GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

MAKE 21 MAXIMUM AGE FOR THE DRAFT

IN WASHINGTON there is now some talk of changing the present draft law and instead of taking men up to 35 years of age, to fix a maximum of not over 25.

That would be a move in the right direction, but why go as far as 25 years for the maximum?

In this country approximately 1,350,000 men reach the voting age of 21 each year. Up to that age but a very small percentage has become settled on a lifetime job or has married and established a home and family. These young men could, at some time between the ages of 18 and 21, devote a year to military training without any sacrifice of position for themselves, their families or society in general. In fact, a year of soldiering at that age would be a distinct advantage to the great majority, physically and mentally. They would still be at a formative age, when such training would be beneficial in the making of better citizens, when it would tend to break down class distinctions.

Taking these young men at some time between 18 and 21 years would provide at least 1,000,000 men to be trained each year, and that is about as many as we could handle or pay for. With all the hysteria that has gripped America, we have actually inducted into the conscript army much less than half a million men since the passage of the draft act.

We are not going to fight a war for the next three to five years at the earliest, and possibly not then. Training men of 30 to 35 years of age now means they will have passed the really effective age before they will be needed. Men of 18 to 21, trained now, would be at their most effective age by the time their service as soldiers is needed.

In the regular army we have the organized National Guard, the marine corps and the navy and naval reserves—close to 1,000,000 trained fighters. There is a turn-over in these forces each year of better than 25 per cent. A quarter of a million men are moving back into civilian life after three or more years of military or naval training. They would be added to our effectives should war come.

Taking a million young men each year between the ages of 18 and 21, with our organized army, National Guard, marine corps and navy and naval reserves, and with the men who pass through these organized services, at the end of five years we would have a fighting force of better than 7,000,000 trained men of effective age.

And that is some army in any man's country.

If we must have conscription in this country, let us have it on practical and sensible lines that will give us an effective fighting force when we may need it, and without serious sacrifice on the part of the individual or society.

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EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA VIA BALLOON

IN THE FIRST World war, Lord Northcliffe, publisher of the London Times, was assigned the job of distributing anti-war propaganda in Germany. When we entered the war, James Keeley, then one of the best-known American newspaper men, was given a similar assignment by our government, and he worked with Northcliffe in London.

Lord Northcliffe devised a unique and practical method of distributing propaganda in Germany. He used small gas-filled balloons. To each of these he attached on a slow-burning fuse hundreds of leaflets printed in German. With a favorable wind blowing towards Germany, thousands of these balloons were released just behind the Allied lines. As the wind carried them over German territory, the burning of the fuse would release the leaflets a few at a time. The ever-lightening load would keep the balloons afloat until they had traveled so far as a hundred miles into Germany. Several million copies of President Wilson's famous Flag day speech, printed in German, were delivered to the German people by that method.

Lord Northcliffe told me in London a few days after the signing of the Armistice that he believed the distribution of that one piece of propaganda had more effect on the break in German morale than anything else they had done.

He emphasized that statement by pounding my knee so hard that it was sore for some time.

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PAYING THE DEBT

SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS added to what we owe means adding to the debts of each family of five about $260.

That is each family's share of the added national indebtedness.

Future generations will pay it if this generation does not.

If this generation does pay, it will be with inflation money which will be worthless.

The families of this generation will at least pay an additional interest charge of $16.80 each year.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS — By Edward C. Wayne

U. S. Would Speed 'All Out' British Aid With Appropriation of Seven Billions; Landing of British Troops in Greece Adds Confusion to Balkan Situation

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

With the labor situation in the defense industries much in the news these prominent labor leaders called at the White House to discuss with the President the formation of a national mediation board for settling all disputes in defense production. Photo shows: (Left to right) H. C. Bates, president Brickmasons and Plasterers union; O. W. Tracy, assistant secretary of labor; Sidney Hillman, defense commission; Allen S. Haywood, C. I. O. official, and A. Johnson, locomotive engineers official, as the group left the White House.

SPEECHES:
Two Leaders

In an address that was carried by radio to all parts of the world, President Roosevelt called for an American "total effort" to provide nations resisting aggression with the war implements they need. Speaking before a gathering of the White House newspaper correspondents, the President declared in effect that the aim of the United States is "total victory" over the dictators. He said that this cannot be achieved without some very definite sacrifices on the part of the American people.

