

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

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DECLARED OLD IDEAL

WASHINGTON.—Although the full employment bill is being pushed through congress into law by a preponderant favor for it—and there is no objection to the basic hopefulness of its theory—no one seems to know what it means, or even where it came from. By great odds, it is the most uncertain and unclarified piece of legislation of my time here.

I have been calling it a CIO bill because the CIO has campaigned for it in the usual expensive and prepossessing manner which obscures other backing and monopolizes the publicity. But CIO planners did not write it.

The numerous senators whose names are attached as co-authors will give you little satisfaction if you inquire where they got the notion of passing a law proclaiming the right to work which has always existed, legally, constitutionally and by custom. The original draft of their bill was probably composed, as nearly as I can ascertain, by the Farmers Union, farthest left of the three farmers lobbies and often called the farmer branch of the CIO. But of all things the farmers need right now, a law declaring their right to work must run behind help shortages, equipment shortages, price fears and practically every other existing agricultural consideration.

The Farmers Union people will say they got the idea out of a speech Mr. Roosevelt made in which he mentioned a lot of rights, including the right to work. But Mr. Roosevelt did not say there ought to be a law, and before he mentioned the matter it had gotten into a resolution of an international labor office meeting in Philadelphia. Sir William Beveridge, whose vast social security hopes were swamped in the last election, was an ardent champion of legislation to declare the right to work. Going behind and beyond him, an investigation will bring you to the fact that such a right is declared in the Soviet Russian constitution.

There it has some meaning because under a dictatorship fixing salaries, controlling hours, renting homes and even cooking and charging for the workers' meals, while restraining the worker from freedom, a law promising to share whatever work the government gives is a realistic right. But this is all far behind American ideals and rights which already go much further, promising among other things, freedom of work at one place or another and the right not to work.

Even this would not be so perplexing except that both sponsors and amenders of this right-to-work bill agree it carries no legal rights. Co-author Thomas of Utah may not have been pinned down on that point yet, but Co-author Murray and Amender Taft, and all the others, seem agreed no citizen could sue an employer or the government for a job or get out an injunction, or that a labor union could sue, or get the courts to make someone establish jobs or wages, hours or anything. This, they all say, is just a declaration of policy by congress, no matter how it is worked. Its authors particularly deny that it is a trick to establish a legal basis for a whole new conception of law in which the unions or individual workers could build up decisions through this new Supreme court to indict the government or employers and perhaps establish criminal penalties.

If it does not do this, then what does it do? Well, its sponsors rather frankly indicate they look on it as a political propaganda step, establishing a policy-peg upon which they can hang future legislative demands. Particularly they want big spending appropriations made in the future, and they will then say: "The policy of every man a job has been established so this appropriation must be made to give him a job." Or they can build up a demand that the Aluminum company be broken up for that reason, or that all black hair be made white because it would create jobs in the hair dyeing industry.

This makes it seem unimportant because congress retains the right to appropriate or not appropriate regardless of this undefined declaration of an unagreed policy. Frankly, then I do not know what it means, except that everyone will ask for government funds.

A decline in work-week is another provision. Plans to cut the government work-week again from 40 (it was 48) to 30 have already been proposed in bills. This keeps salaries where they were and prevents normal utilization of the talents, abilities and aptitudes of the nation's manpower. It does not increase purchasing power or create more employment opportunities; it merely shares-the-work, less work for the nation as a whole, therefore less productivity and less tax revenues to sustain a high economy, needed for full employment.

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

EISENHOWER AND RUSSIANS

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, a real diplomat, has been making progress toward friendship with the Russians, but got a setback the other day.

U. S. officials entering Eisenhower's office found him despondent. He was holding a copy of Time magazine.

"Look at that," he said, "six weeks' work gone."

Eisenhower pointed to a picture of a female entertainer in a Berlin night club standing on her head, legs apart, holding a picture of Stalin between them. Time had reproduced the picture.

"And just as I was making some progress with Marshal Zhukov," Eisenhower mourned. "First he would scarcely see me. But recently we have become pretty good friends. When I go into his office he says, 'Here's to Ike.'"

Eisenhower went on to tell how Zhukov was blazing mad over the Time magazine picture. He had just come from seeing the Russian commander who had demanded:

"What are you going to do about this?"

