



Washington, D. C.

WILLKIE AND F.D.R.

Seldom in political history has a President of the United States received such wholesome support on major foreign policy from a defeated candidate as Franklin Roosevelt has received from Wendell Willkie. Few people know how active Willkie has been behind the scenes.

For instance, Willkie has even done some missionary work on Joe Martin, chairman of the Republican National committee and opposition leader of the house. Willkie remains on very friendly terms with his old campaign manager, even though they differed on foreign policy.

Shortly after the congressional vote to repeal the Neutrality act, in which the Republicans nearly defeated Roosevelt, Willkie phoned Joe Martin.

"Joe," he said, "those Republicans who voted against repeal of neutrality are going to have a tough time being re-elected. They're going to find the country is behind Roosevelt on this."

The Republican national chairman replied that he would not only re-elect all the Republicans who voted against Roosevelt, but he would also elect a lot of new Republicans to fill the seats of the Democrats who had voted with Roosevelt.

"Listen," said Willkie, "if you re-elect 80 per cent of those who voted against the President you'll be the greatest political genius of all time."

"And," said Willkie, in telling the story to a friend afterward, "a few days later there was Joe himself voting with Roosevelt for a declaration of war."

—Buy Defense Bonds—

SHIP-BUILDING PROGRAM

The action of the house naval affairs committee in slashing the proposed expansion of our two-ocean navy was due chiefly to shortages of materials and construction equipment.

However, Rear Admiral Samuel Robinson, chief of the bureau of ships, ran into a blunt barrage of questions about the worth of the battleship under modern combat conditions. Committee members sharply suggested that in view of the battleship's record in this war, the navy might be wise to build no more.

Robinson contended that this would be impractical, since the United States needed battleships "if our enemies continue to use them for combat purposes."

"What is your honest private opinion of the battleship?" he was asked. "Do you think this type of ship is worth all the money it costs and the time and labor required to build them?"

"I'm sorry, gentlemen, but it's not my function to answer that question," sidestepped Robinson with a smile. "I'm not a policy man. My job is to build ships after it is decided they are needed. However, I have my own ideas about the battleship."

This drew laughter, and the admiral was pressed no further.

Robinson also was quizzed closely about the high cost of certain vessels which the navy proposed in the expansion program, chiefly an aircraft carrier at an estimated \$85,000,000.

"Higher labor and material costs are the biggest factors," Robinson explained. "For instance, we have a new type of armor plate for our ships which is far stronger than that used by any other nation. It costs \$60 a ton, three times as much as the armor plate we formerly used."

"How about the labor supply?"

"We have plenty of labor to carry out our shipbuilding program," Robinson said. "Also plenty of facilities. Getting materials and machine tools is our big problem right now. However, the shortage doesn't amount to a bottleneck. In fact, production is running a little ahead of schedule and will be greatly expedited by next spring."

—Buy Defense Bonds—

CAPITAL CHAFF

The outbreak of the war obscured the incident, but the house ate crow in a big way on its action last summer barring David Lasser, former head of the Workers Alliance, from government employment. After a careful investigation, the appropriations committee completely exonerated Lasser of any Communist affiliations. Representatives John Taber, N. Y., J. W. Ditter, Pa., and Everett Dirksen, Ill., who made the original accusation ducked the committee session when Lasser was cleared.

Puerto Ricans wryly recall that U. S. navy's radio towers at Cayey, 25 miles from San Juan, were dismantled three years ago and sold as scrap iron to the Japanese.

Office of Civilian Defense is preparing a handbook on "What You Can Do For Civilian Defense." Author of the handbook is Eleanor Pierson, wife of Export-Import Bank President Warren Lee Pierson.

Australia's able Minister Richard G. Casey drives about Washington in a British car with a transparent top and right-hand drive.

Apparently not having enough to do with the war, representatives of the Pure Food and Drug administration now ask drug firms the question: "How much business did you do last year?"

We pledge ourselves to this cause

A Statement by

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company

We make this pledge publicly to our national government and to the people of the United States:

That we will cooperate unhesitatingly in every effort of authorized government agencies to prevent unwarranted rises in prices of foods.

That we will continue our efforts to reduce the spread between prices paid to the grower and prices charged to the consumers.

That to this end we will continue to do everything in our power to assist the farmers and growers of America in the orderly marketing of their products at the fairest possible prices to them.

That we will make every effort to hold our inventories at the lowest point consistent with good service to our customers because hoarding, whether by wholesalers, retailers, or consumers, will cause higher prices.

That we will endeavor to continue to pay our employees the highest wages and to give them the best working conditions in the grocery business generally.

That we will make every effort to continue to sell food at retail at the lowest gross margin of profit in the history of the retail grocery business.