He called for a maximum output of war materials by the United States and stressed the high importance of national unity. He expressed the thought that the British people and their Grecian allies needed ships, planes, food, tanks, guns, ammunition and supplies of all kinds. He followed this with the statement that America would provide them with all these things.

Day later Adolf Hitler spoke to his countrymen and told them that no amount of outside help would permit the British to defeat the Axis powers. He did not refer directly to President Roosevelt's speech.

Germany, according to Hitler, has been preparing throughout the past winter for a final drive to victory in 1941. He predicted that this final victory would come "on land, sea, or air or in any part of the earth."

BRITISH:
First Again

The British, who have been trying their utmost to get the jump on their Nazi and Fascist opponents since Germany made hash out of French and British armies on the West Wall, apparently had beaten the Germans to the punch on the northern Greek front.

The story came, not from British sources, but from the Nazi officials in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. The move had two important objects, apparently, one to attempt the hopeless task of keeping Yugoslavia in line as a possible Nazi opponent in a drive on Greece, the other to put troops into position for a swift and powerful defense against a Nazi invasion from Bulgaria.

The story was that 100,000 soldiers, including shiploads of munitions, tanks and other mechanized equipment, sufficient for five full divisions, had been landed and were taking up positions on Greek soil opposite to the estimated 500,000 Nazis in Bulgaria.

The original informant said that official denials could be expected both from the Greeks and the British.

However, entirely unofficially, British authorities told correspondents in London that the reports of the landing of the British forces in Greece "probably were well founded."

Germany immediately denied any knowledge of the movement, and as the Greeks were not letting newspaper men into that territory, but indeed were evacuating everyone in expectation that it would be a battleground, the entire story was impossible of positive confirmation.

The same report said that Germany was wheeling her mechanized forces and her planes into position for immediate attack.

CHINESE:
For Britain

One of the most unusual dispatches, never confirmed, but never denied, emanated from Tokyo, and told how the Chinese nationalist government was sending a million Chinese men to Britain's Malay possessions to serve as soldiers.

The men, according to this story, will be armed and outfitted for the Far East defense by American shipments of arms and ammunition.

According to reports brought to Belgrade by neutral diplomats, five ships a day have been coming into southern ports in Greece, and have moved forward to take positions in the central part of the country, readily accessible to the northern frontier.

Die Is Cast

The move by the British meant that they had cast the die, that they were going to move in full force to the aid of Greece, and hence that if Germany wants to force a separate peace with Greece it will have to be a real military victory, and not merely diplomatic pressure.

This move, together with the landing at Salonika, was not without a powerful effect on Turkey, which, unlike Yugoslavia, seemed to have some ability to stand out against the Nazi inroads, and to hold herself in alliance with Greece and Britain, in accordance with the wishes of the government majority.

While Berlin refused to confirm the reports, and refused to comment on them in any way, it was considered ominous that the statement should be made in a Nazi communique that "the moment had now come for a decisive act in German-Greek relations."

ENVOY:
'Means Business'

W. A. Harriman marched up to newspaper men on the Bristol, England, airport as a special representative of President Roosevelt and said these words:

"Believe me, the United States means business in this war."

They were cheering words to the English, and at the same time in this country President Roosevelt's lease-lend plan went zooming ahead, with congressional approval of the $7,000,000,000 implementation of the law a certainty.

It was within the same week of the passage of the British aid act that the house subcommittee swept into instant action and approved the amount.

President Roosevelt already had "sold" senate and house leaders that the amount was no figment of the imagination, thought up hurriedly, but was, rather, the carefully considered amount which would take care of a sizeable aid to Britain program for the life of the bill—July, 1943.

The newspapers printed careful breakdowns of the 7 billion amount, showed how this and that had been divided out, and how safeguards had been thought out as to the question of moving funds from one category to another.

It was all placed before the public succinctly and with his usual compelling power of oratory by President Roosevelt himself in an address to the nation. Without telling any secrets, or tipping off adverse powers, the President took the people into his confidence, and just on the eve of the consideration of the measure, too.

That clinched the situation, in view of congressional leaders, who figured that in three days, at most, it would be all over, and the administration would have, practically intact except for some dozen amendments, his fully implemented aid-to-Britain plan.

