

Biddle Recommends Relief Work Abroad For Objectors

Germfask Manager Resigns

Ex-Serviceman Quits on Issue Of Slave Labor

Serves Notice After 2 Weeks On Job; Is Fourth Man To Leave Post

Special to The C.O.

GERMFASK, Mich.—With the statement that Selective Service administration of the Civilian Public Service (CPS) "punishment camp" here amounts to "the re-establishment of slavery in our nation," Paul G. Voelker, camp manager and ex-serviceman, resigned last month. His action followed publication of serious charges against the campers which brought an appeal from SS for punitive power and a demand from the American Civil Liberties Union for an investigation after friction in the camp flared into national prominence last month.

Voelker, a government appointee, is the fourth camp manager to quit the post. In his letter of resignation to Clarence S. Johnson of the United States Department of Interior, he wrote:

"I resign the post of manager of the conscientious objectors' camp at Germfask, Michigan, the position I assumed at the request of the U. S. Employment Service. . . .

Calls It 'Slavery'

"I have found the Selective Service treatment of men in this CPS camp to be the re-establishment of slavery in our nation and the punishment of men whose
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British Raid Anti-War Publication; Arrest 4

The British government recently raided Freedom Press, publishers of the anarchist, anti-war bi-weekly, War Commentary, seizing its files and arresting four persons, it was exclusively reported last month in The Socialist Call.

The publication, circulated since the beginning of the war and available to servicemen, was charged with "causing disaffection in the armed forces." It was pointed out that copies had been seized among servicemen and The Call expressed the view that the government's move coming at this time, "when the war aims of British imperialist leaders are under the most critical fire," is significant.

Editors and writers, including T. S. Eliot, Alex Comfort, Stephen Spender and Middleton Murray protested the action as a violation of freedom of the press.

Of the four arrested, all but one was released on bail.

Question

A CO prisoner at McNeil Island wants to know when the CPS Union is going off the no-strike-for-the-duration pledge. He yearns to see old friends.

Pacifists Hit State Secrecy

Asks That All Peace Overtures Reaching Allies Be Bared

Seeking an end of the device of "secret diplomacy," the eighth annual United Pacific Conference last month issued a resolution calling on the State Department to take the American people into its confidence by making public the contents of any peace overtures reaching the Allies from Germany or Japan.

Discussion of the issue centered around the recent terms reported to have been transmitted to a British official by Germany, Dr. Jessie Wallace Hughan, secretary of the War Resisters League and author of the resolution, reported the newspaper had charged that these terms were filed away by the American State Department as an inconsequential document and never brought to the President's attention, although it was pointed out from the floor that Allied sources had denied receiving the German propo-

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Group Urges Basic Revision Of Dumbarton Oaks Charter

Special to The C.O.

CHICAGO—Basic changes in the proposed Dumbarton Oaks plan for an international organization which would make for a more effective world government were advanced last month by the Campaign for World Government. Simultaneously, the organization announced it was collecting signatures on a petition addressed to the delegates of the San Francisco conference and calling for "a world legislative body to which we can elect our own representatives."

Criticism of the existing plans were based on the absence of provisions to make the proposed organization all-inclusive, the failure in any way to limit national sovereignties or provide for representation of minority views within a nation, the limitation of enforcement provisions to nations and not to individuals, and the lack of overall democratic structure.

Suggested changes in the plans for representation were:

People Should Elect

1. As "an extension of popular sovereignty" . . . "the people should (elect) their representatives to the Assembly ac-

Camper Killed; Skull Crushed

Assignee Walks Out in Protest Against 'Slaughter'; WDL Asks Slave Labor Probe

Special to The C.O.

WALDPOR, Ore.—The fourth accidental death in two years among conscripts at the camp for conscientious objectors near here occurred last month with the death of George Moyland, 39-year-old former accountant of Chicago.

Moyland sustained a crushed skull when struck by a falling limb while working on a logging job. Several months ago, George Watkins was killed in a similar accident.

Highlighting the protest of campers against conditions which brought about Moyland's death was the walk-out of Martin Ponch—in protest against the "slaughter" of his fellow conscript.

Felling of dead trees, which resulted in the two deaths on the 10-man crew engaged in the work, is regarded as so hazardous that most experienced woodsmen, employed by private logging companies, refuse to do it, campers here asserted. Woodsmen undertake the work only at top loggers wages and with provision for accident compensation and insurance, they said.

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Pay Dependents From Treasury Fund, He Asks

Total Exemption for COs Seen One Solution to Problems Of Administering Law

Special to The C.O.

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Francis Biddle last month recommended that overseas relief work be opened up to conscientious objectors and that their dependents receive allotments from the impounded salaries of privately employed objectors on detached service. The money is held by the Treasury Department.

