MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
BULLETIN

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Choosing a Second Mile

(Editor's Note: This article is more than a listing of "second-mile" activities carried out by members of the C.P.S. unit at Greystone State Hospital. It is a commentary on the "second-mile" philosophy and the value of applying it to the circumstances of conscription under which we find ourselves in C.P.S. It also contains pertinent and significant suggestions for our thinking on peacetime conscription. Frank Wright, Jr., Educational Director at the Greystone unit, is responsible for this article and for much of the leadership of "second-mile" activities at Greystone.)

The lessons of history, and especially of our world today, show unquestionably that, unless we are moved by an inner compulsion, we shall certainly be moved by an outer tyranny. Slowly, as we work under conscription in Civilian Public Service, we are coming to acknowledge the inevitable corollary of this truth: that when we are moved by an outer tyranny, the only antidote for the demoralization of character which is an unescapable result of such tyranny, is to allow our inner compulsion to place requirements on us which go beyond the requirements of the outer tyranny. "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain."

The men of C.P.S. Unit No. 77 at Greystone Park State Hospital, realizing this truth, have been seeking some "second-mile" opportunities for service and have carried on such activities under the guidance of a Community Service Committee, which takes its place as a major committee alongside the religious, educational, and other committees. This committee, according to its charge in the unit constitution, "shall be concerned with the unit's contribution to the hospital and the communities in which we now live and to which we will return; shall develop programs to be presented to other groups and organizations; shall undertake a program of service for patients of the institution; and shall be alert to the opportunities to serve in the general community in keeping with our faith and testimony."

Under this charge, the following activities have been or are being carried on:

1. Library service to the wards, discontinued by the hospital because of lack of help, has been reinstated by the use of volunteer C.P.S. help.

2. Many C.P.S. men gave their own time to package 3,000 pounds of candy for distribution to the 6,000 patients of the institution at Christmas.

3. A group of C.P.S. men and wives sang Christmas carols outside of ward windows on Christmas Eve.

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M.C.C. Panorama

C.P.S. Section

The **regional directors** of the M.C.C.-C.P.S. camps —Harry Martens, Ralph Beechy, Erwin Goering, and Rufus Franz—are scheduled for a conference with the C.P.S. Section at Akron, February 20-22. First on the agenda is a consideration of what M.C.C. Policy and practice should be in regard to the operation of side camps. Particularly in reference to camps in the West.

Emanuel Hertzler, director of the Grottoes camp, has just completed a tour to several of the camps and units in the East. Brother Hertzler in the past few years has built up an interesting collection of slides on Mennonite history which he uses very effectively with a lecture on the same subject. The slides have been used at Grottoes in connection with the orientation period for new assignees.

Daniel King has been appointed director of the Boonsboro unit of the Hagerstown camps. He succeeds John Stoltzfus, who was serving temporarily.

The **Executive Committee of the M.C.C.** will meet in Chicago, February 17. J. N. Byler and Glen Miller will report on relief work and investigation in the Middle East and England. Albert Gaeddert will present several recommendations for staff appointments in C.P.S.

Harry Martens has spent the past two weeks in Mississippi assisting Harold Martin with the opening up of the Public Health unit near Gulfport. He is scheduled to return to Akron, February 19.

Likely **four conscription conferences** will be conducted during the next several months for the interest of men in M.C.C.-C.P.S. camps. As announced before, February 24-25 is the date set for the conference at Powelsville. A similar conference March 10-11, for the Mid-West area. Among others, Henry Fast and Melvin Gingerich will be present as resource leaders.

Roman Gingerich, recreational leader from the Puerto Rico unit, will assume the directorship of the Mulberry, Florida, camp, beginning February 10. The former director, Harold Martin, is now director of the Gulfport, Mississippi, unit.

A side camp to the agricultural unit at Lincoln has been established at **Two Rivers, Nebraska.** The branch unit is a nursery project and may later become a separate camp of the Lincoln units.

Harold Mishler has been appointed as unit leader of the Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, mental hospital unit. He will succeed Earl Leinbach.

Mennonite Aid

Mennonites in Mexico is the name of a book recently written by Winfield Fretz. The book is an

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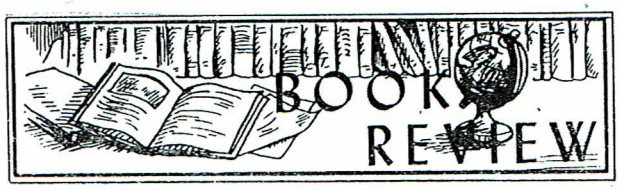

Sourcebook on Peacetime Conscription, American Friends Service Committee (and others), 20 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania, 1944. 52 pp. Price: 25c.

