

LIGHT

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

Volume IV

NOVEMBER, 1951

Number 7

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY OR A GARRISON STATE?

For years in America a group of people, obsessed with the mania to militarize our country, have worked frantically for a program of universal military training. They are now within sight of their long awaited goal. In June of this year, Public Law 51 was passed by the Congress and signed by the President. It provided for U.M.T. when a program shall have been approved by Congress.

Such a program has not as yet been approved and cannot be until Congress reconvenes in January. The proponents of the plan hope to have it in operation by June, 1952. There is still time for you as a citizen to make known your convictions to your representatives in both houses of Congress.

We devote a major portion of this issue of LIGHT to a consideration of facts not given a fair amount of space in the daily press. The following statement of Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, formerly Chancellor of the University of Chicago, is one which represents the thinking of an able educator and distinguished scholar.

"If universal military training is necessary, it is a necessary evil. It must be justified solely as a military program and measured by its effectiveness as such. There is no other excuse for it.

"Some advocates of universal military training have argued that it is a great thing for the young: It teaches them patriotism, teamwork, and even morality. I imagine that if you took a flock of juvenile delinquents and put them in the Army, it might do them good, though they might be hard on the Army.

"The Army is a leveler and its level is low.

"If a boy has gone through childhood without seeing a toothbrush or taking a bath; if he has run wild on the streets or in the backwoods; if he has had no family and never gone to school, then military training may improve him, though I am not sure how much nor how long.

"It is surely one of the greatest differences between a slave state and a free country that the one relies on ex-

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LET'S FACE FACTS: CONSCRIPTION DOES NOT CUT CASUALTIES

The argument that every American Youth should have two to three years of compulsory military service in order to reduce wartime casualties is false for four reasons: (1) Training of the individual for combat does not require any such long period, but takes only a short time—17 weeks according to the Army. (2) Fighting in modern war is done by "combat teams" that must be trained as units at the time of war. (3) Most of the men of a modern army never engage in combat. They serve as truckdrivers, radio men, mechanics, cooks, clerks, and so on. Training for such work usually is part of civilian life; and certainly does not require two to three years of conscript service. (4) Heavy casualties do not occur because of lack of training but because of disease, proximity to exploding shells or bombs, and blunders by superiors, according to the Army's own reports.

(1) Testifying in the House of Representatives an Army representative admitted (Congressional Record, March 8, 1948) that 17 weeks is enough to train a man as a replacement in a combat unit. John Henry Martin, former consultant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pointed out in LOOK (March 30, 1948) that "training in combat warfare is the most rapidly learned skill the services require." General H. H. Arnold told a Congressional committee (June 6, 1945) that personnel always can be trained faster than equipment can be built to supply it. During World War II the Army always had millions of trained men doing non-combat work. These could have been used as combat replacements instead of the untrained 18-year-olds who were sometimes sent into battle.

(2) The proposed UMS is not an "emergency" measure. Selective Service meets the manpower needs in time of war or imminent war. UMS is planned for peacetime, and as permanent. Most men, therefore, would be back in civilian life be-

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Universal Military Training

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The issue at stake is not the question of the adequate defense of our country, but rather the issue concerns the way in which that defense shall be achieved.

Edward S. Shattuck, former general counsel of Selective Service, and a former state commander of AMVETS, has the following statement recorded in the Congressional Record, February 5, 1948, p. A714. "There is no security for free America in such a step. We must not let this proposal become an American Maginot line, offering us a false security and lulling us into a fatal sleep.

"We must consider very carefully a course of action which may lead us away from our concepts of individual liberty, and into an irrevocable step toward totalitarianism in America."

The Army has been openly charged by the Congressional House Committee on expenditures with "using government funds in an improper manner for propaganda activities supporting compulsory military training." A survey of leading newspapers has shown that from four to six times as much space is given to those who endorse the military program as to those who warn against it.

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CASUALTIES (Cont'd)

tween their "training" and any actual call-up for war service. In the meanwhile, new weapons and techniques would have been developed; combat "teams" would have been broken up and new ones would have to be formed; the men themselves would have become "rusty." For all these reasons, as *Combat Forces Journal* (October, 1950) pointed out: "Those who have had UMT would have to be retrained in the event of war. Even the combat veterans of World War II would require retraining if they were to be used . . ." It is ridiculous to compel men to disrupt their life plans for a training that would have to be repeated in any case.

