

P.J. - Sunoco. Thursday, August 7, 1941.

MILITARY SERVICE

The Senate today voted to accept the administration compromise ~~an~~ the proposal to keep the men in the army for more than a year. Not that the bill to extend the time of service was passed - ~~it~~ it was a case of okaying an amendment; - The Thomas Amendment, which names the term of service two and a half years.

The bill, as originally introduced by the administration, would have ~~per~~ permitted the Army to keep the men for an ~~in~~ indefinite period. The White House agreed to the Thomas Compromise.

~~Amendment~~ So the vote today was to make that the proposition, instead of the original bill. Two and a half years, instead of an indefinite period. The bill, as now framed, will still have to be adopted - another vote.

Today's majority on the amendment was forty-four to twenty-eight. But this did not reflect a clean-cut division between supporters and opponents of keeping the men in the Army. For example, Senator Worth Clark of Idaho is an isolationist, but he ~~V~~oted for the amendment today. Meaning - he preferred the amended bill to come up for decision, rather than the measure in its original form.

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The Downey Amendment was defeated - the proposal advanced by Senator Downey of California, to pay the men thirty dollars a month extra for the time they would serve in addition to the term of one year.

U.S.O.

Good news tonight regarding the U.S.O. Campaign, the raising of that huge fund to provide recreation and other off-duty activities for the men in the enlisted services. Thomas E. Dewey, National Campaign Chairman of the U.S.O. is again sitting beside me. Mr. Dewey, at the start of the U.S.O. drive there were many people who shook their heads and said ^{that} in these times it would ~~be~~ never be possible to raise Ten Million Dollars for the United Service Organizations. Well, just what has happened?

MR. DEWEY: Today, Lowell, I sent out to the press the ^{our Original 10 and 3/4} announcement that our ~~Ten~~ Million Dollar goal has been reached.

In fact, we have gone way over it. A number of community chests have ~~sent word that they are including us and will~~ ^{agreed to include us in their fall campaigns.} ~~have money to give to the U.S.O. in the autumn.~~ Counting these community chest commitments, our U.S.O. drive has already gone over the Twelve Million Dollar mark.

L.T.:- Tom, I hope it isn't too late and that you will still accept a further contribution. Here is a check for Three Hundred Dollars that I would like to pass on to you. It is from the Nine Old Men, my softball team. Last Sunday we played a team of naval officers led by Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews and Lieutenant Commander Gene Tunney. The gate receipts from that go into a Navy relief fund. But, the Nine Old Men have this Three Hundred Dollars for you, to be included in the budget for our little community here at Pawling, and Quaker Hill. Charlie Daniels, head of our local U.S.O. drive, tells me that with this check Pawling and Quaker Hill has contributed four times more than the sum allotted to it. I hope I'm not too late in turning in this check.

MR. DEWEY:- I should say you are not too late. As you have so often told us in your news broadcasts, the men in the enlisted services are going to be held for a longer period than originally expected. So, the U.S.O. will need more than the Ten and three-quarter Million we set out to raise; far more! Just how

much more we ~~hope to announce~~ ^{will determine} within the next two or three weeks. But, you can see what would happen if every community in the country would do what Pawling and Quaker ^{will have} ~~has~~ done. ~~If they all raised four times their allotment, we would have a total fund of forty million dollars.~~

L.T. By the way, what has been done so far, with the money that has been coming in?

MR. DEWEY: Eighty-nine temporary U.S.O. centers are already operating, in places that we have rented. This number is being increased daily. ^{of course} They will be supplanted by permanent ^{as fast as they can be acquired,} structures [^] and I am able to announce tonight for the first time, that plans for the first eighteen Government-built U.S.O. centers were approved in Washington today, construction to start at once.

~~Is there~~
L.T. Anything else? Have you any idea what the next ^{step} ~~step~~ in the campaign will be?

MR. DEWEY: Yes, Lowell. During Labor Day week there will be a special drive to collect funds ^{at} ~~through the~~ ~~at~~ patrons of twelve thousand motion picture houses throughout the United States. And one thing more: I not only want to thank all who have helped in this campaign and who have turned it into a national tidal-wave, but I particularly want to thank you Lowell, and your radio sponsors. This is the third time that you have permitted me to interrupt your news broadcast and tell about the U.S.O. drive. Thanks a lot.

L.T. My sponsors feel as I do, Mr. Dewey. We can think of few things more important than the U.S.O. Campaign. ^{So} ~~we are~~ ~~anxious~~ ^{we are} anxious to give all the help we can.

OIL

The oil crisis takes a new turn tonight. The United States now faces a shortage of high grade aviation gasoline -- the hundred octane kind needed for high powered warplanes, and so important for National Defense. This was stated today by Defense Oil Coordinator Ickes, and he gave the reason -- Soviet Russia. The Red Air Force needs American gasoline for its battle against Nazi Germany.

