

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.

Regional Expansion

In line with the Veterans administration's objective of taking the administration out to the "grass-roots" of the country, rather than centralizing the organization in Washington, Administrator Omar N. Bradley has announced the opening of 21 new centrally-located regional offices and the contracting for approximately 300 advisement centers.

Regional downtown offices were opened in Des Moines, Wichita, Atlanta, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Portland, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Muskogee, Okla., Phoenix, Helena, Mont., Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Chicago, Newark, Hartford, Charleston, W. Va., and Charlotte, N. C.

New advisement centers were opened at Greenville, S. C.; Benedict college, Columbia, S. C.; University of Kansas at Kansas City, Mo.; Tuskegee institute, Tuskegee, Ala.; Eastern Oregon college at La Grande, Ore., and Superior State Teachers college, Superior, Wis. Services of the advisement centers are available to all veterans planning to continue their education or take vocational or rehabilitation training either under public law 16 or the G. I. bill of rights.

Regional offices function as the operational offices of the administration. Individual case records are maintained at these offices and claims are rated and adjudicated. Almost all benefits administered by the administration can be handled at the regional office level.

Questions and Answers

Q. In July, 1944, my brother was killed on Guam. I was made his beneficiary in his insurance policy. But before he went across he made a will that has never come to light and this is causing some trouble among the heirs as he was single. Another brother in service says a duplicate will was made and kept on record somewhere. Could you tell me where this will be kept?—R. A. G., Houston, Mo.

A. Of course we would have no knowledge where the will might be. You might write to the finance officer of his outfit. If you are referring to national life insurance, the money will be paid to whoever was named beneficiary in the policy regardless of any will.

Q. Would it be possible for a soldier to get a release from the army, if he is 25 years old, has a wife and three small children, who live in the country with no modern conveniences. The wife's health is not good and a 21-month-old baby daughter must have an operation for removal of a bone growth on her foot. He is now somewhere in Japan aboard a ship?—Mrs. M. E. M., Port Allegany, Pa.

A. He is eligible to apply for release because of the three children.

Q. I have a friend who has been in the army since December, 1944. He left the states on July 2, 1945 and is now in Japan. He has no dependents and is 19 years old. Will you please tell me how many points he has and how long it will be before he is sent back to the states?—Miss D. P., Denison, Ohio.

A. He has approximately 16 points as of December 5, 1945 and needs 35 to become eligible for discharge. He probably has many more months to serve.

Q. Will a mother who has a son killed in action, and who is physically unable to make her own support, lose her pension if she remarries? Will a father's pension be discontinued if he remarries?—Mr. T. S., Jackson, Tenn.

A. In the case of a parent, the question of marriage is not considered. The pension is based upon dependency and whether the parent, mother or father, has sufficient income to keep them.

Q. My son was killed in Italy October 1 a year ago. His wife is named as beneficiary in his insurance but hasn't received any yet. What is the delay?—A mother, Brownsville, Tenn.

A. Have you filed a claim for your insurance? Suggest that you write to your nearest Veterans administration office, probably at Nashville or Memphis, set out all the facts and am sure you will get some action.

Q. When a soldier has been through hell of the battlefield for two years and has been discharged with a tired and nervous condition which can be cleared up by being at home and rest, how can he get this psychoneurotic name off his discharge so he can go to college?—J. J. C., West-bury, Wis.

A. You have evidently received a medical discharge and would suggest that you make application to your regional Veterans administration for a re-examination and an appeal from the medical findings.

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON

FRIEND OF ENLISTED MAN

WASHINGTON. — If there were more men in the army like General Eisenhower, this newsmen would not be so swamped with soldier mail.

The other day Sgt. Samuel Cohen of Philadelphia, stationed in Berlin, received a cable telling of a serious emergency at home. Physicians advised his return immediately. Two weeks passed and all Cohen got was the usual army run-around. He couldn't get a furlough. Finally, a friend suggested that Cohen call General "Ike" directly.

"What can I lose?" Cohen asked, going to a telephone.

When he asked the G. I. operator for General Eisenhower, the operator asked with no surprise in his voice whether he should ring the general at his home or his office. Since it was then about 10 o'clock in the evening, Cohen said to try the general's home.

