

P.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, August 19, 1941.

SERVICE

Yesterday President Roosevelt signed the bill to keep the men in the army for a year and a half more - two and a half years altogether, ^{thereby} prolonging the original term of service from one year to two and a half - for National Guardsmen, ~~and~~ selective and reservists. service men. The bill to extend the term was, of course, the one that the Lower House of Congress passed by a majority of ~~one~~ only one vote. All of which is a pertinent reminder, as we come to the service news of today.

^{now}
The Army [^] announces that it does not intend to keep the National Guardsmen, ~~and the~~ ^{and reservists} selective service men [^] for the period of two and a half years. They will be released after serving only eighteen months - or as little as fourteen months. In other words, the Army will not avail itself of the law to retain them for an extra year and a half. The military authorities will keep them in training for only a fraction of that added margin of time - only six months more than the original one year. Or maybe only two months more.

All this, however, depends upon the international situation. The men will be released after completing from fourteen

to eighteen months of service - unless the world crisis becomes more serious. If there should be a turn for the worse, the National Guardsmen, selective service men and reservists will be held for the full two and a half years, provided in the bill signed by the President.

In addition to the foregoing, the Army intends to release almost two hundred thousand men, immediately - by December Tenth. This is something special, and concerns classes of men that the Army thinks should be sent back to civilian life right away - never mind how long they've served. Three classes are named. First - men in whose cases military service can be shown to be a hardship - because of dependents or other reasons. Second - soldiers who are ~~twenty~~ twenty-eight years old or more. Third - married men who ask to be discharged after they have served their original term of one year. ^{Soldiers} ~~They're~~ to be released in that order of preference - hardship cases, twenty-eight years old, and married. The War Department has sent instructions to training camps to make plans for the mustering out of two hundred thousand - by December Tenth.

All of which might lead one to surmise that the mere

majority of one vote in the House of Representatives has brought about a desire on the part of the authorities - not to hold the men any longer than absolutely necessary. And then there's the much debated question of army morale.

Here's a statement made by Major General Richard Donovan, Commander of the Eighth Corps Area. At Fort Worth, Texas, he declared today that the passage of the draft extension bill had placed, what he called - "a serious strain upon the morale of a very large number of men now in the armed services." General Donovan, making an address to the Texas State Convention of the American Legion, called the situation - "critical."

Another military spokesman today spoke of trouble being caused by what he called - cry babies. He referred to the days of the previous World War, and pointed to the high morale that prevailed at that time. That, he said, was largely because the men knew they might be under shell fire in France at any time. Today, he pointed out, they see no immediate enemy and fail to realize the necessity for establishing a highly efficient defense force.

"It would be a great mistake to ~~lay down~~ lay down a

blanket accusation that army morale is not what it should be,"
said the military spokesman. ^{he added,} "But" any organization that has
taken in a million men as quickly as the army has done, is
bound to have some cry babies," ^{He also said} ~~said he. He added that~~ he
believed that things would be improved by today's War Department
announcement that the men will be released at the end of from
fourteen to eighteen months of service. That reduction of the
term will have, what he called "a salutary effect."

All of this ties in with public stories of how the
soldiers in training are in a state of discontent because they're ~~are~~
not to be discharged after the one-year term of service. And an
angle of ~~service~~ the morale problem is seen in President Roosevelt's
nomination of a civilian to head the Morale Department of the Armey.
He's Frederick H. Osborne of New York, and today he was made a
Brigadier-General to head the organization that deals with the
state of mind of the troops.

DEFENSE

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Senator Byrd of Virginia today lashed out with a blistering attack on the way the national defense program is being run.

He described it in these words - "appallingly ineffective."

(And the Senator presented a bristling catalogue of figures to show that the defense program has been a failure. He spoke of the lack of tanks, guns, armament of all sorts - and concentrated on warplane production.) He said we are now manufacturing only seven hundred warplanes a month. "In July, Nineteen Forty-One," he claimed, "the production of combat planes was only two hundred more than in January. For the year ending September First, Nineteen Forty-One," he added, "the total production of combat planes for ourselves and England will be less than five hundred a month." He compared that with warplane production in Germany. He said that competent military authorities estimate the Nazis are turning out from two to three thousand military aircraft per month.

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The moral that the Senator drew from all of this, was that we've got to go all-out for national defense, instead of continuing with business as usual. He specifically mentioned -

"social gains." These, he said, must be sacrificed to the defense effort - like everything else.

ARMY HOUSING

There has been a lot of talk about army housing projects, the construction of buildings for training camps -- barracks, homes. Charges have been made -- alleging inefficiency and waste. A sub-committee of the Military Affairs Committee of the House has been investigating, and today issued a report. The verdict is both good and bad -- those opposites in high degree. The report uses such large words as - "magnificent", "Unparalleled" and "staggering." The housing task accomplished by the Army - magnificent and unparalleled, but when we come to the question of cost, money paid out -- there we find the word "staggering."

What has been the reason for the waste of money? The Committee says that first and foremost the trouble has been - a lack of planning. The magnitude of a housing program needed for training a million and a half men was not realized in its full magnitude, - and Congress was partly to blame for that, says the report. It quotes General Somervell, Chief of the Army Construction Division, as stating that if the needs had been anticipated - a hundred million dollars could have been saved. Staggering is right.

But they did make speed. The average time taken in the construction of a housing project was only a hundred and one days - a little over three months from awarding of contract to moving in.

PRIORITIES

There's to be some kind of arbitration between two embattled government agencies - the Office of Production Management and the Price Administration. These two are headed respectively by Messrs. Knudsen and Hillman on one side, and Leon Henderson on the other, and they've been at odds on the question of priorities. One angle being - how rapidly should necessary materials be diverted from civilian industry to defense?

