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### TOO MUCH TO HOPE?

It is interesting if disquieting to read the speeches made by the three leading political men of this country before the Legion in New York. The speeches were identical in that each, the president, the leader of the Republican party and the Secretary for Defense, chose as their chief topic the need for universal military training in America.

Truman devoted his brief remarks to military training, to housing and the need for lower prices, in that order of importance. Dewey emphasized military training and security, with freedom and peace as goals. Forrestal confined his speech almost entirely to a detailed description of the National Security act, with the emphasis, again, on soldier training.

Now this seems a curious thing. Ever since the idea was brought forward the Legion has been behind military training. Why should these speakers spend so much energy and eloquence on winning an argument which is already theirs, and convincing an audience already in hearty agreement?

The first answer, and it may well be the last also, is politics. The Legion is for military training; everybody wants the Legion's support; therefore the thing for each speaker to do is to show how strong he is for military training, too.

It was to be expected that the military and naval speakers should emphasize their branch of the nation's work. Given the political aspect, it was probably to be expected that the three laymen should emphasize it, too. It was probably too much to hope that they should, seeing before them this enormous audience of ex-servicemen from every state in the union, seize this opportunity to lay before them the real needs of this country as the leader in the world today.

Too much to hope. Those words are the key-note of so much of the thinking today. The Marshall plan is the only solution to the world's ills but it is probably "too much to hope" that Congress will agree to it; regional planning is the only thing that makes sense for the great river areas of this country, but it is "too much to hope" that the states will merge their individual claims enough to bring it about. It is too much to hope that the Russians will change; too much to hope that world government could become reality; too much to hope that wars will cease. Too much to hope that the human race has learned anything in all its history on earth, or at least that it will profit by its learning enough to assure its own survival.

It will be said by many that military training was emphasized at the convention because only through keeping strong can America lead the world to peace. That is a good argument and it would be hard, nowadays, to pick any flaws in it. But unfortunately, careful reading of the three speeches shows that the defense of America, as a nation, was foremost in these men's minds. The president, in fact, did not so much as mention UN or internationalism. The strong impression which these speeches must have conveyed to the listening veterans was that, once again, the old formula was to be tried, once again nationalism was put ahead of internationalism. Whether the speakers sincerely believe that is another matter. At least they considered it "good politics" thus to address these ex-soldiers; perhaps because it would have been "too much to hope" that their audience might know better.

We wonder. We wonder how many of these ex-GIs, whose memories may be sharper than their fathers' caught that significant omission of UN from their president's speech; how many looked for something more and were left with a dragging feeling of futility.

Was that "good politics?" We'll take a chance on these ex-servicemen and say: no. We have a firm conviction that the ex-GIs and the great majority of our people

are way ahead of the politicians. That they see clearly that the hope of the world lies, not in national armaments, but in international accord. And, though as the months go on and the leaders come forth again and then again with the same remedies, the same platitudes as of yore and their faith has been profoundly shaken, they have not yet lost hope. They have not yet come to believe that the things they fought for are too much to hope for.

What our country needs is men of vision and faith at the head of things. If anything were needed to prove it, it would be the meagre, timid words of the three leaders who spoke before the Legion. Until we have men who will bring into our political thinking some vigor, some hope, some faith in humanity and the future, the way will be dark ahead, and peace will indeed be "too much to hope for."

### DISAPPEARING ACT

Might we respectfully suggest to the senate war investigating committee that we still don't know what happened to the \$40,000,000 which went to Howard Hughes?

The issue of whether Hughes honestly tried to carry out his agreements with the government, or whether anybody got 40 cents' worth of good out of that \$40,000,000 is as much up in the air as it ever was.

The investigation, as far as the general public knows, disappeared behind a smoke-screen of counter-accusation and Hughesian bravado.

Questions were asked and never answered. We are waiting for those answers.

### ROYALL'S SPEECH

"What people in this world need," a Frenchman wrote to President Truman, "is enough to eat."

