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The Fight Against Narcotics

The series of articles on narcotics which Jack Lewyn is writing for The Herald vividly describes a great humanitarian effort which the United States Public Health Service is making in its fight against drug addiction. Naturally this service is of particular interest in this area because one of the two USPHS narcotic hospitals is located near Lexington.

When the Harrison Narcotics act was passed in 1914, narcotic addiction was an acute national problem, threatening the careers and even the lives of some 200,000 addicts. Legal control of narcotic sales and treatment of addicts have been so effective that today it is estimated there are no more than 50,000 addicts in the country.

Unfortunately, the decrease in narcotic addiction is being offset by an increasing use of barbiturates, or "sleeping pills"—drugs which do not come within the scope of the Harrison Narcotic act. Excessive use of barbiturates now is considered a much greater threat to society than is narcotic addiction, largely because many persons have not been aware of the dangerous effects of barbiturates. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Burnett, Lexington's representative in the Kentucky lower house, has performed a public service in sponsoring passage by the General Assembly of a law which will require a physician's prescription to obtain barbiturates after June 15. This undoubtedly will reduce considerably the indiscriminate use of barbiturates.

We believe readers of The Herald appreciate having an opportunity to become familiar, through this series of articles, with the work of the USPHS hospital in Lexington, and its effective treatment of narcotic addicts. And should the articles deter anyone from becoming addicted to the use of narcotics or barbiturates, then they will have served an even better purpose.

85 Years After Appomattox

Senator Virgil M. Chapman and Dr.

A Wonderful Drug

Recently newspapers have reported how aureomycin can make undernourished children become robust, stimulate turkeys to produce better drumsticks, and protect men from effects of A-bomb attacks. It also might be good for that let-down feeling some of us have when we come in from Keeneland.

Not Very Probable

Time magazine says it is possible for a farmer in Indiana to obtain a government loan of \$1.48 a bushel for corn which he stores on his farm and that he then can feed his hogs on 65-cent corn which can be bought on the open market. In Kentucky, farmers would be sharp enough not to sell corn for 65 cents a bushel if they could get \$1.48 for it.

A Familiar Echo

A lobbyist of the National Association of Real Estate Boards is quoted as writing that he does not believe in democracy and that he thinks "It stinks." The fellow is not even original. He is simply parroting Westbrook Pegler.

Washington Calling

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON—Confidential reports from Germany indicate that the Russians have plotted a political-diplomatic coup calculated to take the West by surprise. The timing is aimed at the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Western powers set for London in mid-May.

The objective is to present the world with the sham front of an "independent" East German state. That state will sign a treaty of peace with the Soviet Union. And the USSR will agree to remove all its troops from East Germany within a year.

These moves, which may be announced very shortly, are being plotted by Walter Ulbricht, deputy premier of the East German state. Ten days ago Ulbricht returned secretly to Berlin from a visit to Moscow where the whole plan was worked out.

Ulbricht immediately initiated a series of conferences to set the plot in motion. The idea as originally projected was to call into being in East Germany a national front congress. The congress would have administrative powers to sign a peace treaty with Russia that would seem to give East Germany a most favorable status.

While this would be a fake, it would nevertheless have a powerful propaganda force in all of Germany and in Europe. For one thing, it would strengthen the extreme Nazi-storm trooper elements in West Germany that are today saying the only hope is in at least a temporary union with Russia. Whatever decision the foreign ministers might take in London with respect to Germany would seem to be a reaction to an achievement already brought off by the Soviet. That same thing has happened far too often in the past.

One Big Fault Of Plan

There is one big hole in the Russian plan that could be readily exploited by the West. That is that the Russian action in handing over to Poland just as the war was ending all the German territory east of the Neisse River. As Winston Churchill pointed out at the Potsdam conference, this took nearly one-fourth of the arable land within Germany's 1937 frontiers.

James F. Byrnes in his book, "Speaking

In Washington
 By Peter Edson

WASHINGTON (NEA) — There is plenty of trouble ahead for the legislatures of the 48 states, Alaska and Hawaii if President Truman's unemployment insurance reforms should be adopted. Every one of them would have to change its laws to meet the new standards outlined in the President's recent special message to Congress.

President Truman first asked for extended unemployment insurance coverage in his 1946 state of the union message. He's been asking for it ever since, without getting any results.

This time, however, the administration has drafted a bill to carry out the President's reforms. Rep. John McCormack of Massachusetts has introduced it in the House. Few people believe this bill stands any chance of passage this year. But if the House Ways and Means Committee can be persuaded to hold hearings on the McCormack bill, these hearings might have some influence on the states.

Nearly all the state legislatures meet next year. Without waiting for Congress, the states could raise their unemployment insurance standards. In a way, therefore, the President's message is an indirect appeal to the states, over the heads of Congress.

Maze Of Differing Legislation

The various state unemployment insurance systems now vary so much in detail it takes an expert to understand them. For instance, the present federal law exempts all employers with fewer than eight employees in any 20-week period of the year. Nineteen states have similar provisions. The McCormack bill, however, would provide unemployment insurance for an employer of one employee.

This would take into the system an additional 3,500,000 employees of small establishments not now covered. Alaska, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, Montana, Pennsylvania and Washington already have the one-employee provision. All the other states would have to comply.

On the matter of how much an employee must earn to be eligible for unemployment insurance, the states vary even more widely. The low requirement is \$100 a year in Rhode Island, the high \$600 in Washington. In between are many varying formulas.

The new McCormack bill would reduce them all to three optional minima. A worker would thus be eligible for unemployment insurance (1) if he earned 30 times as much as his weekly insurance benefit, (2) if he earned one-and-one-half times his highest wage in any one quarter-year, or (3) if he was employed 20 weeks. Washington is probably the only state that would have to change its law to meet this.

On the computation of weekly benefit, the McCormack bill would set the minimum insurance payable at one-half the weekly wage, up to maximum insurance of \$30 a week for anyone making \$60 a week or over. Nearly two-thirds of the states now authorize unemployment insurance payments of from 50 to 75 per cent of the weekly wage. The other third would have to change their laws to meet McCormack bill standards.

No State Meets McCormack Minimum

Actually, no state has paid insurance of as much as 50 per cent of wages. Massachusetts and Louisiana in December paid 47 per cent of the wage, Utah 46 per cent, Rhode Island 45, Arkansas 44 and 10 other states paid over 40 per cent. No state is paying a \$30 a week maximum. The high Massachusetts average last December was \$23.66.

The low states were West Virginia, Illinois and Florida, which paid 30 per cent of the weekly wage. The payment in Florida averaged \$13.88 a week, in Georgia and Mississippi it was \$14.37, in Tennessee \$15.34.

Only Alaska and 10 states—Arizona,

The Editor, Although a nu local cu underst Each is told to most ev of two c no evid knows I find no I hav public r source o subject Why grand ju your fr several If any plished, it is, it's And w accomplish intereste the gran their hei I say legalizin them co operate You nev