

whole question of high prices on foodstuffs, Ass't Sec'y Vrooman of the department said today. "It would assure the planting of vastly more acreage for one thing.

"Armies can be raised at any season of the year, but wheat has its planting season — and that a very short one. Once this season passes we must wait for a whole year before there is another.

"Meantime our people, and our allies might be starving."

It is admitted that the jump in bread prices has come under the eye of the department, but pending congressional action on a measure to insure full war powers it is taking no action in the situation.

Meantime officials believe the bread rise in New York will not be followed by bakers in other parts of the country—at least for the time being.

—o—o—

SENATE BEGINS FINAL WORK ON DRAFT LAW—HOUSE FAVORS BILL.

Washington, April 27. — Under "forced draft" pressure the senate began today its concluding drive to put through the president's selective conscription plan for raising an army.

A night session is in prospect in the upper house. Sixteen senators have said they would speak.

"Three great things to convince the enemy of the futility of continuing the terrible struggle" are necessary, declared Senator Jones, Washington, favoring conscription in opening debate.

"We should first drill, train, equip and make ready at the earliest stage an army of 1,000,000 men; second, we should conserve our national resources and human power by destroying throughout the nation the liquor traffic; third, we should stamp our profession of democracy with the seal of sincerity by enfranchising the wretched, ignorant, purty and

lofty patriotism of our women," Jones declared.

"No substantial or overpowering reason is presented," he said, "against selective conscription."

An indication of the trend of sentiment in the house was given in general debate. Forty-three members spoke for the Dent bill and its accompanying volunteer provision. Eighty-one spoke against it and for straight selective draft army.

Chairman Dent of the military committee, speaking for the volunteer plan, and Representative Kahn of California, ranking Republican member, leading the administration forces fighting for conscription, were to be the last speakers.

Many amendments are expected. The principal ones are Representative Kahn's amendment for straight selective draft army, Representative Madden's providing that each state shall raise its quota of men in proportion to population, and Representative McArthur's authorizing Col. Roosevelt to raise a volunteer army before the draft starts.

—o—o—

WOULD COMMANDEER SPUDS

"Commandeer all potatoes in Illinois for seed purposes," urged Martin J. Gillen of Racine at the conference of mayors in council chamber today. He said Wisconsin plans to keep tabs on all potatoes in cities and farms of that state, so as to guard against shortage of potatoes for seed.

—o—o—

BITS OF NEWS

Twelve-cent bread predicted for Chicago next week.

Miwaukee. — Flour jumped 80 cents a barrel over night here and dealers predict it will go higher. The wholesale price quoted today was \$14.90 a barrel.

Washington.—Sec'y of Commerce Redfield asked congress for appropriation of \$50,000 to relieve food situation by introducing fish into more general use.