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NOW'S THE TIME

The question of universal military training is expected to be one of the matters to come before the present congress. The bill, which has the backing of the president, the War Department and some senators, is advanced as a measure necessary to the security of our country. If carried through it will, of course, be administered by the army; presumably also by the navy, though this is seldom mentioned.

At the same time that this bill for our security is being urged by the army, that very security is being seriously jeopardized by the army's mishandling of its present assignment. The spectacle is likely to dim the enthusiasm of the backers of military training. For an organization whose record in war is good but whose record for peace-time administration is so catastrophic should not be entrusted with the training of the young men of a nation which hopes to remain at peace.

There is nothing which so vitally concerns the future safety of America as the present state of Germany. Trouble is likely to start, as it always has started, in Germany, and to be instigated by Germans, but even if it did not start there, what happens to Germany and what we do there affects the entire picture. For the present handling of the occupation of Germany is a test that is going on right now of our capabilities in the field of practical foreign policy. If we come through the test well, we will have proved ourselves, to ourselves as well as to the other nations, worthy of confidence and of responsibility as a world power.

Such an ideal throws into even blacker contrast the reality of today: American troops rioting to be brought home, their officers joining their pleas with those of the men while they make money out of looting and black market operations. One hopes the picture overdrawn, but no matter how exaggerated it may be, the thought of these men as "educators of the new Germany" is enough to make you laugh, or else cry. The big question used to be; "can Germany be educated?"; it has now changed to: "can the Americans be educated?"

We wonder. Perhaps it would be fairer to put it: Can the American army be educated? When we read that among the high point men who returned home soon after V-E Day were most of the high point military government men, who had been trained for the express purpose of governing Germany, our heads begin to swim. What utter insanity!

The trouble is, the army is educated for war; that is the only thing in which it is interested. How else explain General Eisenhower's recall to fill the post of chief of staff in Washington? Here was a man who had done a brilliant job in the war, and was going right on being equally brilliant in his handling of the occupation forces. If we had been fighting still, in the midst of a great battle, Eisenhower would have been retained at the head of his forces where the action was critical. But the actions of peace are never so considered by the army. Once victory in the field is won, it may be lost the next day for all the army knows or cares. We do not, we hasten to say, believe this to be General Eisenhower's point of view. His conduct in Europe showed him to be wise far beyond the lot of most military men. But it is, clearly, the view point of those in the war department who recalled him. On the same order was the action of the mystery man who stepped up our demobilization rate to the present tempo, an official whose name has never been divulged.

The army has made a fearful

botch of the occupation of Germany, and the executive branch of this country, with the state department, has been of no help. We do not minimize the difficulties of the problem when we say that the present chaos could and should have been avoided. It is endangering the security of our country and the peace of the world.

If security is to be our watchword, how much better to preserve it now, with the army which is in being, bringing it to the highest point of efficiency as a policing, controlling force and using it, then, to the utmost of its ability, than to expend efforts in planning for another army to preserve a mythical security in the future?

If security is not preserved now, the future will not be there for most of the people who are now so busily planning for it.

STRIKE IN CONGRESS

On the floor of the senate there is being enacted a scene which must bring a feeling of shame and hopeless discouragement to every citizen. In that Hall which has echoed to the voices of the great leaders of the nation, and which has resounded many a time to senatorial tones lifted in praise of this "great and free democracy," a few men are thwarting the will of the majority in what constitutes an example of the very reverse of those noble words.

The filibuster is one of those American institutions of which most Americans are thoroughly ashamed. It is in essence, the misuse of a parliamentary rule to prevent free discussion. It is employed by men who know that a certain measure is going against them and who, therefore, filibuster to prevent its being brought to a vote.

