

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Labor Draft Bill. The much-discussed bill to draft civilian manpower, variously labeled the National Service Act, the Work or Fight Bill, or the Labor Conscription Bill, was finally brought to the floor of the House by the Military Affairs Committee. The bill was a disappointment. It was not strong enough to satisfy those who have believed, since the attack on Pearl Harbor, that labor should be mobilized. It contained enough of the so-called labor conscription to arouse opposition by all organized labor. It is

also opposed by industry. I am reminded of a couplet in an old fable which runs something like this: "The mountain groaned in pangs of birth; Great expectation filled the earth; And lo! A mouse was born!"

A point about the bill that has not had much discussion is that it would provide all of the benefits of the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act to all workers in industries classified as essential war industries. This would mean that all of the millions of those classified as essential war workers would, in addition to the wartime wages received, be given the same benefits under the above-mentioned Act as if such employment constituted military service.

I have listened to most of the debate and re-checked the points made both for and against the bill. Apparently, the principal arguments for the bill are that, (1) the armed forces approve of it, and, (2) that its passage is needed as a gesture to the man in service, indicating the solid backing of the home front at this critical time in the war.

Numerous arguments in opposition to the bill included: (1) It is unnecessary because production quotas are being met; (2) its passage will not produce any tangible results in increased manpower; (3) it is too late in the war effort to be of any value; (4) it would provide benefits to civilian workers in addition to wages that are generally deemed to have fully compensated such workers; and, (5) men would be drafted by law to labor for the profit of employers.

These are but a few of a long list of rather compelling arguments against the bill.

More Alcohol Needed. The War Production Board informed me last week that the requirements for industrial alcohol have been substantially increased over previous estimates made for the year 1945. This is of particular interest to our Congressional District for the reason that the first plant ever built in America to produce alcohol from sawdust is now under construction at Springfield, Oregon.

The new estimate of requirements proves conclusively that the WPB decision to build this plant was right. In view of the fact that additional alcohol cannot be obtained from grain and cannot be obtained from petroleum without the curtailment of other needed products from that source, it may be necessary later to expand the facilities for producing alcohol from wood waste. It is generally believed, however, that the plant now under construction, which is expected to be in operation by the middle of this year, will be completed and tested before any new plants are considered.

Revised estimates of alcohol requirements for 1945 are as follows: (Expressed in millions of gallons.)

Direct Military and Lend Lease	105
Synthetic Rubber	349
Indirect Military and Civilian	165
Anti-Freeze	36
Total	655

The requirements set up for 1943 were 428,000,000 gallons, and for 1944, 609,000,000 gallons. Production of alcohol during the year 1945 is estimated at 603,000,000 gallons. Unless production is increased during the year, the present government stock of 81,000,000 gallons will be reduced to 29,000,000 gallons by the end of the year.

Prisoner of War Bulletin. Every month there is published a "Prisoner of War Bulletin." I shall be very glad to send a copy of this bulletin to parents or others in my district who would like to receive it.

Coos County "March Of Dimes" Campaign Extended

A change in the closing date for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis "March of Dimes" campaign offers Coos county residents an opportunity to far exceed last year's contribution mark. Mrs. Helen Pancoast Rice, of Bridge, this county women's division chairman, announces.

This 12th annual campaign, extended because of inclement weather in various sections of the United States, is giving Oregon women's division chairmen an extra week in which to take last minute donations for the fight against infantile paralysis.

"Money raised in this year's 'March of Dimes' drive is a real assurance that Coos county infantile paralysis victims in 1945 will receive the best treatment that medical science can offer," declared Mrs. Rice.

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Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

Howls of protest are going up throughout the state concerning the dates of opening the angling season on different streams and lakes in different parts of the state. Over in eastern Oregon it appears that the majority of sportsmen are disgusted at the opening date accorded them for angling for trout and are protesting loudly. From more centrally located counties more storms of protest are raised. This all goes to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt, that according to the sportsmen at large, that the State Game Commission has again erred in its judgment regarding the opening of the angling season.