An aide to Eisenhower answered and listened to Cohen's story, excused himself for a few minutes, came back to the telephone and said, "Sergeant, if you will call the office of General Clay, perhaps something can be arranged for you."

"You had better wait about 10 minutes before calling General Clay," he added. "To give General Eisenhower a chance to talk with him first."

Ten minutes later, Cohen called General Clay, where an aide said, "Oh, yes, sergeant, we've been expecting your call. Now can you come in at eight o'clock tomorrow morning? We'll see about transportation then."

TRUMAN TURNS REPORTER

Congressional leaders who met with President Truman recently to discuss serious legislative problems got a chuckle over Truman's story about his surprise flight to see his mother on her 93rd birthday.

Newspapers have already told how Truman called the Kansas City Star to announce his arrival in Grandview, Mo. But in addition, here is what Truman told his congressional leaders really happened: It was Sunday afternoon and the usually bustling city room of the Star was in a lull. Only a skeleton editorial force was on the job, and a young reporter answered the phone.

"This is the President," said Truman.

"Who?" said the reporter.

"This is President Truman."

"The hell it is," exclaimed the newsmen, convinced that somebody was pulling a practical joke. "Mister, who are you trying to kid?"

Finally the call was transferred to another writer on the paper, who knew Truman personally and could identify his voice. Highly amused, the President told him the news of his visit.

FOGGY FOREIGN POLICY

Harry Hopkins, now hospitalized in New York, is not improving. Always a living skeleton, Harry kept himself alive because of his love of FDR. Now that FDR is gone, Harry has no more zest for work.

Sen. Claude Pepper of Florida is returning from a three-month tour of Europe to blister the administration's handling of foreign policy. Coming on top of Senator Fulbright's two-fisted attack, perhaps somebody around the state department will wake up to the fact that the seeds of World War III can be planted right now. . . . The strategic services unit of the war department (it was formerly the "Oh-so-secret" office of Gen. "Wild Bill" Donovan) has just set up a very interesting project which will not keep the peace. It is working on a "plan for an order of battle for a war with Russia." The job is under direct supervision of Maj. Raymond Cromwell, former Tokyo correspondent for the Wall Street Journal.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Former Coast Guard Comdr. Joel Fischer was in Germany trying to root out hidden Nazi funds. Cross-examining war criminals, he found them anxious to get American lawyers to act in their defense. When asked his views on the best American lawyers, Fischer, with straight face, replied: "You ought to try to get Clarence Darrow or Perry Mason." Fischer's victims took careful notes, not realizing that Darrow has been dead for more than five years and that Mason is a fictional character in Earle Stanley Gardner's mystery stories.

Government press officials recently beat down a second attempt by War Mobilizer John Snyder to maintain a peacetime censorship over the statements of their bosses. They rejected all censorship schemes flatly during a secret session at the White House, promising to check among themselves to be sure major policy statements of cabinet members and other key officials are not too far apart. . . . Randolph Paul, one of the ablest tax men the U. S. treasury has ever had, is completing a book on taxation, written for popular reading.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

STATE DEPARTMENT NEEDS REORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON.—What Pat Hurley said was true.

For many months, evidence has been leaking from the state department suggesting the permanent underlying clique was unsympathetic with top policy, and undermining it in subtle little ways. Yet there was nothing sufficiently provable to warrant printing.

The men within the department who have noticed the condition have been so frightened they dared not speak, even privately, outside of the department.

Because of the stands they have taken within the department they knew they were suspect to the reigning group, and occasionally thought they were being followed or their telephone conversations tapped.

Even business men dealing there have noticed the condition, compared notes about it among themselves, and wondered its extent. But until the retiring ambassador to China spoke out with direct charges, the matter never reached the public eye.

State Secretary Byrnes, my informants say, does not know the facts, nor did his predecessor, Mr. Stettinius. Byrnes promised a departmental reorganization and brought in a few top men, but this was as far as his reorganization went.

And today, more men are being taken into the clique than are leaving it. The various bureaucratic holdovers of the Roosevelt regime, losing their war jobs in other departments, have been seeking couches in state.

It is a peculiar condition and has never been accurately defined, not even by Mr. Hurley in his restricted charges. The men of the clique do not hold meetings and agree to undermine this or that. They are merely of one mind on some basic ideas.

