

Senate Committee Approves Deferments for Farmers

WASHINGTON, March 3 (U. P.).—Opponents of a modified bill to defer farm workers from military service until the end of 1943 today began a campaign to prevent the congressional farm bloc from pushing it through to final senate approval.

Even the optimistic farm members of the senate military affairs committee, which approved the bill yesterday, were surprised at the 9 to 7 vote. The bill had been denounced by Acting Secretary of War Robert E. Patterson as a potential threat to morale, both civilian and military.

The original farm deferment bill, sponsored by Senator John H. Bankhead (D. Ala.) would have deferred all farmers for the duration. But the approved substitute, sponsored by freshman Senator George A. Wilson (R. Iowa) would:

1. End farm deferments at midnight, Dec. 31, 1943, by which time congress presumably will have enacted changes in the selective service act to halt the inroads into farm manpower made by the armed forces and industries flush with government contracts.

Does Not Alter Freezing

2. Issue certificates to recipients of the farm deferments. By putting into writing the board's opinion of the essentiality of the deferred worker, proponents of the plan argue, boards will be careful not to place themselves on record in favor of individuals whose sole farming activities consist of growing foodstuffs for pleasure or mere self-sufficiency.

3. Specify that the work entitling the worker to deferment must be done on a farm. Otherwise, some committee members contended, men engaged merely in the processing of foodstuffs might be considered eligible for similar preferment.

The Wilson version of the bill does not alter the provision freezing farmers in their present occupations unless they can convince local draft boards that they would be more

useful in war industry or in the military-naval force.

This proviso caused Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D. Wyo.) to denounce the bill as fostering "involuntary servitude." O'Mahoney, of the seven committee members opposing it, said he would sponsor floor amendments to insure that farmers eligible for deferments produce a volume of crops large enough or perform services important enough to warrant preferential treatment. He charged that the bill would lure a fantastic number of draft dodgers to farms.

Only Stop Gap

Wilson conceded that the bill is only "stop gap" legislation. "But it will provide labor for harvesting this year's crops," he said. "Meanwhile congress can get to work and produce legislation to take care of the situation next year."

Bankhead said the measure would be considered by the full senate next Monday.

RIBBENTROP BLOCKS NEW ITALIAN ENVOY

ANKARA, March 3 (U. P.).—Cancellation of the appointment of Augusto Rosso as Italian ambassador to Turkey was understood today to have resulted from a protest by German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop.

It was pointed out that Rosso's wife was American born and had two sons in the American forces. Rosso's friendship with U. S. Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt also was said to have affected his appointment.

TELLS OPA TO HIRE WOMEN

WASHINGTON, March 3 (U. P.).—Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown yesterday instructed his subordinates to hire women for OPA jobs where possible rather than men eligible for military service.

LEE JURY HEARS BOY'S MOTHER

Ran When She Heard Shout Of Warning, but Was Struck, She Says.

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walking west in front of Ayres when she heard someone yell, "Watch out for that car." "I started running towards the entrance to Ayres," she testified. "The car hit me, I guess. I remember seeing the car and the women lying in the broken window. I don't think I was unconscious. There was someone lying on top of me and I yelled for someone to get that person off of me."

Kept Asking For Boy

"I was injured from head to foot. There were cuts and bruises on my face, arms, legs and body."

She exhibited a scarred elbow to the jury.

"A policeman bandaged my elbow and thumb at the scene of the accident," Mrs. Hall continued, "and they took me to the Methodist hospital."

"I didn't see my little boy immediately. I kept asking people where he was. They told me he was all right. The next day they told me."

Mrs. Hall was well composed as she told of the death of the child.

Long Under Doctor's Care

She said she was under a doctor's care until December.

"I was pregnant at the time of the accident," Mrs. Hall said, "and I lost another boy."

Fred Wellman, 6444 Central ave., said his wife was unable to appear in court because of a physical and mental collapse resulting from the accident.

