

Interesting But Not Important



(by Ruth Taylor)

The most aggravating man I know has the disconcerting habit, just when I think I am telling an effective story, of saying, in a politely bored tone, "Interesting—but not important".

But sometimes when I listen to the long harangues and speeches, both professional and amateur, about the crisis that today is for all of us to face, I wish some superior sort of being would draw out "interesting—but not important", and deflate once and for all the multitude of well rounded, highly imaginative stories.

We Americans do love a good story—so much so that we can't help adding all the little extraneous details that would make it complete, whether or not we actually saw or heard them take place.

The enemy knows this habit of ours, and he feeds in interesting details of fiction, clad as fact. Because these details are interesting, we pick them up and pass them on as illustrative of the breadth of our own knowledge.

But—misstatements are not the only danger in our telling of tales. If we would spend half the time working than we do talking of working, just think what we could accomplish!

If we applied the same concerted energy to the problems of peace time, we could solve the age-old problems of unemployment and poverty, of ignorance and sickness, and even eradicate for all time the fungus of hate and suspicion that is the breeding place of wars.

ROAD TO PEACE—MEN WORKING. Some people think that only an expert in finance dares have an opinion about Bretton Woods. But, any intelligent citizen should be able to know and understand the following facts: The Bretton Woods Agreement were drafted by some 300 of the world's most expert economists, representing all the United Nations and their neutral friends.

BRETTON WOODS represents compromises arrived at by the delegates of many nations seeking a reasonable basis for common action. Bretton Woods is not perfect. Neither was the Constitution of the United States when it was adopted.

FLIGHT FATIGUE AD LIB: The Chairman of the Writers' War Board, just returned from overseas,

News-letter WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Washington

SUPERSENIORITY will concern employers for the next five years. Get acquainted with the subject now. Here is the story—told for the first time.

Article 8 of the Selective Service Act provides that you as an employer must reemploy a veteran (a) if he left your employ for the armed services, (b) if he applies for his job

within 90 days after discharge from armed services, (c) if the job was not temporary, (d) if he still qualified to perform former duties, and (e) if your circumstances have not so changed as to make reemployment impossible or unreasonable.

LABOR UNIONS maintain that a veteran returns to his job subject to the seniority of others, without seniority credit for his time in the armed services.

SELECTIVE SERVICE, on the other hand, holds that a veteran gets his job back if it still exists—or a comparable job—even though it means displacement of another

offers four suggestions:

- 1. To realize the impossibility of another world war, take a walk in Rouen or Aachen.
2. To realize the difficulties of the problem of postwar Germany, look at the eyes of a thousand German prisoners of war.
3. To realize the enormous power of the U. S. at war, stand at a crossroads at the edge of Germany and watch day and night—millions of tons and millions of horse-power go by.
4. To see a woman anywhere in Europe weep tears of joy, give her a cake of soap.

AN AMERICAN IS AN AMERICAN: American soldiers of Japanese racial extraction have a splendid military record with our fighting forces in Europe. The Hood River Oregon American Legion Post should therefore be congratulated for changing its unfortunate original attitude.

YOUR JOB AND THE G. I. BILL OF RIGHTS: The cream of this country's manpower—13 million men—have been enduring hardships and sustaining mental and physical damages such as the rest of us can only dimly appreciate.

DYNAMITE

by H. George Davenport

THE CURFEW

By this time everyone knows that we have a curfew. There are various reasons given for the new law: the saving of coal—saving of manpower, by forcing men and women working in war plants to get their proper rest.

By this time everyone knows that we have a curfew. There are various reasons given for the new law: the saving of coal—saving of manpower, by forcing men and women working in war plants to get their proper rest. No matter what the reasons are, Sam will benefit if he can see it from certain angles.

employ with greater seniority. Thus, a veteran gets SUPERSENIORITY RATHER THAN SENIORITY.

CONGRESS three months ago might have favored the union interpretation. But now the American Legion, VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), and DAV (Disabled American Veterans) have endorsed super seniority.

EMPLOYERS are in the middle. They can adapt themselves to either seniority or super seniority—to anything except colliding claims to jobs which bring law suits, back pay claims, dissension strikes.

COURTS: Falling with Congress, unions—acting through injured individuals—will take super seniority to court. There the unions may have a chance; courts have repeatedly held that a person's right to a "position" includes his seniority rights.

VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN GETTING NEW JOBS: But the issue is not confined to the veteran's former job. It may no longer exist or he may not want it. The veteran organization insist that the veteran shall also have a preference in getting new jobs.