For one thing, they are unsympathetic with American foreign policy today. For another, they agree in their distrust of anyone who would question Russia in the slightest upon any subject. They are not Communists but their minds are guided by the Communist grooves of thought.

FASCISTS OBJECTED TO BY STATE CLIQUE

Objectionable things are to them "fascistic." Hence Chiang Kai-shek is a Fascist; Russia, a democracy. But they branch off from Communist grooves to others strangely enough.

The British have the best diplomacy, they think; hence Britain likewise can do no wrong. They are known also as "the striped trousers set," affecting the uniform of the Downing street diplomats beyond necessities.

To define what specific undermining they do is difficult. They are an invisible wall of resistance. Hurley had two men in the far eastern division in mind in his charges.

These two, he apparently caught telling the Chinese to pay no attention to him, and spreading around at cocktail parties the notion that the American foreign policy was temporary, that it would not back Chungking in postwar. Beyond this apparently he had no convincing evidence.

His purpose in reversing himself abruptly and deciding to quit with a challenging public statement, was to force a congressional investigation. A thorough one no doubt would force a reorganization which not even a secretary of state has been able to effect in his own department.

Before Byrnes and Stettinius, Mr. Hull knew very well what was going on. He could read in the papers daily, the planted news leaked from his department against him, and he thought Sumner Welles, his assistant, was doing it, but Welles was only the temporary outlet for the clique within. Not even Hull could do much.

Mr. Byrnes has indicated his intention to smile away the matter, and there is danger that the Democratic administration will treat it politically. Hurley is a Republican, and his efforts for a congressional inquiry may be shunted off as a political attack.

If the inquiry fails to develop, the Americanization of the state department may await a future generation. There is talk that Byrnes will quietly start housecleaning to forestall an inquiry, but he must necessarily use a whiskbroom where DDT is called for.

Unless something is done, Mr. Byrnes will find it increasingly difficult to effectuate his foreign policy which is sufficiently popular with the country to have passed beyond public or congressional criticism, except from this one clique and a few papers of like mind.



DAY OF JUDGMENT FOR ALL . . . The accused at Nuremberg trials are shown in lower left. They include Goering, Hess, Von Ribbentrop, Keitel, Rosenberg, Frank, Frick, Streicher, Funk, Schacht, Doenitz, Raeder, Von Schirach, Sauckel, Jodl, Von Papen, Speer, Von Neurath and Fritzsche. Upper photo shows the court officials. Lower right, the entrance is being carefully guarded by American troops. The records contain historical evidence that would ordinarily require years of research to compile.



DOLLS TO AID SANTA CLAUS . . . Photo shows left to right, Marilyn MacGregor, Warren, Ohio; Betty Reznor, Durham, N. C.; Frances Tibbetts, Melrose, Mass., and Elizabeth Peterson, Cornwall, Pa., as they sit among some of the 1,000 dolls that will be delivered to social agencies and through them to poor children confined in hospitals. The dolls were provided by students at Wellesley college, Wellesley, Mass.



TO HAVE AN EARLY CHRISTMAS . . . "Dear Santa," writes pained three-year-old Marvie Clark, with the aid of his mother, Edna Clark. But Marvie will never know Santa's response, for doctors have told his parents that Marvie cannot live until Christmas.



IS STILL RUNNING . . . Dr. Karl Kobelt, newly elected president of Switzerland, did not stop running when he was recently elected to office.



WINS LAMB AWARD . . . Wayne Disch, 15, Evansville, Ind., with his pen of three Southdown lambs that won the junior championship at Chicago market fat stock show, held during the 24th National 4-H club congress. The average weight of the animals is 110 pounds. The International, replaced this year by the market fat stock show, will take place in 1946. A nationwide 4-H club program is directed by federal, state and county extension services. The national committee on boys and girls club work is privately supported by voluntary groups of interested citizens.



SENSATIONAL FOOTBALLER . . . Herman Wedemeyer, Hawaiian-born halfback of the St. Mary's Gaels, selected as "the most useful player on the Pacific coast." He will play with the Moraga, Calif., team against Oklahoma A & M in the Sugarbowl classic at New Orleans.