She received a fractured right leg and a portion of her other leg was severed, he testified. Her right forearm was mutilated, pelvic bone broken and she lost considerable blood, he said.

Collapse in Store Told

Dr. Willis Dorman said that he attended Lee at his home on June 15, 1940, but Judge Samuel E. Garrison sustained defense objections to having the doctor tell the type of treatment he gave Lee.

Sanford Hanks, an employee of a grocery at 918 N. Delaware st., described seeing Lee collapse there last June 10.

"I asked Mr. Lee what he sold and he looked at the ceiling and said 'oh' and fell back," the witness testified.

He said Lee's face was pale, his body rigid and his eyes rolled to the back of his head.

Other Victims Testify

Mr. Hanks said Lee was unconscious for about 10 minutes and was taken to City hospital in an ambulance.

Three of the 15 who were injured in the accident described the scene. They were Mr. and Mrs. Berd B. Newcomb, 5528 S. Manker st., and Marjorie Puetney, Mooresville.

Mrs. Lillian L. Johnson, 1819 N. New Jersey st., an eye-witness, also described the accident.

Dr. Roy B. Storms, Marion county coroner, told the jury yesterday afternoon that in the death of the Hall child he returned a verdict of accidental death resulting when Lee lost control of his automobile while suffering an epileptic seizure.

Tavern Proprietor Heard

Another witness was Everett Stoelting, proprietor of a tavern at 5221 E. Washington st., who said that the defendant had bought beer from him almost daily for more than five years.

"Mr. Lee would come in around 3:30 or 4 almost every afternoon," Mr. Stoelting said. "He would usually drink two or three 12-ounce beers and occasionally four or five. He usually stayed until 4:30 or 5 o'clock. As a rule he came back in the evening and would drink the same amount. Once in a great while he would take two or three bottles home in the evening."

On cross-examination, Mr. Stoelting explained that he had never seen Lee drunk.

Lee's physician, Dr. John K. Kingsbury, 5778 E. Michigan st., stated that he had attended Lee ten times between 1937 and June 10, 1942. Lee is said to have collapsed in a grocery store on June 10.

Objection Sustained

Judge Garrison sustained the objections of the defense attorneys when Prosecutor Sherwood Blue asked Dr. Kingsbury for what he had treated Lee. The judge decided that such testimony was a matter of privacy between the doctor and the patient.

Herbert Jackson, a mechanic at E. C. Atkins Co., testified yesterday that he was the first person to reach Lee after his car had crashed into Ayres and stopped at a fire hydrant at the corner of Meridian and Washington sts.

Mr. Jackson said that as he opened the car door, "Lee's head was on the back of the driver's seat and he was frothing at the mouth. His eyes were rolling, his face was pale and distorted, and his body was rigid. I put my hand on him to keep from falling to the pavement."

He stated that Lee "seemed to come out of it in five or ten minutes and said 'It looks like there has been an accident.'"

Two City hospital doctors told of aiding the accident victims.

Dr. Donald McCartney said he gave emergency treatment to the injured in front of Ayres.

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Only Land Action Will Crush Japan, Far East Expert Says

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the Far Eastern war does not require the capture of "every Japanese island" in the South Pacific. He believes, however, that it is necessary to reduce the important Japanese bases at Truk and in the Philippines.

"If we had control of the Philippines we could get at any point on the South China coast," he asserted, and pointed out that before the fall of Hongkong twice to three times as much war material was being smuggled to China from that area than was sent across the Burma road.

He believes that any bridgehead in this area could soon provide the Chinese enough supplies to retake Canton; they already are almost in the outskirts of that great metropolis. Then a land offensive toward the north, both by land toward Shanghai and by sea toward Formosa could be launched.

There is no possibility of Russian participation in the Far Eastern war until Hitler is definitely on the downgrade, Dr. Bates believes.

"If in the future, the Germans are pretty well shoved back and the Russians don't have to carry the whole load in Europe as they do now, the U. S. S. R. might be inclined to come into the war against Japan. But there is no reason to count on it."