That puts it a in a few words. A simple, basic problem—yet so difficult of accomplishment.

As in a home where the table is bare, hunger in a nation breeds ill temper, suspicion, greed and crime. A paltry handout of a meal now and then accomplishes nothing. A householder must know the wolf has been driven from the door: that his children will have a chance to grow up in health, that he himself will maintain strength to work, that the ravages of long deprivation may be overcome by good, solid food. So it is with nations.

Secretary Royall, in a speech to North Carolina farm boys and girls printed elsewhere on this page, has gone right to the heart of the problem: the establishment of sound agricultural policies in the hungry nations. Let the United Nations bend their thoughts to this; recognize the soil itself as the foundation of all peace and accord.

Let the swords of war be truly beaten into plowshares, and actual seeds from which grain, fruits and vegetables will grow be seen as the seeds also of international amity, and of democracy in action.

For the farmer tilling his land for enough food for his family, with some over to sell to the towns; and the townsman to whom these products go with dependable regularity, will not become communists.

If ways can be devised for putting the hungry nations on a sound agricultural basis, the other problems of the world can be taken up in their turn and will stand a far better chance of solution.

**ANTS**  
The choicest of friends are those who can help you get a smile out of your troubles. We are fortunate enough to have such a friend, who has passed on to us the following selection from the Greensboro News, which we take pleasure in sharing, during the woes and exasperations of the current "ant season":

Ants are tiny specks which move into any and all sorts of places that you don't want them to.

Ants, always seemingly on the go must not stay in their homes any more than human beings do, but you've got to make allowances for the circumstance that ants don't have automobiles.

Ants must be psychic as they always select the very spot you do for an outing and manage to get there in the picnic on time. From then on whether they are on you or on the food, they simply won't be given the brush-off. Ants never need any urging; they move in at the drop of a crumb.

Ants are divided into kings, queens and workers. Most of them are workers and they work better than any means or method that you are likely to devise for getting rid of them. They do not seem to mind whether they're lost, sprayed or stolen but go right on about your business with an insistency that keeps you from taking any side save insecticide.

## Agricultural's Part in World Peace

Address by The Honorable Kenneth C. Royall, Secretary of War. Before the state meeting, North Carolina 4-H Council, Riddick stadium, Raleigh, North Carolina, Friday, August 22, 1947 at 8 p. m., EST.

Today, as international situations become more and more delicate, and new problems seem to arise faster than the old ones are settled, our nation and its citizens are concerned about the peace of the world. We want to avoid war for all time—or for as long a time as we can avoid it, and in our effort we wish to leave no stone unturned — no honest step untraced.

There are many supports for the structure of peace—conferences and councils and international organizations, education and efforts toward mutual information and understanding, fairness in trade and commerce between nations, military preparedness by peace-loving countries—preparedness which serves as a continuing warning to aggressors. Yes, there are many pillars in the temple of peace, all of them necessary. And among the most important — and the subject of my address tonight — is the agricultural pillar — the food and clothing and the other essentials of human life and welfare which find their beginning in the soil and which are produced by the work and ingenuity and progress of those who till the soil.

**Effects of Hunger**  
A hungry man will steal, a hungry nation will revolt and pillage. And before men will suffer or freeze for lack of clothing—before they will see their families do likewise—they will successively run the gamut from unrest to war.

Tonight, as every night, most of us have enjoyed a typical American meal, one truly representative of the good things that the farms of our land provide for the table. Our food was pleasing. It was healthful and well-balanced. It gave us the nutrition we have come to expect in our American diet.

But in other lands tonight there are thousands upon thousands of people—people not too different from ourselves—who have eaten only a few morsels of bread, or a bowl of soup—a meager and a tasteless repast. Their three daily meals contain less calories than your breakfast alone. Tomorrow some of them may have even less.

In those same lands last winter there were men, women and gaunt children who with thin, worn and threadbare garments shivered through their essential labors and duties and then huddled together in a heatless home. There is little to suggest that the next winter holds for them much more of hope and comfort.

