

● PSF

National War Service Law - Subject File - Box 160

1 item

Box 160

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D C.

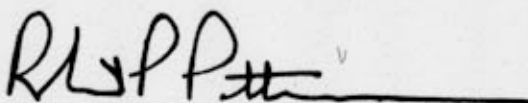
SECRET

January 5th, 1945.

Memorandum for the President:

I have been authorized by Secretary Stimson and Secretary Forrestal to change the words "the Chief of Staff and the Chief of Naval Operations" in their letter to you of January 3rd, so as to read --General Marshall and Admiral King--.

I suggest that this memorandum be attached to the original letter.



Robert P. Patterson,
Under Secretary of War.

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Date- 3-20-59

Signature- Carl S. Spicer

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

January 3rd, 1945.

The President,
The White House.

Dear Mr. President:

With the experience of three years of war and after the most thorough consideration, we are convinced that it is now necessary to carry out the statement made by the Congress in the joint resolutions declaring that a state of war existed with Japan and Germany: that "to bring the conflict to a successful conclusion, all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States." In our considered judgment, which is supported by the Chief of Staff and the Chief of Naval Operations, this requires total mobilization of our manpower by the passage of a national war service law. The armed forces need this legislation to hasten the day of final victory and to keep to a minimum the cost in lives.

National war service, the recognition by law of the duty of every citizen to do his or her part in winning the war, will give complete assurance that the need for war equipment will be filled. In the coming year we must increase the output of many weapons and supplies on short notice. Otherwise we shall not keep our production abreast of the swiftly changing needs of war. At the same time it will be necessary to draw progressively many men now engaged in war pro-

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duction to serve with the armed forces, and their places in war production must be filled promptly. These developments will require the addition of hundreds of thousands to those already working in war industry. We do not believe that these needs can be met effectively under present methods.

The record made by management and labor in war industry has been a notable testimony to the resourcefulness and power of America. The needs are so great, nevertheless, that in many instances we have been forced to recall soldiers and sailors from military duty to do work of a civilian character in war production, because of the urgency of the need for equipment and because of inability to recruit civilian labor.

We know that the men in the armed forces will be heartened by the knowledge that the entire resources of the nation have in fact been fully committed to their support. Our fighting men are entitled to nothing less than our total effort.

Finally, the passage of national war service legislation at this time will serve as unmistakable proof to our enemies of our determination to go through to complete victory.

Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

James Forrestal
Secretary of the Navy