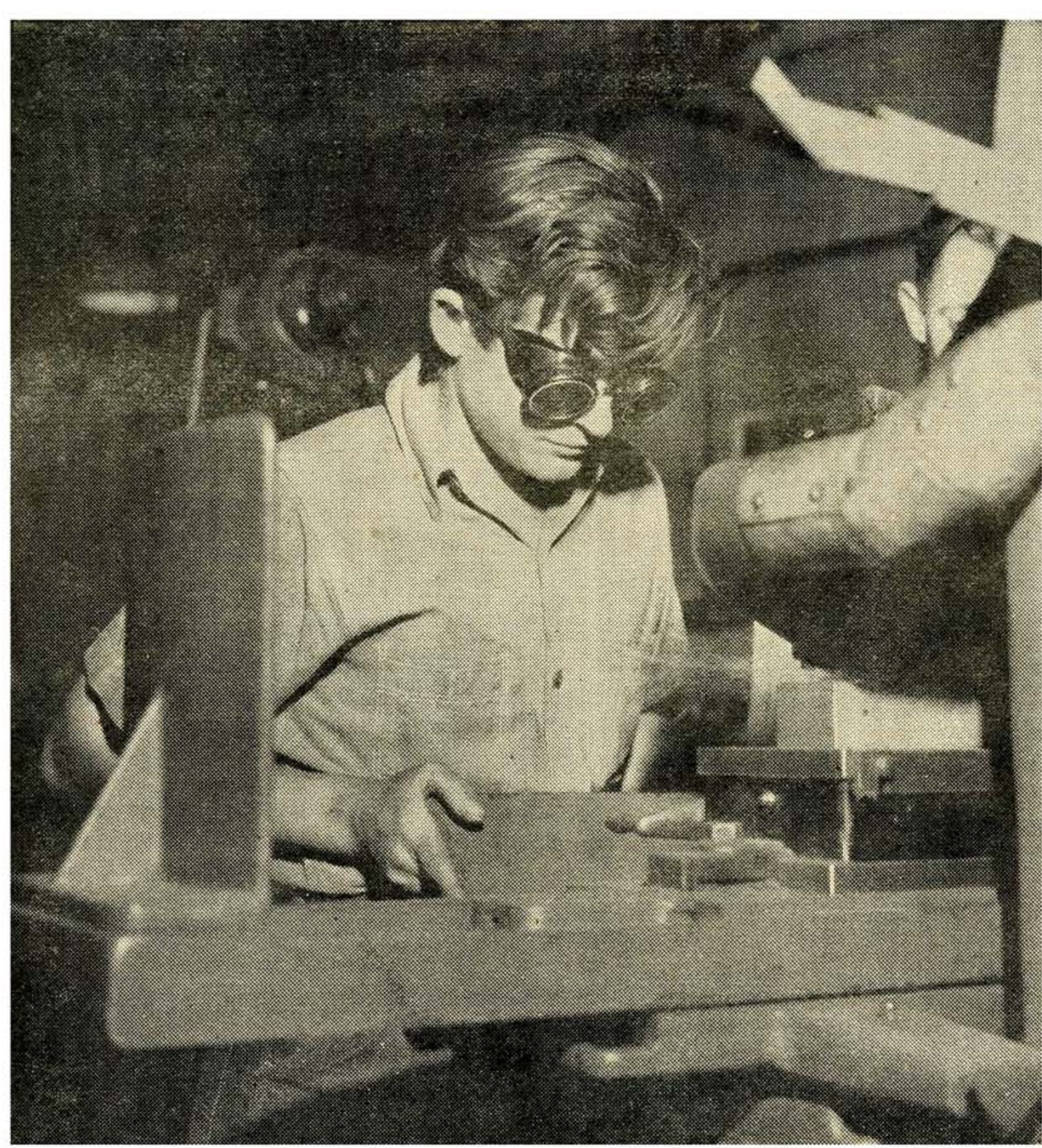


PM

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 1942

300 NEW JOBS A WEEK



NYA VOLUNTEER running a milling machine in a machine shop at Nepaug Village, one of the three placement centers maintained by the NYA in Connecticut. He's working on parts for the Portsmouth Navy Yard, and experts will check his work.

The NYA brings skilled young men from the Midwest and South to fill openings in Connecticut war plants.

By HENRY R. LIEBERMAN

IN CONGRESS there are reactionaries who would scrap the National Youth Administration on the ground that it has outlived its usefulness. In one State alone—Connecticut—the NYA is settling and placing skilled young workers in war jobs at the rate of 300 a week.

Connecticut, abounding with war industries, has long since bitten deeply into its available supply of skilled labor. Last Summer, when the Connecticut State Employment Service found it hard to meet the demand for war workers, the NYA offered to help.

About 75,000 young men and women are being trained for war work in 4000 NYA workshops throughout the country, many in states that have labor surpluses. The NYA decided to shift some of these trainees to labor-hungry states like Connecticut.

Through NYA headquarters in Washington a call went out for volunteers to work in Connecticut.

Three placement centers were set up. One of them was an old FERA

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transient camp at Nepaug Village, about 30 miles north of New Haven, with facilities for 180 trainees. Another was a converted roadhouse at Weathersfield, with room for 100. The third was an old mansion at Norwich, with room for another 100.

Today hundreds of NYA-trained young men—mainly from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois—are doing war work in Connecticut, making from \$35 to \$75 a week in the U. S. Aluminum, Bridgeport Brass, Remington Arms, Vought-Sikorsky Aircraft and similar plants.

Training Required

Before a volunteer is accepted for work in Connecticut by the NYA, he must meet certain specifications. He must be between 18 and 20, at least 5-feet 6 inches tall, and not under 130 pounds. He must have his parents' consent and have been examined in his home state by an NYA physician.

A volunteer must also have had at least 200 hours of NYA training either in machine shop, sheet metal, or foundry work, or in welding. If accepted, he gets a free one-way train ticket (coach) to Connecticut on a government voucher. But he must take at least \$15 of his own money with him. If a boy gets homesick and decides to go home before he gets a job he has to buy his own return ticket.

Once a youth gets to a placement center in Connecticut, he is fed, interviewed by the camp director, given an issue of blankets and work clothes, billeted in a cabin, and then put to work in an NYA machine shop.

A boy is kept at the placement center 10 days before he is allowed to accept a job. This time allows the NYA to check the boy's health and skill, and helps the boy get used to Connecticut.

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