

LIGHT

A Bulletin of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention
108 Breckenridge Lane
Louisville 7, Kentucky

Volume IV

APRIL, 1951

Number 4

UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

The issue of Universal Military Training is by no means a dead one despite the fact that its most ardent proponents have apparently, for the moment, taken "off the heat." It should be pointed out that there is a vast difference between our present plan of Selective Service and that of UMT. However in their attempt to "sell a bill of goods," the military minded leadership of the country tried to couple together into one bill a permanent and long-range plan of compulsory military training with the present emergency plan of Selective Service.

The Southern Baptist Convention has put itself on record in opposition to Universal Military Training. In 1946 the following recommendation was adopted:

"We recommend that the convention go on record (for reasons stated in the Commission Report) as opposing universal and compulsory military training of American youth in peacetime, and that the Convention in the interest of world peace and human freedom urge the President of the United States, that Congress, and the United States representatives in the United Nations to support with determination the movement to abolish peacetime military conscription in all the nations of the world." (1946 Annual, p. 128)

We print here for the information of our readers an illuminating article from the pen of Mr. Charles Wells, outstanding Christian lecturer and cartoonist. Writing in his newsletter, Between the Lines (April 9, 1951), Mr. Wells says:

There are few changes in American society that will so deeply affect the home and community life of all as the Universal Military Training law. Since it is such a tremendously important change, the American people should be given a far greater understanding of the nature of this transition than is now being permitted.

Many Christian laymen believe they are in favor of UMT; other thousands of Christian laymen and leaders do not favor it. Many of the country's leading educators, clergymen and others oppose it but they get little space in press or radio.

Even the top military analyst, Hanson Baldwin of the N. Y. Times, calls the UMT provisions monstrous. (N. Y.

(Continued on Page 2)

SUMMARY OF LIQUOR LEGISLATION

The following is a summary of bills, etc. that are currently pending in the legislatures of the several states of our Convention. Informed Baptists will act only if they are concerned:

Arkansas Tax Proposals

Enactment of one new tax and increases in three present taxes including liquor, to raise about \$17,000,000 a year in additional annual revenue, was recommended to the Arkansas Legislature (Jan. 9) by Governor McMath.

The tax program, proposed by the governor for immediate enactment to offset a revenue shortage caused by over-appropriations by the 1949 Legislature, would include:

A 100 per cent increase in state income taxes, to yield \$10,500,000 in additional annual revenue.

A new tax of 2 cents a bottle on soft drinks, to produce \$3,500,000.

An increase of \$1 a gallon on liquor, to yield \$1,000,000.

An increase of 2 cents per pack in the state tax on cigarettes, to yield \$2,000,000.

Arizona Proposals

Drafting of seven proposed amendments to the Arizona liquor license and control law for submission to the State Legislature was announced (Jan. 9) by the Arizona Council of Churches. The program would:

Permit the state superintendent of the Liquor Licenses and Control Department to deny or revoke a license on grounds that its granting or continuance would be against public welfare or morals.

Require every liquor license applicant to give notice in the local paper, as well as by notice posted on his premises.

No license shall be issued to any person once convicted of a felony.

Applicants' premises must be approved by a health authority.

A 300-foot "dry" radius around every college university, fraternity, and sorority house, hospital, funeral chapel, park and children's public playground.

Stop the practice of lending birthday cards, certifying the holder is past 21 years of age, to persons under 21.

Whoever applies for a liquor license must first have the consent of 75 per cent of the property owners within 1,000 feet of his premises.

(Continued on Page 3)

CRIME AND GAMBLING

Since 1940 the population of the United States has increased 14.3% while serious crimes increased 18%. Last year, a total of 1,790,030 serious crimes were committed, or an average of one serious crime every 18 seconds. In an average day last year 301 persons were feloniously killed or assaulted; 146 robberies were perpetrated; 1,129 places were burglarized; 468 cars were stolen; and, in addition, 2,861 thefts of other types were committed. Those figures reflect that the American people, day after day, are paying a bitter toll in death, personal sorrow, and financial loss, to the criminal. In 1950 every major classification of crime, except robbery, showed an increase.

The extent of organized crime in the United States is a national disgrace. The very fact that we have a crime problem reflects an evil of even greater import. The American home too often does not occupy the place in our national life that it did at the turn of the century. We are in a state of moral depression. The breakdown of the home is both a cause and a result. The bad state of affairs in too many of our schools is another result. In many instances any semblance of religious training is barred and the mentioning of God is frowned upon while espousers of godless communism carry on under the guise of academic freedom.

