

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.

Factors That Determine Veteran's Pension Rate

Where veterans of World War II have a disability incurred in or aggravated by service in the armed forces, there is no set disability pension he may receive, the amount being determined by the degree of disability upon examination by the Veterans' administration.

The rates of pension range from \$11.50 per month for a disability of a degree of 10 per cent to \$115 a month for total disability, and where certain specific disabilities occur, such as loss of hands or legs, or blindness, or combinations of disabilities, the amount payable may be as high as \$205 per month. These rates are determined, as near as possible upon the average impairment of earning capacity.

It must be remembered, and particularly in cases of World War I veterans, where application is made for disability pension, not service-connected, that these pensions are not payable if the disability is the result of the veteran's own willful misconduct or vicious habits. Also where total disability is not service-connected, pension is not payable to the veteran where the annual income is \$1,000 if unmarried, or if it exceeds \$2,500 if he is married.

Many times, the experience shows, according to the Veterans' administration, World War I veterans applying for pensions years after World War I for non-service-connected disability are turned down because the Veterans' administration decides the disability is due to the "willful misconduct or vicious habits" of the veterans.

Questions and Answers

Q. My son has been in the army for 22 months and spent 16 months in England, France, Belgium and is now in Germany. He is with the 2242 quartermaster truck company. Does the war department have any word when this company will be shipped home?—Mrs. H. N., Plankington, N. D.

A. As of February 15 this outfit was in Aushach, Germany, and the war department has no word on when it will be returned to this country.

Q. My son, who is in Japan, made out his insurance papers to me before he went overseas. I have been married since that time. Do I have to have my name changed on the policy?—Mrs. J. W., Fort Bragg, Calif.

A. The Veterans' administration says it would not make much difference, but would probably save some time in the event the insurance became payable. The veteran must make application to his commanding officer to change the name of the beneficiary.

Q. Is a widow of a World War I veteran who is elderly and in poor health, eligible for a pension if she has an income of \$100 a month?—Mrs. W. Mc., Arlington, Mass.

A. If death was service-connected, yes, she is entitled to a pension. If not service-connected, she is not entitled if her income is \$1,000 or more annually, if she has no children. I would ask your nearest Veterans' administration office, however, because the law says that certain items are not considered income and determination as to whether the claimant's income exceeds the respective amount is made by the Veterans' administration.

Q. My son was given an honorable discharge in May, 1945. I wish to know if he should draw a pension, as he was wounded in Belgium. He was with Patton's 3rd army. He is a member of the American Legion at Fayette, Ala., Post No. 127, but as yet has not even been examined for a pension. No one knows about the nervous disposition he has except his parents.—Mrs. E. M., Fayette, Ala.

A. From your letter, I would say your son most certainly is entitled to a disability rating, but he must apply to the Veterans' administration for an examination for determination of the amount. Apply immediately to your nearest office of the Veterans' administration for this examination.

Q. My boy died in the army in France. I want to know how I can get the large flag they put over the casket to bury them. I know of some mothers who have received them. I would thank you if you can tell me.—Broken-hearted mother, Brownsville, Tenn.

A. Relatives or next of kin of deceased veterans, who died in service, may receive a United States flag by application to the postmaster at any county seat post office. Application may be made on Veterans' Administration form 2008 available at local office.



CHILD STAR WINS 'BROWNIE' AWARD . . . Beverly Simmons, seven-year-old movie star, may not win an "Oscar" this year, but she has already been awarded a "Brownie" from her Girl Scout troop in appreciation of her fine screen portrayals. She is shown in the center as Janice, left, and Phyllis Jones, right, presents her with the "Brownie." The presentation took place on the set of "Three Kids and a Queen."



MOTHERS PICKET SCHOOL BOARD . . . Protesting the school board's refusal to appoint Miss Ruth D. Morrow, veteran teacher, as principal of the Center school, Everett, Mass., mothers bearing placards and several young pupils picketed the school. The school board had previously named a young war veteran to the post. Other school strikes were reported in several sections of the country. Chicago group is demanding a grand jury investigation of their school board.