- (3) Of 14 million men inducted during World War II, only 1½ million ever saw combat. The rest were the supply troops, truck drivers, mechanics, technicians, and all the hundreds of other occupations that are needed to keep a modern, highly mechanized army functioning. Casualties among these troops are caused by disease, exploding shells or bombs, or inability to adjust to army life (psychoneurotic casualties) (*Infantry Journal*, September, 1949). In none of these would combat training help to reduce casualties, while in the last-named it is the direct cause of thousands of serious mental and nervous injuries. Moreover, most such non-combat jobs can be filled efficiently by men who do the same work in civilian life.

- (4) An official Army study (*Infantry Journal*, September, 1949) reveals that the greatest number of battle casualties are caused by fragments of high explosive shells. These, and the atomic bombs that are now being prepared for use on armies, cannot be avoided by training. The same study showed battle casualties were highest in front-line infantry units, and occurred among both veterans and replacements. Heavy casualties also were caused by preventable disease, by poor intelligence work (as in the disastrous Korean "end-the-war" offensive), by the blunders of commanders, and by accident. In the peacetime training itself it is estimated there would be casualties of two percent, which would mean 20,000 young men a year killed or injured training for a war they might never fight.

"No factual data exist to support the universally held opinion that the infantry replacement was initially a higher casualty rate than the veteran." —Army Ground Forces study, in *Infantry Journal*, Sept., 1949.

GARRISON STATE (Cont'd)

ternal discipline applied to the citizens by the state, and the other relies on their own self-control and self-discipline.

"Under military discipline the individual's chance to make free choices almost disappears. Somebody tells him what to do every minute of every day, and the first lesson the private learns is 'never volunteer.'"

"I was in the Army from the age of 18 to the age of 20 and cannot recommend it as a school of responsible citizenship. I came out lazier and more negligent than when I went in. I became an expert at cutting the corners and at that elaborate kind of cheating to which privates devote most of their time.

"The essence of this is learning to look as though you are working when you are not, appearing to be obedient when you are not, and thinking up and putting over pretexts for avoiding any disagreeable task. In addition I acquired a large vocabulary of improper words.

"I admit that I had led a sheltered life, so that my military experience came as a greater shock to me than might have been the case if I had not been the son of a Presbyterian minister who had become a professor.

"But I think it stands to reason that, though free and independent citizens make the best Army, the Army is not the best place to make free and independent citizens. The place for that is the educational system.

"If the system is not doing its job, let us reform it. Let us not delude ourselves into thinking that universal military training can do what the educational system ought to do."

"During the war flying accidents were the most crippling cause of manpower. During the first 32 months of the war, the Air Force lost 3,000 more planes from flying accidents in the United States than in combat overseas."

—Army and Navy Journal, Feb. 12, 1949.

METHODIST BISHOP SCORES UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

In a letter to the *Christian Century*, Bishop Gerald Kennedy, Portland, Oregon, commented on a recent book *From Here To Eternity* calling it an anti-UMT tract. His letter is as follows:

"Sir: I have just read *From Here To Eternity* by James Jones (Scribner, \$4.50). It is a first novel and promises to reach a new high as a best seller. Part of its appeal is a copious use of four-letter words and a frank discussion of (one might almost say a morbid fascination with) a soldier's sex experiences, which run all the way from adultery to homosexuality. It portrays a shameful sadism in an Army prison, and the only nobility to be discerned is in the stubborn rebellion of a few private soldiers against the whole military system. Here, in a word, is one man's description of our peacetime army. Any number of former GIs have told me that this is about the way it was even in wartime, and a number of men with first-hand experience have assured me that it is even more difficult to maintain morale and morals during peacetime.

Now the thing that interests me in all this is the barrage of propaganda put down by UMT proponents which blithely ignores everything that *From Here To Eternity* reveals. I should like to ask these brethren if this is the way military life is, what are they proposing to do about it? Is there any guaranty that they will make it different? More serious than that, is there any way it can be made much better even if their intentions are entirely honorable? My guess is that, when military training becomes the central thing, everything else takes on a secondary importance and hence fares about the same as a snowball in you know where.

Before UMT is voted on by Congress—as it will be sometime soon—let every parent read the book and ask if this is the kind of environment he wants to throw about his son. And if you are

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HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS?
EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AN
AMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN? DO IT NOW!

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Published monthly except July and August.

