

Right Guide

This column is designed to give official VA answers to veterans' readjustment problems. Send questions to Right Guide, 1031 South Broadway, Los Angeles 15, Calif.

General Omar N. Bradley, Administrator of Veteran Affairs, postponed or rejected hundreds of requests to speak before enormous V-J day crowds to address 20 graduates of the Bulova watchmaking school.

"I wouldn't have missed being here with you for anything in the world," the general said.

The 20 graduates were veterans who had been paralyzed from their hips down. They typified the results of the rehabilitation program inaugurated by General Bradley the day he was appointed administrator one year before.

A few years ago these men would have been called "cripples" and society would have dismissed them with a pension and a wheelchair and now, as General Bradley told them, "You're here in this graduating class, ready and able to move out into the world as self-reliant, independent, productive citizens. You have the ability and determination to make your business careers count for something."

"We have come a long way in the knowledge since World War I," General Bradley said. "It has been estimated that every disabled veteran of World War I who has remained permanently hospitalized has cost this nation about \$40,000. This, however, is the very least of the cost. Our country has lost forever the sturdy self-reliance, the ability to work gainfully and to produce the enormously important contribution of each of those veterans to the nation."

General Bradley said the graduation "marks a new step forward in joint government and industry cooperation to insure that there will be no repetition of the wasteful and costly practice of ignoring the talents and abilities of disabled veterans."

More than 50,000 veterans living in Southern California returned from World War II with disabilities ranging from 10 to 100 percent. Thirty are completely blind. About 100 lost arms or legs. Some 40 percent suffered mental and nervous disabilities. Six of the paralyzed veterans attending the Bulova graduation, sent there by special plane, were from this part of the state.

Thousands of these California disabled, in and out of V.A. hospitals, are being trained in "self-reliance and the ability to work gainfully." Hundreds each week are taking their places in the industrial world ready to live their lives, as General Bradley stated, "wisely and well."

The word "cripple" can no longer be applied to war disabled veterans. The blind, the amputee, the paralyzed, the deaf and those with lesser disabilities are graduating from the school of "Courage" and V.A. vocational rehabilitation. To these General Bradley said "You wouldn't let your body quit. You worked on it, and you licked it. You taught it new skills. You will live for yourselves, for your community, and for your nation."

WHOLE BLOOD NEED STRESSED BY RED CROSS LEADER

"Whole blood is needed urgently for transfusion use in veterans' hospitals in this area—with demands for the fluid increasing daily!"

William T. Sesnon Jr., chairman of Los Angeles Red Cross chapter, so declared this week as he urged residents of this community to make appointments "at once" at the Red Cross Blood Donor center, 540 S. Olive st., Los Angeles. Phone MU-2301.

"Convalescent fighting men—eager to get home to their families and their jobs—are in need of whole blood in transfusions given at Sawtelle Veterans' hospital and at Birmingham Veterans' Administration hospital in Van Nuys," said Sesnon.

The chapter leader pointed out that to date "Red Cross has been unable to supply all the pints of blood requested from the veterans' installations" in this locality.

In addition to the blood being directed to veterans' hospitals, it is needed also at Los Angeles County General Hospital, Sesnon explained.

SLAVERY QUESTION

The slavery question in the United States became a factor in American politics during the administration of President Andrew Jackson.

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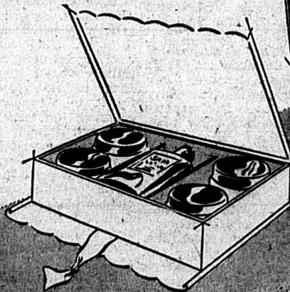
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