

FARM BUREAUS ARE AGAINST THE BONUS

Replies From 23 States Show Strong Sentiment Opposed to It.

NO MORE TAXATION

Officials Believe Farmers Cannot Stand Added Burdens.

REPLIES NON-PARTISAN

'New York Herald's Inquiry Indicates Farm Bloc in Congress Is Astray.'

Convincing evidence that only a few of the spokesmen for the agricultural elements in the country are in favor of the payment of a bonus to able bodied ex-service men is disclosed by information collected by THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Representatives of the farming and rural constituencies in the Senate and House at Washington have made it appear otherwise by advocating the passage of a bill to increase the already staggering burdens of which the farmers are bitterly complaining.

The most important as also influential farm organization of the country is the National Association Farm Bureau. This organization is non-partisan. It is regarded as more accurately reflecting the views of agriculturists in every State than any other agricultural organization.

The National Farm Bureau Federation, which has a membership in excess of 1,500,000, has not taken any official stand on the bonus, but in reflecting the opinions of members, officers of State bureaus have freely communicated their personal opinions to the Senators and Representatives of their respective States.

To determine the trend of agricultural sentiment toward the bonus THE NEW YORK HERALD recently addressed telegraphic inquiries to the presidents and secretaries of the State farm bureaus which are affiliated with the national organization.

Up to the present telegraphic replies have been received from the officials of twenty-three of the forty-eight State farm bureaus queried. The replies show the attitude of the officials of these State organizations to be as follows: For the bonus, 6; against the bonus, 13; non-committal, 4.

Replies in Opposition.

The replies in opposition to the bonus are as follows: J. F. Porter, president Tennessee State Farm Bureau, Williamsport, Tenn.: "Oppose bonus bill on ground that agriculture is unable to stand heavier taxation."

H. B. Clark, president Delaware State Farm Bureau, Kenton, Del.: "Farmers are opposed to bonus bill; overburdened with taxes now."

E. C. Riddell, president Nevada Farm Bureau, Elko, Nev.: "My opinion is that passage of present soldiers' bonus bill will be detrimental to agricultural interests. Am not opposed to the bonus if the tax could be equally distributed among all interests. Recognizing the difficulty of this I am not prepared to suggest a plan."

D. J. Harris, president Maryland Farm Bureau, Pikesville, Md.: "I oppose the passage of the proposed bonus legislation because of the financial condition of the country. The farmers have passed through a period of great depression, and as nearly half of our population is engaged in agriculture the burden would fall upon them and further cripple the industry. The buying power of the farmer has been curtailed, and unless this is restored the country will suffer."

Nelson Rue, secretary Virginia Farm Bureau Federation: "Annual convention Virginia Farm Bureau Federation representatives from county farm bureaus passed resolution opposing with bonus. American Farm Bureau Federation in this regard. Personally I am not in favor of the soldiers' bonus at all."

W. B. Armstrong, president Washington State Farm Bureau, Vancouver, Wash.: "At this time the ex-service man will benefit more by a revival of industry than from anything else. The country should have before this pledged its credit to a substantial recognition of his services to be paid after a fixed interval of readjustment had elapsed. The passing of a measure providing for immediate or early payment will delay the revival of business and prolong the idleness of many ex-soldiers."

Julian Emery, president Maine State Farm Bureau, Bar Harbor, Me.: "It is my opinion that the bonus bill as now pending is too general. Agricultural industry, which suffered from the war and its reaction more than any other industry, does not feel that it should be thus heavily burdened. Agricultural industry is perfectly willing to pay its part of any measure for relief of needy or unfortunate soldiers."

H. E. Taylor, president New Jersey State Farm Bureau, Freehold, N. J.: "Farmers already overburdened with taxes. No practical method of raising necessary money has been suggested. Sales tax under consideration will cripple agriculture worse than any plan yet suggested, because of products often selling for less than cost of production. Farmers are always ready to acknowledge obligations to all needy veterans."

J. M. Wright, president Wisconsin State Farm Bureau, Madison, Wis.: "Wisconsin Farm Bureau has taken no action relative to bonus bill either for or against, but is opposed to collection of funds for this purpose by any sales or similar tax. Wisconsin Congressmen are taking same stand on sales tax personally. An ex-service man could use cash bonus but prefer one which would be equivalent to insurance, as such should give most benefits."

Believes Majority Against It. R. C. Bishop, secretary Alabama Farm Bureau, Montgomery, Ala.: "No cases of our members on soldiers' bonus. This matter is outside our field of activity. Established policy prevents Federal action on record in this case. Personally believe referendum

BONUS RAIDERS VETO ANY PLAN FAILING TO GIVE CASH

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vision covering it will be incorporated in the bill. "They are entirely willing for us to work out the details and assure us that such a bill will be acceptable. They have consented to elimination of the land settlement provision of the bill passed by the House."

