

Another Ill-Considered Compromise

IT is significant that a Congressman en route to a preview of World War III should radio to Washington the deciding vote on extending the draft laws of World War II. The compromise that will result from his action will be the American occupation force qualified lease on life for another nine months, a rather important matter since we seem to have entered a period when wars overlap. Interruption of the continuity of our war effort can be, as we should understand by now, expensive.

The manner in which the Congress has handled draft extension is unhappily characteristic of its present disheveled state. As in the case of OPA and the housing program, there has been a frantic effort to postpone the issue until the last minute. And, as usual, the flight from reality is ending in a half-hearted, ill-considered compromise which only complicates the terribly difficult job of reconciling our many victories over Germany and Japan. This is not to say that Congress is not justified in altering the draft laws—or the price control laws for that matter. The Army's system of induction was not perfect in wartime, and it could stand a general overhaul now that the shooting has stopped. But the Congressional approach has been destructive, compounded of fear, false sentiment, and irresponsibility. The gentlemen on the Hill have refused to face up to the hard fact that the occupation of Germany and Japan is as much a part of the war as the Battle of the Bulge or

Okinawa. With one eye on the polls, those who cheerfully voted to send 18-year-olds into battle began thinking up ways and means to avoid sending them overseas now that they face nothing more dangerous than the American "beatniks" in the States. Parents then, statesmen, they have largely ignored the Army's logical insistence that the war itself has exhausted all other alternatives, so that it cannot expect to obtain first class personnel unless it draws from the generation just reaching draft age.

The Congress has also turned a deaf ear to the State Department's equally logical argument that vacillation in the matter of draft extension seriously damages our foreign policy. The nine-month limitation on the new draft law is taken abroad, and properly so, as an indication that the American people can't decide whether they want to keep armies abroad or not. It's the best news the Germans and the Japanese, yes and the Russians, have had in many months.

The curious thing about all this is that it isn't even good politics. The threat of drafting 18-year-olds is still there, and it will alienate as many voters as would a firm policy. Those veterans whose release from the service will further be delayed by the hampering restrictions written into the bill will be even more bitter than they are now. If that's possible. Nobody, so far as we can see, is going to be pleased by the draft bill now being hammered into shape.

The present legislation, which the Congress still doesn't seem to understand that wishful thinking will not end a war.



For The Soldier Who Walks . . .

INFANTRY Day slipped past all but unnoticed this week. The press, which can usually be depended upon to turn a trifle editorial phrase on all the Days that clutter the calendar, seemed to be thinking of something else. It's the way of the world; these months can always transform a hero into a forgotten man.

It may be just as well. When the bomb explodes over Bikini the Queen of Battle may abdicate at last. The doughboy, who won every war in history, may have scored his last painful victory. The freer he is, the more holes in the ground bought with his blood, may disappear, while the course of conflict is charted in thin air, and reckoned in terms of ruined cities a thousand miles apart.

Ever since men first began to settle their disputes on the hills, the doughboy's thankless job has been threatened by human (or inhuman) progress. The generals tried to replace him with elephants and horses, with catapults and cannon, with tanks and airplanes and rockets. But each new weapon, after winning a handful of

battles, was checked before it could guarantee victory. Tactics changed, but strategy didn't; sooner or later men had to walk into battle with only the weapons they could carry in their hands and wage the bitter, personal war known only to the killer who faces his victim. The remote and impersonal weapons served only to support the soldier who walks like a man.

But it will be the doughboy who will be happiest if perverse human ingenuity has finally ended his career. Nobody ever enjoyed being a foot soldier; from Hannibal to Eisenhower he never aroused any emotion stronger than pity. He was the common man of the military, indispensable but dull, an object of ridicule for the cavalryman, the artilleryman and the pilot. He fought, and died in prodigious numbers, without benefit of banner or bugle. The remote salutes of his countrymen to remember the day set aside to honor him (and to promote enlistments in the most dangerous branch of the service) will neither surprise nor disturb him. He would, we suspect, rather have a house than a parade. And he has long since learned to expect neither.

People's Platform

Sam Ervin and The OPA

CHARLOTTE
FROM THE WASHINGTON POST
In view of the recent editorials in your fine newspaper with regard to OPA, I thought the attached correspondence with Mr. S. J. Ervin Jr. would be of interest to you. You are free to use this correspondence as you see fit.

Assuring you that I, for one, agree 100 per cent with your attitude towards Congress and the OPA, I am

—H. D. HEARN.

Honorable Sam Ervin
320 South Avenue
Washington, D.C.
Honorable Sir:

FOR the first time in my life I feel it necessary to express my views to a member of Congress. Please note that the attached editorial, from The Charlotte News, dated June 19, if the Congress of the United States rests in the OPA. However, the Senate, as far as price control is concerned, there is no question but that prices of all commodities will advance materially. This is going to leave salary people in a very bad situation.

