THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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THE WORK-OR-FIGHT BILL.
It is only natural that there should be a good deal of confusion about
the so called Work-or-Fight Bill which is pending before Congress as
this is written. This confusion springs from the fact that a number of
different bills on this subject have been introduced from time to time.
The earlier proposals were widely publicized and doubtless there is a
general belief that the bill soon to be considered in Congress is the
same measure. In addition, that inept phrase "work-or-fight" must in-
duce the belief in the minds of many people that some Federal official
would be empowered to appear at a citizen's door and peremptorily tell
him to go to work in a certain place (maybe a thousand miles from home)
or be inducted into the service. This is unfortunate. Finally, the new
bill as drawn refers back to so many sections of the original 1940
Selective Service Act as it has been amended from time to time that it's
no easy task to dig out the meaning of the pending bill. Here then, is
an effort to tell what it means in simple language.

THE BILL.
1. The Bill sets forth a policy that men between the ages of 18 and 45
who are not now in service and not exempted from service are LIABLE for
training and service in a war activity or in some activity that relates
to the national health, safety or some national interest or to an agricul-
tural activity which is regarded as essential to the war effort. It gives
the Director of Mobilization the authority to determine what those act-
vities are and to classify them as to areas.

2. The Bill recites that anyone who is LIABLE for such service and who
is engaged in some activity that is classified as essential to the war
effort has a DUTY not to quit his job unless the local Draft Board
approves. He can appeal from the decision of the Board.

3. After consulting with Labor, Management and Agriculture, the Director
of Mobilization shall certify to the Selective Service System, those
plants and activities and farms, which, after making a voluntary effort
to get sufficient manpower, have been unable to do so.

4. The Selective Service System (thru the Draft Boards) then designates
the classes or categories of men, rated as to age and other considera-
tions upon whom calls shall be made to take jobs at such plants, farms,
or activities that are short of manpower. All this of course is volun-
tary and the Board shall take into account all factors such as age,
family ties, the possibility of disrupting business or services etc.

5. When a man has been requested to take employment in such an essential
activity where there is a manpower shortage, he must become employed in
such an activity by a certain date. (Note that this is voluntary.)

6. If the manpower quotas that are needed in such activities are not
met the Draft Board may then ORDER a sufficient number of men who are
liable for such service to apply for jobs and to take such jobs if they
are accepted. Any man has a right to appeal from such an order and in
addition to that he must have "A REASONABLE CHOICE OF EMPLOYERS FOR WHOM
TO WORK."
7. If he fails to comply he can be fined or imprisoned BUT ONLY FOR A WILLFUL VIOLATION. In a case where he leaves his job and is then cited for a violation he can show as a defense that he did make an application to the local Draft Board to quit or change jobs and that it was unfairly denied by the Board and that he had a good reason for his failure to comply.

8. The exemption of farmers engaged in the production of food for the war effort has not been changed and remains exactly as it was written in the Act which was passed by Congress and approved by the President in November of 1942.

9. Those who comply with the provisions of this bill are entitled to travel pay and expenses if they are shifted to employment away from where they now work and are also entitled to the benefits of the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act. In addition they have a right to claim their old jobs when the Emergency is over or their services are no longer needed on the jobs to which they may have been shifted.

10. This Act comes to an end when the President proclaims that the Emergency is over or if it should be repealed by a concurrent resolution passed by both Houses of Congress.