



Senator Wheeler's fight to defer pre-Pearl Harbor fathers continues to turn the light on some very interesting facts concerning the deferments which have been granted government employees. A tabulation of the number so deferred by states has been made available by the selective service board and shows Washington and California in top spots. The list shows a total of 115,397 eligible for the draft but deferred because they are essentially employed in some one of the numerous government agencies.

The majority of the entire total so deferred are under 34 years of age and thousands range between 18 and 25. California stands in No. 2 spot with 12,249 deferred, led only by New York state, which is in first position with 14,954. Washington stands in fifth place with 6,275 deferred because of their essential government employment. The breakdown of this total of 275 from Washington shows them listed in the following brackets: 1,315 are between age 18 and 21; 1,204 are from 22 to 24; 1,685 from 25 to 29; 1,368 to 37. Oregon stands way down deferred, which breaks down as follows: 91 from 18 to 21; 123 from 22 to 30 to 34, and 703 are from 35 to 37.

Of the 11,000 deferred government employees 51,875 are employees of the navy department, 30,423 are employees of the war department, 7,409 of the shipping administration, and 4,309 of the maritime commission. In industry, as of July 31 this year, 1,553,000 are deferred because of their occupation.

The very peculiar part of his report is the wide spread between Washington and Oregon in the number of those deferred because of their essential government employment. Washington has over six times the number so deferred as

compared with Oregon. In the next few days selective service will make available the names and addresses of the whole list, according to Senator Wheeler, which will also designate those who asked for deferment.

As predicted in this column over a month ago, Prentiss Brown's resignation as chief of OPA has been written and will be sent the president in the near future. Chester Bowles, who has been running the whole show for the last several months, is expected to be named to succeed Brown. Rumor has it that the president will offer his good friend Prentiss Brown another important post in government, which he may not accept. Cloak room gossip has it the popular Mr. Brown will go back to his home in Michigan and look over the political situation very carefully before making any future moves. If things look right, Mr. Brown will be a candidate for some elective office.

Best guessers around here believe the present 16-point rationing on butter will be lowered in the next few weeks to around eight points, where it was last summer. The armed services and other government purchasing agencies, which have been taking a large amount of the nation's output, are out of the market and will not make any more purchases of butter until next spring. This move will divert at least 30 percent more butter for civilian use. Just as soon as a reasonable stockpile is built up it is expected the point rationing will be lowered. The armed forces now have a large surplus of most all foodstuffs. If they stay out of the market for a few months it may mean reduced ration points on other foods, especially meats.

American industry has repaid \$2,141,366,000 to Mr. Whiskers on war contracts through renegotiation in the 16 months period ending Aug. 31. On top of that, price reductions on work already ordered but not yet delivered, will save the government an additional \$2,262,742,000, making a total of well over four billion dollars. These figures do not include the benefit received by the government in the form of lower prices written into new contracts that manufacturers of war supplies now know because they have found out what their manufacturing costs will come to.

While a large amount of the money saved would have gone back to the government anyway in

the form of taxes, it is estimated that at least 30 percent of the amount would have been retained by the contractors and manufacturers. Other substantial savings will be made before war's end and at the present time negotiations are going on with seven different contractors in the northwest for refunds which, if made, will take close to \$30 million.

Low Interest Rate Assured Borrowers From Land Bank

Federal Land Bank borrowers in Umatilla and Morrow counties with National Farm Loan Association loans which matured after June 30, 1944, are now assured that the interest rate on their investment payments will not exceed 4 percent during the life of their loans. R. H. Loveless, secretary-treasurer of the Hardman National Farm Loan association at Pendleton, said today.

Mr. Lovelace is advised by R. E. Brown, president of the Federal Land Bank of Spokane, that the bank's board of directors has approved substitution of the 4 percent rate for higher rates on nearly all of the loans closed prior to June 24, 1935. While all association loans closed since 1935 carry a 4 percent rate, the board's action guarantees association borrowers that the interest rate through the life of their loans will not exceed this amount.

In 1933 congress reduced the land bank interest rate to 4½ percent, and in 1935 to 3½ percent, on association loans, and provided that federal funds be used to make up the difference between the original loan rate and the reduced rate, Brown said. This congressional legislation expire June 30, 1944, when the bank's own reduced rate became effective. It will make continuation of payments by the treasury unnecessary unless Congress decides to continue the 3½ percent rate. Approximately \$20,000,000 would be saved the government in the next fiscal year through discontinuance of these treasury payments.

The land bank's 4 percent rate is the lowest at which farmers generally ever have been able to obtain long-term mortgage credit," Brown told Loveless. "While the 5 and 6 percent rate charged on loans prior to 1935 were low when made and reflected the cost of money in the bond market in those, the land banks since that time have refinanced their highest rate bonds and the voluntary reduction by the

banks of the higher interest rates on their older loans is simply passing on to their borrowers the savings made by such refinancing and by economies effected in operation costs."

Brown added that the interest rate on loans not made through an association shall not exceed 4¼ percent, or 4½ percent, depending upon the class of loan made.

GUEST OF NEPHEW

Mrs. R. E. Kaufman of Los Angeles is a guest at the home of Rev. and Mrs. S. D. Spiesz. Mrs. Kaufman, a former Oregonian, is Mr. Spiesz's aunt. She has made her home in Los Angeles for a number of years and expressed delight at being in her old home state once more.

LEAVE FOR ROSEBURG

Mr. and Mrs. O. Wendell Herbinson and family, Mrs. Kenneth Marshall and Loma Mae Jones left Wednesday morning for Roseburg expecting to attend a state conference of the Christian Endeavor society. Shortly after they left announcement was made over the radio that the conference had been postponed.

Army, Navy Aptitude Tests Scheduled Here

The second qualifying test for the army specialized training program and the navy college program V-12 which will be given throughout the country on Tuesday, Nov. 9, will be administered at the Heppner high school, Principal Ivan C. Parker announced today. A pamphlet of general information which contains an admission-identification form may be obtained at Heppner high school. This form properly filled out will admit to the test students between the ages of 17 and 21 inclusive who are recent high school graduates or who will be graduated by March 1, 1944. Intent to take the test should be made known immediately to Mr. Parker in order that the necessary test supplies may be ordered.

TEA GUESTS

Guests for tea Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Huston were Mrs. Lester Doolittle of Portland and Miss Leta Humphreys and Miss Rose Hoosier of Heppner.

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