

SCHWABE COLL

January 30, 1945

Reverend Thos. B. Talley
631 North Denver
Tulsa 6, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your interesting and persuasive letter of the 26th instant, voicing your opposition to the proposed peace-time military conscription act.

I have given this question a great deal of thought and consideration and am one of those who sympathizes a great deal with your line of reasoning. I have four sons, all in the service, and I think I know something of the horrors of war. I also believe that I know the change that military training is calculated to bring into the lives of young men. I have not been inclined to favor the measure as it has been proposed and I have not seen any line of reasoning that has convinced me of its necessity or propriety in our system of government.

It was nice of you to have written me and I shall appreciate your feeling at perfect liberty to write me at any time that you have anything which you can suggest calculated to be helpful to me in my work here.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

George B. Schwabe, M. C.

GBS:CG

CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

631 N. DENVER
TULSA 6, OKLAHOMA

THOS. B. TALLEY, MINISTER
STUDY-3-6988 — RES.-8869

January 26, 1945

MARTHA BLUNK
ORGANIST—DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Geo. B. Schwabe
United States Congress
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Schwabe :

I am not in the habit of writing to members of the United States Congress regarding proposed legislation because I feel in a true democracy our elected representatives should be free to make decisions for the best interest of the National good without coercion from special interests.

However I feel so intently about the proposed legislation regarding peace-time conscription of our youth that I cannot refrain from expressing my opinion and to urge you to use all of the influence that you can bring to bear to see that this legislation is not enacted.

I believe peace-time conscription if made a law in our country would destroy all hope for the people to regain some of the liberty which they have lost during the war. I do not think those who are interested in pushing the passage of this legislation have made clear their real reason. It certainly could not be because of national defense. We are told that one of the superior features of our army is that a free and independent people fight more courageously for their country's defense than a regimented people.

It could not be because of their interest in democracy. No military system, including our own, has ever gained a reputation for the promotion of Democratic ideals.. Note the cast system that prevails in our own army.

It could not be in the interest of national health. For the past fifteen years I have been many men with old army scars and they were not all sword wounds. The majority of them had to do with some type of social disease, alcoholism, or adiction to drugs.

There are two phases of the proposal which indicate to me that it is the soul of America which they want. This is the fact that no mention is made of provision for conscientious objectors to military training. Also a statement by one of the promoters who said

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that they wanted to train the men, mentally, physically, and emotionally. To train a man emotionally for war means to teach him to love it, to put his faith in it and to seek it. This I think is the real desire of those who seek military training. This is its only military value. Any physical or mental training they would get now would be obsolete by the time we get into another war. But a military minded population would be of some advantage to a military scheme. Its dangers however would be far greater than any advantage. It would be a supreme admission that the democratic way of life had broken down and we now seek to build our national order on the same basis with Japan and Germany. We the people would be as helpless before the will of a military click as were the people of Japan and Germany before this last war.

Any thing you can do to prevent this legislation or delay it until after the war, at which time we would be able to think about it more soberly, would be appreciated by me and, I am sure, by a great majority of the Christian people who have maintained their faith in God and humanity despite the exigencies of war.

Sincerely,

Thos. B. Talley

Thos. B. Talley

TBT:ri