In this particular case the bill, the F.E.P.C., was given a floor priority by a vote of 49 to 17. The southern block, led by the two senators from Mississippi, Bilbo and Eastland, then announced that they would talk for 60 days, if necessary, to prevent it from being presented for consideration. The bill in question has had the endorsement of both parties, of the president and of Governor Dewey, the republican candidate in the late campaign, but, though with such endorsement it would seem to rate special consideration, that is not the point at issue. Good or bad, important or unimportant, no bill should be prevented by such means from reaching the floor, it is intolerable that a few men can by the use of such methods block the government of the country.

This is a clear case where cloture should be invoked. For though the limiting of free debate does constitute an infringement of freedom we may safely look upon this as an instance where two wrongs make more of a right than if the original wrong be allowed to continue. And, after all, the harangues now going on have little to do with free debate.

The situation is a striking example of the justice of President Truman's criticism of congressional inaction and the blocking of important legislation. It is clear that Congress must take a large measure of blame for delaying the whole reconversion plan of the administration and it is a delay which cannot be tolerated much longer. The threat of unemployment, of inflation, of increasingly violent and bitter industrial strife is assuming deadly proportions.

When strikes in industry threaten the public welfare, the government takes over. When our governing body itself goes on strike it is time for the people themselves to take charge.

The filibuster should have no place in the proceedings of a democratic government. If Congress does not soon take measures to break the deadlock it will deserve the condemnation of the entire country.

We must call upon the senate to clean house, and that, quickly; and, to the people of those states so badly represented there, we say: tell these men of yours to fish or cut bait; to quit talking, to quit stalling and to let the business of the nation go on.

A SCHOLARSHIP REJECTED

Editorial, N. Y. Times.
Students of the Crosby High School at Waterbury, Conn., have voted to reject the annual Good Citizenship Pilgrimage Award of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The award is an interesting and useful one, consisting of a travel scholarship offered to a high school representative from each State for a trip to

historic American shrines. The reason given by a spokesman of the Waterbury students for their rejection of the scholarship is that they "just didn't think it was feasible to name a candidate for a good citizenship award sponsored by an organization that refused Negro musicians permission to use Constitution Hall for concerts."

The point is honorably taken. Any tour of American shrines must lead the traveler to the homes or the working places of a number of historic figures, men and women, who labored with deep conviction and unflinching effort to eliminate precisely that kind of discrimination which has been practiced in Constitution Hall. The ladies of the D. A. R. are responsible for many good works. In this case, catering to an unworthy and unpatriotic prejudice, they have made a mistake which will haunt them until it has been corrected.

This and That

A tribute to the late Paul Barnum appears this week in the figures of the report of the Moore County War Fund Drive. Pinehurst, the town nearest to Southern Pines in size and wealth, raised 1,004.00; Southern Pines, under Paul's chairmanship, raised \$4,856.21. The sum is significant not only of the former chairman's organizing ability, but of the high place he held in the regard of his fellow-townsmen.

Local fishermen will be interested to know that their favorite form of sport, business, joy, torment, or whatever they call it, was the main subject of the annual meeting of the State Wildlife Federation at Greensboro on Wednesday and Thursday. The featured speaker was Dr. H. S. Swingle, nationally known fish culturist of Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Others on the program were Fred A. Westerman, of the Michigan State Fisheries and Seth Gordon, executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Undoubtedly due to the surprisingly mild weather of early January, Camelia Japonica plants in many localities about town venturesomely displayed their handsome rose-tinted blooms until the frost overcame their premature display.

Just beyond the westerly boundary of Mt. Hope cemetery, the tall shaft of the "fire tower" of the North Carolina Forestry Service crowning the summit of the high sand ridge is a noteworthy landmark. The plot for the tower was donated by the late Paul T. Barnum.

Among the many things to claim Congress' attention are measures which would designate 26 different days for observance. These include "Old Folks Day" and "National Arthritis Day".

Clair Luce, of Connecticut, has introduced a bill to authorize study of employee profit-sharing systems with the view of creating better industrial relations. She said strikes can be ended only "when a fair and equitable distribution of the fruits of industry is a basic condition of a just and healthy capitalism." Never thought we'd cheer for the Luce Connecticut against the solid Baileywick.