These recommendations, believed to be high ranking as Mr. Biddle, were made after four years of continuous criticism of inequities in the alternative service program, climaxed recently by the disturbances at the Germfask government-operated "punishment camp." Lack of dependency allotments and useful work, it was pointed out, are among the chief

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Oregon Judge to Place All COs On Probation

Special to The C.O.

PORTLAND, Ore.—Federal Judge Claude McColloch last month enunciated a new policy in dealing with conscientious objectors when he placed Kenneth D. Taylor Nunn, 27, of Farwell, Texas, on probation for the war's duration and six months thereafter, or not to exceed ten years. Nunn, a Baptist, had walked out of the Lapine Civilian Public Service Camp.

Henceforth war objectors here will be supervised by the probation office of the United States district court here instead of being sentenced to jail.

"From now on," Judge McColloch said, "the probation officer will designate a hospital or other institution to which any defendant found guilty of violating the selective service act on grounds of conscientious aversion to fighting shall be sent."

Amateur Surgeon Is CO

By Worldover Press

LONDON—The 19-year-old soldier of the American Medical Corps who, in the midst of battle, saved the life of a fellow soldier by slitting his throat with a pocket knife and inserting a fountain pen to keep the windpipe open, is a conscientious objector assigned to IAO non-combatant duty, according to a story in Peace News, British pacifist weekly. The amateur surgeon, Duane Kinman, it is reported, has accepted a scholarship to the medical school of an American university.

CPS Jottings

Dr. Don DeVault has been assigned to laboratory work analyzing gland sections at the Springfield, Mo., prison, DeVault, a research chemist, left CPS because Selective Service would not permit him to engage in chemical research while assigned to "work of national importance." It is reported he finds his prison work more important.



Agard Bailey, a Mancos parolee, who requested that his parole be terminated and he be returned to prison and then refused further cooperation at Mancos when his request was denied, is also at Springfield now. Bailey, who labelled Mancos a "recruiting center for the Bureau of Prisons" says he finds the prison work more satisfactory. He is the son of an army colonel.

A letter to Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes correcting statements made by him about Stanley Murphy and Louis Taylor in articles which appeared in Prison World has been drawn up by the Facts on Murphy and Taylor Committee, an all-CPS and parolee inquiry group of 16 men in all parts of the country. The letter, supported by an eight-page brief of signed statements about Murphy and Taylor by men who have known them, asks Dr. Barnes to correct the "erroneous impression" spread by his articles.

Efforts to have the CPS magazine, the Compass, heretofore managed from the Waldport, Ore., camp, centered in the East are being made by members of the Eastern staff of the magazine who have expressed dissatisfaction with Waldport's control. The next issue of the Compass, scheduled for February, will not appear until late April.

Germfask men report that the Time magazine writer who phoned Germfask to ascertain the facts for that magazine's article about the camp was so misinformed that she inquired how many men were in the hospital as the result of riots there.

Men at the New Haven, Conn., jaundice unit were given their choice of laboratory or forestry work for the period prior to their inoculation with the disease. After inoculation, the unit, which is housed in a Yale University fraternity house, must stay within bounds and eat only what is prescribed. The experiment will run until July 1.

A CO attendant at the Strilacoom, Wash., mental hospital was severely beaten by regular attendants when he objected to their brutal treatment of a patient who had refused to polish a floor. The CO's injuries resulting from the beating required eight stitches in his head. When the facts became known, the attendants responsible were fired and the ward placed in charge of CPS men.

As part of a publicity campaign for CPS and against permanent conscription, writers in CPS are being asked to contribute articles on these subjects to John Rich, publicity director of the Friends Service Committee. Rich will place the articles in magazines and papers and pay a flat fee for those not covered by publication rates.

One hundred CO's will be assigned to three New York State mental hospitals, according to Dr. Frederic MacCurdy, state mental hygiene commissioner. The Hudson River State Hospital, Poughkeepsie; Wassaic State School; and Pilgrim State Hospital, Brentwood, L. I. are taking the men. Dr. MacCurdy was formerly head of Vanderbilt Clinic at Presbyterian Hospital in New York City which has had a CPS unit for over two years.

An Institute of International Relations was held March 10 and 11 at the Big Flats camp. Speakers were Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, F. William Soltman, former member of the Bruening government in Germany, Roger Soltan, professor of European history at the University of Beirut, Syria, and Donald

Harrington, minister of the Community Church, New York. The subject of the Institute was Germany's postwar future.

A recent copy of the Friends CPS publication Information identifies Roger Baldwin as the "military authority of the New York Times." This would probably be appreciated neither by Mr. Baldwin, most of whose life work has been in connection with the American Civil Liberties Union, and who was an outstanding pacifist in the last war, nor by Hanson Baldwin, the Times military analyst.

Aide Resigns Germfask Post

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conscience does not permit their participation in war. As a liberty-loving American citizen and ex-serviceman, I cannot take part in the administering of a system of unpaid, forced labor."

Nicholas Migliorino, an assignee at the camp, told The Conscientious Objector that Voelker had been at the camp "only two weeks when he realized the full implications" of his position.

