

Washington Digest

Strive for Employment Of Disabled Veterans

Act to Furnish Handicapped With Chance for Gainful Occupation; Industry Pledges Its Full Co-Operation.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

When a lot more workers than jobs begin to plague the employment offices of the country, some 2½ million men stand to have a little tougher sledding than their fellows . . . that is, unless the program that will be getting under way as these lines appear achieves the worthy purpose that its designers have for it.

The potential workers who are going to get this special help are the men who have made the second greatest sacrifice in World War II—the ones who gave all never came back. I'm going to talk about the disabled American veterans.

In times of great unemployment a person with a disability has two strikes against him when pitted for a job against a perfectly able-bodied worker. Therefore, the Disabled American Veterans, a veterans' organization whose membership is confined solely to the war disabled, is setting up the machinery to go to bat for him so that he from whom much has been taken to keep the rest of us secure within the wide bounds of these United States will have at least as good a chance as his able-bodied colleague in getting a job where he can earn a living for himself and his family.

For the first time in its history, DAV, the Disabled American Veterans, has set up a highly integrated national network of employment officers headed in Washington by Dr. Gilbert S. Macvaugh, a disabled veteran of this war and a former lieutenant commander with wide experience in personnel and employment counselling. These employment officers have their hands reaching out in two directions—one toward the disabled veteran and one toward the employer in an endeavor to bring the two together so that the employer and the veteran may meet and reach an agreement on a job.

Let me give you two small examples of the type of thing the DAV is getting ready to do in a big way.

Take the case of the man who had been wounded in the invasion of Normandy. An injury to his spinal column paralyzed him from the waist down so that he is bed-ridden. On directions from the Washington DAV office, the local employment officer of the DAV contacted the man to see what kind of work he might do while in bed and yet receive some income. In the man's community there was a small plant for making hooked rugs. The DAV representative arranged to have the bed-ridden veteran make hooked rugs and market them with this concern.

Then there is an entirely different type of case—seeing that justice is done the disabled veteran after he does get a job. A guard was employed in a certain public building. He had a slight nervous disorder for which a psychiatrist was treating him, prescribing a little medication to be taken while on duty. One day the medicine made the veteran feel drowsy and he asked to be relieved from duty for a few hours until he could overcome it. That was refused him. Subsequently charges were preferred against him and he was given a letter of suspension. The DAV National Employment officer went to the mat for him and had the whole case uncovered.

Find Boys Can Do Job Well

Back of the helping hand offered to the disabled veterans to get them into jobs a lot of spade work has been going on—the ground has been prepared with great care so that when the crisis comes—many workers and few jobs—the former G.I. who literally gave part of himself for the rest of us will have an opportunity to work. The DAV asserts that he can do a job well in spite of his handicap. It points to records it is accumulating which show that when a disabled veteran is hired, he shows great care and conscientiousness in performing his task. It's something like the story of the old Washington airport—it was one of the most dangerous in the United States, but there were no major accidents on

it. The answer was that pilots, knowing the hazards, took extra precautions in using the field. So a disabled veteran, already knowing what it is to be handicapped, uses considerable extra care.

I said the DAV had set up a national employment program for the first time in its existence, headed up in Washington by a National Employment officer. Then each state has a Chief Employment officer. The DAV in each state is divided into chapters, or local units, and each has an employment officer also, thus bringing the contact of this helping hand right down into the community where the veteran lives or is hospitalized.

Before the program can begin operating in the complete way envisioned by its planners, the men who can offer the jobs have to be contacted personally and the challenge of their opportunity to make work available to handicapped veterans has to be put squarely before them. This has been the first task of Dr. Macvaugh and his corps of employment officers.

DAV Gets Off To Good Start

A strong beginning was made when at a conference in Atlantic City the following representative organizations, among others, were contacted personally by the DAV National Employment officer and asked to influence the businesses for which they are spokesmen to put disabled veterans on their work rolls: the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Bankers association, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives, the American Farm Bureau federation, the American Retail federation, the Air Transport association, Aircraft Industries association, Investment Bankers association, Committee of Economic Development, American Trucking association, American Waterways Operators, Association of American Railroads, National Foreign Trade Council, National Retail Dry Goods association, International Association of Lions Clubs, National Grange, National Association of Motor Bus Operators, and so on. But this gives you an indication of the scope of the cultivation of the soil for jobs for disabled veterans.

Available jobs are made known to the Veterans' Employment Representative of the United States Employment service, which has agreed to designate an assistant in each state who will specialize in the employment of war disabled G.I.s.

The DAV has developed a system whereby its chapter employment officer knows as soon as a man who has a disability is released from an institution and is available for work in his community. He also knows the disabled veterans living there who need jobs. It is his task to bring the men and the jobs together.