"Nothing," replied Eisenhower.

"What! You let the American press make mockery of the marshal?" exclaimed Zhukov.

"That's what we fought the war for—the right to criticize, the right for people to say what they please," said Eisenhower.

Eisenhower went on to explain to the Russian that because one newspaper or magazine published a picture of Stalin, it did not reflect the sentiment of either the American government or the American people, and that the American government scrupulously refrained from censoring the press on matters of this kind.

However, the Russians continue to be sensitive. It is hard for them to understand the difference between a regulated press as in the Soviet and a free press as in the U. S. A.

NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

President Truman really let his hair down with Senator Burton when he called him in last week to tell him he was being nominated to the Supreme court.

Catching Burton just before the Ohio senator was about to leave for Cincinnati, Truman told him that he had actually promised the Supreme court job to another man, Robert Patterson, now secretary of war, but changed his mind.

"Harold," said Truman at the start of the interview, "I've made up my mind to appoint you to the Supreme court."

"You were always my first choice," Truman continued. "But I had some vacillations. I considered appointing Phillips of Denver, Parker of North Carolina and Patterson. 'Finally I decided to appoint Patterson and told him I was going to appoint him.'"

Truman then explained that it was better to leave Patterson in the war department to replace Stimson as secretary of war.

"One of the things that disturbed me about your appointment," Truman continued, "was the probable claim that I might be playing politics in order to get a Democratic senator from Ohio." (Truman had in mind the fact that Governor Lausche of Ohio, a Democrat, now can appoint a Democratic senator to replace Burton, a Republican.)

"So I talked it over with Alben Barkley," Truman explained, "and he advised that if I was convinced you were the right man, I should appoint you and let political consequences go hang."

Note—Truman had picked up Senator Barkley at Paducah, Ky., the evening before and flown him back to Washington in his special plane, at which time they had conferred regarding the Burton appointment. Truman, incidentally, seems to be leaning more and more on sage, experienced Barkley for advice.

CAPITAL CHAFF

President Truman still keeps up his rapid-fire early-morning appointment pace, sees as many as 15 visitors before lunch. Greek Publisher Basil Viavianos visited Truman the other day, caught him sneaking a yawn and long stretch between callers.

A new breath of fresh air in the post office department: Gael E. Sullivan of Chicago, assistant postmaster general.

Visitors to the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial library at Hyde Park have doubled since the late President's death. Mrs. Roosevelt gave each of Henry Morgenthau's children a trinket from the former chief executive's desk as a memento.

When Nelson Rockefeller was eased out of the state department, workers in that building were startled to see truckers removing the furniture from his office. He had furnished his suite with his own furniture. When the truck pulled away, even the chandeliers, which were Rockefeller's personal property, had been taken.

Suggestion to Paul McNutt—check on why General MacArthur and Philippine President Osmena permitted so many Jap collaborators to keep high office in Manila since liberation of the Philippines.

Veterans' SERVICE BUREAU

EDITOR'S NOTE: This newspaper, through special arrangement with the Washington Bureau of Western Newspaper Union at 1616 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., is able to bring readers this weekly column on problems of the veteran and serviceman and his family. Questions may be addressed to the above Bureau and they will be answered in a subsequent column. No replies can be made direct by mail, but only in the column which will appear in this newspaper regularly.

Veterans' Administration

Gen. Omar Bradley, new boss of the Veterans' administration succeeding General Hines, has moved with military dispatch in reorganizing the administration to provide better and more efficient service in behalf of the stream of veterans now being discharged from the services.

One of the most important changes made by General Bradley is a complete decentralization of all veterans facilities under the supervision of 13 branch offices. Obviously routine decisions can be made more promptly and more intelligently in a vast organization such as the Veterans' administration if they are not forced through a bottleneck in Washington.

Another change, one which had long been a subject for discussion, and oftentimes of criticism, was the medical service. The general now has separated and elevated the medical division to a higher status under command of Maj. Gen. Paul R. Hawley. Under this new arrangement, the new "surgeon general" will report direct to General Bradley.

