

WACs Are Eligible Under "G. I. Bill of Rights" Law

When the light goes on again and Nebraska's fighting men come marching home, more than a thousand Nebraska women will be among "veterans" eligible for opportunities under Public Laws 16 and 246, familiarly called the "G. I. Bill of Rights."

Nebraska women who volunteered with the Women's Army Corps will receive advantages, among them college education at government expense, which will provide a substantial boost for whatever career they choose, whether marriage or a profession.

One former Wac is already among the 83 discharged veterans of World War II enrolled in the University of Nebraska. All her tuition is paid by the Government and she receives an additional \$50 a month while attending the University at Lincoln. In all, the veterans administration office at Lincoln reports, 160 veterans under P. L. 246, with an additional 116 veterans taking vocational rehabilitation training.

All Wacs who entered service before age 25 are eligible to apply for the college education after discharge. The government help is up to \$500 a year for tuition and books and \$50 a month subsistence (\$75 with a dependent), at any qualified school. Maximum schooling period allowed is four years, but length of service controls the course for each. Other benefits of the "G. I. Bill of Rights" to Wacs as well as men include: Unemployment benefits of \$36 a week for from 24 to 52 weeks preference in job placement; loans up to \$2000 toward the purchase of a home or business.

The Wac also gets mustering out pay of \$200 for home service and \$300 for overseas service, and hospitalization throughout her life at a veterans' hospital.

The Army is accepting enlistments in the WAC from women 20 to 50. In greatest demand are medical and surgical technicians to help care for war wounded at Army General Hospitals. Any woman serving at least 90 days shares in the benefits of the "G. I. Bill of Rights."

Further information on the "G. I. Bill of Rights" as applying to Wacs after the war can be obtained by writing Headquarters Nebraska WAC Recruiting District, 224 Post Office Building, Omaha; or, at District WAC Recruiting Substations at Grand Island, Lincoln, North Platte and in Omaha; and at Huron, South Dakota.



Released by U. S. War Department, Bureau of Public Relations

HONORED AT BOLLING FIELD—Mrs. Geraldine M. Carroll, center, 4338 Sheriff Road, N. E., Washington, D. C., wife of Second Lieutenant Alfred I. Carroll who is now a prisoner of war in Austria, is pictured at ceremony at Bolling Field, Washington, where she received the Air Medal on behalf of her husband. Lieutenant Carroll, a pilot of the 332nd Fighter Group in Italy, went overseas in June 1944, and saw distinguished service against the enemy until his plane was shot down a month later. Colonel John M. Hutchinson, extreme left, commanding officer of the D. C. air base, presented awards to Mrs. Carroll and four others. (Photo by Bolling Field from BPR.)

Urgent Need for Clothing for Europe's Destitute

Destitute Peoples of War Torn Europe Are Badly in Need of Clothing, Bedding, etc.

PROCLAMATION:

During the month of April the people of America are engaged in a vast philanthropic enterprise, that of collecting 150 million pounds of clothing, shoes and bedding for the destitute peoples of Europe.

The only available supply of these articles is the homes of our citizens. The present campaign is devoted to gathering the serviceable, used clothing and other supplies for shipment overseas as rapidly as possible. This collection is under way in Omaha sponsored by a Citizens' Committee and I urge every person to contribute as generously as possible to the collection now in progress.

THE NEED IS URGENT!
DAN B. BUTLER, Mayor
The United Nations Clothing-Collection
Clothing collection depots are all **New & Used Furniture** Complete Line—Paint Hardware We Buy, Sell and Trade **IDEAL FURNITURE MART** 2511-13 North 24th—24th & Lake —Webster 2224— "Everything For The Home"

A Good Place to Eat Home Cooking
THE LITTLE Diner
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Regular Meals 35¢
"READY TO SERVE"
—11:30 A. M. TO 8:30 P. M.—
Warren Webb, Proprietor

Special Announcement! LOTS, LOTS, LOTS

We Wish To Announce to the Desired Home Owners, that We have been Successful in Securing a number of Valuable Lots with all City Improvements and which will be Acceptable to the FHA to Build You a Home thereon.

● IF Our Lots are not in the location that you are desirous of living in

We wish to State that WE ARE IN THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS and we will help you select the lot and the location you want, and we also wish to state, we can supply you with the services of an Architect and a Contractor to Build Your Home.

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REALTY IMPROVEMENT Co., Inc.
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MARCHING ALONG TO VICTORY AT DOUGLAS ARMY AIR FIELD



Released by U. S. War Department, Bureau of Public Relations

Among the many classifications of workers who keep the Douglas (Arizona) Army Air Field's training planes in the air are a Negro Wac, Private First Class Eva Turner of Amherst, Virginia, and a Negro fuel cell crew chief, Staff Sergeant Victor C. Rankins of 3907-A Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri. Pictured here are, left to right: Lt. Clifford S. Ey, assistant shop maintenance and engineering officer; Pfc. Turner, instrument repair mechanic; Mr. Frank Corkish, hydraulic department mechanic; Tech. Sgt. James W. Turner, shop building assistant foreman; Miss Florence McGregor, auto repair mechanic; Pvt. Allen E. Lanham, sheet metal mechanic; Staff Sgt. Rankins, and Mr. P. R. Small, general foreman of aircraft shops. DAAF is commanded by Colonel Harvey F. Dyer. (Photo by AAF Training Command from BPR.)

