

SENATORS ASK CHANGES FOR AGED PENSION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (AP)—A special senate committee recommended to congress Thursday liberalization of the social security laws to provide minimum old age pensions of \$30 monthly to all unemployed persons over the age of 60.

The committee also proposed that old age insurance benefits begin at a \$30 monthly minimum and that combined employer-employee payroll taxes be boosted to 6 per cent by Jan. 1, 1944, a level which would not be reached under present law until Jan. 1, 1949. At present employers and employees each pay 1 per cent.

The extended benefits urged by the committee, named to investigate the government's old age pension setup, would cost an estimated \$4,000,000,000 annually.

Under present law, the age minimum for pension and insurance beneficiaries is 65. The pensions vary by states and in 1940, ranged from \$3.89 monthly in Arkansas to \$18.94 in California. Committee records said insurance benefits averaged \$20.48 monthly.

The proposed new pension minimum would rise from \$20 effective next July 1 to the \$30 figure in 1944. It should be paid, the committee said, to "every American citizen who has retired from gainful employment at or after the age of 60" unless he is receiving federal old age insurance benefits or is covered by the 1940 railroad retirement act.

The committee also recommended extension of old age and survivors' insurance to provide for universal coverage and that all groups within the extended coverage start paying taxes Jan. 1, 1943. An immediate investigation was urged to devise a plan to embrace self-employed groups, farmers and farm workers and employees of all government sub-divisions — the main classifications not now covered.

The majority report was signed by Senator Downey (D-Calif.), the chairman, Senator Pepper (D-Fla.), Senator La Follette (Prog-Wis.) and Senator Thomas (R-Ida.).

Senator Green (D-Ri.), in his minority report, said that the proposal would involve the expenditure of \$3,000,000,000 more than the amount now being provided by the federal government. He estimated the present amount at \$220,000,000.

Green also asserted that "the existing emergency calls for extraordinary expenditures for national defense against external aggression," and that the recommendations of the majority for the "huge sums . . . seem unreasonable at the present time."

The majority said: "It should be emphasized that if employment and national income are demoralized by the curtailment of military expenditures, it would be vitally necessary that our consumer purchasing power should be supported by every possible means. Therefore the maintenance of at least a minimum of buying power among the age group past 60 would be helpful in checking any trend toward collapsing production after this emergency is over."

Chairman Downey said economists had told him the distribution of \$4,000,000,000 a year would result in increased federal revenues of \$400,000,000 annually.

The majority plan contemplated a population of 15,000,000 persons over 60 in 1945. Eliminating aliens, an estimated 3,000,000 employed beyond the age of 60, and other groups, the committee estimated 10,000,000 would qualify as beneficiaries.

Portland Won't Cooperate, So Gardens May Move

PORTLAND, Aug. 29 (AP)—A. B. Lambert, who said he had an investment of more than \$140,000 in the Lambert Gardens here, Thursday considered moving them to Seattle.

He said Portland officials had been uncooperative in marking streets so tourists could find the gardens, located several blocks from a main thoroughfare in southeast Portland.

Although between 5000 and 6000 persons visit the gardens each month, the number should be 15,000 as it was two years ago before the city banned street banners directing persons to the 35-acre site, he said.

In Seattle, Mayor Earl Millikin in answer to a letter from Lambert, said he would present to the city council his inquiry as to civic co-operation if the gardens were moved there.

"I am sure," the mayor wrote relative to street signs, "no difficulty would be encountered provided your gardens were in as remote a part of the city as they are in Portland."

The goat-moth caterpillar gets its name from its odor.

Navy Yard Towns Create Housing, Recreational Problems for USO Group

(The defense industry worker is recognized by the United Service Organizations as deserving recreational, spiritual and educational and social benefits equal to those provided for members of the armed forces and "the women in the army." In this, the final in a series of articles on USO activities, examples are presented of the promptness with which the USO moved on the job even before the campaign for funds was completed.)