It is my opinion that you will vote on this issue according to the views of the people. I sincerely hope your vote will be to continue price control, not over luxuries, but price control over the things which you make up the bulk of things purchased by the average person.

Mr. Ervin talked to many of my friends. I have talked to the seven people working for me in my small business, and they all feel as I do.

Very truly yours,
H. D. HEARN,
320 Selwyn Ave.
Charlotte 1, North Carolina

I HAVE your letter of June 13, enclosing an editorial from The Charlotte News, relating to OPA extension. The House passed the OPA Extension Bill several months ago. Since that time, the same has been pending in the Senate. However, the Senate passed an amended version of the same on yesterday, and the Senate version will come to the House within the next few days for concurrence or rejection of the Senate amendments.

There has been more heat and less light generated by the present alignment of the OPA extension proposition which has confronted Congress since I have been here.

Mr. Ervin and those who adhere to his views have insisted at all times that OPA is a sacred thing and that no changes whatever should be made there. The National Administration seem to share this view. The whole situation is clouded by crimination and recrimination. As near as I can sense the sentiment of the people is to share the OPA. All price controls continued on each thing which he has to buy and removed from each thing which he has to sell. This kind of a remedy is, of course, impossible of fulfillment.

Personally, I think that OPA has done much good, but that it has done much evil by its refusal to accept realities. We have heard a great deal said about OPA has held the line. And yet, we see constant strikes and constant increases of

wages to organized labor justified upon the ground that such increases are necessary to meet the increased cost of living. OPA has held the line, why has the cost of living increased? Everybody knows, however, that the cost of living has increased substantially since OPA began to take effect.

In my judgment, which I have arrived at after long study and consideration, the policies of OPA contributed substantially to the increase in the cost of living. OPA froze the prices of old-line manufacturers of standard goods required by the public and refused to permit slight increases in the price of such goods of old-line manufacturers. On the contrary, however, it gave vastly larger ceiling prices to new manufacturers, and to the production of new types of goods by old manufacturers.

The result of this policy, which OPA refused to change in any respect despite the pleas of its friends, resulted in cheap prices and in flooding the market with shoddy new products at higher prices. The result of this policy, which OPA refused to change in any respect despite the pleas of its friends, resulted in cheap prices and in flooding the market with shoddy new products at higher prices.

As a result of this adherence to the policy of OPA, the old-line manufacturers have had to quit making cheap standard goods, and the public has been deprived of such goods and has been compelled to pay higher prices for shoddy new lines.

OPA has also increased the cost of living and stifled production by another foolish policy. It has restricted the trade of a whole rather than as proposed by many individuals and has refused to grant relief to particular producers if the majority of producers in the particular field were making a profit. The result of this has been that those producers who were losing money have often been forced out of business.

This results in a curtailment of production and a scarcity of goods.

In many instances the adherence of OPA to this idea has forced the producer to discontinue the making of cheaper lines of goods of a standard nature. The National Administration seem to share this view. The whole situation is clouded by crimination and recrimination.

Under Chester Bowles, the OPA adhered to these policies mentioned above in spite of the fact that the people were suffering and that people could not be induced to produce goods at a loss.

Personalities in fact, the continuance of OPA under a law requiring OPA to allow producers and sellers of goods and services a reasonable profit. I know no way which will give satisfaction to the people in work in times of peace.

S. J. ERVIN JR.
Member of Congress

On How To Pass A Buck

THIS is the season of the semi-annual election over North Carolina campaign laws. Since it is so flagrant violated, especially in regard to the limitation of campaign expenditures, is The Corrupt Practices Act of 1931 adequate? The Raleigh Times thinks it isn't, and argues that the limitation on campaign expenses is too low.

It has been often said that The Corrupt Practices Act of 1931 purportedly requiring candidates to file a statement of contributions received and disbursements made in connection with political campaigns was an inducement to perjury, rather than prevention of election crookedness. This opinion is supported by the well-known fact that the act has been completely unenforced under present-day conditions without spending more than the legal limit in most cases.

Regardless of who displays the greater skill at passing the buck, it is clear that nothing much is going to be done about clearing up North Carolina's elections under the present statute. The public who found it in the C. B. Deane, Democratic nominee in the Eighth Congressional District, it finds that the official statement of expenditures (\$4,568.67) spent personally, an estimate of \$2,920 spent by others is unitemized. The statement indicates that \$4,800 of this total was contributed, but does not indicate by whom. It does not show to whom any of the money was paid or for what purpose.