"Our first manager, Charles Osborne, was a Mennonite minister," Migliorino said. "He also came to see the evil of administering a conscription system and resigned. While both men came to the same conclusion, one, a minister, acted from a religious motive; the other, an ex-serviceman, from a political as well as a humanitarian sense of justice."

The camper added that Voelker's predecessor was relieved of his duties by SS for releasing the statements to Detroit reporters which resulted in the streamer headlines charging "mutiny" at the camp.

Camper Killed; Skull Crushed

(Continued from page 1)
Neither of the dead men, it was stated, had previous experience in the work.

Despite the protest from campers, Forestry Service men declared that hazard reduction work would be continued, and disallowed claims that any man should be permitted to "transfer from any job which he considered too hazardous for his own training or ability or physical condition, until insurance had been provided for dependents."

Meanwhile, Aron S. Gilmartin, chairman of the executive board of the Workers Defense League, has called for "a Congressional investigation of slave labor in the conscientious objectors' camps, especially the one at Waldport, Oregon, where, due to high-handed mis-assignment of internees to dangerous and unfamiliar work, there have been continued deaths."

Outline Inaccuracies in Time Magazine's Story on Germfask

By Igal Roodenko

Charges that the Time magazine article on the recent disturbances at the Germfask, Mich., Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp "contained statements which are either incorrect, exaggerated, or semantically slanted" were contained in a detailed statement prepared by four Germfask conscripts and distributed last month by the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

"For the most part," the Germfask men pointed out, "the story Time magazine reported was an exaggerated account of the acts of no more than five or six individuals, but instead of clearly recognizing these acts as the destructive symptoms of personality disintegration, Time magazine presented a misleading version of these social behaviors as the planned methods of a program of 'studied defiance' on the part of half the camp personnel."

Campers' Side Not Given

Stating that the article was based on the views of camp and Selective Service officials, and that no Time correspondent had attempted to visit the camp to interview the assignees themselves, the report went on to list and refute 14 specific quotations claimed to be inaccurate or exaggerated.

The statement labelled as inaccurate the implication that there was an organized and directed program of opposition. The charge that assignees "frequently" went AWOL, "making ardent and often successful love to local girls" was considerably exaggerated, the statement said, since the indiscriminate levelling of furlough penalties made unauthorized departures the only method of avoiding indefinite confinement to camp; of those who did go AWOL, most went home. The report added that "Time considerably overrates our ability as Don Juans."

The "out-of-bounds" ruling on Manifesto was due to the local prosecutor's request and came despite satisfactory public relations. The "thrashing" of a group of campers referred to a "few badly directed kicks" two assignees out of a group of 16 received one Sunday afternoon.

Similarly, the threats of violence to camp officials described two incidents in which two individuals had asked the camp manager to "step outside with me for a moment." There were no mess-hall tables overturned, there is no camp store to be broken into, there are no soft drinks to be destroyed.

Camp Relatively Sober

The statement admitted that there were some men in camp who drank, but pointed out that there was no "smuggling" and the only organized drinking in the preceding six weeks occurred at a party in honor of the camp cook, a free government employee. The "feigned sickness" is admitted to be a possibility, but is considered relatively trivial in comparison to the large number of men sent to Germfask for "observation and treatment."

"There is a real news story at Germfask—and in the CPS system, as well," the statement concluded. "It is the story of the government's first experiment with unpaid, forced labor and the growing op-

position within the camps to such a program. This is the story that Time magazine missed."

The statement, signed by Roy Kapler, Nicholas Migliorino, George Cole, and John Lewis, was distributed by the FOR in view of the recent ban on the use of the government-owned mimeograph machine in the Germfask camp.

The same ban had resulted earlier in the distribution of the Germfask Newsletter in typewritten form until a Boston CPS unit offered to mimeograph and distribute the periodical.

Virginia Hospital Asks Assignment of More COs

RICHMOND, Va.—Dr. J. S. DeJarnette, physician in charge of the DeJarnette State Sanatorium, last month requested assignment of a unit of 20 to 30 COs to supplement his staff.

Approximately 150 conscientious objectors are now employed as attendants at four of the State hospitals for the mentally ill and the feeble-minded, Dr. DeJarnette reported.

Included among the hospital personnel are three physicians at Williamsburg and one at Marion who are COs.

Agnes Dyer Warbasse

By Co-op League News Service
WOODS HOLE, Mass.—Agnes Dyer Warbasse, former educational director of the Co-operative League of the U.S.A. and authority on co-operative housing, died at her home here recently. She was sixty-seven years old and had been seriously ill since the middle of December. She was the wife of Dr. James P. Warbasse, founder and president emeritus of the Co-operative League.

Readers are asked to contribute photographs to The C.O. If you have or can take pictures of persons or events of current news value, please have them in by the 20th of the month. Let's have action shots.

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