When the government in Washington calculated the amounts of petroleum it would need, there was no anticipation of the Soviet angle.

Coordinator Ickes was asked why the Red Air Force should call on the United States for aviation gasoline, when Soviet Russia is one of the world's biggest oil producers? He replied that in Russia they haven't enough refining machinery. They've been trying to get machinery in this country, and right now a study is being made to see how much refining plant equipment we can spare to send to the Soviets.

At the same time, we ourselves have not enough refining capacity to meet the new demand. So said Ickes. More and bigger

refineries will have to be constructed. He thinks that it will take seven or eight months to create enough refining capacity to meet the shortage.

Secretary Ickes revealed that American oil is already being sent to Soviet Russia. The first shipment left Los Angeles a week ago -- in drums aboard Russian vessels. Still more is to be sent in that fashion. Also -- in tankers. The Oil Coordinator said that four American tankers will be transferred to the service of the Soviets. That, he added, threatens to cause an oil shortage on the Pacific Coast -- on the order of the shortage in the Atlantic States.

Concerning the Eastern shortage, the Coordinator expressed disappointment. The people were asked to cut their private use of oil by a third. But, instead of reducing consumption, they increased it. Secretary Ickes gave figures to show that during the week ending July twenty-third, sales in the East by the major companies amounted to more than a hundred and sixteen million gallons. Then the next week, the consumption figure jumped to more than a hundred and seventeen million. An increase of more than a million gallons.

This does not apply of course to the present incomplete week -- with the oil blackout, sales forbidden at night. The Coordinator didn't say how the blackout was working, but he did make the following statement.

"Perhaps the public does not want to face the facts," said he. "Reports and advices received at this office would seem to indicate that there has not yet been a full realization of the seriousness of the problem we face."

LEAD

Berlin continues its claims of yesterday with others made today. Last evening we had a Nazi story of stupendous losses inflicted on the Red Army. Now we hear about German losses. A Hitler spokesman describes them as "moderate". He insisted today that the Blitzkrieg casualties in the battle of Russia had not been large, not in proportion. They were about the same-- in proportion. ~~They were~~ about the same as in previous Blitzkrieg campaigns. The same -- in proportion. He admitted that the aggregate of killed, wounded and prisoners, would be greater because the forces engaged are much larger."

There's one significant thing about today's statement of "moderate" German losses. The Nazi spokesman explained that it was made to counteract reports that have been circulating in Germany -- reports of huge casualties. Rumor has been spreading among the Germans that the advances on the Eastern Front have been possible only at the cost of great numbers of men. There is uneasiness inside of Germany.

From Moscow we continue to have insistant accounts of German attacks repelled, Soviet successes. The Red Army bulletin

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today tells of the smashing of two Nazi tank regiments and an infantry division.

London has word that in the drive against ~~K~~ Kiev the Nazis have been stopped by the defenses of the city, stronghold. So they now are trying to encircle the place, striking from the South.

The general impression that we get about the war is that, in spite of yesterday's vast claims of German victories, the struggle is continuing in much the same fashion as on previous days.

Moscow today talks jubilantly about American aid to the Soviets. Lozovsky, vice commissar of foreign affairs, tells the Soviet people of important aid coming from America -- "Although" said he, "No mutual assistance pact has been signed."

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The newspaper "Pravda" official organ of the communist party, stated in its leading editorial today that the groundwork has been laid for cooperation between the United States and Soviet Russia.

ANTI- SOVIET

In the United ~~Stat~~ States Senate today, a bitter attack was launched against the Soviets. Senator Hiram Johnson of California, scathingly assailed the policy of aid to Stalin.

The Californian Senator blasted that the Red Dictator had been guilty of what Johnson called - "The greatest massacre in world history." "I will not subscribe to the ~~Marxist~~ doctrine that you must be a Stalinite to be an American," he shouted. He called Stalin a cutthroat, and exclaimed, "Did we ever sink so low before as to chose between one cutthroat out of two? This man," he added, "Was Hitler's ally when it was advantageous. Now we furnish him with weapons, which may be turned against us." So said ~~Hirman~~ Hiran Johnson about the policy of aid to the Soviets. He described it with the word - "foolhardy."

He reverted to the fact that a year ago the United States was expressing heartfelt sympathy for Finland ^{which was} then battling against Red Army aggression. Today Finland is on the side of Nazi Germany, fighting the Red Army again. Which ^{Hiram} provoked the following Johnsonian outbreak: "Now we're making war

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on Little Finland, the only country on the face of the earth
that paid us what she ~~we~~ owed, that dealt with us honorably"!

~~cried the Senator:~~

OBITUARIES

We have two obituaries in the news tonight, and a singular contrast they make - Bruno Mussolini and the poet of India, Rabindranath Tagore.