It is an impossibility to please everybody and there isn't a group of men living who could frame laws that would meet with the approval of every sportsman. However, there are on the other hand plenty of men who could frame laws and opening dates on game animals and birds that would meet with general approval, and that is something that the present State Game Commission has failed to do.

In the first place, the members of the State Game Commission are put into office through a political pull and off times are sadly lacking in knowledge concerning wild life conditions or angling conditions throughout the state. From the time the Game Commission was first formed, up to and including the present time, each and every commission has been composed of a large percentage of bankers and doctors and especially the latter. And so far as we know, each commission has been composed of men of means. Not once, to our knowledge has a man of moderate means been placed on the commission. So therefore the common layman, the man who really contributes the bulk of the money through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses has never had a voice toward the framing of game laws in the state of Oregon.

The man of moderate means who has rambed the woods, fished the streams and lakes, trapped fur-bearing animals and studied wildlife and has a store of valuable knowledge concerning them, is never given an opportunity to serve on a State Game Commission. He is shoved aside for some high powered politician, some personal friend of the governor's, or some wealthy doctor or banker. The downright ignorance of game commissioners as a whole, regarding wildlife was demonstrated a number of years ago when that group of men refused to close the trapping season on the almost totally extinct Fisher and gave for their reasons of doing so the fact that the Fisher was an eater of our game fish. The only fish this animal eats are those he may chance upon along a bank of a stream, that have died after spawning.

Several years ago a Fisher, an old pet of a Portland family, escaped from its cage and half the Portland police force were searching for "the savage beast." It was finally shot and killed and taken to the State Game Commission for identification. Not one of the members of the game commissioners serving at that time could identify the animal. Ben Hur Lampman, with yard stick and with considerable knowledge of wildlife in general, identified the animal as being a Fisher. And yet, such a group of men frame the trapping laws relative to the taking of fur-bearing animals and are supposed to know their habits, when the fur is prime, etc.

The opening dates of both the deer and elk season is tragic, as thousands of pounds of meat is wasted each season, it being unfit for human consumption. Yet, it is the State Game Commission who fixes the opening dates of these two seasons.

We have our doubts as to whether or not there are actually 50 pair of Chinese Pheasants left in Coos county, yet the season is opened on them each year.

Perhaps the Game Commission is doing its best with the knowledge it possesses concerning wildlife conditions, but as has been demonstrated in the past, that knowledge is not enough—it is sadly lacking and our wildlife is too valuable to have its future safety placed in the hands of such men.

As we have stated before in this column, game commissioners should be elected to office, just as state representatives are. One commissioner, or representative elected from each district of the state—districts being known as certain areas composed of two or more counties, and the candidates being men with an abundant knowledge concerning wildlife in their respective districts. By eliminating politicians from the picture we will finally get some place. By retaining them, they will continue playing football with our most valuable asset—our wildlife.

Will Aid Veterans To Start Farming

Machinery for certifying GI farm loan guarantees through the Coos County Veterans' Loan committee has been set up and the committee is ready to review applications of discharged veterans who wish to use the GI loan guarantee provisions of the Veterans' Administration in establishing themselves on farms in this area; announces Ed Detlefsen, chairman of the committee, Coquille. Other members of the committee include J. J. Geaney and J. Q. Corrie. While addition of another member, a veteran and businessman was proposed, appointment has been delayed pending a ruling of the federal bureau of budget.

"First concern of the committee in certifying GI loan applications will be to insure that the veteran is establishing himself on a sound basis for successful farming," said Detlefsen. "The committee will review the application to determine if the property to be purchased is necessary to the farming operations and represents a reasonable value. The experience and ability of the applicant must also qualify him for successful farm operations."

Steps in securing a GI farm loan guarantee were outlined as follows:

1. A veteran decided on the farm or farm equipment he wants and goes to the lender which may be bank, commercial credit agency or individual.

