

may 31

Good Morning, Friends:

The two most important developments of this week in Washington are: (1) The move to lower the draft age; and (2). The announcement of the Man Power Commission's decision to stop war contractors from stealing each others' employees. These two important moves will be briefly discussed in order.

It seems to me that this is putting the cart before the horse. The reason the employees are shifting from one factory to another is that the factories offer higher and higher wages. If ^{men are} ~~a man~~ ^{is} working in General Motors plant, making airplanes, ^{then} ~~and~~ Henry Ford wants ~~him~~ in his new Willow Run airplane factory, he can just raise his wages high enough to attract the worker^s to his plant. This would not cost Henry Ford anything, because he is building airplanes on a cost-plus basis anyway. The natural thing for General Motors to do in this case would be to raise its wages high enough to hold their employees. It

would likewise not cost General Motors anything because they, too, are building planes on a cost-plus basis. Thus, it is that competitive wage-bidding is not only disrupting the country's wage structure, but it is seriously disturbing war production.

The direct way to handle this matter would be to place a ceiling on wages. But, no, the government officials do not seem to want to do this. So, they have announced a policy of saying to a man that he must not leave a job, even though he can get higher wages in another plant. Would it not be more democratic to remove the cause ^{of shifting} than to freeze the worker where he is? If this competitive wage-raising, at the expense of the government through cost-plus contracts, should be controlled, then, there would be no particular ^{incentive} ~~reason~~ for workers to be aimlessly shifting about from one job to another. But, then, all of us do not think alike; nor do we reach the same conclusion^s. But it is vitally important in a democracy that all of us think and that all of us reach conclusions - conclusions of our own. One of the things we are fighting to present ^{or} ~~present~~ is the right to work with ^{our} ~~their~~ own hands, think ^{our} ~~their~~ own thoughts, and speak ^{our} ~~their~~ own words.

The House voted overwhelmingly to insist upon paying boys in the army a minimum of \$50 per month. Any figure selected is, of course, arbitrary. There is not money enough in the world to pay men to go into battle. They are not fighting for the pay they are getting, whether it is \$21 a month, \$50 a month, or whatever the amount. These boys are fighting for ^{their} ~~the~~ America - The American free way of living in which a man can be ^a dignified citizen and individual; where

the aim is to achieve human excellence through the exercise of individual
where he can have his own home & life,
responsibility; worship God according to the dictates of his conscience;
walk proudly and uprightly under the sun in the image of his Creator.

Freezing Employment

The War Man Power Commission's decision to freeze skilled workers in existing jobs in critical war industries is designed to correct a "job piracy" situation that has been giving production officials cause for increasing concern. As new war plants go up and new and oftentimes more favorable opportunities for employment are made available, skilled workers in established plane, gun, tank and other war equipment factories have been lured in large numbers to new jobs. Federal authorities have found that not only higher salaries but bonuses are offered as an inducement to workers to leave their present places. This disturbing state of affairs in the field of what is termed critical employment has tended to disrupt production schedules and breed wage discontent in the older plants, a condition certainly not conducive to maximum efficiency in war industries.

By freezing certain classes of skilled workers in vital jobs, the commission hopes to stabilize wages as well as employment, and wage stabilization is one of the objectives in the Federal battle against inflation. Administrative details of the freezing process are yet to be announced, but it was indicated the

Younger Selectees

Reports that the War Department will renew its efforts to lower the draft age for combat service to nineteen or eighteen years have aroused some opposition in Congress. This is not surprising, in view of the fact that strong criticism of the plan developed when it was first proposed by Army authorities a few weeks after Pearl Harbor. At that time the Senate voted almost unanimously to lower the combat age to nineteen, as had been requested by the War Department, but the House voted for a twenty-one year minimum. Senate and House finally agreed in conference to a compromise age of twenty for fighting men, and this is the limit now provided in the amended Selective Service Act. The registration of youths in the eighteen and nineteen categories was authorized, however, and this registration will take place June 30.

In advocating a lower induction age for selectees, War Department officials say they are but profiting from the lessons already learned in World War II. One of these lessons is that the younger soldiers are better able to stand the strain of modern blitzkrieg tactics than their older comrades in arms. The German Army long ago put the accent on youth, with highly satisfactory results. Secretary of War Stimson, in advocating lower ages for drafted men last December, succinctly described modern warfare as "a young man's game."

Senatorial opponents of the lower draft ages are quoted as suggesting that the younger men be put to work in factories or the farm or that they be allowed to continue their education. The wisdom of putting youths to work in plants from which they would be subject to call for military service in a year or two seems questionable, however. The tendency up to now has been to fill these jobs with older, family men, who are less likely to be called into the Army. As for education, college students already have the opportunity to enlist in the

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