Today at Rome, the following terse bulletin was issued: "This morning at ten o'clock," it said, "pilot Bruno Mussolini met a glorious death near Pisa - following an accident which occurred during the test flight of a new type of plane."

And so fate has caught up with the younger of the two sons of the Fascist Duce, who followed their father's maxim - "live dangerously.". Both Bruno and Vittorio Mussolini flew and fought in three wars - the Ethiopian Campaign, the Spanish Civil War, and in the present European confluct. It was Vittorio Mussolini who described the bursting of a bomb among Ethiopian warriors as ["]being like the unfolding of a rose.["] Writing of air ~~raids~~ raids, he constantly referred to them as - fun. Brother Bruno was of the same opinion.

A twenty-[^]three year old veteran, he was recently given command of a new squadron of long distance bombers - planes of a new type, ^{of} novel construction. Today one of these was to be

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tested, and Bruno Mussolini volunteered as pilot ^{on} of the trial flight. With a crew of eight aboard, the big bomber roared into the sky. All went well - until the landing. Then some mishap occurred. The bomber ^{crashed}. Of the eight men aboard, five were injured. Three ^{perished,} ~~perished,~~ and one of these was Bruno Mussolini, second son of the Dictator of Fascist Italy.

The contrast is complete when we turn to Rabindranth Tagore, ~~who~~ died today at the age of eighty. Philosopher, mystic, poet, winner of the nobel prize - and sage of India. I remember him with a vivid recollection. Some years ago, while in India, I visited Tagore at his philosophic home and school, ^{at Shantiniketan -} which he ^{overlooking the Ganges,} called ~~xxxxxx~~ "The abode of peace," ^{I wrote about this visit in my} book, "India, Land of the Black Pagoda." ^{So} let me repeat what I jotted down then when the memory was fresh.

"We came upon the poet looking at the clouds, those scurrying clouds of the Monsoon. From head to foot he was dressed in pontifical white. His white beard, with two dark streaks on either side, added to his patriarchial appearance. He was a

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tall man with the dignity of an ancient lineage. No one would mistake him for a self-made man. He was the product of centuries of mental aristocracy. He greeted us softly, in a gentle, rather tired voice. And the peace of the abode of peace descended ^{upon} ~~on~~ us."

Such is the impression that Rabindranath tagore made on one, and I note one particular phrase in ^{today's} ~~the~~ United Press dispatch from Calcutta. It says - "He died peacefully."

OLD MAN

I feel as if I ought to be one of those messenger boys who walk in at a party and sing, "Happy Birthday." But I'm not much of a Caruso. That song is a pain in the neck anyway. So without music I'll merely say - "Happy One Hundred and Seventh Birthday to you." This is addressed to John Hunter of Roberts Corners, up-state New York. He is, I believe, the oldest radio friend that this program has.

The morning's mail today brought me a newspaper clipping, a story relating how John Hunter of Roberts Corners has been celebrating his Hundred and Seventh birthday. In spite of his great age, he has a lively day by day interest in the events of the world - especially the war. He himself, fought in the Battle of Mobile Bay in the Civil War - serving on one of the ships under the command of Admiral Farragut. The newspaper clipping tells how every night John Hunter listens to this Blue Sunoco program - with special reference to the war news. I hope he's at home listening in tonight and hears the refrain - Happy One Hundred and Seventh Birthday to you, Jack, my boy.

FAKE PILOT

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Today there were a lot of roaring lions in a couple of Canadian towns, Province of Quebec. Members of the local lions clubs - roaring with indignation. And in the angry chorus, you could distinguish mention of the Duke of Kent - and of the heroic air force pilot who flew King George's brother across the ocean.

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A few days ago those lions of the Province of Quebec had the thrill of a lifetime. They had a guest of honor, a smart young flying officer who was introduced with appropriate hail and hurrah - introduced as the R.A.F. pilot who flew the bomber that brought the Duke of Kent from Britain to Canada. He told an exciting story of the memorable flight - suspense, moments of peril. He drew a graphic word picture of the Duke, gave his own vivid impression of the brother of King George. He talked thrillingly, and the lions roared with applause.

The luncheon was followed by other entertainment. The Duke of Kent's pilot was feted day and night - honor that was due to a hero.

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Today the bubble burst. The Canadian military

police arrested the hero, and said he was a Canadian aviation *cadet*
who had gone

~~cadet~~ A.W.O.L. from the Port Albert Training Camp. He had

never seen the Duke of Kent, and had never flown a bomber -

royal or ~~in~~ otherwise. He was ~~just~~ just a student having a fling

at the expense of the lions. Tonight the hero for a day is

in the guardhouse, and ^{are} the lions ~~are~~ roaring!

And now Hugh a roar or

9 1/4 two from you.