Each department hiring veterans under the program then would submit to the sub-council the outline of training and study needed to train a veteran in his particular occupation, Purvine said.

Don Goode, contact officer for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, was appointed to keep all the departments informed on the progress of the state program.

Lorin Andrews, state apprenticeship council director, was said to be preparing an outline to submit to department

enough in Europe to meet requirements, still it would be impossible to distribute it readily because of the disorganization of transport and the lack of rolling stock.

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heads indicating the training procedures to be followed in each of the major occupations coming under the state departments.

Use of chemicals in warfare was known as early as the fifth century B. C., when they were employed in the siege of the Greek cities Megara and Plataea.

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