The gambling problem must be viewed as a phase of the entire crime picture. Organized gambling is a vicious evil. It corrupts our youth and blights the lives of adults. It becomes the springboard for other crimes: embezzlement, robbery, even murder. But, like any other type of crime, it can be controlled. If the laws against gambling presently on the state and local statute books were earnestly and vigorously enforced, organized gambling could be eliminated within 48 hours in any community in the land. No criminal, the gambler and his allies included, can long stand up before a determined, intelligent and informed public opinion. That, in my opinion, is the basic answer to the gambling problem: an aroused public opinion which will act on a local level through local law enforcement authorities to wipe out this menace.

In many communities local and state laws prohibit gambling but, nevertheless, (Continued on Page 4)

(UMT—Continued)

Times, March 22). In a long article, he describes some of the major aspects of UMT as "a military abortion that may handicap rather than help national defense." He labels UMT "a potential political, social and educational menace." Continues Mr. Baldwin, "Above all, Congress should not endorse in the guise of an emergency a permanent measure that would commit us forever . . . to peacetime conscription, which always has been alien to our concepts of democratic and non-militarized government." As a leading military expert, if Mr. Baldwin's statements had endorsed UMT, his words would have blazed across the country. Whatever your personal view, you dare not, without default of Christian civic responsibility, ignore the side of the UMT picture that is being suppressed.

Physiological and psychological factors of UMT are also of importance and are also being ignored, suppressed. We are indebted to the remarkable research job done by the National Council Against Conscription for much of the following report: (The National Council Against Conscription is headed by such eminent men as Harry Emerson Fosdick, Cardinal Dougherty, Dr. Albert Einstein, Louis Bromfield and many other noted citizens.)

UMT and Health: Much has been said about UMT as a healthful proposal for our nation's youth. Would two or three years of compulsory military service improve the health of the young men affected? Does forcing a man to give up his schooling, his job, his plans for life, in order to spend 27 months in the Army result in stronger, healthier, longer-lived and better adjusted men? These are the claims made for Universal Military Service.

But here are the facts, ignored, bypassed by proponents of UMT: the U. S. Public Health Service reveals that venereal disease, alcoholism and suicide are always higher in the armed forces than among civilians. There is an abundance of testimony from psychiatrists and psychologists concerning the effect of army life on the mental and nervous stability of young men who are suddenly compelled to relinquish all the moral and spiritual training of their youth to learn to kill, who are abruptly taken out of a normal society and thrown into the rough, brutal, usually vulgar environment that old time Army men proudly describe as "Army life," with "liquor and women" accepted as the standard social attitude and environment.

Childhood Physical Defects: Selective Service records show that the largest number of draft rejections were for defective vision; the second largest, mental unfitness; the third, musculoskeletal defects caused by birth injuries, infantile paralysis, accidents,

and the like; the fourth, cardiovascular. One-third of the rejections, according to General Hershhey, were due directly or indirectly to nutritional deficiencies in childhood. No military program at the age of 18 will correct defects of bone, teeth, hearing, vision, heart or any of the above defects that cause the bulk of physical inadequacies in our youth and which in turn leave our youth unfit for service in defense of their country. Better care in youth and not UMT is obviously the only answer on the health issue. The billions of dollars that Universal Military Service would add to the budget would be enough to establish child health clinics and even hospitals in thousands of localities that do not have them now. Yet it is just at these points that congressional appropriations are being reduced in order to increase the armament program!

Mental Breakdowns: Government and private studies show that a great many men cannot adjust to Army life, and suffer psychiatric breakdowns in the attempt. Four out of ten medical discharges during the war were for some nervous or mental illness, and 60 per cent of these men never saw combat. "They cracked after a few months or a few weeks of training because they were unable to adjust to the drastic changes which Army life required." (See "Toward Mental Health," Public Affairs Pamphlet by George Thorman). Brig. Gen. E. D. Cooke reports in his book, "All But Me and Thee": "Our Army psychiatrists have learned that, in 8 out of 10 of the psychiatric cases, the mere fact of being subjected to Army training is the main reason for the disorders." Brig. Gen. Cooke states in his book that nine-tenths of the psychoneurotics are cured the minute they walk out the gate with a discharge in their hands . . . their immediate disorders are something which happened to them in the Army.

Obviously there is something decisively wrong with the whole Army approach to the young civilians which will not be cured but only greatly aggravated by dumping in many more millions of even younger more immature youths, via UMT. The generals are only dodging the issue with UMT.

