

comply. I assert that the Senator from Montana has rendered a great public service in arousing the thought of the people of the country on this most important question. Later I expect to take the floor in my own right to discuss the subject now under debate.

I am one of the group which has been working with the senior Senator from Ohio [Mr. TAFT] in preparation of an amendment which will bear upon the matters to which the Senator from Montana is addressing himself.

Begging the Senator's pardon for interrupting him, I invite attention to a letter addressed to me from Wichita, Kans., dated September 16, 1943, in which my friend, the writer, states as follows:

I would suggest that a thorough investigation be made of these so-called essential single men in the defense plants.

It may interest the Senator to know that Wichita is one of four or five largest centers of aircraft manufacture in the country, and is the largest center of such manufacture in the whole central West.

My friend continues as follows:

From my own observation in the Wichita airplane plants, and I have worked at several of them, I would say that a great many young men are needlessly deferred. I am certain that they could be replaced by IV-F's, fathers, women, and older men.

In one large plant, great numbers of young men, foremen and assistant foremen, sit for hours with their feet on the desks with very little to do. I am telling you the things I have seen.

Mr. WHEELER. I thank the Senator very much. I am glad that there are at least one or two Senators who are sufficiently interested in the country, and sufficiently interested in the drafting of fathers, to obtain and to listen to facts.

When I returned after the recess of Congress some of my Democratic colleagues said they did not know anything about the bill or about the facts and that they wanted some facts. Now when we propose to give them some facts they will not even listen.

Mr. REED. I may say to the Senator from Montana that during the recess of the Senate, from the middle of July until the middle of September, I spent the time entirely in my own section of the country. In the 5 years I have been a Member of the Senate, in

all the trips combined I have made home, I do not think I have talked to so many people as I talked to during the recess. Kansas and Colorado, where I spent a couple of weeks, happen to have a very large number of defense plants, a very large number of air bases, and other Army camps. Everywhere I went, without exception, in Kansas, Missouri, in Colorado, I heard constant discussion and statements made by people of conditions that come under their own observation in their own localities, dealing, for instance, with the excessive number of men in the camps, indicating that the Army really had more men than it knew what to do with, and dealing also with the very definite factor that the defense plants had been used with the approval, and in fact, by the management for the purpose of accumulating young manpower to help them in avoiding the draft. I can make that statement after the most thorough and satisfactory contacts with my own constituents in Kansas and in other midwest States in the 2 months I was home.

Mr. WHEELER. I thank the Senator.

As I was saying a moment ago, my Democratic friends on this side desired to have hearings before the committee because they wanted to get the facts; they were not familiar with them. All that it is necessary to do is to take a look on the Democratic side today and see how many of them are interested in obtaining the facts. The truth about the matter is that if they want to get men for the Army without taking fathers they can get them; they do not have to take a father; but, apparently, the Senate of the United States or at least my Democratic colleagues, prefer to take fathers.

Mr. REED. I happen to have another letter that touches upon a different factor, but a very important factor, in this situation. I read from a letter addressed to me from a town in western Kansas, in which this statement appears:

If the Congress does not assert itself, this country is going to be in a hell of a shape. I have a good friend who is county chairman of a bond drive in the eastern part of Kansas, who made this statement recently: "It takes a hell of a lot of guts for me to ask people to buy bonds when we all know that about three-fourths of all the money obtained from these bonds will be wasted in the administration of the war and the Federal Government."