Today we are providing food for our customers at the lowest gross profit rate in the history of the retail grocery business. This means that we have achieved efficiencies in the distribution of food never before attained. More of your food dollar goes for food and less for overhead expenses than ever before. No other great retail business in the United States in any field is operated with such a low cost of distribution.

No one in the food business can control the wholesale price of food. Only the government of the United States has power to do this, and for the protection of our people this power in the government is now a necessary power.

Today, with the nation at war, we believe that no private interest has any rights in conflict with the general public interest.

The armed forces of the United States are today receiving more and better food than ever before in our national history. It is equally important that all of our people working and living behind the lines, men, women and children, shall be better fed and better nourished than ever before in our national history.

JOHN Q. HARTFORD, President

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF SELECTEE WON'T COUNT SO STRONGLY

You Can Be Blind of An Eye, and Minus A Lot of Teeth, and Still Be A Soldier.

It's going to be much easier to get into the Army from now on and more difficult to evade selective service by virtue of physical defects. The draft army's physical standards, relaxed and simplified, are in the hands of the selective service boards, and are now in effect.

The detailed rating of vision, numbering and rating of teeth and height, weight and measurement tables used for more than a year by selective service boards have been scrapped by the new orders under which local boards and physicians are functioning now.

The new regulations bar a man from service only if he is totally blind, or has some progressive disease that cannot be remedied. Men with but only one eye are admitted for limited service and all others are qualified for general duty.

Heretofore selectees were required to have a certain number of "bites" with their teeth. The army now will take men with no teeth if they have no disease of the mouth.

From now on it will take a rather serious degree of deafness in both

ears to keep an otherwise healthy registrant out of the armed forces, and even those thus afflicted and those with total deafness in one ear will be accepted for limited duty.

There will be few turndowns because of weight or height, according to the new physical regulations. Considered fit for general duty are men between five feet and six feet six inches tall. "Shorties" or those taller than 78 inches can be accepted for limited duty.

Unless a man's weight is greatly out of proportion to his height, he's practically in the army, according to new standards.

The age-old regulation which required a soldier to have a "trigger finger" was wiped out by the new rules. Even if a selectee has lost three fingers of either hand, providing the thumb remains, he will be qualified for limited service. Absence of the index finger is no longer a bar to service.

Defects are now listed in two parts. Those in Part I bar a man from any service and they are all either progressive cases of diseases or serious malformations, including mental defects and other obviously disqualifying conditions. Part II lists the less serious defects.

Duties of the examining physician are simplified under the new regulations. Part I men are disqualified. Part II men are qualified for limited service. All others are passed as physically fit.

Men listed as fit for limited service (Class 1-B) are subject to call for general duty after correction of

their ailments through the selective service system.

It is indicated that within a short time draft boards will re-examine and reclassify men now in Class 1-B. In this class are almost half of all registrants examined heretofore by many of the boards in this territory.

Defective teeth and impaired vision, according to national figures, have accounted for approximately 37 per cent of the 1-B group. Reclassification under the relaxed regulations it was foreseen, will result in hundreds of these men being certified as available for service.

Draft boards have been notified an old regulation which required the boards to give a ten day notice to any registrant scheduled for reclassification was rescinded as of Jan. 1. Attention was drawn to this clause in the selective service rules when the boards were instructed to start immediately on reclassification of all 1-B registrants—those who had reached their 28th birthday.

In addition to whatever punishment is provided for Army deserters, those who "walk out" on Uncle Sam during the war will lose their American citizenship.

EMEIGH YOUTH DIES AFTER A SUDDEN HEART ATTACK

A heart attack he suffered while in the Pennsylvania Railroad station at Altoona on Christmas morning caused the death of Joseph P. Katchmer, 23, of Bridgeport, Conn., who was enroute to his parents home in

Emeigh for the Christmas holidays.

The young man, who had been employed for some time by the General Electric Co. in Bridgeport, was met at about 1:30 a. m. at the Altoona station by his two brothers, George and John, who had planned to drive him from Altoona to his home. A short time after meeting his brothers he complained of feeling ill and collapsed and died before a physician could be summoned.

Joseph P. Katchmer was born in Emeigh on August 26th, 1918, a son of John and Anna (Trusak) Katchmer. Surviving are his parents and five brothers and sisters.

NANTY-GLO MINERS BUY \$20,000 IN DEFENSE BONDS

Purchase of approximately \$20,000 worth of defense bonds has been authorized by more than 1,100 miners employed by the Heisley Coal Company's mines at Nanty-Glo. The miners agreed to sign slips authorizing the company to deduct \$2 per pay from their envelopes and to apply the money on the purchase of bonds. The money will be deducted from each pay, starting this month, and continuing until \$18.75 or the price of a defense bond, has been obtained.

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