When asked how much Government money would be required to provide immediate cash to meet the demands of the ex-service men, Senator Watson replied: "That detail we have not discussed. We will confer with the experts of the Treasury and have them submit estimates. The agents of the veterans also expressed satisfaction with the suggestion to make immediate cash payments only to those soldiers entitled to \$50 or less. We found the plan submitted by the representatives of the ex-soldiers to raise the amount to \$100 would impose a heavier burden on the Treasury than is desirable."

Regarding the prospects of the stability of the Finance Committee Republicans to satisfy the demands of the bonus claimants Senator Watson said: "We are now going to try to meet the objections raised by President Harding and Secretary Mellon. With that end in view regular meetings of the Republican members of the committee will be held daily. We have not decided whether we will invite any further testimony from representatives of the soldier organizations which favor the bonus."

Forecast of New Compliments. This statement from Senator Watson, who has succeeded in convincing his associates that President Harding will not approve the measure passed by the House, portends many new complications in the bonus situation. The President is standing pat on his declaration that the only plan acceptable to him for financing the bonus is the sales tax.

He has emphasized his attitude in this respect in the most direct and conclusive manner during the last week. The problem confronting the bonus Senators is to devise a scheme that may stand a chance of getting by an Executive veto. Just how they are going to do it constitutes one of the hardest legislative nuts that statesmen, hungry for reelection, were ever called on to crack.

Some Senators in the neutral group who are withholding their judgment on the bonus believe the claimants who demand cash down will have to give way. The opinion of the majority of Senators in this group is that the bonus claimants will do so and consent to the passage of the bill, which will seem attractive to the Government and people in that it will not compel a large immediate outlay of money.

The reasons advanced in support of this opinion is that the bonus claimants will take half a loaf rather than none; that they will surrender to the logic of the situation and make an im-

Calls MacNider Dictator of Republican Side Show

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., April 25. REPRESENTATIVE STEVENSON (Dem., S. D.) declared to-day on the floor of the House that "Commander MacNider seems to be running a side show for the Republican party. MacNider not only dictated the passage of the bonus bill through the House but interfered with other legislation such as the navy bill."

mediate sacrifice to get a bonus law on the statute books. Senators favoring the bonus have already started to prospect the ground in this respect. They argue that a bill legalizing the bonus can be perfected later on and give to the boys what they want.

The Democratic Senators to-day provided a curtain raiser to the bonus drama which is to be enacted in the Senate when the Finance Committee reports a bill relating to the subject. The secret meetings of the Finance Committee Republicans provoked Senator Walsh (Mass.) to voice a vigorous protest against such proceedings on the part of the majority:

"I protest against such meetings," said Senator Walsh, "because the selfish interests of these men should be made known to the full committee and the people. Suspicion naturally attaches to any bill prepared under such circumstances. Such legislation goes far toward making people lose confidence in their representatives. There can be no justification for a secret meeting to consider a bill of this kind. Furthermore this should not be a partisan measure, and for that reason the minority members of the Finance Committee are entitled to all the evidence submitted for and against it."

In answer to a request by Senator Walsh for light on the subject, Senator McCumber declared no regular meeting of the committee had been held, but merely an informal gathering.

Senator Watson came to the relief of Mr. McCumber by saying that "informal conferences had been held with several officers of veterans' organizations. Does the Senator from Massachusetts think I ought to have sent for him?" he asked.

Senator Walsh replied that he did feel so. "It is a very bad and dangerous precedent," commented the Massachusetts Senator, "for members of the committee to meet and hear witnesses in favor of certain legislation behind closed doors. If we are to safeguard the rights of the people and win their confidence such things should be done in the open."

After more of this sort of colloquy the opening flurry over the bonus was wound up by Senator King (Dem., Utah), who declared "such legislation is tainted if not vitiated. Such legislative methods are dangerous and discredit our parliamentary system."

HYLAN IN WRANGLE AT CAPITAL HEARING

Boast He Brings Mandate to Congress Challenged by Chandler.

TOLD HIS MIND IS THIN

Gets Lively Heckling in Demand for Support of Phone Rate Bill.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., April 25. Mayor Hylan aroused the ire of Representative Walter M. Chandler (N. Y.) to-day when he read a message "from the people of New York city to their representatives in Congress" asking them to "stand by" in the fight to reduce the New York city telephone rates.

Mayor Hylan, attended by Murray Hulbert, Deputy Comptroller Smith, Corporation Counsel O'Brien and several other prominent New York officials, gave testimony before the Judiciary Committee of the House in support of the Bacharach amendment to the judicial code which would make it impossible for utility companies to appeal to Federal courts to set aside decisions ruled on by the Public Service Commission.

Representative Chandler asked what proof he had to show the message was from the people. "I believe I express the sentiment of the people of New York," replied the Mayor. "Why?" asked Mr. Chandler. "They have not expressed themselves on this," he replied. "I express the sentiment of the people," insisted Mr. Hylan. "I was elected by an overwhelming majority—the largest in the history of the city."

"Was this bill or the telephone case an issue in the campaign?" asked Mr. Chandler. "I thought you were elected on a five cent fare issue."