Veneral Disease: Like homo-sexuality, venereal disease always is high in armies as a result of the breakdown of normal everyday relationships between the sexes. The U. S. Surgeon General, reporting for 1941 when peacetime conscription was in effect, wrote, "Venereal disease is and always has been a major problem in military forces. Gonorrhea is a leading cause of days lost from service in the United States Army. Syphilis and gonorrhea together cause as much lost time . . . as the next three leading causes combined."

Army's Health Level: The Army claim that a wartime private was "healthier than his civilian cousin" must be weighed against the fact that the Army had five times as many doctors as are available to comparable numbers of civilians, as well as the fact that draft boards rejected physically unfit men. Since the VD rate in the Army is 37 times that of college men of the same age, and the suicide and alcoholism rates much higher than comparable civilian rates, it is clear that the Army offers no guarantee of improved health to anybody.

Comparing the health of men of a military unit with young civilian students, Dr. John Arnett reported, "To the surprise of myself and my staff, the civilian students were unquestionably healthier. When a respiratory or intestinal infection occurred, a higher proportion of the young servicemen would become ill."

Another deceptive element tied to this issue is the present claim, in support of the UMT plan to register the 17 year olds and draft at 18, that the 18 year old makes the best soldier. Many statements have been made, even by Army men, disproving such claims. The head of Selective Service, Gen. Hershey said, (U. S. News, Sept. 29, 1950), "If you go to 18, you get into the student question and into emotional immaturity." The general was right, for all medical and psychiatric authorities consider 18 a difficult crucial period in a lad's life, as he is just emerging from parent guidance into adult choices.

A psychiatrist and Medical Director of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene described this period of life as one "when young men are emancipating themselves" and one "in which they can gain great personal strength by being on their own. In the Army they will miss this opportunity, since the Army without question continues and enforces a dependence and regimentation," which retards the normal development of initiative, personal and moral responsibility.

A similar statement was made during the last war by a group of prominent psychiatrists and medical men. "If this proposal to draft the youths is carried out, they will step out of the state of dependence on their parents to a state of dependence on an authoritarian organization, the Army, and following the war they will have no pattern of individual civilian responsibility to return to as a guide to their future living." (N. Y. Times, October, 1942.)

Society recognizes the immaturity of the 18-year-old—no matter how fine the lad and his family. The United States does not permit him to vote. No large city would permit its police force

(Continued on Page 4)

Arizona License Bill

A bill to increase alcoholic beverage license fees for bars and hotels and to stop trafficking in liquor licenses has been introduced in the Arizona Legislature (Jan. 17) by Rep. Francis J. Byrnes, Maricopa Democrat.

It would increase the hotel or on-sale retailers' license to sell wine and beer by individual portions and in the original containers from \$75 yearly to \$800.

Indiana Bills

A bill to prohibit sale of beer and wine in grocery stores has been proposed in the Indiana Legislature (Jan. 17) by Senator Clifford Farris, Elmore Republican.

Alcoholic beverage sales would be restricted by the bill to retail establishments whose "principal business" is the sale of alcoholic beverages. The measure is supported by the United Dry Forces.

Meanwhile, another bill was being readied for introduction in the Indiana Legislature which would permit package liquor stores to sell beer on a carry-out basis and also restrict the number of such stores to one for each 5,000 population. The number of package stores in Indiana now is unlimited. The new bill is sought by the Indiana Retail Package Liquor Store Association.

Georgia Bill

Newspaper, radio or billboard advertising of any alcoholic beverage would be prohibited in Georgia under terms of a bill introduced in the lower branch of the State Legislature as HB 147.

Plans of Georgia Dries

The Georgia Temperance League has announced it will urge the 1951 Georgia Legislature to enact legislation to:

1—Make all advertising of Alcoholic beverages illegal in the state of Georgia.

2—Permit the holding of elections on beer. (The granting of beer licenses is now within the discretion of county commissioners.)

3—Provide a mandatory program of real education on the evils of alcohol in public schools.

4—Limit possession of a liquor, beer, or wine license to only one person in each family.

A bill to cover the above was introduced in the Georgia State Legislature, January 10, by Senator Henry Harden of Fitzgerald.

North Carolina Bill

North Carolina's so-called "gallon law" would become the "quart law" under a proposed amendment to the state liquor statutes introduced in the lower branch of the State Legislature (Jan. 8) with the backing of the Allied Church League.

Offered by Rep. Bill Atkins of Yancey County, the bill would make it unlawful to transport more than a quart of liquor into any dry county. It also stipulates that no more than a

quart could be transported into North Carolina from another state.

Oklahoma Bill

A bill to restore Oklahoma's so-called "bone-dry" law has been introduced in the State Legislature (Jan. 15) by Senator Herbert Hope of Maysville as part of the program in the United Dry Organization.