BIRTHDAY OF CAMP FIRE GIRLS . . . America's oldest organization for young girls, the Camp Fire Girls, celebrates its 34th birthday, March 17 to 23. The purpose of Camp Fire is to provide opportunities for enjoyable, worthwhile activities for the girls' leisure time through which they can develop their best potentialities. During the war they did more than their part, not only on the front lines but on the home front.



SCHOOL FOR VETERAN FATHERS . . . Designed to prepare G.I. dads for coping with situations that may arise when they meet their offspring, a "bundles from heaven" class is held in New York City. Ex-G.I. William Carey is the student with the dunce cap. He is listening to nurse Vivian Percival, who explains the correct technique of diapering. The baby is Carey's 20-month-old daughter, Dawn. Nurse says he must really enjoy the job.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Some people are wondering whether the fact-finding board for the meat packing industry took the trouble to read the newspapers. If so, they might not have recommended that the housewife bear the main burden of the cost of increased wages in the meat packing industry.

The fact-finding board, which included Dr. Edwin E. Witte of Wisconsin university, Chief Justice Raymond W. Starr of the Michigan Supreme court, and Clark Kerr, former chairman of the meat packing branch of the war labor board—three able men—decided that a 16-cent pay increase was fair and equitable for meat packing workers. But they added that only five cents of this was "absorbable by the meat industry without price or subsidy relief."

In other words, the fact finders recommended that the big meat packers could pay only 5 cents of the 16-cent wage increase out of their own pockets. The rest would have to be passed on to the consumer or the government. Their report was filed February 7.

However, early in December, long before the fact-finding board was appointed, a number of smaller meat packing plants had already signed contracts with the CIO and AFL for 15 cents an hour pay increase without any strings attached regarding increased meat prices.

The small packers who signed such agreements included Hygrade Food Products of New York, George A. Hormel of Austin, Minn., and others in the Chicago area.

Apparently, the fact finders did not take this into consideration. Apparently also, they ignored the fact that Swift and company previously had agreed to a pay boost of 10 cents an hour without any strings attached regarding increased meat prices to the housewife.

For, despite Swift's offer of 10 cents an hour and the smaller companies' increase of 15 cents, the fact finders recommended that only 5 cents of the 16-cent increase could be paid for by meat packers. The remaining 11 cents will be passed on to the housewife—unless the government votes a subsidy.

BREAD WASTE SCANDAL

Department of agriculture sleuths have been doing some quiet checking of unscrupulous bakeries which violate bread-sales regulations in order to kill off competition.

Despite the fact that the nation has been forced on a "dark bread" diet to help feed war-starved peoples of the world, thousands of loaves of good bread are still going to waste, or being fed to hogs and chickens.

It works like this:

If a big bakery is trying to grab business away from a competing bakery, it will begin supplying grocery stores on a "consignment basis," which means that grocers' shelves are loaded up with supplies of bread in excess of what they can sell.

The following day—sometimes the same day—drivers pick up the unsold loaves and replace them with fresh stock, charging the grocer only for the bread actually sold. Idea is to promote sales of a particular brand of bread because of its "freshness."

This is a violation of war food order No. 1, but it hasn't stopped certain bakeries in Houston, Texas, Richmond, Va., San Francisco, Cleveland, Kansas City and St. Louis from carrying on the practice on a huge scale.

Instead of making their returned stocks of one-day-old bread available at a reduced price to poor families, the loaves frequently wind up in garbage bins. One Texas farmer who tipped off the department of agriculture about conditions in Houston said he had been buying wagon-loads of bread "fresh enough to eat" to feed his hogs and chickens.

ATOM VS. BATTLESHIP

Unless President Truman does something drastic about it very soon, the forthcoming atomic tests in the Pacific, scientists say, may turn out to be a study in water-spouts instead of atomic energy.

On-the-surface atomic-bomb explosions, the scientists claim, will add nothing to the knowledge already accumulated from previous explosions at New Mexico, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, except that we may learn the size and damage of the world's largest water spout.