"The issue was all the public utility corporations exploiting the people of New York," the Mayor replied heatedly. "I thought you were elected on other issues," rejoined Mr. Chandler. "Your personal popularity," he added. "Your point is very thin, in my mind," said Mr. Hylan.

"Yes, like your mind, very thin," replied Mr. Chandler. "If you don't stop your cutting up in New York you'll find out whether it's thin or not. I'm here with the Board of Estimate and speak for the people of New York," Mr. Hylan shot back.

Mr. Chandler demanded again that the Mayor show proof he spoke for the people. "Then we will know what to do," he added. A commotion was caused by Mr. O'Brien springing to his feet and shouting, "I'll prove to your satisfaction we are speaking for the people of New York before I'm through."

When order had resumed Mr. Hylan said: "I can almost guess from what you have said what you will do." The Mayor said in reply to questions by committee members that he was strongly in favor of letting the people express themselves on public utilities issues. The question of constitutionality of

the Bacharach bill was raised by Representative Foster (Ohio). "I have had many dealings with Congressmen," replied the Mayor. "In some cases they are very much concerned with that constitutionality of a measure and in other cases they are not so much concerned."

Mayor Hylan said that during his career as a judge he had experience "with what took place behind the curtains when constitutional questions were involved," and that he preferred to submit such questions to a direct vote of the people.

"What do you think of a Mayor?" asked Representative Chandler after the meeting had closed, "who would come here and advise Representatives of Congress to treat the constitutionality of a bill lightly? How does Mayor Hylan secure a mandate from the people of New York city to come here and threaten representatives with political extinction if they do not vote for a measure on which a referendum has not even been taken?"

"If my political fate depends on Mayor Hylan's will I would be willing to relinquish it and retire to private life. The next thing we may expect to see is the Mayor bobbing up in Geneva and telling Lloyd George, Poincare and Schanzler what to do about the economic situation in Europe, the Mayor being supported, I suppose, by an unconfirmed mandate from the people of New York."

RELIEF REACHES 100,000 MORE DISABLED MEN

Veterans Bureau Announces Result of Campaign.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., April 25. A new class of more than 100,000 disabled soldiers has been recruited by the Veterans' Bureau to share in benefits provided for former service men for which there has been appropriated nearly \$1,500,000,000 since the armistice, according to an announcement by Col. Charles R. Forbes, director of the bureau.

The names of the new men will be added to the long list of veterans receiving special attention at hospitals where payments of cash under the compensation law and other appropriation measures. The new men were recruited in a nationwide drive conducted by the Veterans Bureau to make sure that every veteran entitled to assistance by the Government should receive attention.

The tubercular veterans discovered in the search were placed in Government hospitals where they will receive treatment at Government expense. Some of them will be able to enjoy off the disease, physicians predict, and make a fresh start in life, enjoying perfect health.

TO FIX McCULLOUGH ALIMONY.

Supreme Court Justice Wagner reversed decision yesterday in Mrs. Louise Edwina C. McCullough, head of E. C. McCullough, Inc., which has an extensive business as agent for American corporations and an Government contract printers in the Philippines. Further testimony was taken to determine the amount of alimony.

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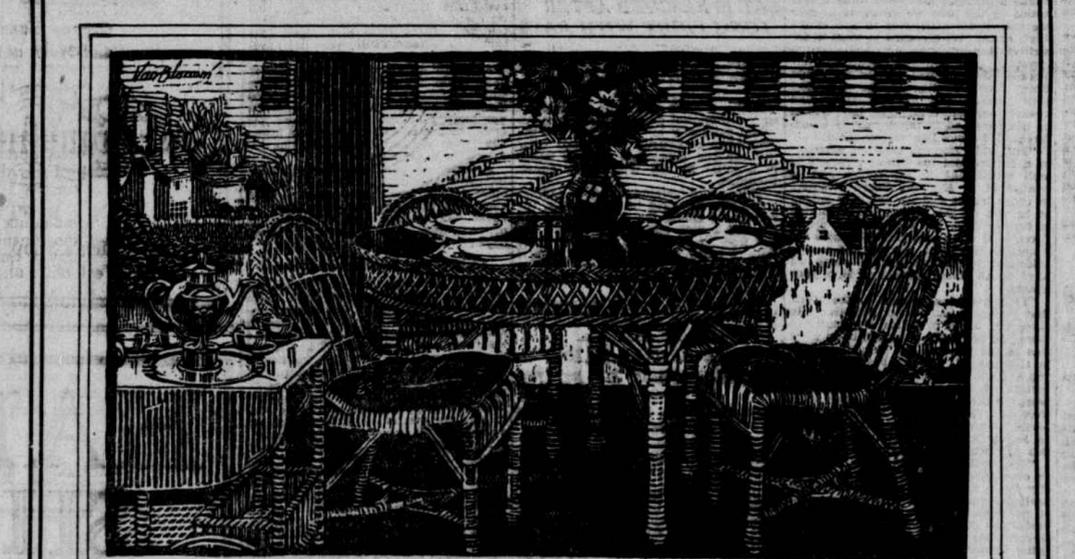
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