It is difficult—here among the abundance of America, with enough food and clothing—difficult for us to visualize life abroad. For we are in the midst of one of the greatest periods of productivity in American farm history, a productivity which is indeed the miracle of our time.

**High Production Here**  
Food is perhaps the best example. In 1946 we not only produced more foodstuffs—about 34 per cent more than the pre-war average—but as a nation we ate about 16 per cent more than we ate during the years preceding the war. And despite shorter crops in some commodities, the situation in 1947 will not be materially different.

In sharp contrast to this abundance is the situation in the ravaged nations of the world. The war-torn found much of their farm land idle. Seed grain was short. Machinery was gone or run down. Nitrites had been used for war, and the farmers were

that when you attempt to step on them they're got sense enough to scurry in out of a shower of footprints.

We're willing to concede that ants are as strong as they are reported to be. Not only can they lift far more than their own weight, but the very sight of them in the kitchen or anywhere between your pants and your partrics will pull even an over-size householder right up out of his or her chair. Ants are not merely social-minded; they are downright communistic in their demonstrated belief that your house, et cetera, in their house, et cetera. In that connection it's anything but a victory over the ants when you have them in the bag.

Red ants or black ants at least abide by the ground rules; but white ants operate under their own terms and think that everything they eat should be on the house. Ants are unusually well organized which must explain how they have been able in all these years to go in for collective bothering.

Spell it ants or aunts, if they stick around long enough they are almost bound to make you say uncle.

virtually without fertilizer. What was even more serious, military and civilian casualties had produced an acute shortage of farm workers.

The example which is freshest in my mind is Germany—the joint American-British Zones of Germany—which I have just visited. They are struggling slowly back to a partial self-sufficiency in farming. The condition there is aggravated by the loss to other zones and other nations of much of Germany's best agricultural lands and on the other hand by an increase in population from 34,000,000 in 1939 to over 40,000,000 today. These more than 6,000,000 and more have come in—often seeped in—from other territories.

When we entered Germany we found the farmer inclined to hoard the food on his farms. Unable to trade his crops for sound currency or the goods of industry, he was reluctant to ship to market. As a result the towns—and particularly the cities—did not have the minimum food necessary to sustain life and prevent mass starvation and disorder. They survived—and now survive—because of the help received.

**In Other Lands**  
Food stringency — and other agricultural scarcities are not confined to Germany. Some of our friends and recent allies — Britain in particular — are finding their meals radically curtailed, their comforts approaching the stage of what today is called "austerity". Hard of heart indeed is he who does not have sympathy for friendly nations in this dilemma — and at least a modicum of feeling for even our bitter enemies of the early forties.

But it is not sympathy and altruism that I would emphasize tonight. It is the preservation of our own peace that I have in mind. For the most callous of our citizens this should ring a mental bell. If we consider only our selfish national interests, it is better to supply food and clothing to needy nations than it is to let suffering and discontentment bring on a war that would inevitably involve America.

American agriculture has already played a significant and effective part in quieting a lot of the world's unrest. Had it not been for the bountiful crops which the American farmer has produced and exported to other countries, millions of people would have already perished of hunger and nations would have been plunged into chaos and revolt and war. But, fortunately, as the need has grown and the productivity decreased in other parts of the world, our farmers have been able to meet their needs.

**Tribute to Progress**  
Your accomplishments have been all the more remarkable, because during the period since 1940 our farm population has decreased by 2 1/2 million. Our production record is, therefore, a tribute to the intelligence and ingenuity of the American farmer, to the skill and hard work of those who toil in the fields and to the forward-looking and progressive use of improved farm machinery and methods.

This great record of American agriculture is one of which you as members of the 4-H Club have reason to be proud. You young men and women have done your part, not only in feeding and clothing our nation better than ever before, but also in assuring at least the minimum food and clothing and other needs of a large part of the world. America is today exporting to other countries more agriculture products than all the rest of the world is exporting.