Blueprint of Attack

Dr. Bates also saw the possibility that Japan might attack Russia if the imperial government should feel that was the only way to keep Hitler in the war.

A Japanese attack would come, he believed in a land, air and amphibious attack on Vladivostok, attacks in two or three places, but the trans-Siberian railway and a flank attack from the railway of north China into Outer Mongolia.

Dr. Bates was professor of history at the University of Nanking when the Japanese attack came and he was left in Nanking to maintain its properties and hospital and high school after the rest of the university was moved to Chengtu in the interior. He found in the Japanese army at Nanking a "professional clique of officers whose sole purpose in life is to defeat Russia."

He praised the Chinese for their five years and eight months of resistance against Japan, saying that some of the obstacles they have overcome have been stupendous. The propeller for one 200-foot Yangtze river steamer was chiseled from a block of iron by hand, he said.

The Chinese are "practical-minded," he said, and realize that the defeat of Hitler is as important as the defeat of the Far Eastern French Indo-China, he believes.

Bromfield Offers Program To Spur Farm Production

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ing the responsibility for selection to the discretion of confused and directionless draft boards.

2. To raise the quota on farm machinery to at least 50 per cent of 1941 production.

3. To achieve some orderly and logical basis for price ceilings, so that the farmer, who must plan a year ahead, may have some idea where he stands.

Morale Needs a Lift

4. TO PROVIDE, through adjustment of prices, and not "subsidies," a possibility for the farmer to see some hope of a reasonable profit.

5. To bring back, either by demobilization or less permanent furlough, at least 500,000 selected skilled farm workers out of the army to the land. A larger number may be necessary.

6. Above all, to raise the morale of the farmer by some more tangible means than speeches, so that he may feel there is someone in the administration fighting for him.

I realize that many of these proposals are not within the power of the secretary of agriculture himself. The primary fault lies, not with him, but with the general administration's failure to achieve any over-all, organized program for food production.

But it seems to me that Mr. Wickard could fight for these things, even to the point of going before the country, as did Mr. Jeffers, the rubber administrator, in another vital field of war production which remained for so long in a similar state of confusion and divided responsibility.

Only Harvest Counts

MR. WICKARD's course has been to announce quotas, make speeches, and waver between the demands of the administration on one side and the farm lobby on the other. "Expressing the need" for more food production is not the same as getting it. Announcing new quotas does not mean that more food will be raised.

In the statement of production figures, it is not the amount of food planted, but the amount harvested, that is important. Even

if the amount of food did surpass all previous records in 1942, it still was not enough in view of the tremendously increased demands of army and navy, lend-lease, starving nations abroad and the higher purchasing power of a large percentage of our own population.

Painting a Rosy Picture

THE PUBLIC does not understand many facts of the food situation, especially this one: The statistics compiled on the whole situation are gathered by federal employees of the department of agriculture. Their agencies are threatened with curtailment or extinction by congressional action. It is only human and natural that these federal employees should present as rosy a picture as possible, both for their own good and for that of the department.

Most of the statistics have come from the AAA agencies, and on many farms in the Middle West the AAA agencies are so disliked that signs have been posted on farms warning their representatives to "keep off!" Over-all national reports on the food situation are available only to the department of agriculture, and can be obtained only from it.

Any of the recent surveys made independently by newspapers in the Middle West reveal a situation seriously at variance with the food administration's figures. If the farmer is producing, if he is getting rich, why are so many farms simply being closed down? Why has the price of land decreased rather than increased?

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BAIN CALLS FOR NEW JURY PANEL

Action Follows Discovery of Contract Held by Helfenberger.

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tracts, had been awarded one himself on Feb. 15.

Judge Bain said he would make every effort to investigate the background and personal connections of every person selected for the new jury.

"This is merely a continuation of the court's policy in selection of all juries," Judge Bain said.