By WILLIAM I. GORDON

Even in times of utmost world calm, a navy yard town invariably is crowded, but when a national emergency is declared and shipbuilding and repair necessitates the concentration of thousands of additional workers, the navy yard town presents the bedlam of a boom town.

The foremost problem created by such a situation revolves around housing and recreation facilities, of which there is a sad and generally insurmountable shortage.

Vallejo, Calif., has a normal population of not more than 15,000. Permanent accommodations were provided for that number. Then a sudden burst of activity at the Mare island navy yard brought 25,000 more men and women, many with children, into the community which had room for 15,000. From all parts of the country these workers were recruited, brought into strange surroundings and presenting the most difficult of puzzles for social welfare organizations.

In line with its avowed purpose of serving the needs of America's defenders and defense industry workers, the United Service Organizations is attacking this problem which is not confined to Vallejo, but exists in all army, navy and industrial centers in continental United States and at overseas bases. Vallejo is merely used as an example.

Utilizing existing facilities at the YMCA, one of the six agencies which incorporated the central organization, the USO has a program of entertainment and recreation running smoothly for the benefit of the workers and their families. USO headquarters, in cooperation with real estate agencies, serves as a clearing center for housing inquiries and placements, maintaining a complete list of all available space, and relaying all such information to applicants. Through this service no house, apartment or other shelter has been permitted to remain vacant. The government is sponsoring new building on a rapid-fire basis, and the USO will continue to offer its services as a "rental bureau."

While housing constitutes the most pressing problem confronting newcomers to a booming community, there is always a distressing cloud hovering over the lives of persons deprived of recreation and social activities. The USO realizes this and, rushing to its appointed task even before its permanent facilities are established, has achieved remarkable results in a brief but action-packed period.

With the cooperation of the

city's leading club women, dances are held at USO headquarters, bringing together as many as 400 young men and women for frequently scheduled evenings of recreation. The USO prevails upon the women's clubs and other sponsors to furnish refreshments which range from continuous buffet suppers to full dinners, served before the dances.

The USO exercises careful supervision over the invitation lists which are prepared by the women sponsors, who also serve as chaperones. Dancing leads the list of choices of recreation for men in the army, women in the army and, likewise, defense industry workers. USO dances are arranged well in advance, in order to take the greatest possible advantage of facilities and provide dances as frequently as feasible for the greatest number of couples.

With the first influx of shipyard workers and their wives, a reception was arranged by the USO. The mayor was on hand to greet the newcomers and, through the efforts of the USO, many of the townspeople came to extend a hand of welcome to the strangers in their midst. The reception was augmented by a dance, bridge and parlor games and community singing. A nursery was set up to take care of the babies while the new citizens mingled with the town's established homemakers and a feeling of good will and true fellowship was quickly established.

Service clubs, rallying to a call from the USO, sponsor at least one dance a month for single young men and women of the community. The navy yard furnishes the music for these dances, and to encourage wide participation in wholesome recreation, furnishes refreshments and door prizes.

Although these indoor activities are proving highly popular, many of the defense workers turn to the outdoors for their recreation. When the navy yard was on a five-day week, workers and their families could take advantage of the two days off by driving to resorts considerable distances from their work, but Uncle Sam is now intensifying building activities, placing the yard on a six-day basis, so, with highways crowded, the workers hesitate to make long trips on a one-day holiday.

Even before this situation arose, USO was busy arranging picnics and other outdoor affairs at nearby spots. Under USO sponsorship, these parties attract thousands of persons each week, and since the inauguration of a three-shift schedule, many who work from midnight until 8 o'clock in the morning take advantage of the USO invitation to outdoor fun and get together for morning picnics.

USO works closely with all pastors of the city and keeps the newcomers informed on special

church events, paving the way for them to pursue their accustomed worship in churches of their own denominations.

Simply because defense industry workers dominate in numbers at such points as Vallejo, USO leaders have not lost sight of the navy men's needs.