The measure would restore a 1949 law providing the permit system for bringing intoxicating liquor into the state and enable the federal government to act to prevent the importation of liquor not permitted in the state.

Dry groups want the law to get the aid of federal authorities in attempting to keep liquor out of the legally dry state.

Texas Bill

Beer sales on Sundays would be forbidden in Texas under terms of a bill introduced in the State Legislature (Jan. 18) by Rep. Milton Wilkinson of Patroon.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE FILE

Dear Mr. Editor:

Congratulations upon all the issues of LIGHT! You are doing a grand job exposing the underlying factors in the liquor racket, but particularly am I delighted with the attention to the problem of our minor groups and our attitude toward them.

The purpose of this letter is to make a suggestion, if I may. Not a suggestion of change, but for an added project. Perhaps you have already made plans along this line.

While serving as Chaplain of Central State Hospital at Lakeland, Kentucky I was constantly confronted with the problem of old people who were sent to mental hospitals simply because there was no place else for them to receive care. In many cases there was no evidence of a psychosis whatever, and in many others, the only psychosis was that of advanced senility which would require only nursing care. Sending these old folks to the State Hospital, involving revocation of their citizenship rights, often the cessation of lifetime friendships, and being herded about on a crowded ward very often shortens their lives and certainly cuts down on the enjoyment of the latter years. I could furnish endless illustrations to verify this opinion. In many cases, certainly a majority, these old folks were devout members of some church for years prior to commitment. How could they feel but that their church has let them down in their hours of helplessness?

Certainly in our increasingly old society state hospitals and perhaps even the Federal Government will have to assume an increasing role in the lives of these people, but how un-Christian to relegate our devout Baptist elders to hand-to-mouth dependence upon the

government for everything including their spiritual care!

The proffered solution to a part of the problem would be the establishment of homes for the aged in which couples would be kept together and various projects worked out to stimulate hobbies and meaningful activities along with the continuation of an active church life. I know that some homes of this nature have been established, but in most cases, on the traditional "old folks home" plan. In most areas, however, there is not a Baptist home for elderly people.

This would not be the straight cash outlay that it would seem on the surface, as many elderly couples have some funds or pension that could be utilized, and gladly so, for adequate living arrangements in the declining years. But for those who could not pay, so what? It seems to me that an increasing amount of our monies as Christian groups are placed in enterprises that pay visible dividends! This seems a far cry from the direct service motive of our Lord, without thought of return. I cannot think of a more Christian ministry than the one I am suggesting.

What is needed is a crusade in this direction, supplemented with fact and scientific findings, coupled with religious motivation. This is a case where Baptists could lead in a movement that would gain momentum in other denominations and serve an increasing number of elderly people in an ever-widening circle.

Forgive my vituperative ramblings on the subject, but as you see, it is one that touches me deeply, having held the hands and arms of so many broken hearted, and as it were, disinherited Christian people in their latter years. If you are interested in this as a project, let me help in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,
Aaron L. Rutledge
Furman University

ALCOHOL COSTS**Compared to Polio, Cancer and Tuberculosis**

(a) Polio, Number of cases (1948)—40,000—Cost \$25,000,000.

(b) Heart Disease, annual deaths 460,580—Funds raised—\$15,468,000.

(c) Cancer Deaths estimated nearly 200,000 annually; 879,550 living cases in all stages (cost)—\$39,000,000.

(d) Tuberculosis — 500,000 active cases; deaths in 1948—43,529—cost (funds) \$14,000,000.

(e) Overall cost of Alcoholism and Liquor Problem, \$12,300,000,000 (accepted conservative figure).

The combined costs of polio, heart disease, cancer and tuberculosis does not total 1% of alcohol costs.—"Quotable Quotes,"

(CRIME AND GAMBLING—Cont'd)
less, several forms of gambling exist. In others "betting" is legalized but bookmaking is banned. We may hear that this gambling is beyond the control of local authorities and cannot be suppressed because of its direction by national figures who reside across state lines. In just such instances, demands arise for Federal action or Federal legislation to eliminate the gambling and the gamblers from the community. What really is needed is not more laws but the will to enforce those laws already on the statute books.

(From the statement by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover before the Kefauver Committee, March 26, 1951.)

CURRENT COIN

There is an old story, recorded in the Talmud, about the men of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is an attempt to explain why the Cities of the Plain were singled out for catastrophic destruction and it bears repeating.