"Each new jury selected will be examined closely as to his connections with county, city or state governments and whether he has any connection with litigation in any court."

Mr. Helfenberger, following dismissal of the grand jury yesterday, explained that he was asked about his business connections with the county and that he had none at the time he was selected on the jury.

"The judge did not say anything about future contracts with the county," Mr. Helfenberger said.

Pick Panel by Lottery

The panel of 25 to 50 names will be picked entirely by lottery, County Clerk Jack Tilson said. Names of prospective jurors, taken out of township property assessment books at the rate of several hundred a month, are kept in a locked box at the county clerk's office.

"When a call is made for a jury panel of any kind, jury commissioners pull the names out of the box in lottery fashion," Mr. Tilson explained.

Under the law the only qualification for a grand jury is that prospective jurors either own real estate or have status of being the head of a household.

STATE MERIT BOARD IS OUT OF OFFICE

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legislated out of office, were Rowland Allen, William C. Birtwright, Edmund Foust and Earl Beck.

The measure abolishing the present merit system law and re-creating the same law, thus ousting the top personnel in the merit system setup, was passed by the Republican controlled legislature as a compromise move.

It satisfied both the Republican legislators who were determined to oust Mr. Allen and Mr. Johnson even if the merit system law had to be abolished entirely and the Republican party leaders who wanted to retain the merit system law on the statute books.

TRAIN COAST GUARD

WASHINGTON, March 3 (U. P.).—Men not subject to selective service who have enrolled with the coast guard volunteer security force will receive instruction in the coast guards training institute at the University of Pennsylvania, the navy announced yesterday. The course will include small arms practice and instruction in port security work.

Axis Positions at Faid Pass Threatened by Allied Gains

By VIRGIL PINKLEY

United Press Staff Correspondent

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, North Africa, March 3.—American and British troops pushed south and southeast of Sbeitla today in thrusts that menaced the axis position at Faid pass.

The allied forces were pushing back across ground over which they had been driven in retreat at the start of Marshal Erwin Rommel's offensive in south-central Tunisia. Their victory over the axis at Kasserine pass became all the more gratifying today when they learned that Rommel, "the desert fox" had been in personal command of the German-Italian forces in that engagement.

United Press Correspondent Phil Ault reported from the front that Rommel personally had commanded the enemy at the battle of the Kasserine pass and that he had spent two days at the home of a Frenchman four miles west of the town of Kasserine.

In the north, the first army turned back three small enemy attacks against Beja and Medjes El Bab. Flying forces, supporting ground troops with attacks on communication lines, delivered a two-wave attack against Tunis and La Goulette, scoring hits on quays, industrial areas and warehouses. Three enemy planes were destroyed by the fortresses.

The royal air force made a series of savage attacks yesterday, particularly along the Mateur-Beja and Beja-Medjes El Bab roads. Bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters were

active all day against troop columns and motor transports.

In the north, the first enemy attack was made early yesterday. It consisted of an infantry thrust three miles northeast of Medjes El Bab, and was repulsed. The second drive, including six enemy tanks, came down the road from Mateur, about 12 miles northeast of Beja. Two of the tanks were knocked out and the enemy withdrew. The third attack struck along a road running about four miles northeast of Sed Jenans. The enemy withdrew after four of his armored cars were knocked out.

There was no activity other than patrolling by the British-eighth army to the south.

In all, five enemy fighters were destroyed yesterday and a bomber was shot down on the night of March 1-2. Reports confirmed the destruction of two other enemy planes not previously reported. One allied plane was missing.

PEDESTRIAN BILL KILLED IN SENATE

The state senate today killed a bill to give pedestrians crossing with the green light the right of way over motorists making right turns.

Senator Harry Chamberlin (R. Indianapolis) made the successful motion for a definite postponement, stating organizations interested in traffic control contended the measure would "muddle" the present traffic situation. The bill is opposed by public carriers, who said it would tie up street cars and buses on busy downtown streets.

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