

# Washington Digest

## Push for Draft as Army Recruitment Misses Mark

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WASHINGTON. — Uncle Sam is completing the biggest "help wanted" campaign in history and he's afraid it hasn't been a 100 per cent success.

When the tumult and the shouting dies, the captains and the kings depart, the men who served their country "take up the plough-shares or the pen as a simple citizen again," and somebody has to look around for more to make up the peacetime army and navy. That's what Uncle Sam has been doing.



Life on the bounding main has always had sufficient appeal, especially to inlanders, to keep the navy up to par without much effort. But Americans ordinarily just don't go for soldiering, and that fact has the war department worried. It doesn't decide how big or little the army must be. It gets its orders from higher up. Such and such is America's policy—the war department has to get enough pairs of sound legs and arms and enough cool heads to carry it out.

Conscription has always been unpopular. We don't even like to use the word. But we have to get the men. Hence the fight to extend the draft and hence the greatest recruiting campaign this or any other country has ever launched. The sum expended on this campaign is big, even compared to the amount spent to remind America of "the pause that refreshes." It was run like any other advertising campaign, with a selection of the media best suited for its purposes. Newspapers, daily and weekly, magazines, especially those devoted to popular science, billboards and radio, posters and window displays were generously used.

It did bring in 320,521 recruits but that isn't enough. And enlistments have declined steadily from their peak in November. That month 185,000 men either signed up or "re-upped" as we used to say. But watch the numbers shrink! December, 131,000; January, 113,000; February, 93,000; March (estimated) 73,000; April, ??????

### Seek to Better G.I.s Lot

Besides this vigorous campaign a real, sincere and sustained effort is being made to improve the life in barracks and drill-field. Hearings to hear the G.I. gripes, with specific plans to right wrongs where they were found and can be corrected, a thorough examination of army justice by civilian lawyers, selected by the American Bar association, a 20 per cent pay increase, all these are part of a plan furthered by Secretary of War Patterson whose one desire is to leave the army better when he retires than the way he found it.

But there are a lot of hurdles. One is the need of a higher type of soldier in these days of mechanized warfare; the second is the increasing standard of civilian wages with which the army has to compete. The automotive and the durable goods industries are the chief competitors and their pay is good.

However, there are intangibles which enter into the question too. A man has to have more than a desire for clothes, a roof and three square meals a day and no responsibilities. To enlist he has to have a certain love for adventure, a willingness to accept the hardships of barrack life in far countries.

The army doesn't really in its heart want the draft. It is a case of taking what they can get. I know of no officer who would not prefer a volunteer army. That is another intangible. But with the commitments which the United States has today and until a United Nations organization can be formed which can take over the military function of the separate countries, the need is men.

There is something strange about the opposition to extension of the draft as revealed in the hearings. In my personal contacts I have not felt that opposition. By far the majority of people I have talked with on my recent trips through seven states have agreed that extension of selective service was necessary—some said a necessary evil—but still necessary. One of the most

carefully conducted polls undertaken by the National Opinion Research center of Denver university has this to say:

"A substantial majority of the public in this country are convinced that—in spite of the military implications of the atom bomb—the United States needs peacetime military training. This conviction is evidenced by nation-wide survey results just released by the National Opinion Research Center, University of Denver.

"To test the stability of public opinion on the issue, NORC asked separate but comparable cross-sections of the population two differently worded questions, one stating an argument against conscription in view of the military implications of the atom bomb, the other stating an argument for conscription in view of atomic implications. No matter how the question is worded, a strong majority favor compulsory military training in this country.

"Even the anti-conscription wording elicits a 68 per cent majority in favor of military training despite the atom bomb, while the pro-conscription question elicits no more than a 71 per cent majority in favor of the idea."

Some of the opposition to the legislation came from people who were dupes of what many officials believe to be subversive organizations. Some has been fostered by congressmen looking for votes.

At this writing, however, it seems that common sense and patriotism are going to come to Uncle Sam's rescue.

### Cut German Beer Supply

I have just been in touch with the state department and am able to say, unofficially, but by no means uncertainly, that the Germans are not going to get a soft peace. I do not refer to the plan for slicing German industry to a very thin piece or the renewed efforts at de-Nazification in the American zone. What I am able to report is a step recently taken which the Germans will undoubtedly consider cruel and unusual punishment.