WHEN PEACE COMES, WHAT? CIO HEAD OPPOSES SENIORITY REVISION



Philip Murray

At its recent 7th constitutional convention, the Congress of Industrial Organization carefully considered the dangers to the nation, if we are forced to face widespread unemployment at the end of hostilities. The CIO did more than consider the dangers of reconversion; it offered the nation a plan entitled CIO Re-Employment Plan.

This Re-Employment Plan defines the deflationary gap, examines the dangers therein to the nation's security and to democracy, and sets forth seven points enunciating how the deflationary gap can be filled and its dangers averted. The illustrated booklet on this subject will follow soon for general circulation and consideration.

The CIO Re-Employment Plan is mainly a program for industrial production and employment. It is concerned first of all with the buying power of the workers in the basic industries, because the lack of that buying power is the main seat of our economic ills. This is the field in which organized labor has a peculiar responsibility and a special obligation to speak out, and not only for CIO members.

Throughout the program the CIO calls insistently for the production and welfare of all the people. We are deeply interested in the security and prosperity of every section of the nation. We want real prosperity for the farmers. We are concerned with the problems of independent business men and professional people. We are vitally interested in the welfare of returning veterans. We champion the cause of all racial and national minorities.

The same is true of the enlarged group of women who from necessity or choice will be in the labor market when the war is won. Women must not only have democratic employment opportunities; they must receive equal pay for equal work.

The Negro worker has given his efforts to production for victory. His effort also must be with out discrimination in an expanding economy to which all can contribute their best efforts and from which all can obtain an adequate living.

Management, by its right to determine the qualifications for hiring, has over the years created a highly discriminatory pattern in American industry, which has retarded the utilization of Negro and women workers in large numbers. Some segments of labor have aided in the freezing of this pattern. Consequently, because of the late entrance of these two groups of workers into American industry, they have an added stake in full employment.

There has been increased discussion of late revolving around the possibility of relaxing union seniority agreements, in order to obviate wholesale layoffs of Negro and women workers in American industry in the event we fail to achieve sixty-million jobs in our American economy. This discussion has failed to grasp the realities of the seniority principle.

Organized labor, after many years of struggle, has gained acceptance of the seniority principle to raid the Exile villages on the Seminole reservations. In another great saga of the Negro people, the Exiles and a few Seminoles under the command of Abraham and of Wild Cat slipped away by night in covered wagons and made their way to Mexico. Their descendants still live at the little village of Santa Rosa in the Mexican state of Coahuila—but they don't sing the "Seawane River" as their tribal anthem.

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As a standard for promotions, layoffs and rehiring, on a fair and equitable basis. It is also the yardstick on which vacations with pay, severance pay and other social benefits are based. The CIO stands for this principle as a safeguard against discrimination and favoritism.

What is seniority and how does it operate? It is simply this: The unions have introduced a new doctrine into American industry (accepted for many years by British industry) namely, that once management has hired an employee who makes good, except under agreed upon circumstances, it must continue to give employment or preference for employment to that employee until such time, if ever, as he chooses to quit his job.

Thus under union-management relations, governed by collective bargaining contracts, workers acquire a qualified property interest in their jobs which they seek to make as inviolate as the most sacred interests of real estate property.

Property is purchased through labor. For example, John Doe buys an acre of land for one hundred dollars which he spent one year acquiring. Consequently for one year's service, he acquired an acre of land on which he can take this land from John Doe unless he voluntarily sells it or forfeits it by failure to pay taxes or other encumbrances.

Ownership of Job
The same principle, varying only in detail, entitles the industrial worker to a qualified interest in his job. For instance, John Doe works for the ABC Steel company. He has been a crane-man for five years longer than any other qualified worker. This entitles him to the ownership of the crane-man's job, unless he voluntarily gives it up or forfeits it by the infraction of a rule agreed upon by his union and management.

Another worker, with only four years of service, has a second claim to the same job but he will not own it outright until he has worked at it longer than John Doe. Thus by virtue of years of service, workers acquire possession of their jobs which is implemented by seniority provisions of collective bargaining contracts.

As each seniority rule is agreed upon by union and management and each interpretation becomes a precedent for similar cases to follow, a body of common law in industry is being built up which guarantees to each worker a property interest in his job. Our courts have recognized this principle as such. Union membership assures job protection and only those individuals who claim seniority or property rights in a job as their sole asset—with children, wife, sickly mother-in-law, doctor bills, etc.—can fully appreciate how precious and valuable is this asset of seniority.

