

An Artilleryman's Foreign Policy

It was Harry Truman, the old artilleryman, who outlined America's foreign policy in an Army Day address. It was the speech of a man who places his confidence in military power as a preservative of the peace, a man with unflinching faith in the purity of America's motives, a man who believes we will obtain international cooperation only if we are so strong that it would be fatal not to co-operate with us.

It was a good speech, despite a discrepancy or two—for instance the statement that the United Nations Security Council "is fully capable" of settling disputes between the nations of the world followed immediately by the announcement that the United States intends to join with the other sovereign republics of America in a regional pact to provide a common defense against attack.

But, although Mr. Truman proudly declared that America is the strongest nation extant and therefore obligated to assume world leadership, it was not the world along strange new pathways to peace. If he endorsed the motives of the UNO, he also made broad reservations as to the machinery of world organization when he stated our America's plan for establishing and maintaining her pre-eminence of influence in a world of power politics.

No one, we think, will quarrel with Mr. Truman's statement of our intentions as a "united" foreign policy, applying with equal force to every nation, large and small, weak and strong. Nor is there reason to argue that such a policy, established independent of the policies of the UNO, can be effective unless it is backed by "powerful peacetime military reserves."

Why The Smoke Screen, Gentlemen?

We have had some reservations about the 65-cent minimum wage, wondering at what level a wage floor decreed by Federal fiat ceases to be a necessary sociological measure and becomes an economic device of questionable value. We would, therefore, have welcomed a debate on the merits of the measure passed last week by the Senate. Instead, we were treated to a seige of parliamentary maneuvering as if enlightening as a bingo game.

Opponents of the measure, desiring to avoid even an opinion to such an obviously popular piece of legislation, resorted to an ancient political trick. They amended the minimum wage bill to include an inflationary and irrelevant higher-price amendment. This, of course, reversed the field; the President, who had signed the measure, announced that he would veto it as amended, and the opponents of the bill thus became its champions. Senator Pepper, co-sponsor and Administration floor manager, declared the measure dead when efforts to remove the amendment failed.

Such treatment of so important a measure, it seems to us, is indicative of the low estate of politics at the moment. And we would not be the first to note that the leaders of the opposition, in their efforts to outdo one another in the utter confusion of record vote, are Southern Democrats.

If these gentlemen had good reason to oppose the minimum wage—and we can

corroding to his own premise, universal military training, draft extension and militarization of the armed forces.

It seems to us there are two courses open to America. We can move forward into strange territory, where there is a hope of true international co-operation based upon good will, not fear; this course invites wholehearted participation in the United Nations Organization with the aim of eventually erecting upon that shaky foundation a true world government. Or we can turn backward, traveling over familiar ground, and pin our hopes of peace upon a balance of power; this means, at this reading, that we must match military might with Russia, and, in a sense, we, the peace-loving nation, will turn our destiny over to our enemies, for it is they, not we, who will determine how large our Army and Navy must be. Mr. Truman, a cautious man, would like to hedge, but his Army Day address makes it clear that he will, when he finally has to choose, take the road to the past.

This may be the course of wisdom, but it should be clearly understood that it too involves a gamble, and that, even if we succeed for the first time in history in maintaining peace through the rest of the century, the cost in money and in freedom will be high. Moreover, we must recognize that we cannot compromise on Mr. Truman's "universal policy"; we cannot approve the statement of principle and reject universal military training. One goes with the other; we do not accept the military foundation stones of... a strong nation? we cannot expect to "stop the penetration and coercion of weak nations."

Mr. Truman has offered a popular foreign policy, and it must be accepted, or rejected, whole. Those who oppose it must accept a new, untried principle of international co-operation, and the life-and-death gamble it involves. There can be no compromise between these two positions. Nor can there be further postponement if we seek to preserve the chance for peace through the blood, sweat and tears of World War II.

think of several good reasons—it ill became them to resort to a dodge to conceal their real motives, a dodge, incidentally, that also had the fraudulent effect of making them appear as champions of the down-trodden farmer. Did they ever, even in the privacy of their chambers, make the big gesture of defiance? Or did they again react instinctively against a threat to the status quo?

We wonder—and we'll never know—if the Southerners paused to consider the obvious fact that minimum wage legislation affords the greater advantage to the workers of their region. If they had looked, they would have found some rather surprising support for it, support from sources like The Greensboro News, which has argued that the measure would wipe out the North-South wage differential and give Southern workers a long-needed break in the high wage economy that seems to stretch indefinitely ahead.

The devious course followed by the opponents of the minimum wage bill leaves these, and a good many other questions unanswered. But it does point to one distressing, but not surprising conclusion—a good many Southern Democrats, even though they may be convinced of the wisdom of their present opposition to the Administration, are not at all sure their course is popular with the folks down below. It's still settled down to lay down a smoke screen when they vote their convictions.