It is the DAV chapter employment officer who takes the man to the veterans' employment representative of the USES where the jobs are registered, and on to the prospective employer, if necessary, to clinch the employment of the ex-G.I.

There are five planks in the employment platform of the DAV.

First, to convince employers that they should employ disabled American veterans, somewhere, IMMEDIATELY;

Second, to support the training of disabled veterans for more than one key job in an industry so that when heavy unemployment develops, the disabled man will not be the first discharged, for he will be able to do more than one job;

Third, to advocate increased wages for disabled veterans because they have become more valuable as a result of the multiple training;

Fourth, to try to improve working conditions for the disabled ex-G.I. so that his job is a pleasant one;

Fifth, to see that preference is given the disabled veteran in staying on the job when people have to be released.



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CHAMPS . . . Donald McKnight, 21, Street, Md., and Mary Arlene Nelson, 20, Humboldt, Kan., new 4-H club leadership champions.



THE MUSIC LESSON . . . Thomas H. Benton's "The Music Lesson," is the winner of the popular prize selected by the public in the current Painting in the United States, 1945 exhibition, which was held at the Carnegie institute, Pittsburgh, Pa.



FIRST FARMING COMMUNITY . . . Reconstruction and plan of house in the first farming community known to man, placed in the seventh millennium before Christ by archeologists Seton Lloyd and Fuad Safa of the University of Chicago, whose important prehistorical find was made at Tell Hassuna, Iraq.



IF ANYONE IS TO BLAME . . . Lt. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, who told Pearl Harbor investigating committee that if anyone was to blame for failure to send General Short additional warnings, that he is "willing to accept" the blame. He believed that another message might have shown General Short that he was not following General Marshall's instructions.



BLALOCK OPERATION . . . Dr. Alfred Blalock, Johns Hopkins hospital surgeon, who has developed surgical correction for malformation of the heart.



DEMOCRATIC WHIP . . . Rep. John J. Sparkman (D.), former attorney of Huntsville, Ala., recently appointed Democratic majority whip of the house.



CABINET TROUBLES . . . Alcide de Gasperi, Italy's new premier, is having trouble in forming cabinet, acceptable to the liberal elements.



MAN OF THE YEAR . . . Felix Blanchard, Bishopville, S. C., has won the title of "football" man of the year," due to his scoring ability for the Army.



DID YOU KNOW 'EM WHEN? . . . Three 1920 Olympic game winners, left to right: Alice Lord Landon, diver; Charlotte Boyle Clune, swimmer; and Aileen Riggin Young, diver, shown at Philadelphia reunion.



FRIEND OF ENLISTED MAN WASHINGTON. — If there were more men in the army like General Eisenhower, this newsman 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."

Cohen took off by air the next day before noon.

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 fight 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 newsman, 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.



Keep a jar of ground peanuts on hand. They add nutrition and flavor to muffins, waffles, cookies and quick breads. They dress up salads and perk up plain desserts such as cup custard.

When washing, turn clothes with ties or sashes inside out before putting them into the washing machine.

That discouraged-looking wall can be freshened by pressing it between two pieces of brown paper with a warm iron.

Ash trays should be emptied and washed each night. Otherwise the house will have an unpleasant odor in the morning from the soiled trays.

If you are forever wearing out shoe strings, try this method of strengthening them. Stitch up and down each string several times with your sewing machine before using them.

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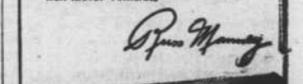
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A recent survey reveals that 84.5% of the nation's post-war motorists will prefer to use automobiles on their method of transportation. It is expected that repair bills on future cars may be reduced by the use of a number of synthetic rubber parts. Average passenger tire cost per 1000 miles of travel has been reduced from \$2.35 to 65¢ during the last 25 years.

It's the air in a tire that carries the load and not the tire itself. Too little air pressure may result in future breaks or uneven tread wear. In 45 years the American automotive industry has produced 88 million motor vehicles.



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When Your Back Hurts

And Your Strength and Energy is Below Par. It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood. You may suffer nagging backaches, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling, sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning in another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder. There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. The Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won countrywide approval than on something less favorably known. Doan's have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get Doan's today.



BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Corned beef, corned beef hash, deviled ham, chili con carne, luncheon meat and sausage meat made up the bulk of the protein diet of the soldier at the outbreak of the war. But don't worry, mother, there were 40 canned meats before they were through so you can safely serve almost anything he used to eat. Investigators say he preferred kinds of things he got at home.

President Truman recently removed a little gun-model from his desk and replaced it with a ploughshare. Let's hope it won't have to be reconverted again.

Need a chain for your watch-dog? The navy has a lot of surplus. You can get it in convenient 90-foot lengths, diameter of links up to 3/4 inches. That ought to hold him.