The citizenry of Sodom took pride in a municipal achievement of no mean magnitude. They had completely rid the metropolis of poverty and hunger by a simple but efficacious expedient. When a starving man came begging for food he was greeted cordially by every prosperous householder of the city—not only cordially, but generously. For at the door of each dwelling where he sought food for himself and his hungry family, he was given not a few paltry coppers, but a shining golden coin. Properly grateful and overjoyed, the unfortunate creature would hurry to the marketplace to buy bread, only to find that no one would sell him food of any sort. And so he might go from door to door gathering sympathetic words and golden coins, but no food for his belly, until he perished of starvation. Whereupon the wicked householders of Sodom would cluster around the body to reclaim their golden coins upon which they had had the foresight to engrave their names.

The Rabbis of the Talmud were not concerned with the literal or historic truth of this folk tale about the inhabitants of ancient Sodom. They retold it, rather, as a parable to point up the danger which confronts every civilization: the danger of its having advanced far enough to adopt a high moral code and not far enough to do more than render it lip service. The Sodomites of the story were unwilling to deny publicly the moral obligation of rendering assistance to a human being in distress, and so they gave their golden coins. But they were even more unwilling to make the sacrifice necessary to fulfill that obligation, and so they let the hungry man die.

The willingness to save one's conscience with an empty gesture, the confusion of shadow with substance, public protestations without effective action;—these are infallible symptoms of a dangerously sick society. That kind of society, the Rabbis imply, must, like Sodom, inevitably perish.

Applications of the parable to our own civilization present themselves in embarrassing number. Take the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness which our Declaration of Independence and constitutional Bill of Rights proudly offer to every American. To members of some minority groups are these not merely the tantalizing "golden coins" which they cannot use to purchase the "bread" of equal opportunity in employment, housing and education?

If application of the parable stopped at this point, one might conclude that our society was indeed dangerously ill; but a more careful examination of the parable will reveal the remedy for this debility of the body politic to be close at hand. For the golden coins which Sodom's citizens tendered were not counterfeits made of some baser metal. They were genuine enough coins. The difficulty arose from the fact that the Sodomites refused to honor them. Here

(UMT—Continued)

to be largely composed of 18-year-old boys. They lack the judgment, restraint and maturity to deal with crises, no matter how well-officered they might be. Gen. Eisenhower recognized this after the last war when he told a Senate committee: "For occupational duty in foreign lands, I do not believe the 18-year-old boy is as good as the 25-year-old." (Senate Military Affairs Committee, April 8, 1946.)

Baracks life, whether at home or abroad, is corrupting to teen-age boys. At the age of 18 most boys have and need normal community relationships, including normal daily contact with members of the opposite sex. The abnormal life in the Army with the anonymity of the uniform, the absence of normal contact with girls their own age, the tendency to use week-ends or "leaves" for escape from Army discipline, all contribute to the weakening of the morals of teen-age boys. Heavy drinking and association with prostitutes becomes the frequent avenue of escape, with the conduct of the officers a prominent example before them.

Parents do not think of 18-year-old boys as does the Army. To the Army an 18-year-old boy is just another weapon, expendable in war or in military training with live ammunition, as has been so vividly evident in Korea.

To a parent, a boy is not a weapon but a person. Only as democracies recognize the nature of personality and its need for growth and freedom of choice, will they be able to meet the challenge of materialistic philosophies.

too the essential rights guaranteed to every American are genuine and valid parts of the true American way of life. We can cure our "American delirium" by honoring them for every American citizen no matter what his color or creed or national origin may be. If we do not do so, we must be prepared, like Sodom, to take the consequences.

—Christian Friends Bulletin

LIGHT

A Bulletin of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.
106 Breckenridge Lane, Louisville 7, Kentucky.
Published monthly except July and August.
HUGH A. BRIMM, Editor

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Henlee H. Bernette Florida	W. Ross Edwards Missouri	L. A. Myers New Mexico
Rollin S. Burhans Kentucky	Howard H. Bell Arizona	Robert C. Norman Georgia
Olga T. Binkley Kentucky	A. B. Hawkes South Carolina	W. D. Ogilvie Alabama
William A. Carleton Oklahoma	Brooks Hays Arkansas	William C. Royal Maryland
Clarence W. Cranford District of Columbia	Garland A. Hendricks North Carolina	J. B. Weatherpoon Kentucky
E. H. Dearman Louisiana	G. C. Hodge Mississippi	Otha Williams Illinois
E. E. Deumer Tennessee	L. D. Johnson Virginia	Ben Wofford California
	T. R. Maston Texas	

Hugh A. Brimm
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Editor, Light:
Box 38, St. Matthews Station,
Louisville 7, Ky.

I understand there is no charge for
Light. Please add to your mailing list:

Name _____

Address _____