The Veterans' administration is combing the government agencies and other channels for help and likely will emerge in the postwar era as one of the largest if not the largest governmental agency, handling as it will the affairs of some 12 million discharged veterans at one time or another. The administration has recently been the object of both congressional and private investigation as to conditions within the organization, conditions at Veterans' hospitals, treatment of patients, the tremendous shortage of physicians and nurses and other help and no doubt, it will be General Bradley's policy to eliminate immediately all situations which led to these investigations.

Questions and Answers

Q. I was discharged on February 24, 1943 by reason of "Sec. II, A.R. 615-360 and CDD." Will you explain the meaning of this. I will soon be 42 years of age. Is there any way I can volunteer for service in the occupational forces?—S., Rogersville, Tenn.

A. "This means that you were discharged under section 2 of the code governing discharge of veterans and 'CDD' means a certificate of medical disability. In other words, you were discharged for a medical disability of some sort. The nature of your disability should be stated on your discharge. Yes, if you can pass the physical, the army is accepting volunteers for the occupational forces."

Q. How many points does a father of four children have who has been in service since last October 24 and across since July?—Mrs. R. E., Uhrichville, Ohio.

A. The army point rationing system as of September 2 gives 1 point per month for time in service, 1 point per month for time overseas, 12 points for each child under 18 years with a maximum of three, and 5 points for each decoration or battle star. If your husband has no decorations or battle stars, he would have about 51 points. At this time 80 points are necessary for discharge, although the army has announced discharge for 70 points by October 1, 60 points by November 1 and elimination of the point system later in the winter.

Q. I am writing in regard to a soldier killed in Germany who made his insurance to a lady who raised him. After his death, his own mother came and claims she should get his insurance. Which one is entitled to the insurance?—Mrs. T. G., Water Valley, Miss.

A. If the soldier named the lady who raised him as beneficiary in his insurance, she is entitled to it and will get it notwithstanding the mother's claims.

Q.—My brother left high school recently to join the navy. Is my mother entitled to an allotment or allowance from the government if he allots the required \$5? E. W., Rogersville, Tenn.

A.—Yes, providing your brother listed his mother as a dependent when he enlisted or was inducted into the service.

Q. If a member of the regular marine corps extends his enlistment while overseas and the extension has one more year before expiration, will he have to remain overseas until the expiration, if he has been overseas 20 months?—Mrs. W. D., West Memphis, Ark.

A. Not necessarily. The marine corps has set up a rotation for return to this country after 18 months service overseas. Extension of his enlistment would have no bearing upon the time he spent overseas. The chances are this marine will return soon for duty in the states.

General MacArthur Receives Emperor Hirohito



Japan's emperor went to meet Japan's conqueror, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. It was the first time in 2,000 years of Japanese history that a mikado had left the royal palace to be received by a foreigner. Emperor Hirohito, "The Son of Heaven," was dressed in formal morning attire, not in his flamboyant dress of admiral or marshal. The conquered ruler bowed to American correspondents.

Uncle Sam's Most Expensive Private First Class



Pic. Arthur Griser, insert, whose wife and 11 children are shown awaiting his return from Europe to their Pitcairn, Pa., home. They have been married 12 years and have three sets of twins among their 11 children. Their army allotment of \$280 a month is believed to be the highest paid to any private first class. Griser is just as anxious to return to his family as the paymaster is to be relieved of this expensive soldier.

It's a Long Walk Up to the Top



View of crowded Empire State building lobby after elevator strike went into effect. Workers seem hesitant about climbing stairs to their offices, and have backing of health authorities who put limit at eight flights for workers under 30 years old.

Football Gains Speed



An example of the quality type of football being displayed this season is demonstrated by Dan Dworsky of Sioux Falls, S. D., who will play fullback for Michigan. The end of the war has released many stars.

Stricken Brothers Await Death



The three Finion brothers, Billy, 15, left; David, 19, on bed; and Lloyd, 12, right, all crippled by muscular dystrophy, a rare disease, usually fatal, shown as they await their sad fate at the home of their widowed mother, near Salisbury, N. C. The boys were recently taken to Duke university hospital where doctors said they could do nothing for them.

Pearl Harbor Counsel



William Dewitt Mitchell of New York, a lifelong Democrat who served as attorney general under President Hoover, has been appointed counsel for Pearl Harbor quiz.