



WHY NOT HAVE LABOR BATTALIONS?

The news story from a small town, which announced that 106 out of 110 men called for examination under selective service, were rejected is somewhat amazing. The same observation applies to the implication that the high rejection rate was due, not to physical defects, but to a low intelligence level. This brings to mind the obvious necessity that, confronted by such a record, the Army should be given the power to organize labor battalions out of those who are not intelligent enough to serve in the fighting line. Our understanding is that, as a rule, it takes three men behind the line to support each fighter. If this is true, there is no reason why labor and service units should not be filled by anybody able to perform physical labor under competent direction.

It might develop that, confronted with a choice of serving in a labor unit or in a fighting unit, more of our young men would possess the intelligence necessary for a modern combat soldier. At any rate, the labor units would save the fighting men some of their work behind the lines.

BUSINESS MEN WHO BUY "INFLUENCE"

By this time everybody knows that there exists in Washington a considerable group of people who attempt to sell "influence" to those who seek special favors from governmental officials or contracts for the making of products at a nice profit.

The setup constitutes a reflection, not only on the "influence" peddlers but upon the business men who are ready to offer bribery in the ordinary course of commercial transactions. The business man who pays an individual a special bonus to get a favor under existing laws is as guilty as the man who accepts the money.

Recently, in Washington, a man who organized a candy firm in 1945 told of the black market dodges that he adopted in an effort to get additional allotments of sugar. He paid a fee of \$1,000 to somebody because he had been greatly impressed by an array of photographs showing the man shaking hands with distinguished public figures. "I thought I was getting in with the right people," the candy-maker testified.

Then, finding that he got no extra sugar, the man paid another fee of \$2,500 to a lawyer, but, again, he got no sugar. Thereup, he testified, he heard that another company had secured a quota of \$14,000,000 pounds of sugar and he immediately got in touch with the representative of the company.

On the strength of what he heard, the candy-maker sold a half-interest in his company for \$25,000 or \$45,000, but, as a result, he declares, "I never got enough sugar to sweeten your coffee." The company, however, discovered another plan for getting corn-syrup for the company's needs. These ramifications led to the Middle West where cash money would pay a corn elevator a bonus for a carload of corn, averaging about fifty cents a bushel. This was shipped to a refiner, who was billed at a legal ceiling price, and the corn was converted into syrup. About half of the syrup went to the candy company at ceiling price but the refinery kept the rest and the by-products as an extra commission. The candy company must have done fairly well because the owner testified that its assets increased from an original \$45,000 to \$940,000 in the nine months that it operated.

There is no use wasting any sympathy on the business man who becomes a black marketeer in time of war. He seeks to get advantages in the commercial world through bribery and corruption and if, upon occasions, he loses some of his money to a slick-talker, without getting results, he deserves no sympathy. In fact, the reason the "influence peddlers" operate is because they find it profitable to trade upon the gullibility and culpability of criminals who happen, for the moment, to be in a legitimate business.

\$135,000,000 FOR DEFENSE
The defense of the United States might cost as much as \$135,000,000 up to July 1, 1953, according to the testimony of high ranking officials before a congressional subcom-

mittee in July. The testimony has just been made public.

It revealed that the President's original request for \$10,489,976,000 included an estimated \$4,500,000,000 for current costs in Korea and \$6,500,000,000 for a "basic build-up" in the armed forces of the nation.

Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson expressed the opinion that the Korean campaign was a "six or eight months proposition" and also declared that the original decision not to defend Korea had been made on a level other than the military. He pointed out that neither General MacArthur nor the Joint Chiefs of Staff had expected to be called upon to defend the Republic of Korea and that the policy was "top echelon."

General Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, emphasized that the greatly increased funds would provide the armed forces with "a ready, highly mobile, stand-by force which we could bring to bear at any threatened point in the minimum of time." He said that the requirements for manpower and material was not a make-shift plan, occasioned by Korea, but a long-range program worked out by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Another interesting item was contained in the release of the July testi-

mony. It related to the Navy's call for reserves. Admiral Forest P. Sherman, Chief of Naval Operations, told the committee that 53,000 reservists had been called from the organized reserve group and that 35,000 other reservists were to be called. This program, when completed, would give the Navy 579,805 officers and men in the next eleven months. This compares with 375,482 when the fighting started in Korea.

PERISHABLE FARM PRODUCTS A PROBLEM

In its effort to support farm prices under existing legislation, the Government has acquired huge stocks of spoilable foods, but Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan says that the war emergency will not solve the problem.

The Government now holds 200,000,000 pounds of butter, well over 350,000,000 pounds of dried milk, 100,000,000 pounds of cheese and 107,000,000 pounds of dried eggs. We do not have figures on other spoilable foods, such as Irish potatoes, but it is quite evident that the Government faces a problem in connection with agricultural products of this type.

Under existing legislation, the Department of Agriculture can give such foods to organized charity, provided the agencies pay shipping costs. Strange to say, officials report that charity organizations are reluctant to take the food on such conditions. In order to get rid of the surplus, therefore, the House of Representatives has passed a bill to permit the Government to pay freight costs on surpluses of perishable foods that it gives (Concluded on Page Two)

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