Other Security Benefits
Seniority, of course, is only part of organized labor's program to provide workers with some measure of security. Today as a result of organized labor's efforts over the years, the industrial worker can say to his employer:

"If I am hurt while in your employ, you must pay me workman's compensation."
"If I am killed while in your employ, you must pay my wife and children workman's compensation."
"When you lay me off because of slack work, I shall receive unemployment benefits."
"When you lay me off because I am too old to work any more, I shall receive old age benefits."
"You may not fire me for union activities!"

Job Protection
To these measures of security collective bargaining adds seniority or job protection which enables the industrial worker to say to his employer:

"This is my job to have and to hold as long as I do it well and keep within the rules."
"You shall not fire me wantonly, without cause or on the spur of the moment."
"You shall not make me suffer from discrimination or favoritism."
"You shall not pass me by in pro-

motions indiscriminately because of my race, color, or creed."
We admit that seniority is only a step in organized labor's social security program, as workers have suffered from technological unemployment, seasonal and clerical idleness, lack of an adequate health insurance program and other causes of insecurity. These causes in the main are beyond the scope of union management relations at the level of the individual productive unit or competitive company, and require the concerted action of management, government and organized labor on an industry-wide and national basis.

However, seniority is a foundation that has been firmly laid and accepted method of administering union contracts fairly when equitably carried out. If seniority principles are not equitably and justly applied, the remedy is to make it work, not destroy the vehicle which is the prime guarantee against discrimination within industry which is government by labor-industry contracts.

Eliminate favoritism
To summarize seniority, it is a set of rules designed to give workers prior claim to a job over others with fewer years of continued service, provided they fulfill the requirements. It is the only equitable method, proved practical of administration, to eliminate favoritism and discrimination among a group of workers.

The arbitrary decision of management is replaced with a set of rules. The human element—prejudice, inclination to favor one individual over another for intangible or other reasons—in governing the relations of a group of workers, with one another and with management, is reduced to a minimum.

The dangers inherent in any type of proposal to relax the seniority provision should be readily apparent. We have to make a start in balancing the scales of justice in favor of the Negro and woman workers. Seniority, justly administered, is the best guarantee that we have fashioned up to date. It would do much to destroy the progress that has been made toward interracial unity by the CIO since its inception.

The large group of whites who subscribe to the principles of the CIO and have exerted every effort to remove unfair and discriminatory practices from American industry, and who would be unfairly displaced as a result of relaxation of the seniority principle, would be not only anti-Negro and anti woman, but also anti-union. Relaxation of the seniority principle would also serve to transfer the burden of discriminatory hiring policies of management to the labor movement, where it does not belong.

Debated at Convention
The question of relaxation of seniority principles was fully debated in the last convention of the United Transport Service Employees of America. This international passed a clearcut resolution to the effect that it considered seniority right these cornerstone of organized labor and indicated its wholehearted opposition to any plan or scheme which would maintain any worker, group of workers or race of workers on the job by an abridgement of the fundamental principles of seniority. The United Federal Workers of America, meeting in convention in October 1944 likewise voted down a proposal to relax or change the seniority rules.

CIO United Auto Workers
The CIO United Auto Workers called a conference of women workers in Detroit, Mich., on December 5, 1944. At this conference, this question was considered and discussed and all proposals that would serve to relax or compromise the seniority provision in favor of women or any minority group was overwhelmingly turned down. The conference passed a resolution to the effect that the international executive board should review all UAW CIO contracts from the standpoint of helping local unions to eliminate clauses proved discriminatory to women and improve future contracts so that all discriminatory contract clauses governing promotion, upgrading, transfer, lay-off and re-

hiring of women workers be eliminated. The conference further recommended that the National Executive Board adopt as official union policy, that no separate seniority lists should be established or maintained for men and women.

At the recent national CIO convention held in Chicago, Ill., this question was brought to the floor of the convention. It was held that "The provisions of collective bargaining terms...is an autonomous sovereign right that exclusively belongs to each of the international unions." To date, each international solved the question in favor of strictly adhering to existing seniority practices.

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"The Negro in Latin America"

Swanee Republic (by Harold Preece)

Every colored school kid has been taught that old ditty written by Stephen Collins Foster, entitled "Swanee River" and glorifying slavery. You'd think from that song that the Swanee country was a place where slavery was very Heaven, a lost Jerusalem of emancipated exiles longing to return to dear old Massa and the heavenly dish known as hoecake.

That song is a lie. The great song or the great book, telling of the Negro so-called Exiles who built with their Seminole Indian neighbors a republic of peaceful farmers and magnificent fighters on the banks of the Swanee, remains to be written.

But some day, a Negro America ever more conscious of its great heritage of democracy, will learn proudly of the inspired black statesmen of the fallen Swanee republic of the great Negro chief, Abraham, who was of the stature of Frederick Pacheco, the runaway slave who read, wrote and spoke French, Spanish, English, and Seminole; of their Indian friend, Chief Wild Cat, who refused to be parted from his Negro brothers but who escaped with them to Mexico after they had been removed with the Seminoles to Oklahoma where they were still being preyed upon by the slave catchers.

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A B C METHOD

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