THE VETERANS' organizations go still further: they demand that IF ANY WORKER IS LAID OFF FOR 90 DAYS OR MORE, HIS JOB SHALL BE OPEN TO A JOB-SEEKING VETERAN WHO CAN SHOW THAT HIS PERIOD IN SERVICE IS GREATER THAN THE WORKER'S SENIORITY.

Veterans must exercise these rights within 90 days following discharge from armed forces except in case of hospitalization and education when right may be continued for as long as one year after discharge.

These rights can be created only by Congressional legislation. Attacking the proposals, unions have prepared a brief arguing—believe it or not—that employers must be able to use discretion in choosing personnel if the productivity of industry is not to suffer.

If Veterans' Proposal Become Law, then until these rights expire—until approximately one year after the last soldiers return from Europe and Asia—your principal consideration in hiring new workers must be these special veterans' seniority rights—based on length of service in the armed forces. True, you can superior qualifications of another veteran's services record with applicant with lesser seniority.

UNION COUNTER-PROPOSAL—AFL and CIO, in agreement, propose that after a veteran successfully completes probationary period during which his aptitudes for the job can be terminated, he then—but not until then—gets seniority credit for time spent in the armed forces after Sept. 1, 1940.

Example: Veteran served five years in armed services. On the second day after he completes a 30 day probationary period, layoff is announced. Veteran comes up with five years and 32 days of seniority. All workers with less seniority must be laid off before he is.

ASK YOUR SOLDIER TO WRITE US: We would like to get letters from members of the armed forces on current and postwar problems. Write your views on topics like: soldier attitude toward free enterprise versus a managed economy; anti-Semitism; Negro's place in future America; regulation of unions; conduct of the war; Bretton Woods; Dumbarton Oaks; Yalta; or any other subject that interests him. Address: WASHINGTON LETTER, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Munsey Bldg., Washington, DC.

DRAFT: Despite public statements to the contrary by draft officials, very few men will be drafted after VE day except those becoming 18. Almost none above 18 who are physically fit for combat now remain in civilian life except those holding positions vital to the war effort.

3% TAX ON PAYROLLS: To be paid by employers to union treasury for welfare purposes has been demanded by Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers (CIO). Would create \$150 million fund, says union. Also seeks \$3000 guaranteed annual wage for skilled workers, proportional annual wage for other job-classifications.

VE DAY PROCLAMATION: Declaring there is no German authority likely to surrender, Eisenhower says the end of organized resistance in Germany will be signalled by Presidential proclamation. If no recognizable VE day occurs, Truman will be able to use discretion in timing announcement. Principal concern: effect on American production. But a time may come when further delay may seem ridiculous.

HITLER'S LAST STAND: Pay no attention to fantasies about Hitler with 50,000 fanatical Nazis fighting for an indefinite period from Alpine caves "where a couple years supply of food and ammunition are stored." No fortress or caves in the Alps can be so difficult to storm as two Ima where 25000 Japs fought

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EVEN SOME AMERICANS HAVEN'T DISCOVERED AMERICA YET



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HAVE YOUR TIRES RECAPPED PROMPTLY! Illustration showing a man in a uniform recapping a tire. Text: "HOLD YOURSELF AND THE WAR EFFORT BY HAVING YOUR TIRES RECAPPED PROMPTLY. TIRE QUOTAS ARE SHARPLY REDUCED." NEWS ITEM

HAVE YOUR TIRES RECAPPED PROMPTLY!

DOS AND DON'TS Illustration of two men talking. One says: "GOSH! ARE YOU ALWAYS BROKE?" The other replies: "JUS' LEMME IT TIL MONDAY, O' PAL!" Text: "Policies with Respect to Seniority Rights and Credits for Reemployment and Employment for Veterans of World War II as Agreed Upon by the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. In addition to the rights guaranteed under Section 8 of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 as amended, we advocate and urge that all persons entering the armed forces on or after May 1, 1940, and prior to the official termination of the present war and who are released from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable, shall be credited with seniority rights for employment purposes at a ratio of not less than one day seniority credit for each day of service in the armed forces, and that such seniority credits shall apply in obtaining employment, as well as for continuity and retention in employment. Seniority credits in the same ratio shall also be credited for periods of hospitalization and medical treatment, education or vocational training, following release or discharge from active service. Provided, that with the exception of periods of hospitalization and education following discharge, the use of such seniority credits for initial employment purposes must be initiated within 90 days following release or discharge and thereafter shall remain valid until employment is obtained, but in no event one year from discharge. Provided further, that such veteran seniority credits shall not be used to displace (Continued on page 8)