Washington, D. C., May 21—Outside the iron fence on the Pennsylvania avenue side of the White House there has been for weeks a 24-hour picketing brigade. Rarely more than a dozen are in the picket line and usually only one or two men; the rest are young women, very young women—almost high school girls—white and colored. They carry an American flag, an illuminated coal oil lantern on a pole, banners denouncing war, demanding the United States be kept out of war.

This picket line prevents no one from entering the White House. Mrs. Roosevelt, who studiously observes other picket lines throughout the country (she went miles out of her way on the west coast to avoid such a line and was picked up at a distance by an airplane) rides in and out of the White House grounds ignoring the pickets. At the gates of the driveways, at either side of the pickets, stand police, Washington guides, visitors watching the perigrinating paraders. The strikers against war work on shifts and relieve one another through the day and the long watches of the night. Dawn finds them still parading in an elongated line.

Nothing happens until nightfall. Comes dusk, and a soldier or two arrives, a member of the marine corps, a couple of soldiers. Gradually the young men from the armed forces are reinforced to 20 or 30. Hundreds of civilian spectators gravitate to Lafayette park, across the street, and wait. The pickets say nothing, continue their march, the light in the lantern gleaming. Police move a little closer to the pickets. With a sudden ruch the sailors, marines and soldiers swarm upon the pickets, delivering as many blows as possible before the police, reinforced by secret service men from the White House, break up the brawl. The lantern may be smashed, the girl pickets shoved roughly around, the man or two in the picket line receive a cut face, black eyes.

Then all is quiet, the crowd leaves and the picket line continues as before, with possibly a soldier, marine or sailor landed in the guardhouse of the White House. The nightly fracas has become routine, but the pickets are hogs for punishment. These marchers are said to be Communists and some of them are, but the police interfere only when the marchers are attacked. In no other country could such a scene be enacted.

Also in front of the White House, but 200 feet from these anti-war pickets, is another picketing group. The police pay no attention to them, nor do the White House occupants. These pickets struggle along the sidewalks on crutches, in wheel chairs, and are a pathetic sight. Each carries a banner and at the head of their parade is one carrying an American flag. In this picket line are the people who are demanding that work of some description be provided for the physically handicapped. They want work; they picket for jobs which, they say, have been promised but not delivered. Only during the day do they picket and frequently all squat on the stone coping of the fence, weary, while one picket pulls himself along on sticks maintaining the protest. This picket line, too, appears to be a permanent fixture.

White House picketing began with Woodrow Wilson, when suffragets built fires on the sidewalk and raised Cain generally until they were jailed. Present technique is to let the picketers wear out their shoeleather.

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There is a posibility of the power policy of Bonneville and Grand Coulee being changed to meet the requirements of the war department for the aluminum industry. It is now considered as in the cards that contemplated contracts for PUDs, for Bremerton navy yard and the furnishing of power to REA co-operatives may be abandoned, or at least curtailed. With Bonneville now furnishing power for 30 per cent of the aluminum production in the United States, the higher-ups predict that this will be increased three times, at least, before national defense will have sufficient of the white metal. Of course, what happens to the power problem affects the economics of the entire Pacific northwest.

With insufficient magnesium to meet requirements an investigation is being made of a possible plant in Spokane. Magnesium can be made from ores in Washington or from ocean water along the Oregon coast. There will be a bottleneck in copper and zinc. Plenty of both in the Pacific northwest, but the tight point is in smelters.

Every month revisions have been made in requirements and what was enough a year ago is inadequate today. Shortage of steel, aluminum and dozens of other articles because this national defense (and aid to the British) program is expanding daily far beyond the wildest dreams of 12 months ago. As rapidly as production reaches an indicated objective, new developments arise and production must be doubled. This has happened time after time, and no one knows where it will stop for it is believed that the war will run at least five years before there is an armistice. On this point, however, one person's guess is as good as another's.

Commencement At O. S. C. June 2 To Be Largest

The seventy-second Oregon State College, annual commencement June 2, will be the largest in the history of the institution in numbers of degrees granted, reports E. B. Lemon, registrar. The tentative list shows students will receive 795 degrees, all earned, as compared with 790 last year when four honorary degrees were given. None of the latter is being awarded this year.

Employment prospects for the graduates are better than at any time in the past decade in most respects, according to reports of school heads, although men who are high on the selective service list are experiencing some difficulty in finding suitable placement in the interim.

Commencement week-end will begin on Saturday with alumni reunions and will include baccalaureate service Sunday morning, June 1, at 11 o'clock, followed by the graduation exercises Monday at 10 o'clock.

Although enrollment of men students this year has dropped off materially, largely because of defense conditions, the increase in women students has been enough to bring the total cumulative registration for the year to 5246, or slightly above last year's figure of 5233.

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