

Looking at WASHINGTON

the United States require this type of publicity in order to support the demand for adequate preparedness. Certainly, the international situation will not be helped.

Desperate Democrats May Draft Eisenhower

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his statement some weeks ago, made it perfectly clear that he believed that professional soldiers should abstain from seeking high political office but, despite this unequivocal statement, there is a definite trend among the Democrats to nominate the General for the Presidency.

In his statement, General Eisenhower declared, "I am not available and could not accept nomination to high political office." He spoke of his decision to remove "myself completely from the political scene," calling it "definite and positive." He added: "I could not accept nomination even under the remote circumstances that it were tendered me."

If the Democrats, in their national convention, ignore the statement of General Eisenhower and proceed to nominate him for the Presidency, they will create an interesting political situation. General Eisenhower, no doubt, would not formally accept the nomination. The inquiry, therefore, is whether the General would serve as President if elected.

With all due deference to the sincerity of General Eisenhower, which we do not question, we feel that he would, like any other citizen, accept the Presidency if elected. The movement to draft the General has received some publicity recently with the announcement by two of the sons of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt that he should be nominated. The argument advanced by Franklin J. Roosevelt, Jr., is that the General would bring about "the unity of our country in this time of crisis" and that he is a man to convince the Russians that the aim of our policy is to secure a lasting peace, but one who, at the same time, will take all necessary steps to stop further aggression by the Soviet Union against

the free peoples of the world.

Republican leaders openly express the opinion that the move to draft General Eisenhower represents one of desperation by the Democrats. They suggest that while General Eisenhower has had no personal political affiliation, his family has been Republican and they doubt that the effort is likely to succeed.

U. S. Only Nation Able To "Balance" Soviet Power

The illustration has been used before but it is worth reprinting what Dr. Isaiah Bowman, President of John Hopkins University, says in connection with military training:

"It is no good for a town without a fire department to send in a mail order for a fire engine when it hears that a house is burning."

This is almost a perfect illustration of the plight of a nation, without an adequate military establishment, when war breaks out. Unless it has some powerful friends, able to send assistance, catastrophe will result.

In the present world situation, with Soviet Russia bestriding Europe and possessing the military might to overrun the Continent, there is no power in the world able to balance Communist strength except the United States. This condition will obtain until the Western nations of Europe are rehabilitated and organized into

(Concluded on Page Two)

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ROBERSON'S

What Size Air Force Would The U. S. Build?

Secretary of Defense James Forrestal has recommended an Air Force of fifty-five groups for the coming year despite the fact that W. Stuart Symington, Secretary of the Air Force, and General Carl Spaatz, Chief of Staff, have testified that a twenty-group force is "essential to national security."

Advocates of the larger unit say that the President's Air Policy Commission recommended such a force, asserting that it could retaliate after surprise attack and maintain a sustained counter-offensive. A fifty-five group force could retaliate but not sustain the counter-offensive.

The Secretary of Defense, in examining his position, estimated that would cost around \$18,000,000,000 to increase the Air Force to the size under discussion, because it would be necessary to build up the Army and Navy to where they would constitute a balanced team.

General Omar N. Bradley, Army Chief of Staff, pointed out to a Senate committee that about ten per cent of the Army's total strength is used exclusively to support the Air Force. Under a service agreement, the Army furnishes quartermaster, construction, hospitalization and similar services. The General also testified that another thirty per cent of the Army's services and administrative functions would be devoted to the Air Force, but he did not specify the percentage of manpower involved in these activities.

The prospects are that there will be something of a Congressional airing of the subject because many members of Congress are publicly in favor of the larger Air Force. Meanwhile, the President's recommendation for universal military training and a temporary selective service operation will be taken up in the Senate in April. What happens to these proposals will naturally affect the subsequent decision as to the size of the Air Force itself.

Military Leaders Stress Our Weakness

At a time when the international situation is apparently growing tighter, there is some danger that our military leaders may create the wrong impression in foreign countries by repeatedly stressing the "weakness" of our military strength.