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THE CHURCH AND TOTAL ABSTINENCE

(Excerpts from Address Delivered by Dr. Millard J. Berquist, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida, at Annual State Convention of United Florida Drys, Orlando, Florida, May 22, 1951)

1. The Church stands for PURITY, CLEANLINESS AND HOLINESS.
Liquor stands for IMPURITY, VILENESS AND FILTH.
Does anyone dispute that? Let him go down skid-row in any metropolitan city.
2. The Church stands for MARRIAGE SANCTITY.
Liquor stands for FAITHLESSNESS AND INFIDELITY.
Does anyone dispute that? Reports of the divorce courts reveal that liquor is at the bottom of sixty per cent of the divorce cases.
3. The Church stands for LIFE, FULL AND COMPLETE.
Liquor stands for DEBAUCHERY, DESOLATION AND DEATH.
4. The Church stands for HEALTH

RE-UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE IN FRANCE

After 48 years of separation of Church and State in France the Roman Catholic Hierarchy has been successful in getting tax support for parochial schools.

According to a recent story in the New York Times, Catholics were exhorted by Bishop Antoine Cazaux of Lucon to "suspend payment of taxes until their demands (for public money for Catholic schools) had been met."

The Christian Science Monitor (Sept. 22, 1951) carried an article citing the vote by which the measure passed in the National Assembly of France.

The bill to the taxpayer, oh, a mere \$420,000,000 per year!

On September 14, 1951 according to a United Press release, Pope Pius XII called on all democratic countries to adopt legislation giving Roman Catholic schools "equal privileges" with public schools. This ties in with the current struggle to get Federal aid for Catholic schools in America.

BISHOP'S LETTER (Cont'd)

still on the fence, read the book and ask for precise methods of preventing these degrading experiences being offered our sons. Let me stress that actual plans and procedures must be clearly defined and written into law that will convince our educators. The kind of generalities which have been characteristic of the UMT proponents so far can be trusted about as far as you can throw a tank.

James Jones may be horrified to hear that his book is regarded by a benighted bishop as propaganda against UMT. I have no doubt that this was far from his mind when he wrote it. But that is precisely what makes it a tract for the times. Our historic American faith is that the military represents a necessary arm of society to whom we owe our profound respect and our service. But that same faith, on the basis of plenty of evidence, assures that the military makes a very bad master. We ought not to deny that faith from here to eternity."

LIGHT

Box 38

St. Matthews Station

Louisville 7, Ky.

I understand there is no charge for LIGHT. Will you please add to your mailing list the following name(s):

(Please print) Name	Address	City	State
AND HAPPINESS. Liquor stands for DISEASE, DISILLUSIONMENT, DESPONDENCY AND DESPAIR.	9. The Church stands for JOY AND PRIDE. Liquor stands for SORROW AND SHAME.		
5. The Church stands for HONOR AND INTEGRITY. Liquor stands for DISHONOR, DECEIT AND DECEPTION.	10. The Church stands for CHARACTER, SELF-CONTROL AND DEPENDABILITY. Liquor stands for WEAKNESS, FLABBINESS, SELF-INDULGENCE AND UNDEPENDABILITY.		
6. The Church stands for BEAUTY AND LOVELINESS. Liquor stands for the UGLY, SORDID, SEAMY AND SOOTY.	11. The Church stands for HAPPINESS AND HEAVEN. Liquor stands for BITTERNESS AND HELL.		
7. The Church stands for CARE AND SAFETY. Liquor stands for RECKLESSNESS, CARELESSNESS, DANGER AND DEATH.	No one knows better than the minister the tragic toll the liquor traffic is taking in American life. To the minister its victims come when all other help and hope is gone. I could spend all my time as a minister just listening to the		
8. The Church stands for HEALTH AND SECURITY. Liquor stands for SICKNESS AND POVERTY.			

"During the North African campaign Dr. Long (Professor of Preventive Medicine, Johns Hopkins) said the Seventh Army lost thousands of its men because unit commanders failed to carry out a health order that all men take 0.2 gram of atabrine twice a week."—New York Times, Nov. 11, 1950.

Do you know of anyone who might enjoy reading LIGHT? If so please send us their name.

terrible tales of woe poured out of broken hearts of the drinkers and their long-suffering dependents. All my time could be spent in seeking to undo the evils which liquor does. Broken hearts, homes and lives, and broken minds, bodies and souls!