Administration lobbying to confirm Ed Pauley has reached white-hot pitch. Gov. Mon Wallgren of Washington was brought east to put the heat on Senators Magnuson and Hugh Mitchell, the latter having been Wallgren's secretary. Both will now vote for Pauley. . . . In some states, where the November race will be close, a vote for Pauley may mean defeat for a Democrat. . . . The Pauley-Allen-Vardaman Merry-Go-Rounds have evolved the latest Washington wisecrack: "Truman is suffering from Pendergastitis ulcers!"

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union

NEW STATE POLICY RETREAT TO RUSSIA

WASHINGTON — In complete official privacy, the state department has spent some weeks getting up a new statement of American foreign policy. The only great question of policy, of course, is how to treat Russia. On this, the paper was not illuminating in its original form.

The Byrnes policy established at Moscow and London since mid-

December, has been substantially this: Press no point which would be offensive to Russian claims. Retreat on policy as much as possible and accept Russian contentions. The apparent but not professed purpose has been to entice Russia out of her nationalistic isolation in dealing in the world of affairs.

This has kept world news rather calm but events behind the news, particularly from Europe, are working up boldly and may break sensationally. Do not, for instance, let yourself be currently misled into believing the domination of the French government by Communists and Socialists is a permanent arrangement, or that the name of De Gaulle will remain forever in retirement from French politics.

Give greater notice than has been given to the victory of the Belgian Catholic party over both Communists and Socialists. Belgium is half French, with all the same elements of French politics in miniature. Indeed throughout Europe, even in Yugoslavia, the resistance to Communism is taking the only effective form yet evidenced in the gathering together of Catholic elements.

I have heard American statesmen say these Christian groups are the only ones in the world today who know how to resist Communism, ideologically or politically. These groups have a firm ideology themselves.

REDS PUT ENGLAND ON DEFENSIVE

Britain was the first nation to talk up to the Soviets, but the diplomatic resistance of Bevin at the London UNO conference was tactical rather than formidable. The Russians had raised the question of British influence in Greece, primarily to cover their own tracks in Poland, the Balkans, Iran, Turkey and other places where they are attempting to extend their influence. They forced Britain to the defensive by raising this question. After accomplishing this purpose, and succeeding in getting UNO to allow Moscow to deal separately with a pro-Communism Iranian prime minister installed at Teheran for the purpose — Russia withdrew her Greek charges against Bevin.

The common current belief that Bevin may have found a way of treating with Moscow therefore is unjustified. He twice passed "the lie" to them and they backed down, true enough. But when you add up the results, you will see Russia won the action she wanted from UNO, while Bevin won nothing except the red herring.

President Truman, meanwhile, is recognizing that the army seems to know how to get along with the Soviets, without losing their shirts, better than our timid and confused diplomats. He chose General Marshall to go to China to get Chiang into a peace with the Communists; and now he selected General Eisenhower's chief of staff to be ambassador to Moscow, instead of a diplomat or a politician.

Army men, by nature, should be more interested in results than in the political ideas of justice for this and that, which have so confused our diplomats in recent years. (Latest example: Joe Davies, who thinks Russian spying on Canada justified, but no doubt would cry out against any Canadian spying on Russia, whereas any realist knows all nations have always spied on all others and always will.)

This new reliance on army realism is the most hopeful development in American foreign policy, in contrast to these childish but pompous accumulations of vapid generalities the state department plans to put out under the claim that they are great state pronouncements. I mean it is most important, if a recent pronouncement by Mrs. Roosevelt does not outmeasure it. Mrs. Roosevelt has been recognized as a spokesman for the class-thought which pressured Byrnes into the appeasement policy, causing him to retreat.



TEXAN STAR . . . Jack Robinson, 18, Fort Worth, Texas, who has scored about 350 points while serving as forward on Baylor university's basketball team. Young Robinson is considered one of the most promising 1946 players.



NEW STATE AIDE . . . Maj. Gen. John H. Hildring, New Rochelle, N. Y., who has been named by President Truman to be an assistant secretary of state. General Hildring served as director of war department civil affairs.