Sometimes we deplore the dearth of material available on the issue of peacetime conscription. The excellent sources we have access to for providing a background of knowledge and conviction on the Christian attitude toward militarism do not answer all our questions about conscription in peacetime as we face it today. Such sources provide general principles of attitude and action, but we sometimes wish for definite suggestions to meet the practical situation. This scarcity of printed material is, in many ways, providing an excellent discipline for us. It has compelled us to do some thinking on our own, to evaluate our own experiences and to probe our accepted convictions. Our camp papers and other publications are providing a channel for serious thinking on peacetime conscription. Somehow every man in C.P.S. should arrive at the place where he has to carefully resolve what action to take toward conscription.

No publication on peacetime conscription is more valuable and pertinent to orient our thinking on the subject than the recently printed, **Sourcebook on Peacetime Conscription.** In prospect of the various regional conferences on peacetime conscription which are scheduled to be held for the benefit of men in M.C.C.—C.P.S. camps and units, it is **must** acquaintanceship, if not reading, for representatives attending.

The first chapters in this book briefly define conscription and outline its history in modern times. The greater part of the book considers one by one the popular arguments advanced in favor of conscription. This is executed without comment by objectively presenting quotations of prominent citizens for and against the arguments. Some of the arguments advanced, which the book considers, are: military necessity, training for democracy, deterrent for crime, promotion of health, necessary for world peace, and a provision for education. The final chapters contain selected statements from civilian groups and a chapter on the claimed unconstitutionality of peacetime conscription.

A book as objective as this one is hardly open to criticism—unless such criticism relate to the selection of materials. Considering the intention of reaching the popular reader, the book has been tactfully and wisely prepared. It seems to the writer of this review that the voice of the churches on the moral implications of peacetime conscription should have been included. Possibly the churches have not spoken on the moral issue involved, or maybe not positively or boldly enough to make their influences known. The churches have spoken on the implications of peacetime conscription such as the violation of democratic principles and the threat to world peace—and rightly so; presumably they have had in the back of their thinking the moral principles involved—but they have not made an issue of the moral violation. We have not said frequently and loudly enough that "War is sin; that conscription related in any way to military prosecution is sin." Our other arguments against military conscription are frequently blunted, ineffective, and lack authority when we omit the moral argument.

ACCIDENT FREQUENCY IN S. C. S. CAMPS

The Safety and Health Section of Soil Conservation Service compiled the following report to indicate the number of man-days lost on project work in C.P.S.-S.C.S. camps. The report is a comparative summary covering the years 1943 and 1944.

Camp	Man-days Lost 1943	1944
Grottoes, Virginia	28.63	27.26
Colorado Springs, Colorado	41.07	11.17
Denison, Iowa	26.98	0.
Hagerstown, Maryland	0.	8.22
Coshocton, Ohio	0.	0.
Fort Collins, Colorado	19.01	30.02
Big Flats, New York	16.39	0.
Powelsville, Maryland	80.71	44.90
Downey, Idaho	15.31	32.53

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4. Plans have been made to increase recreational facilities for on-ward patients by making games and puzzles in the wood-working shop and placing these on the wards.

5. Christmas baskets, consisting of a good dinner and individual gifts for each member of four needy families in the community, were distributed on Christmas Eve by delegations of six to eight unit members who had a little Christmas celebration (reading of Luke's story, carols, etc.) in each home. Sixty dollars to cover expenses were collected in a special Sunday offering for the purpose.

6. Most of the unit members are on the charity blood donor list for a nearby general hospital which is experiencing great difficulty in getting blood for needy civilian patiants. Four emergency transfusions have already been given by unit members.

7. The unit has contributed money to certain community appeals when it felt the appeal was in line with our convictions.

8. Several individuals are singing in a nearby church choir; a unit quartet has given programs in several nearby churches; a few men are volunteer leaders of boys clubs in a Settlement House in the nearby town; and several other possibilities are being developed for additional service.

All of these activities are being done quietly and without fanfare. They give the men of C.P.S. No. 77 an increased sense of personal worth; they are worthwhile service for needy men; they show the general public that C.P.S. men are wanting to do more than "just sit the war out" and, most important of all, these activties are an expression of the Christian motivation which must compel us to acts of compassion and service over and above the demands of a compulsory system if we are to be triumphant over and not subservient to such a system.