Industrial Lag Seen

So confident was the President of the outcome, based on the advices of those close to him and watching congress, that he issued an announcement even before his radio address, that he was planning to spend the whole huge sum within 16 months.

William S. Knudsen, however, the head of Production Management, hinted at an industrial lag, and said that it would probably be two to three months before the whole British aid program would really get going.

THE CASE:
Of Hottelet

RICHARD C. HOTTELET
"Suspicion of espionage."

It was something more than mere coincidence that close upon the passage of the lease-lend bill the Nazis arrested Richard C. Hottelet, a United Press correspondent in Berlin, on "strong suspicions" of espionage.

The D. N. B. announcement said that Hottelet was suspected of having conducted espionage in the interests of an enemy country. This, of course, ruled out the United States, and the Germans themselves said: "Naturally the United States is not an enemy power."

It was added that the espionage of which Hottelet is suspected had nothing to do with his journalistic work.

As the case went forward into the preliminary hearing stage, Americans began to wonder two things:

1. Did the arrest of Hottelet have anything to do with the arrest in the United States of Zapp and Tonn, the agents of the Transocean News Service, a Nazi outfit?

2. Did the arrest have anything to do with the passage of the lease-lend bill, and was this to be interpreted as the start of a series of Nazi reprisals which could end only in the entry of America into the European war?

The very day that the special grand jury in Washington returned the Zapp and Tonn indictments, the Nazis arrested Hottelet.

It also might be remembered by some that Mussolini closed the American consulates at Naples and Palermo, and the United States followed suit with the Italian consulates at Newark and Detroit.

TRAGEDY:
On the Prairie

Windstorm, snow and severe cold combined to take at least 66 lives in eastern North Dakota and western Minnesota as one of the most severe storms in the memory of pioneers swept across the prairie country.

When their cars stalled or were blown off the highway most of the persons who lost their lives tried to walk to the safety of nearby farmhouses but were either frozen to death before they could reach shelter or else died of sheer exhaustion in battling the terrific wind. The gale at times reached a velocity of 85 miles per hour.

SCORNFUL:
Are the Greeks

The "Greeks have a word" for Mussolini, following the episode in which Il Duce took personal charge of the Fascist troops on the Albanian front.

They called him "bogus Caesar." The story is that Mussolini took charge about the first week in March, and that after a short time at the front he told his generals they'd have to produce something in the way of a victory at the "Ides of March."

The generals, so they said in Athens, did their best. Fresh troops were rushed into the Tepelini battle, troops well equipped with all the arms of war, and each attack they launched, the Greeks said, was beaten back with heavy losses.

Among those killed were two members of Il Duce's cabinet. The defenders of Greece claimed that Mussolini had failed as had his armies, for Benito had hoped to build up their morale, but the men in the front lines still showed, it was claimed, the "spirit of despair" and the "criminal indifference" to fighting that had marked the long series of defeats in Albania.

In the final five days of the fierce Italian drive, the Greeks claimed, they killed 15,000 of the Fascist soldiers, decimating entire battalions, and reducing the strength of five divisions to about one-half.

MISCELLANY?

LANCASTER, PA: A member of the Dunkard sect, whose religious convictions against killing people in war were so strong that he was a conscientious objector to the draft for religious reasons, was given a life term for slaying his rival in love.

LONDON: That Britain is leaving no stone unturned in preparation for a Nazi invasion attempt was seen in the announcement that leaflets were being distributed among the populace telling them not to flee and clog the roads if the invader comes to their very doors. "Stand firm and help the troops," the message read.

ISTANBUL: Former British Minister to Bulgaria George W. Rendel, on whom an assassination attempt was made when he arrived here, insisted on a search for bombs being made in his luggage before setting out for Ankara.

Sportlight
by GRANTLAND RICE

MIAMI BEACH.—The keen combination of two Dodger mandarins, Larry MacPhail and Leo Durocher, nominates two stars for an exceptional season. They are Ducky Medwick and Peewee Reese.

MacPhail believes that young Reese will be the star infielder of the National circuit and that Medwick will be the star outfielder for 1941. This may be peering into the future with rose-rimmed glasses, but that happens to be the way MacPhail and Durocher feel about it as the training season gets well under way.