2. Lender requests Veterans' Administration to certify to applicant's eligibility and completes application for the loan with appraiser being designated by the Veterans' Administration.

3. County Veterans' Loan Committee reviews the application and certifies it to the Veterans' Administration.

4. Veterans' Administration accepts or rejects recommendations of the committee and if guarantee is approved, sends closing instructions to lender.

"Everybody in the county is vitally interested in seeing that returning veterans who want to farm have every opportunity for success," Detlefsen said. "With present high land prices and scarcity of farms for lease or rent, it will require everyone's cooperation in creating these opportunities. Veterans should not only thoroughly investigate before attempting farming operations but also use the service of the Veterans' Advisory Committee set up by the County Agent's office."

The Veterans' loan committee is the same as the County Farm Security Administration committee but will be responsible directly to the Veterans' Administration for GI farm loan guarantees. They will continue to carry out their regular duties as FSA committeemen.

Speech Handicap Clinics Held

Dr. Leon Lassers, Supervisor of Speech Correction, held speech clinics in Coos county throughout the week, January 29, through February 3. These clinics were held in the following places: Marshfield, North Bend, Coquille, Valley View, Bridge, Myrtle Point, and Bandon. During this time Dr. Lassers had conferences with a number of school children who were having trouble in stuttering, enunciation, etc., and also had meeting for parents and teachers of these boys and girls.

Dr. Lassers stated that it was natural for any young child to repeat. This due to the fact that the speech center is not fully developed. But in some perfectly normal children it develops much more slowly than in others and if the child is allowed to continue the repeating without being criticized or attention being paid to it that there are no bad results but that when he develops a fear through being cautioned, corrected, or slowed down, he develops stuttering.

These clinics were organized by the office of the County School Superintendent through the assistance of the schools in the several districts and is part of the state program for assisting handicapped children.

Townsend Club No. 1

Townsend Club, No. 1, met Tuesday evening, with a large crowd present. Mr. Buckner opened the meeting with a prayer and Mrs. Hatcher acted as president. Mr. Barker, from Medford, gave a nice talk and there was a program of readings and jokes. Mrs. Krantz received the door prize. Salad and crackers will be served next Tuesday.—Press Cor.

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Inter-American Relationships Class For Study Of

Dr. Henry E. Stevens, administrative assistant for State System of Higher Education, has notified the office of County School Superintendent that an extension course in Inter-American Relationships can be offered provided that there are thirty people who are interested.

The class would be conducted the same as the Social Hygiene class, which is now being completed, there being a new instructor each week. Twenty people have already signed up. The course could be started early in March in Coos Bay.

This subject is one of extreme importance at this time and should certainly be of interest to club people, general public, and to teachers. Five dollars will be the fee which would be required for a two-hour course and it could be taken for either credit or audit, and graduation credit will be given for those who desire. This is the first time that this has been possible with courses offered in Coos county. The instruction will cover such as the following: The geography and geology of the countries, political and diplomatic history, modern political trends, particularly in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru, later American literature and American education and the South American fine arts. On each of these subjects a capable instructor will speak.

Anyone who is interested should immediately get in touch with one of the three following: Superintendent L. J. Mayfield, Coos Bay; Harry May, principal of Roosevelt school, North Bend, or Mrs. Martha E. Mulkey, county school superintendent.

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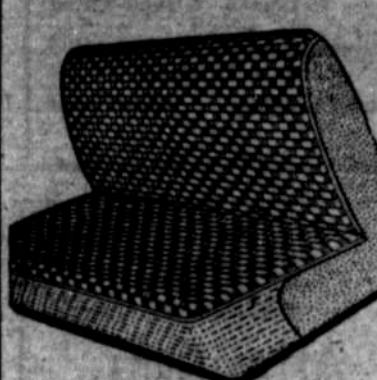
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