They are not going to be allowed, as they hoped they would be, to brew beer. The United States government has ruled "nothing doing" because of the food situation and "other reasons."

For the precise data on the situation I am indebted to my former colleague, the Western Newspaper Union's correspondent, now in Germany, Pauline Frederick. Here it is:

"The situation on brewing of beer in the three other zones of Germany is as follows, based on the reports given us by the agricultural representatives of these zones in Berlin:

"British zone—Brewing of beer prohibited by military order.

"French zone—Brewing permitted until the recent critical food shortage stopped it.

"Russian zone—Brewing permitted but no information is available on the amount of grain being used in the Russian zone for this purpose.

"The proposed brewing program in the American zone requires 39,000 tons of barley which will produce about 25 per cent of the 1931 consumption based on a 12-month period in our zone. The 1931 production was the lowest on record. No coal is permitted for brewing purposes until local food processing needs have been supplied.

"Thirty-nine thousand tons of barley represents the breadgrain ration requirements of our zone for approximately 10 days. The relative caloric value of 39,000 tons of barley in the form of beer is 50.32 billion calories, or to put it another way, one liter is equal to 100 grams of bread in caloric value.

"In the brewing process as compared with the utilization of barley for bread approximately 20 per cent of the food value of barley is lost.

"The whole question of brewing beer in our zone is a big political one and promises have been made by the minister-presidents and directors of agriculture that this beer would be forthcoming in the spring months when farmers and workers can have it in the heavy working season. The German authorities have agreed that if the beer is made it will not be issued as a supplement to the present ration but will be issued as a substitute for bread based on its caloric value."

Well, politics or no politics, the Germans aren't going to get their beer—let the foam fly where it may.



**WARSAW, CITY OF RUINS . . .** Life goes on in a city of complete ruins. Children in Warsaw, Poland, are playing games in front of the ruins of Marien Kircher, the oldest church in the Polish capital. Charred wreckage forms a cross in the background. The population, once over a million, has dwindled to a few thousand of under-nourished and ill-clad population. Warsaw is the "ghost city of Europe." The mystery is why the few remain in Warsaw.



**HOOVER DISCUSSES FOOD . . .** Herbert Hoover, center, former president of the United States, who is currently making a tour of Europe to study the food problem, is shown following his arrival in Czechoslovakia with Lawrence Steinhardt, left, U. S. ambassador, and President Benes, right, of Czechoslovakia. Hoover has reported an urgent need for food in most countries of Europe if open revolt and starvation is to be averted.



**PINING UNDER THE PINES . . .** 'Tis said that in the spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love, so Jimmy Murray, Johnson City, N. Y., not wanting to be an exception to the rule, whispers sweet nothings to his lady fair, Kathy Callahan. They're all wrapped up in the mysteries of puppy love as they hold a tryst under the pines. Many an older could take a lesson from this young fair couple.



**PARIS CELEBRATES AGAIN . . .** For the first time since the war Paris burst forth with all its pent up gaiety in a colorful carnival that brought forth its brightest costumes and floats. The holiday spirit penetrated downward into the younger brackets, too, and here we see three children of the many who marched through the streets of Paris in masquerade, the hardships of war a thing of the past.



**AIR COMMANDER . . . Lt. Gen. George Stratemeyer, former commander of the U. S. air forces in China, has been appointed commander of the newly formed air defense command. He will be responsible for defense of the United States.**



**MAY RULE AGAIN . . .** As a result of the recent Greece election, King George II, now in exile in England, may be returned. He first reigned in 1922, but fled the country the next year due to an uprising. He was restored to his throne again in 1935 but forced into exile in 1941 when the Germans overran his country.



**CONTENDER WORKS OUT . . .** Billy Conn, who meets world's champion heavyweight Joe Louis at Yankee stadium on June 19, punches the bag at his camp at Greenwood Lake, New Jersey. A \$3,500,000 gate is expected.



**EGGS GETTING LARGER . . .** This S. C. White Leghorn hen is certainly in a class by herself. Held by owner, Mrs. William Burnham, Albany, N. Y., she looks over her 14-ounce egg, 5 inches long, 3 inches in circumference.



**COMPTON HONORED . . .** Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, who was awarded the highest award the war department can bestow on a civilian.

## NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

### BARUCH CALLED TO AID IN STABLE FUTURE

WASHINGTON. — Whenever the Democrats get into great trouble, they call on Baruch, the financier. He was assigned the delicate task of keeping the atom bomb safe for democracies without offense to others, as chairman of the new commission. Again, he was rushed up to the house banking committee to save the OPA and war powers control bill, about which congress is plainly

dubious in the face of business clamor to kick off government restraints. But in this last assignment, Baruch utterly destroyed the fictions of the administration inflation policy — said the price structure is out of gear, mistakes have been tragic, the Truman-Bowles bulge in the line against inflation was actually a break and a grave one — and laid down his own new program to harness inflation and get production.

The program will not be adopted. While Baruch has long served as a fireman for the administration, and has been called in to put out blazes getting beyond control, and generally issues wise advice — the administration never follows the advice. At the outset of the war, this clear-thinking and unprejudiced mind openly told Mr. Roosevelt how to prevent inflation by a real wage-price control, but the President punctured his control setup so that it became a sieve with the resultant prices of today and the unending wage disputes. Again Baruch submitted a report on reconversion just before the war end, and only one of his points was adopted — reconversion being left in its current state.

### MANY BARUCH PLANS NEVER CARRIED OUT

The official fireman, "thus, has been unable to get his own fire extinguisher adopted in the past simply because the administration wanted to play political economics — wanted to get the votes of pressure groups — rather than to accomplish its announced objectives.

The new Baruch plan is suffering from the same trouble. A ban on strikes for a year seems impossible to attain because of opposition of the unions. Establishment of a high court of commerce to plan an economy fair to all groups is difficult because the pressure groups would try to pack it, as they have packed similar economic tribunals or pressured them into ineffectiveness. To dispel the sham contention that wage increases will not bring price increases would be contrary to what is considered a good political working formula by the administration in an election year.

Now the administration is already doing most of the other things Baruch recommended, but frequently in such a way as to defeat its own purposes. While it is doing his things, it is simultaneously doing other things at cross purposes which prevent it from getting results, or achieving announced goals. Its wage increase policy is, for instance, at cross purposes with its inflation and price policies; and its price-holding policy is being daily violated by allowances of indirect price increases.

So we seem to be inevitably embarked on a loose patchwork reconversion program from which we are not likely to escape. I judge, for instance, Congress will enact a limited compromise renewal of the war powers and OPA, with amendments designed to correct the worst defects, but the correction of the defects will rest with the administrative branch. Congress cannot take hold and legislate a whole new program. Once the administration gets renewal of its powers, it no doubt will continue its chosen, current way.

This way will not be unsatisfactory to business, but will fail to establish any permanent solution of the labor problem or confidence for the economic future. My guess is some private assurances have already been made that the Bowles idea of limiting profits will not be carried into effect.

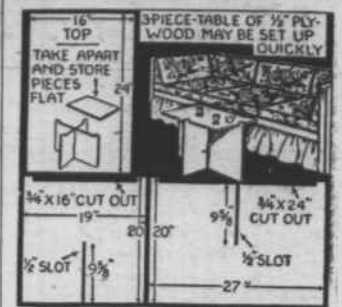
Price increases have been authorized daily for the past three weeks to get production, and I see the stock market is staggering to its feet after having been knocked flat by the first announcement of the new Truman-Bowles policy.

However, once we get production, most of our ills will evaporate, because competition can protect prices better than government, and if competition can be restored in the labor market, there will be fewer strikes.

There are still several major strikes to be called.

## A Table Without Nails or Screws

HERE is a little coffee table that you can make from three scraps of plywood with straight cuts of the saw. Detailed directions are in Book 10 of the series offered with these articles.



The sofa shown is made by combining an iron cot with a slip-covered frame built around it. Book 9 gives directions for making the frame and doing the upholstery.

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WNU-4 16-46

**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 backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with stinging and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won country-wide 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.

**DOAN'S PILLS**

## BARBS . . . by Baukhage

In my mail: "The case of Russia versus Iran reminds me of what the elephant said to the flea as they were going into the Ark: 'Quit your shoving!'"

Reports of sun spot disturbances make me wonder if perhaps Old Sol disapproves of this business of earthlings fooling with the atom. It would be comic if it weren't cosmic.

Another mail item clipped from an English publication, circa 1630: "What is a Communist? One who has yearnings

For an equal division of unequal earnings; Idler or bungler, or both, he is willing To fork out his copper and pocket your shilling."