The example of Greensboro Daily News, that placer of first things first, to mark that the real weakness of the present law lies in its failure to fix responsibility for enforcement. The campaign statement questioned by The Times is filed in the

office of Secretary of State Thad Eure, but Mr. Eure takes the position that his responsibility ends when the statement is received. It makes no difference to him, we gather, whether the statement is accurate or not. The law seems to bear him out in that, in hazy fashion, it imposes upon the Attorney General the responsibility "to make diligent inquiry and investigation with respect to any violation of this article." The Attorney General, however, has displayed a marked reluctance to undertake this duty, diligently or otherwise, of his own volition, holding that it is required only if somebody else, the Secretary of State, for instance—forward an official request.

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The semi-annual debate, now as always, leads to the conclusion that there ought to be a law.

Another Voice

Dr. Odum's Challenge To Greatness

DR. HOWARD W. ODUM sees the recent Supreme Court decision on his segregation as a real challenge to Southern tolerance, intelligence and progressive spirit. The region is standing on the threshold of vast development in the material and cultural sense, and if the South is wise, Dr. Odum intimates, it will allow nothing to stand in its way as it moves to grasp the future.

It is sound sense well mingled with humanism and the idealistic aim. Dr. Odum is right, when he insists that the South in facing the court decision should view it as a challenge to greatness, rather than a theory, and holding fast to its pole, strive to "do a little more and a little better, if it can, even than the rest of the world" in the interests of tolerance, understanding and true socio-economic progress, realizing that much of its

Drew Pearson's • British Trained Chetniks • Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
THE British Foreign Office is quaking in its boots for fear a secret report on General Mikhailovitch written by British intelligence has been leaked to light during the trial of the Chetnik leader. The report states that the British knew all along that Mikhailovitch was collaborating with the Germans.

"Today (September, 1944)," states the British intelligence report, "they (the Chetniks) are to be found almost everywhere fighting alongside the German and Italian troops, but they still profess to be pro-Allied at heart."

British intelligence went on to explain that they believed Mikhailovitch to be a German spy, but that he had considered Tito's partisans more dangerous to the Yugoslav monarchy than the Axis.

"The present alignment of Chetnik forces on the path of collaboration. Nowhere were his forces strong enough to remain hostile to the Germans and the Italians, and yet defeat the partisans. . . ."

"Though believing himself a patriot, he (Mikhailovitch) was regarded by most of his countrymen as a traitor. All this was the inevitable result of his decision to regard the partisans rather than the Germans as the main enemy. . . ."

"The present alignment of Chetnik forces on the side of the Germans today is neither accidental nor remediable. It is inherent in the very nature of the Chetnik standpoint to remain hostile to the Germans and the Italians, and yet defeat the partisans. . . ."

entially capable of action within the partisan forces, but their leaders have contributed nothing to the record of Jugoslav resistance. They are not to be regarded as British intelligence considered.

Mailman Sullivan
TWO little attention is paid in this politics-ridden capital to the quiet, unassuming official who consistently do a bang-up job.

Mr. Sullivan is Assistant Postmaster General Gael Sullivan. Coming from Chicago and trained under Mayor Ed Kelly, Sullivan at first looked like a pure political appointee, but he has become one of the most effective members of the little cabinet.

On July 1, Sullivan will see one of his dreams come true when regularly scheduled Helicopter mail deliveries will begin in the Los Angeles area. Sullivan is also experimenting with jet planes and rocket mail.

Mr. Sullivan has a four-hour mail service between any two communities in the U.S.A.

Sullivan is a contented man who is really undervalued. Any morning you can find him at his desk by 7:30 A. M. and he never leaves before 4 P. M. When you add up the pay, Sullivan puts in his job and the pay he gets, his hourly wage is less than that of Philadelphia garbage collectors.

Admiral Hart Forgets
SOME military leaders have short memories—especially when the question of Army-Navy unification is being debated.

PUTNEY, VT.
The meeting in New England a valid part of the democratic process, they are working out new ways of solving current problems.

Vermont has a state industrial relations council. It is made up of representatives of industry and the unions. Government has no part in it. The council has gone a long way toward bringing management and labor to a real understanding.

They are proud in Vermont of the council, the first of its kind in the country, and they are good reason to be. If a Congressional committee is named to do an honest study of these management relations, they could profitably take a long look at what has worked well here.

Who's on It?
The council is made up of eight members named by the Associated Industries of Vermont, four by the AFL-CIO and the other four government selects its own chairman and they take turns presiding at the meetings.

It was a series of sessions for several weeks, but it was hampered with the two obstacles in the way of collective bargaining. Some refused to permit slight increases in the price of such goods of old-line manufacturers. On the contrary, however, it gave vastly larger ceiling prices to new manufacturers, and to the production of new types of goods by old manufacturers.

Samuel Grafton Consumers' Rebellion

LOS ANGELES
THERE are signs that the American consumer is beginning to wake up. There is a bright little light in his eye which has not been there before. He is no longer the hand of a dealer who offers him a shining rod made from 7 grams of gold and 993 grams of silver.

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