

WSM, May 14, 1944

Good Morning, Friends:

New Selective Service regulations were ~~put~~ <sup>promulgated</sup> during the week by General Hershey, National Director of Selective Service. These regulations were ~~put~~ <sup>issued</sup> ~~promulgated~~ only after extended conferences between the National Selective Service headquarters and various state directors. It is hoped that these new regulations will put an end to an enexcusable amount of confusion and conflicting statements which have emanated from Washington on the question of the draft. From reading these regulations it would seem that men over 30 are not wanted in any large numbers. In fact, instructions have been given to the local boards to give a liberal interpretation to essential activities. <sup>insofar as men over 30 are concerned.</sup> I understand that serious consideration was given to a policy of drafting no more men above 30 at this particular time, but it was finally decided to continue drafting men up to 38 ~~but to take none of them~~ <sup>are not</sup> who ~~were~~ engaged in essential activity.

The definition of essential activity includes not only the list of essential jobs prepared by the War Manpower Commission but it <sup>is broadened to</sup> include the essential <sup>community</sup> services such as, the health, safety and <sup>necessary activities</sup> interest of a community. All decisions on this point <sup>regarding men over 30</sup> have been left to the discrimination of the local draft boards. In other words, men over 30 are not wanted in the armed services if they are performing essential work. At the same time, the regulations made it harder for men below 26 to be deferred. Between 26 and 30 appears to be a middle ground where a man can only be deferred if he is a necessary man in essential work. ~~And~~ <sup>my</sup> Add it all



up and boiling it down the new regulations seek to do three things: One, to draw into the armed service<sup>s</sup> a large proportion of the men from 18 to 26. Two, <sup>to</sup> Draft men in the 26 to 30 group who are not necessary men in essential work and, three, to encourage men from 30 to 38 to engage in essential work or face the draft. This appears to be the most clear cut and well defined policy that the National Selective Service headquarters have released for several months. How long this will last, no one can say. The bulk of the men to be drafted for the remainder of 1944 will be for replacements. ~~xx~~ The Army now has <sup>s</sup> its full complement and the Navy is not far from its goal, so the number of men to be drafted from ~~now~~ <sup>here</sup> on will be geared to the fortunes of war. If our casualties are heavy, ~~then~~ the draft calls will be larger. If the European war does not develop as planned, <sup>take some unfavorable turn</sup> this year <sup>or</sup> leaving the prospect of long and bitter campaigns next year, the draft calls will again be larger. These are only a few of the military contingents <sup>cases</sup> tied to the fortunes of war which make all plans and regulations for Selective Service temporary in character. In fact, General Hershey made it very plain in announcing these regulations that they were subject to change at any time, in order to meet the demands of total war.

The House of Representatives is considering a Bill to provide aid <sup>in</sup> ~~for~~ the readjustment in civilian life of returning veterans of this war. It is called the G.I. Bill of Rights, and <sup>it</sup> is indeed a complicated piece of legislation. It deals, ~~though~~, with a tremendous problem and the



object of the legislation is to bring about a reintegration of the discharged service men into civilian life and into our civilian economy in the most prompt and adequate manner. The Bill provides for education and training of returning veterans who desire it. Many a boy has had his education cut short by being called to carry arms for his country. It is hoped that upon returning to civilian life these boys will want to continue their education. The government and the nation which called them to its defense certainly owe<sup>s</sup> to ~~them~~ them an opportunity to continue their education.

This ~~would be~~<sup>is</sup> a good policy for the government not only because of its duty to the veterans but because the nation and the people can tremendously profit from a further education of its young men. One of the many serious aspects of this war is the resulting shortage of highly trained and educated young men to carry on the high American traditions of continued advancement in science, education, engineering, and the profession. ~~The~~

The Bill also provides for government loans to veterans for the purpose of buying and constructing home<sup>s</sup>, buying or leasing farms, ~~implements~~, equipment and business properties.

It provides also for employment aids, for assistance to veterans seeking employment as well as unemployment insurance payments to veterans who are unable to obtain employment after discharge. In other words, the Bill undertakes a vast government program to assist soldiers, sailors, and marines to come back into the American way of life and to come back

to that way of life with an opportunity to pick up, maybe not where they left off in all cases, but to pick up with at least a chance to get jobs, to get into business, to buy farms, to buy or build homes. ~~In brief, the Bill is designed to give the returning veterans an opportunity to quickly to become American citizens again.~~

Someone may wonder why Congress would be considering such a bill this soon. Well, it is not soon. This program should be laid out and *there should be no lag* ready to operate before demobilization gets under way, ~~and for~~ that matter, over one million men have already been discharged from the armed services. Some of these already need assistance even though we are now in a period of flush employment and productive activity. In ~~a state like~~ *Tennessee*, for instance, more than 32,000 men have already been discharged from the service.

Because of the enormous problem with which this Bill attempts to deal, it is receiving the most ~~earnest~~ earnest consideration of the Congress. It ~~is~~ has already been debated two days and will likely not reach a vote before next Wednesday or Thursday. There is no doubt at all about its passage; there is no controversy about that. But there is considerable differences of opinion about various provisions. For instance, there ~~is~~ *is* a dispute ~~on the floor xx last Friday~~ *of out* about how the education ~~would~~ be handled. The dispute ~~was~~ *revolves around* what authority should be given to the veterans *adv.* on one hand, and the state school authorities on the other. But these differences of opinion will be settled and once that is done



the Bill will pass the House, perhaps unanimously as it did in the Senate.

Meanwhile, the Senate has been engaged in a hot tempered debate on a bill to outlaw the poll tax. The blood pressure of several southern Senators has undoubtedly been high. Every survey indicated<sup>3</sup> that there are sufficient votes in the Senate to pass the bill if it can be brought to a vote, but several southern Senators have vowed that they will talk the bill to death, which in parliamentary terms is called<sup>a</sup> filibuster.

Under the Senate rules unlimited debate is given unless a rule called cloture is voted. In other words, any Senator can talk as long as he wants to unless two-thirds of the Senators vote to close debate. The Senate is very jealous about this<sup>unlimited</sup> debate prerogative and even though a majority of the Senators favor the passage of the bill, it seems doubtful if they will vote to close debate. This is an antiquated rule of the Senate and finds little sympathy outside of the Senate. Certainly any bill where anyone agrees with it or disagrees with it ought to be voted upon<sup>or</sup> by its merits and not killed by a<sup>small</sup> minority ~~or one or two or~~ ~~three~~ <sup>a speech making marathon</sup> Senators who could carry on a debate from now until doomsday.

But perhaps many Senators ~~do~~<sup>do</sup> visualize the time when they might want to talk a long time or filibuster. Anyway, it is very hard to get two-thirds of the Senate<sup>to vote</sup> cloture, which means the closing of debate on the issue.

A vote upon the rule of cloture is tentatively scheduled in the Senate with in the next few days, which may or may not <sup>and</sup> ~~win~~ the Senate fight on the poll tax.

One cannot help but notice an increased <sup>s</sup>tension here over ~~the~~  
impending <sup>great</sup> military movements in Europe. The great battle now under way  
in Italy is regarded as being a prelude to the more massive struggles  
generally predicted soon to follow. The relentless softening up campaign  
by air is regarded here as another preliminary to the climatic struggle  
in the offing. Military leaders are cautioning against optimism --  
optimism over the battle in Italy remembering that Germany is still  
a powerful foe and determining foe with very great strength, very  
strong fortifications and a desperation of having their backs to the wall.