The White House revealed today that a study of this priority situation is to be made by Judge Samuel Rosenman, long time friend of President Roosevelt. He will look into the row between the O.P.M. and the Price Administration, and will report to the President. This may or may not lead to a ~~shake-up~~ shake-up - a lot of reorganization.

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SENATE

The Roosevelt-Churchill meeting at sea made its first appearance in congressional debate today - it was the subject of a sharp exchange of argument in the Senate. The controversy began when administration leader Senator Barkley took occasion to condemn a newspaper story. This - a journalistic version of what transpired when the President had a talk with leaders of Congress yesterday. It is known that he gave them an account of the meeting at sea and the formulation of the Eight Point peace program. The newspaper story alleged that the President said the British would need ~~the~~ ~~assistance of~~ what the newspaper described as - "the assistance of a vast American expeditionary force." Lawmakers who attended the White House conference are supposed to have revealed this. Today Senator Barkley denied it and called the article a "deliberate and premeditated falsehood." He went on to declare that President Roosevelt assured ² the gentlemen ~~from Congress~~ from Congress that he had made no commitments to Winston Churchill, nothing to bind the United States.

That provoked a retort by Senator Hiram Johnson of California. He stated that the Eight Point peace declaration

amounted to what he called - "an offensive and defensive alliance."
The Senator shook his finger at Barkley, and exclaimed, "It's as plain as the nose on a man's face that the Sixth Article states what they're going to do." Whereupon Hiram Johnson read the Sixth article, word for word. Let's refresh our own memories. It reads;-
"After the final destruction of Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries - and which will afford assurance that all men in all lands may ~~xxx~~ live out their lives in freedom from fear and want." ~~xxxx~~

Senator Barkley replied that this was not a commitment or alliance. "That's an expression of hope," said he.

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To which the California Senator retorted that when you express hope you imply that you will do something to carry out the hope. He argued that Point Number Six meant that the United States and Great Britain were committed to join in creating a new world order - in collaboration with Stalin - presumably.

Senator Clark of Missouri joined in the attack on the Roosevelt-Churchill conference on the ocean. He said that the

British press is almost universally agreed that commitments were made - an agreement for the United States to enter the war and send an American expeditionary force. And he added that apparently the British newspapers were much better informed than the press in America.

The latest is a statement by President Roosevelt.

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Once again he repeated his contention that the people of this nation are not fully aware of the gravity of the international situation. And he added a warning. He warned the people that they must realize that they have a war to win. He amplified this by saying that Americans must awaken quickly to the fact that their country is involved in a situation from which it can escape only if the war is won. To emphasize still further, the President quoted a statement by Lincoln. This pertained, of course, to the Civil War, and spoke of the people in these terms. "They have not buckled down to the determination to fight this war through. "

President Roosevelt said today that he was quoting Lincoln because the situation today is parallel -- parallel with the Civil War.

WAR

Berlin today claimed the capture of all the Ukraine west of the Dnieper River. This amounts to about half of the rich province ~~is~~ so much coveted by the Nazis. The story is more or less confirmed by both Moscow and London. The British are wondering how much of his army /Marshall Budenny was able to save. About half -- is the London surmise. The question now is, the defense of the line of the ~~is~~ Dnieper. Will the Red Army be able to hold that strong river barrier? One report assumes that the Red Commander will blow up the huge dam, one of the greatest of Soviet industrial developments, and turn the Dnieper into a raging flood.

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One of the most striking Nazi claims today concerns the capture of Soviet warships. They say that when they took the Soviet naval base of Nikolaev, they found eight warships of the Red fleet, *— under construction —* including four destroyers, a ten thousand ton cruiser, and a thirty-five thousand ton battleship. It is not stated whether these warcraft *more or less complete* were damaged or not. But, presumably, the Red forces who are scorching the earth, would not leave their ships to be taken intact, especially a thirty-five thousand ton battleship.

London has a story stating that a position of important command on the eastern front has been given to Goering, Nazi Number Two man. There have been rumors that Goering had fallen out with Hitler, that he was in a concentration camp. London now hears that the portly Nazi has been assigned to general headquarters on the eastern front, and that he'll have full right to make decisions.

In the west, the air raiding still goes on, and maybe something more - if a rumor from Rome is correct. This states that last night the British attempted a landing on the French coast.

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According to the Rome story, it was a dark and stormy night.

Two British scout ships loaded with troops got within fifty yards of the shore. They were sighted by German defense parties, which immediately opened fire. There was a lively battle between sea and shore for some time, and then the boats with the landing parties withdrew. That's the tale we have from Rome.

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There was something like an abduction in a Chicago court today, ~~something~~ like the old primitive custom of carrying away the bride. The principals in the case were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Louis. The world's heavyweight champion and his wife have been having a lot of trouble, and their legal battle was up for a decision today. In the courtroom, however, ~~there was a reconciliation.~~ ^{the} ~~The~~ judge recommended that Joe and Marva talk it over all by themselves. They did. And the result was altogether successful. They returned to the judge and said that their domestic difficulties were a thing of the past. The judge said okay, and made a few appropriate remarks.

Marva turned to the champ and said "Smile Joe."

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~~The~~ ^{tawny dead-pan} ~~prone~~ fighting countenance turned into a grin, the

champ reached over, seized Marva, picked her up, and carried her out of the door. As he did so, he shouted:- "Boy, this is like getting married all over again!"

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~~So hereafter, apparently, the Joe Louis disputes will be~~ ^{Hugh, how are you feeling} ~~this evening.~~ ^{conducted with some other fellow in the ring.}