



A large number of North Carolina members of the American Legion were in town last week at the very time the House of Representatives voted to "shelve" the question of Universal Military Training, probably for the rest of this year.

Unless the unexpected happens, UMT will not be considered at all by the Senate this year, as a result of the action in the House.

That's not definite—anything could happen. But I think there's little likelihood that the Senate will take up time with a matter which has already been postponed indefinitely in the House.

Every Senator and Congressman has received large amounts of mail both for and against UMT. At first, most of my mail was against the measure. Later we began hearing from veterans' groups and private citizens who favor UMT. At this writing, the opponents and proponents are about evenly divided.

I have tried to pay careful attention to every argument advanced by both sides. Occasionally I have received strong letters from some few ministers and others who objected because I did not come out flatly against UMT at the very beginning.

I could not conscientiously do so then—and I cannot now. I am certainly not in favor of any law which would give to any administration the power which would lead to the enslavement of our people by the military.

But I do feel—as I think most people do—that all loyal Americans recognize that our land and our liberty are worth defending at all cost.

The foreign policy of our nation, rightly, or wrongly, has led us into a situation which finds us roaming the world, participating in the affairs of other nations.

To protect our position, our only real defense is force of arms. It is regrettable, but the only question left to us is how to choose the young men for our military forces.

I believe that we should make the responsibility as democratic as possible. The rich should serve as well as the poor, the high as well as the low, the brilliant as well as the less intelligent.

I want to make it clear that I am not committed to any specific legislation. The question of how I would finally vote on UMT would depend on the final form of the proposed law.

I frankly do not like the idea of mortgaging the lives of young men for 7½ years which is the prescribed length of time a man shall remain in the reserves under the proposed law. I would prefer, I think, that he serve a full year, then remain in the reserves for two years.

I think such an arrangement as that would be less likely to interfere with the plans for a career and a family.

I thought I ought to get my position straight on this matter. If, of course, want to avoid any fighting if possible. I don't think any American should expect another to do his fighting for him—in case there is a war. I think some form of UMT is the only democratic method of maintaining military forces.

We must be realistic and remember that we must maintain our armed

strength. We are a peace-loving nation. But there are others in the world who aren't—and who would be delighted to see us weaken ourselves.

Monkey Business?

Last year, there were some who labeled me as "unchartable" when I opposed the reckless donation of \$190 million to India to buy grain. I pointed out at the time this item alone would cost the taxpayers of every county in our state approximately \$60,000, as well as those in every other county in every other state.

The February issue of "Reader's Digest" tells one reason why I thought the grain-to-India proposal was reckless.

The magazine points out that the people in India worship sacred monkeys and cows. The sacred monkeys alone consume and destroy three million tons of grain a year. The \$190 million dollars we're spending to provide grain to India will provide only two million tons. In other words, the monkeys eat and destroy 50 per cent more than we're providing with our tax money.

And that doesn't count the sacred cows.

Federal Employees

I thought you'd be interested to know that the executive branch of our government now employs 2,517,778 people, as of January 31. That represents an increase of 12,989 since December 31.

That's an average of 419 new employees each day, counting Sundays.

Or about two new ones every five minutes.

BPW Club Holds Business Meeting

The Perquimans BPW Club held a business meeting Friday night of last week at the home of Mrs. Sallie M. Lane, with Mrs. Ethel Perry as co-hostess. Miss Hulda Wood, president, presided. Minutes were read by Mrs. Pickett Sumner, and a treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Essie Burbage. Mrs. Viola Nachman made additional announcements concerning the club's Career Day Program, to be held at Perquimans High School on

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April 15. Mrs. Wood urged all members to attend the district meeting to be held at Edenton on March 23. A number of linen articles were donated by the club for the Home For Incurable Cancer Cases at Lumberton. Mrs. Lois A. Stokes invited the club to meet with her for the April business meeting.

At the close of the meeting, a fellowship hour was enjoyed when the members were invited into the dining room for refreshments served buffet style. The dining room table was covered with a lace cloth which furnished a perfect background for the bouquet of narcissi and jonquils fringed with sprays of flowering shrubs. The blossoms, carrying a color theme of yellow were gracefully posed in a beautiful bowl at one end of the table in complement to the centerpiece, with burning tapers in silver candelabra matching silver accessories and exquisite service of silver and crystal. During the refreshments hour, Mrs. Lane poured hot chocolate from an antique urn of Old English Silver and placed along the table were fancy plates of home-cooked delicacies prepared by the hostesses.

Those present were: Mrs. Lane,



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