

Looking at WASHINGTON

DEWEY OPPOSES G. O. P. ISOLATIONISM

In his inaugural address, upon the occasion of beginning his third term as Governor of New York, Thomas E. Dewey took issue with the national policy proposed by former President Herbert Hoover and urged full mobilization of the resources of the free world to resist Russian aggression.

Mr. Hoover, it will be remembered, suggested that the United States curtail its commitments to help arm European and Asiatic allies and that it devote its full strength to the building up of American military and industrial power so that the Western Hemisphere might become a "Gibraltar" against Soviet aggression.

Mr. Dewey, on the other hand, accepted the premise that American possession of the atomic bomb in greater quantity than the Russians was the factor that has kept the Soviet Union from starting a full-scale, shooting war. He urged that the free nations of the world, led by the United States, maintain a ring of "invulnerable bases around the world," from which atomic bombs could be dispatched against Russia, if necessary.

The diverging opinions of Mr. Dewey, twice defeated for the Presidency, and Mr. Hoover, the only living ex-President, illustrate the cleavage within the Republican Party upon matters of foreign policy. The New York Governor insisted that we swiftly unite the mighty forces of the free world or that "we shall be soon isolated and left to die."

The New York Governor assumes the leadership of those of his party that favor a frank recognition of the "one-world" theory of the late Wendell Willkie. Once before, when the nation was somewhat undecided, Mr. Dewey proclaimed his belief in the essential unity of this country and the British Commonwealth of nations and suggested an alliance between the English-speaking peoples.

NOW COMES TALK OF REARMING JAPAN
Less than six years ago, the Japanese Government formally surrendered to the Allied powers. The United States, which bore the brunt of the war in the Pacific, was determined that there would never arise a similar threat to the peace of the world. Hence, the decision that the Japanese would be disarmed and not permitted to rearm.

Times change, however, and the threat to the security of democratic nations now comes from Russia and the Communist nations, not from the Germans, Japanese and Italians. Consequently, facing the overwhelming military strength of the Soviet Union, the United States has about decided not to impose any restrictions upon the rearmament of Japan. In fact, General MacArthur, in his New Year's message to the Japanese people, warned them that "if international lawlessness" continued, it will be the duty of the Japanese, in concert with other nations, "to mount force to repel force."

While forty-seven countries declared war on Japan, the Far Eastern Commission has been restricted to the fourteen that took a leading part

These include the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, China, Australia, Burma, Canada, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan and the Philippines.

At one time, it was presumed that these associated powers would get together and agree upon the terms of a peace treaty with Japan.

At the present time, the United States has given up the idea of holding a general peace conference and favors the conclusion of separate peace treaties between Japan and the fourteen nations concerned. One reason for this decision is the question about Chinese representation. The United States is insistent that the Nationalist Government represent the Chinese people but some of the other nations believe that the Communist Government should be permitted to take a place in the negotiations as the actual representatives of the Chinese people.

Generally, the terms of the treaties are expected to be rather simple. While restricting the territory of Japan to the four home islands, there would be no attempt to determine the ultimate disposition of territories taken away from Japan. Other complicated questions, such as fisheries and commercial arrangements, would be left open for further negotiations. With the possible exception of Korea, which has been promised independence, the treaties would permit Japanese territories to continue in their present status.

RECORD OF THE 81ST CONGRESS

The Eighty-First Congress, which came to an end this month, took important action in connection with

foreign affairs and passed some worthwhile legislation affecting domestic matters.

The North Atlantic Treaty was ratified by the Senate and both Houses supported the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949. Moreover, while critical of economic aid to Europe, the Congress approved some eight billions for the Marshall Plan. It also made a modest beginning on the Point Four Program of assistance to under-developed countries.

On the domestic front, the outstanding fact is that Congress authorized an outlay of some eighty billions of dollars, mostly for the nation's defense. The Congress, however, failed to enact a Universal Service bill and it put no great curb on non-defense spending. An excellent bill was

the Housing Act of 1949 and another important action extended coverage and raised old age annuities under the Social Security Program. Minimum wages were raised to seventy-five cents an hour and considerable progress made along the lines of the Hoover Report for the organization of the government.

THE SOVIET TO DISCUSS WAR DEBT

The Soviet Union has finally agreed to renew discussion of the \$10,800,000,000 Lend-Lease aid account of the United States. Negotiations were begun in 1945 but have never gotten anywhere.

During World War II, the United States sent to the Soviet Union, under Lend-Lease, about \$4,700,000,000 in aircraft, tanks, military motor vehicles

and other munitions; about \$3,700,000,000 in industrial materials and products used in the expansion of war industries and in other consumable materials; about \$1,800,000,000 in food and farm products and about \$600,000,000 classified as services.

The most serious problem involved in the negotiations revolves around hundreds of naval and merchant ships lent to the Soviet Union during the war on the condition that they were "subject to recall." The Soviet Union still holds 31 small naval craft and 84 merchant ships in "operable condition." Many of the ships are Liberty vessels, transferred to Russia while this country was still short of sea

transportation and increasing the pre-war Russian fleet by about one-third.

The dispatch of Lend-Lease assistance to our allies during the war was not a strictly business arrangement. The delivery of weapons, munitions and paraphernalia was inspired, in part, by the probability that the use of the supplies by the ally would save American lives. There can be little doubt that this proved to be true.

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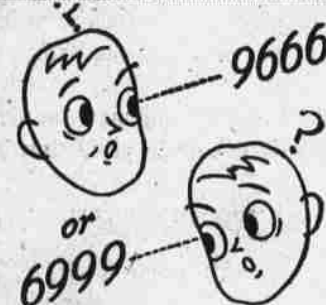
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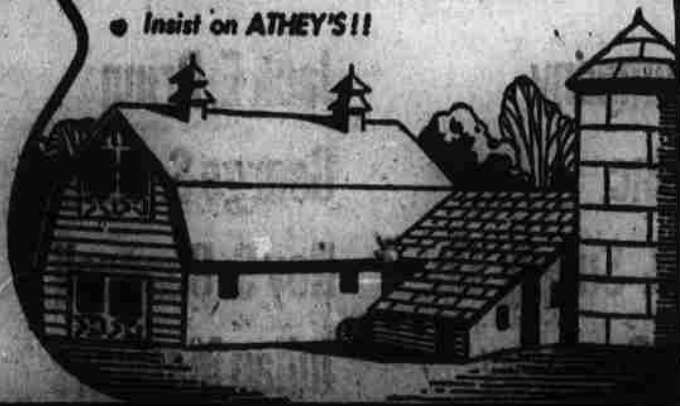
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