"I've never seen a fellow train harder than Medwick has trained this spring," MacPhail said. "He is not only in great physical shape, but he will show you more spirit than you've seen in a long time. There'll be no tightening up as there was last summer. He is still in his prime, ready to move at top speed."

The Right Way to Train

"I've discovered," Medwick told me, "that the best way to get in shape is to keep in shape. That's what I've done all winter. I was in shape before the bunch arrived. I

DUCKY MEDWICK

can honestly say I've never faced a season with the keenness I feel now."

"I'd like to bet somebody," MacPhail said, "that Brooklyn will show you the finest spirit in either league. Every man on the club knows we are all shooting for a pennant, and that we have a first-class chance to win."

"What about those Red pitchers?" I asked MacPhail. "Meaning Walters, Derringer and Thompson, to mention only a few?"

"They may not be as tough this season as they were the last two years," MacPhail said. "Paul Derringer is still a great pitcher, but he isn't any rookie.

"For that matter you are going to see much better pitching this season on the Brooklyn side of the fence. Much better. Higbe alone will make a big difference. I think he'll do better than 20 wins. He may even reach 25 with his share of the breaks. Hamlin will be more than useful. So will Wyatt. Out of the lot we'll get at least four good starting pitchers, with others who can help a lot.

"And don't forget what I told you about Reese. He means a lot to a ball club."

Brooklyn is still the "people's choice." No other club in baseball has so many far-flung hamlets working along Rooters' Row, pulling for Brooklyn to win.

The answer is that Brooklyn is baseball's daffiest baseball town, with the lone exception of Detroit.

Baseball to Brooklyn is something more than a pleasant way to kill off a summer afternoon. It is a big part of the soul of the old city, where the average fanatic begins practicing quick starts for the bughouse early in March.

And now Brooklyn has a showman and a ball club that carry an even deeper appeal than usual. Both Reds and Cardinals will have to be stronger than they were last summer to keep these Dodgers from boiling over.

Their Main Problem

According to most of the master minds connected with the Dodgers, their main problem is center field.

"If we get this spot fixed up in the right way I don't think any club can beat us," one of them told me. "If we don't, the job will be a lot tougher. You know how important center field play is to any championship club. The line of winning strength runs through the middle—catcher - pitcher - second base and center. Both shortstop and second baseman are concerned with second-base play. I think we'll get this fixed up. But it is the only spot now that is giving us any worry."

Larry MacPhail has worked out a Dodger spring schedule that will keep his earnest athletes hard at work until opening day.

"It's not as tough, however, as it looks," he said. "We've split the work up among two or three teams to give everyone a chance to show what he has under fire. No one will be overworked and I don't believe there is any chance that we'll hit the old home yard tired or stale. This part of our training will be closely watched. We have enough reserve strength this time to send in relief when it is needed."

HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONS

Mirrors should never be hung where the sun shines directly on them for any length of time.

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Put your white wash on the sunny side of the line and keep the colored clothing in the shade.

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Put small cooked hamburger cakes between two hot biscuit halves and top them with a brown savory gravy or well seasoned white sauce. You'll like these.

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Wire and iron bed-springs that become rusty should be given a coat of paint.

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Meat should not be seasoned until it is partially cooked.

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Pillow slips iron easier lengthwise.

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To glaze doughnuts while they are still warm dip in bowl in which 3 tablespoons butter have been mixed with 4 tablespoons boiling water and 1 cup sifted confectioner's sugar. Let doughnuts "dry" on waxed paper.

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A strong railing to prevent falls and plenty of headroom are two important necessities for any safe cellar steps. When the steps are in a dark place, several coats of white paint applied to the steps will make for greater safety.

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Here are some good uses for lemons: Rub match scratches on paint with cut side of a lemon and rinse quickly with cold water applied on a cloth. Use half a lemon peel dipped in salt to remove stains from copper and brass. Wash in warm water and soap suds and polish with soft cloth. To bleach linens yellowed by age boil them in six cups of water, two tablespoons of bluing and a half a lemon. To keep wooden sink drain boards clean, rub them often with half a lemon rind.

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To make it easier to wash casseroles or baking dishes, butter the sides and bottom of the dish thoroughly before adding the mixture to be cooked. As soon as the food has been eaten, soak the dish in warm water for 10 minutes. You will be delighted to see how easily it can be washed.

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