From a letter received at Christmas by one of the many who used to take soldiers in over the week-ends:

"Every time I think back to those days of 1942, I wonder if Tad and I could have made the grade if your hospitality had not been ever present as a pick-me-up. To use the Army expression: Our tails were dragging many a Friday night, but come Monday we were back in there slugging."

That gets framed we are told, and put up over the family mantle-piece, a remembrance of those dark days, full of apprehension for the future, full of the deepest gratitude for the present and for the little share that one could have in helping to keep those fine boys "in there slugging".

We heard about a lady the other day who wouldn't buy any of the new Al Smith stamps. Said she couldn't possibly. Reason: she was planning to run for office on the republican ticket. My, my! Somebody better tell Cliff Blue, quick. We got a letter from him the other day with a Roosevelt stamp on it. . . the wrong Roosevelt.

The Public Speaking

To the Editor of The Pilot:

In a recent Pilot I read your article regarding the poor quality of telephone service in Southern Pines. You stated that the condition was probably due to old or out-dated equipment. But which the company denies, and that they consider the present equipment adequate and do not contemplate any change. At the same time the company attributes their failure to the high turnover in their force, making poor service at times almost unavoidable.

The last paragraph, no doubt, gives the real reason. But why the constant turnover? The company should know. The whole trouble in a nut-shell is the lousy sub-standard wages paid its employees. Since the wages are just not on a par with the wages paid about town, how can the company expect to get and retain employees on a job that has so many requirements at such poor wages as are now paid?

We can't blame the telephone operators for striking if their wages at all compare with the wages paid here.

Apropos of the above: the scale of wages paid by our telephone company is as follows: 40 cents per hour for beginners, 42 to 51 cents for experienced operators, and 55 cents for supervisors, who are only operators with more work and responsibility. They are also paid time and a half for overtime, (by law). As one can see, unless an operator makes overtime she is barely making a subsistence wage. The wage for common labor for men is sixty cents per hour; scrub-women and dishwashers make 50 cents. The type of work an operator has to perform, with its close confinement and mental concentration, certainly entitles the worker to far more wages than our telephone operators are now getting.

The scale of wages offered by the Telephone Company certainly does not offer an inducement to any girl with a superior type of mental equipment, to take a job there. Nor are the wages high enough to retain the better and more experienced class of operators. There is just no future to being a telephone operator in Southern Pines.

While public utilities may be privately owned, they are subject to many outside controls, such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, the N. C. State Public Utilities Commission, the N. C. State Public Utilities Commission and, last but not least, the town of Southern Pines and its people.

When the town issued a franchise to the Central Carolina Telephone Co. a part of the contract was that the company should furnish good and efficient service as the growth of the town demanded. Thusly the citizens of the town and the subscribers have a right to demand good service and to expect to get it, or know the reason why.

It is obvious that at least 75 per cent of our trouble is caused by the sorry wages paid to the telephone company's employees. The company knows the answer, but it seems that profit is more important in their minds than to give good service. So, to the company: Hatch the egg or get off the nest.
—L. M. DANIELS

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our friends for the many kindnesses shown us at the time of the death of our loved one, Lorens C. Lorensen. The flowers and every expression of sympathy are greatly appreciated.
Mrs. L. C. Lorensen and Family..

NORTH CAROLINA, MOORE COUNTY.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NOTICE

Viola Dingle, Plaintiff
Vs.
Cleveland Dingle, Defendant

The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Moore County, North Carolina, to secure an absolute divorce; that the defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear before the Clerk of the Superior Court of said County in his office in the Court House in the Town of Carthage, N. C., within twenty days from February 19, 1946, and answer the plaintiff's complaint in said action, or plaintiff will apply

to the Court for the relief demanded in said Complaint.

Dated this 19th day of January, 1946.

JOHN WILLCOX,
Clerk of the Superior Court.
J25, F 1, 8, 15.

Drs. Neal and McLean
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