Obviously, the officials are attempting to awaken Congress and the American people to the necessity of the situation. They know that the people of a Democracy require reasons for the approval of a program of military expansion. Consequently, they talk for home consumption and, at times, arouse the suspicion that they are overdoing the job.

Hanson W. Baldwin, military writer for the New York Times, calls attention to the statement of Secretary of State George C. Marshall, who described the United States Army as "a hollow shell". Obviously, he says, the citizens of this country will find it hard to understand why the expenditure of more than ten billion dollars a year can get us only a "hollow shell."

This seems to be a fair question and the answer must lie in the fact that our leaders compare our strength with the potential strength of possible enemies.

American Officials Bluntly Discuss War With Russia

The bluntness with which American officials discuss the possibility of war with Russia is somewhat amazing in comparison with accepted ideas of diplomatic verbiage.

The Soviet Union, of course, set the example by exhibiting rudeness at international conferences, coupled with an unlimited verbal offensive against the capitalistic nations. The conversation of high officers in Washington certainly matches anything that the Russians have offered so far.

Recently, the head officers of the Air Force told a Senate Committee that our long-range bombers can strike "any part of Russia" and get back to American bases. They bluntly admitted, however, that "this would not be decisive" and added that "it is necessary to obtain bases closer to the enemy than those mentioned."

The "enemy" is apparently Russia, although, despite bad feeling and ugly propaganda, the two nations remain at peace. The talk of the Air Force officials is hardly calculated to improve the prospect of long-range peace between Russia and the United States, because their remarks will undoubtedly be played up in the Soviet Union.

A type of "propaganda" that is somewhat different comes from the Navy, which reports submarines "sighted off our shores", with the remark that they did not belong to any nation "west of the Iron Curtain". The background is the reported sighting of three submarines, one seen at sea at night, the other in the Aleutians, and the third near Palmyra Island.

Obviously, there is no international law that prevents the Russians, or any other nation, from sending submarines on experimental cruises. It is no offense in international law and should not, of itself, be considered a warlike manoeuvre.

While we are thoroughly convinced that the United States should possess the power requested by the High Command, as a matter of safety and security, we doubt if the people of

Announcement!

I hereby announce my candidacy for the office of County Commissioner for Parkville Township, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary, May 29.

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JOHNNY PIKE

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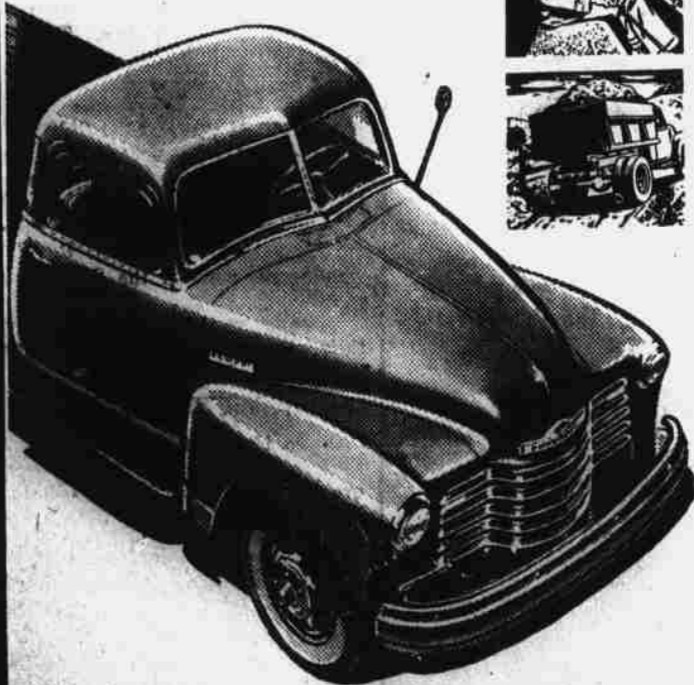
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