Single women workers in the navy yard offices are invited to bi-monthly dances sponsored by the USO for the enlisted personnel. These are held in a USO agency building pending the construction of a permanent USO clubhouse. To insure added entertainment for the enlisted personnel the USO has obtained the cooperation of women's clubs to sponsor a social at least once a month.

The American Legion utilizes USO facilities to conduct a program of entertainment or dancing once a month for the sailors in port.

The USO works with leaders of the colored colony to arrange social affairs for the entertainment of colored boys on ships calling at the navy yard.

When permanent clubhouses are established at such bases for ship construction, or at army camps or near aircraft industry centers, the major portion of all such activities will be conducted in these permanent quarters, but the USO is not waiting for fancy accommodations. Trained leaders of the organization realize the vital importance of maintaining the morale of not only the armed men, but defense industry workers as well, and are losing no time in providing benefits which weld the three groups into a well organized, highly efficient and patriotic organization of Americans with a single theme—protection of America and her ideals—motivating every individual engaged in ac-

tive defense training and in defense industry.

The USO was incorporated by the YMCA, Salvation Army, National Catholic Community service, YWCA, National Jewish Welfare board and National Travelers Aid association. The government is building more than 360 service clubhouses in communities near army, navy and defense industry centers. The USO has raised approximately \$12,000,000 by popular subscription to staff and operate the clubs.

The public was prompt in responding to the USO appeal and the USO is fulfilling its obligations by matching that promptness. Even before the fund appeal is concluded in all communities of the nation, the USO is plunging deep into the immense job of bolstering morale by providing the simple ingredients of a happier lot for those making great sacrifices, for those far from home and hungry for a continuity of a normal American life.

Boettigers Land Fish at Astoria

ASTORIA, Aug. 29 (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. John Boettiger ended two days fishing here Thursday in which each netted four salmon.

Mrs. Boettiger, daughter of the president, and Boettiger, publisher of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, also applauded as their son, Buzzie, landed an 18-pounder. Boettiger left by plane for Spokane.

Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the U. S. supreme court, competing in the Astoria regatta salmon derby, landed one fish Thursday and tried his luck upriver today.

Read the Classified page.

OREGON OPALITE REPORT FAVORABLE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29 (AP)—The geological survey reported favorably today on the opalite quicksilver district, in Malheur county, Ore., and Humboldt county, Nev., and held out hope that new ore bodies would be discovered.

"Further exploration might reveal even greater quantities of potential ore; the property can almost certainly produce at least 3000 flasks of quicksilver, and at present prices it might produce several times that much," said R. G. Yates, geologist, in a report released today.

From 1927, when production in the district began, until the end of 1940, the district produced 22,174 76-pound flasks of quicksilver, he said.

The Opalite mine produced

12,124 flasks and the Bretz mine 10,019 flasks, but operations at these mines were discontinued in the spring of 1941 because the known ore bodies had been practically exhausted, the report said.

Yates added that the Cordero mine produced only 31 flasks prior to 1941, but extensive operations have resulted in the blocking out of 15,000 tons of ore containing an average of 15 pounds of quicksilver to the ton, or about 3000 flasks in all, and potential reserves of 50,000 to 100,000 tons of ore that will average about five pounds to the ton.

SHOE CONSUMPTION

A billion dollars' worth of shoes, 400,000,000 pairs, are purchased annually by the American public. It is the highest per capita consumption of shoes in the world: Three to every person.

Henry Clay said, "I would rather be right than be president."

EMPIRE SCHEDULES LABOR DAY RODEO

To make Empire, Ore., a bigger spot on the map, the Empire Rodeo Association of that coast city is getting together a big first class rodeo which will begin on August 31 and run over into the next day.

Over \$500 in prizes will be given away. The events of the two day engagement include Brahma bull riding, calf roping, bronc riding, bulldogging, branding, wild cow milking, and the buckaroo derby.

Everyone is invited to attend the Labor day affair and money made through this rodeo will be turned over to the city for new equipment for the volunteer fire department.

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