The job is not finished. We have before us the important task of raising the standard of living in the democratic countries of the world and thereby not only preserving the peace but also creating a bulwark against forms of government which would seek to destroy our own system of private enterprise and private ownership of farms and other property.

**Democracy's Task**  
The world has become so small that we can be reasonably certain that in the long run — and perhaps in the short run — such a system of government will prevail as will furnish its people the best standard of living and the highest scale of life. In order to survive, democracies must show that they can serve their people better than any other form of government. We have demonstrated this here in the United States. It can be demonstrated elsewhere in the world.

The American-British zone of Germany is an example. Encircled on the east by countries operating under another form of

government, there is brought in strong relief the relative success of that other form of government and of democracy. We together with the British are responsible for our bi-zonal area. If this area does not prove the success of democracy, the failure will be considered by the world as our failure. The chips are down in this world-wide political game and food and clothing are the initial plays.

The importance of food and clothing in Germany and other occupied areas goes beyond the bare sustenance of the population. I do not for one moment urge that gifts of food or clothing or anything else to the German people continue for a day longer than is necessary. They must pay for what they get as soon as they are able to pay. But they cannot pay until they can produce goods for export of a value equal to that of the food and other necessities which they must import.

For selfish reasons—to stop the drain on our Treasury—we must establish the ability of Germany to support itself by productive work of all kinds—to pay its own freight.

But men cannot work without food and clothing, and the Germans are not yet receiving enough — particularly are not receiving enough food — to give them the energy and strength for work in their productive enterprises. Even with the help which we have given, the average male city dweller in Germany between the ages of 20 and 9, weighed only 133 pounds in May of this year, which was greatly below standard.

**Coal from Ruhr**  
The important of food to a program of German self-sufficiency is well illustrated by the production of coal in the Ruhr district of Germany — coal which is needed throughout Europe and which can help in large part to pay directly or indirectly for the food and clothing needed by Germany.

Early this year coal production in the Ruhr had slowly and painfully reached 238,000 tons per day, as compared with 450,000 pre-war production. Then came a food crisis. Both food collections in Germany and expected imports failed to meet expectations. One of the heaviest winters in recent European history had destroyed much of the winter wheat. There had to be re-seeding and this took a part of the grain which was intended for use as food.

The crisis reached its peak in mid-May and the actual ration for the normal consumer was down to a little over 1,000 calories a day — as compared with the average American diet of about 3,500 calories. The result on coal production was almost immediate. The daily output of the mines dropped almost 20 per cent—dropped to 200,000 tons a day. This was reflected in other productive enterprises, and the ability of Germany to pay its way was immediately decreased.

My predecessor Secretary Patterson took immediate action to obtain additional food for delivery to Germany in May, June and July. The ration of 1,550 calories has to a large degree now been restored—although even that is only a bare subsistence ration.

**Production Up**  
As a result coal in Germany is again on its way up—now 230,000 tons a day. The increase in the food sent to Germany is enabling Germany—and will enable Germany—to pay for what we ship and will bring nearer the date when we will no longer have to spend our American dollars in that country.

The fact that I have devoted a large part of my remarks to Germany should not leave you with the impression that our country has not considered fully the recovery of the rest of Europe, especially the recovery of those nations who marched side by side with us against the foe which was responsible for Europe's present state.

There is—and can be—no doubt but that these Allies must and will receive first consideration. We have aided them in various ways, and they are much further on the road to recovery than you might think. In France for instance production is up to 89 per cent of the 1939 average. While it is only 70 per cent in Holland, it is 99 per cent in Belgium.

**Allies Come First**  
By contrast, in the combined American and British zone of Germany production is only 40 per cent of the 1939 average. It was fitting and proper that we first take care of those on our side. We do not expect or seek a level of industry in Germany equal to that of our allies.

From the standpoint of these allies themselves there is another phase of the Germany problem. (Continued on Page 3)



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