Watchman, What of The Night Shift?

When, some weeks ago, two prisoners departed from Mecklenburg County's escape-proof jail, walking unaccompanied through a series of doors unaccountably unlocked, we expressed considerable concern. It was not only that we were disturbed by the knowledge that a couple of convicted criminals had thus been unleashed on the community—it seemed to us the County, which had spent a pretty penny on steel, masonry, locks, etc., was hardly getting its money's worth out of its escape-proof jail. And you know how we are about economy.

Well, at the time of that original escape, reporter's having finally gotten around Sheriff Mack Riley's standard response: "What jail-break?" obtained from the High Sheriff a promise of a complete investigation. Having waited what we considered a decent interval for the Sheriff's report, we once again called attention to the matter. We were left, however, with the distressing conclusion that our words, if they are read at all, carry little weight in the county's bastle. The report of the complete investigation was never made public.

We are checked to note, however, that the Sheriff has made considerable progress in correcting the conditions that permitted the first escape. When two more prisoners departed from the escape-proof jail last week they found no open doors beckoning them to freedom. No, indeed, the Sheriff and his jailers have learned that the doors were locked as tight

as you please. It was necessary for the escaping prisoners to steal the keys this time.

Another complete investigation, we understand, is now under way. We are not, however, sanguine about our chance of obtaining a report on its result. But it may be that Sheriff Riley, facing the possibility of being re-elected this Summer, is feeling rather more than ever to report directly to the voters. They, too, unless we are mistaken, have a considerable interest in the comings and goings atop to the County Courthouse.

Despite the urgings of Washington in the interest of wheat conservation, we have so far seen nothing of the proletariat—the one with no upper crust.

A thought for the average Jap in his hour of disillusion. After years of fighting for something else, all he has to show for it is freedom.

Boston, faced with the necessity for losing something about those streets, is doing its old affectionate regard for the cow as a city planner.

A new juke box automatically adjusts its volume to the surroundings. When the band is quiet it plays softly. On the other hand it jumps when the joint does.



People's Platform Ode To The God Of War

A MILITARIST PRAYS: We thank THEE, O great and fearsome, for Russia. Keep her strong and fearful, 'till we bend the necks of nations to thy yoke. From Iran and Iraq streams of oil shall bleed to feed thy wars of destruction and make hypocrites of sinners, and righteous men the servants of greed.

The Arab and the Jew only wait for word from you—and us. The riches of the dead sea do not inspire trust. The plains of Marathon may soon again run red with Grecian blood, if they will only heed the tide of communism running strong while foolish politicians seek to dam it with a puppet king.

The Turk and Bulgar glare across a narrow strait. Help us, O God of War, to keep barred the Dardanelles gate. Closed, it harbors festering hate—and strengthens us. Keep Britain strong in Spain and everywhere let the lovely feet their master's rod. Behind a Christian sword millions now serve a pagan god.

In China fan the flame of fratricidal strife; and give to those who kill for their new life. In islands, in all the seas, we'll build castles to house your devotees, and make the natives content to smile.

What fears, O God of War, will nourish you and us, if Russia be not strong—by us? For all this, we thank Thee. But most of all we thank you for perambulating Jupiter to entrust to our keeping his Atomic Bombards.

We will not betray the trust. We will not use the power to make this power. We will not labor to labor to make men free—from fear and mind.

West August Final Arbitrator, keep us mindful of thy precepts: "Men must dominate, be dominated or—"

Even as the surviving cock monks his dung-hill throne to crow, so shall we some day ascend a pyramid of towers to announce thy conquest of the world; if you aid us now. . . .

In other words, Mops, help us keep 'em scared until we establish conscription permanently, and improve compulsory military training.

—LEWIS AYER SMITH

Educational Opportunity

ALTHOUGH education has been a veritable religion in our country, free education is still a goal, it is only now—for the first time in our history—that a free college education is available to every physically and mentally equipped boy.

Many people, however, do not realize that the opportunity exists and have only a short time to discover it—or it may not exist after Oct. 1, 1946. The GI Bill of Rights by extending the provisions of the GI Bill of Rights to young men who volunteered for service in the Regular Army before Oct. 1, 1946, a soldier can obtain at Government expense five years of higher education in a college, business or trade school of his own selection after three interesting years of Army life.

Important Victory

HUNTER COLLEGE, N. Y. THE victory for collective security that has been won here is the first important step in whatever future would have had a paralyzing effect on the infant world of international relations.

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Samuel Grafton Nine Or 12 Months?

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The Bulwinkle Ad

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The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it.

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Drew Pearson's Inefficiencies Discourage Volunteer Army

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Liquor For Officers Only

It is especially boiled over against the caste system when it came to drinking. Troops on the front lines were given liquor to help them endure the hardships of the common man.

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