

# BRADLEY CHARGES ABUSES IN VETERAN TRAINING PROGRAM

Milwaukee.—Stern warning that a national scandal "involving millions of dollars in Federal funds" impends was sounded by Gen. Omar N. Bradley, Veterans Administrator, in a blunt discussion of the veterans' on-the-job training program.

Addressing the United Spanish War Veterans at their annual encampment here, the General gave official confirmation to formal charges of the American Federation of Labor of widespread abuses in the program. His observations gave new strength to the AFL contention that the veterans enrolling in this program are best protected under union apprenticeship.

Bradley pledged that he would

recommend to Congress changes in the law to tighten controls, if they are needed, and called upon State and Federal agencies to halt unscrupulous practices which have been reported.

Declaring that even without the formal reports of "irregularities," it is "evident that something is wrong," he said:

"From the outset, unscrupulous persons lost no time in taking advantage of veterans' training on the job," Bradley told members of the United Spanish War Veterans at their 48th national encampment here. "The dishonest employer and the unthinking veteran have already infected the program in

many states."

Both employers and veterans were resorting to "trick practices," he said.

Something is wrong, he continued, when it takes 3 years to learn to be a stock clerk in one State and 3 months in another and when training establishments lower the beginning wage of its trainees by an amount equal to their subsistence allowance.

This is a result, he said, of responsibility being split among State and Federal governments under the education provisions of the GI Bill of Rights.

Citing various unscrupulous practices, he said one garage owner in a southern town lowered the wage of a mechanic from \$35 to \$23 as soon as the veteran applied for training to become a foreman.

The employer said the subsistence allowance would more than make up the difference.

Both the advertising and sales managers in a large Western department store applied for job training, he said. One of them, the son of the store president, was drawing \$700 monthly and training for his father's job. The other, drawing \$600 monthly, was training for the vice presidency.

"These trick practices stand in danger of besmirching a program that can offer honest and useful training to thousands of veterans who need it," Bradley said.

Under the GI Bill, State boards certify establishments as qualified to give on-the-job training and supervise the training. The VA grants approval, reviews the course submitted and pays subsistence allowances at the rate of \$65 a month to single veterans and \$90 to those with dependents.

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**U. S. LIVING COST INCREASES BY 5 1-2 PER CENT FROM JUNE 15 TO JULY 15. BLS FINDS**

Washington, D. C.—Costs of living in the United States rose an average of 5.5 per cent in the June 15-to-July 15 period, it was revealed in a report by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This is the largest monthly jump since the BLS began compiling figures on a 30-day basis in 1940 and is believed by some experts to be the largest monthly rise since the bureau began collecting data in 1913.

OPA controls were not in effect, nor were subsidies operative, at the time the survey was made on July 15, economists pointed out significantly. Final reports on July 15 food prices will be available within a week, and full figures on all other items in the consumer price indexes, except rents, which were not surveyed in July, will be revealed late in the month.

Living essentials that were measured to arrive at the BLS's figures included: Food, clothing, house furnishings, fuel, miscellaneous goods and services, recreation, personal service, such as beauty shops, transportation and medical care.

The consumers' price study was made on the basis of reports from cities which constitute about three-fourths of the consumer price indexes.

Prices of food registered the largest advance, 13 per cent; living essentials, other than food, rose less than 1 per cent.

The June 15-July 15 rise in the living costs put the consumers' price index at about 140 per cent of the 1935-1939 average. The index rose about 9 per cent from V-J Day and 8 per cent from Jan. 15 to July 15, 1946.

The rise in food prices of 13 per cent in the one-month period was due principally to increases of about 30 per cent in the cost of meat, and 20 per cent in dairy products. These increases, it was indicated, reflected some of the rise that might have taken place between April and June, when meat, dairy products and fats and oils were so scarce that the BLS was unable to obtain price quotations in a number of cities.

According to a special survey of 16 foodstuffs in 12 cities, conducted by the bureau, the prices of such items declined slightly in the last week in July.

Tabulations that are complete

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show these increases in several urban consumer price indexes: Birmingham, 5 per cent; Boston 7.6; Chicago 7.7; Cincinnati 5.9; Detroit 5.6; Houston 4.2; Los Angeles 4.3; Philadelphia 5.6; Pittsburgh 5.9; San Francisco 4.4; and Washington 4.9.