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THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1961

TEST OF THE FREE WORLD

SOME weeks ago the former foreign editor of The Economist of London, writing in the New York Times Magazine, advanced the idea that Russia was counting on the global struggle for supremacy.

Miss Ward listed the three main weaknesses of the free world:

1. The inability of 50 or 60 free nations to conduct a coherent policy of defense; in other words, their constitutional disability.

2. The temporary military imbalance created by Russia's simple expedient of refusing to disarm after 1945.

3. The steady attempt to foment the belief that the Western system is an out-of-date sham, whereas Communism is the bold new system designed to solve all humanity's problems in the twentieth century.

RECENT events bring Miss Ward's thesis to mind again, and leave us with the disturbing thought that the United States, if not actively perpetuating these weaknesses, at least is a coherent policy of defense.

Certainly the recent Great Debate, though it may have contributed to our thinking on foreign affairs, must have created confusion among our free allies.

What we need is a Tat, is President and a Wherry is Secretary of State? What will happen to the "coherent policy of defense"?

And, more recently, we have witnessed growing disunity among the free nations over the United Nations' intervention in Korea, due mainly to the insistence of General MacArthur and his American admirers that the war must be extended to the Chinese mainland at the expense of alienating world opinion and weakening the European defense program.

Russia's biggest worry has been the fear that the free world would get together on a clear and realistic defense policy, and hold together. It appears that this nation is outdoing itself in removing that worry from the Politburo's calculations.

It is true that Russia's military preponderance, in the global sense, is not so great as it was before our own national defense program got under way. But in Europe and the Far East—where the preponderance has been all the greater because Russia's military force was situated in a power vacuum—Russia's arms are still dominant.

The long haggling in the Senate over the European Treaty, and the implications that the American contribution of ground troops will be limited to six divisions, can scarcely have contributed to zeal for rearmament among our Atlantic Pact allies, especially since the limited commitment may be recalled if the Democratic Party is upset in 1962.

And there are many indications that this nation is giving Russia the propaganda ammunition for fomenting the belief that

the Western system is an out-of-date sham. We have been unable, or unwilling, to control inflation recently. We have been contented with a pay-as-you-fig defense program. Already there is agitation for lifting of economic controls. And just this week, the House of Representatives cut the heart out of the Voice of America appropriation—the one agency that, in its imperfect fashion, has attempted to sell freedom and to expose the fallacies of the Communist-style "democracy." Have we grown so fat and so unable to fix upon a long-range objective and make the sacrifices necessary for attaining it?

THE Administration's policy of containment, carried off to its logical conclusion, is broadly designed to overcome our three big weaknesses. It is aimed at resisting Communist expansion while widening the world together in a collective defense network strong enough to dissuade Russia from war. Its objective is to avoid a Third World War. But it carries with it the insurance, in case Russia resorts to it, that the war would be extremely costly, and probably disastrous, to Russia.

The policy of containment does not offer much to those who see conflict in black-and-white terms. It is only a battle of bombs and bullets, who are emotionally geared to quick and furious retaliation with triumph or defeat as the only two alternatives.

It offers the best hope to mankind that we may be spared a great new atomic war, and that in the resulting stalemate the strains within the Soviet slave empire will prove so great that the vast and evil international Communist conspiracy will collapse of its own weakness.

The policy of containment needs a leader—just as Christianity needed a Christ, human freedom an Abraham Lincoln, the League of Nations a Woodrow Wilson and the New Deal a Franklin D. Roosevelt—a leader who can dramatize the struggle and reduce its intangibles and nuances to the understanding of plain people. It does not have such a leader today and, hence, it is faltering. But that does not mean that the policy is wrong, or that it will fail. There is still reason to believe that the American people will emerge from the shadow of doubt and uncertainty to the light of reason and understanding this new world responsibility thrust upon them before they were politically or emotionally ready, will shoulder it. Such is the strength of free peoples which has enabled them to surmount every previous barrier in the slow but inexorable march to a world of free men.

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Collected By Bill Sharpe

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

Different Then (Roxboro Courier-Times)
A few days ago I was walking down the street with my friend John Bullock. Then we met the police chief, Pat Robinson. Mr. Robinson turned to me and asked if I did not know that I was damaging my character by walking with John. He even went as far as to tell me that I was a scoundrel and a scoundrel and could not pay the bill, I was heart-broken.

Needless to say the two parted good friends.

Twice Now (Smithfield Herald)
"Your're an old customer in this court," remarked Judge Godwin as he got ready to pronounce judgment.

"Homest, Judge," pleaded the Negro, "this is the first time I've been convicted for selling whiskey."

"What?" exclaimed Judge Godwin.

The Negro explained: "The other times were for making whiskey."

A few minutes later during another trial, the defendant pleaded not guilty and took the stand in his own defense.

"How many times have you been convicted for selling whiskey," questioned Solicitor Cannany.

"The defendant, foreclosing the inevitable decision of the court answered: "This makes twice."

His Knees Know (Sanford Herald)
The Reverend W. Wilbur Hutchins, pastor of the Park View Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Virginia, preached for a large crowd at the Sanford Baptist Church Sunday evening.

It wasn't announced at the service but it was believed by many that since the local church was seeking a pastor the Rev. Mr. Hutchins was being introduced with a view to calling him, should the congregation so desire.

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Ghost Writers Living High In Washington These Days

MARQUIS W. CHILDS

ALONG with the mangled bodies of the literary life is busting out all over in this curious capital. More and more are popping up like mushrooms, crochets and a kind of informal bourse has been set up in the Senate lobby to bid on the services of some of the more telegraphic Senators.

It is wonderful for the literary agent, the ghost writer, the publisher and allied trades. And since official information is one of the scarce commodities in this otherwise inflated town, the public must learn something more about what is going on.

Chairman Estes Kefauver of the crime committee is telling all in a book that is being serialized in part. When he could have found time to write it is a minor mystery. That Kefauver stood in the book on the literary bourse.

Another member of that committee, Sen. Charles Tobey of the New Hampshire prophet, is also signing up for a book. He will write in the tradition of the certain temporary speeches with which he punctuated the television hearings, pointing the way to a moral and spiritual rebirth for America in the rural, homespun tradition of the health and home.

MILITARY, TOO
The military, as is understandable in this season of crisis, dominates in the literary field, too. The big gun is the personal story of Gen. Omar N. Bradley, which will come out in book form next month and which is appearing serially.

There's real hope of a Japanese peace treaty by the end of this year, then the way may be opened for another certain spectacular military memoir. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who in his flash and drama bears some resemblance to Field Marshal Montgomery, has not told his story of World War II and its aftermath.

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HOW GOOD IS CHIANG'S ARMY?

THE various suggestions from General MacArthur, Rep. Joe Martin, Senator Taft and others that Chiang Kai-shek's forces be "released" to invade the Chinese mainland have left the impression that Chiang has a big, well-trained, and well-equipped army poised to leap the Formosan Strait and sweep across China into Peiping.

Unfortunately, that picture is far from accurate.

In the first place, there is no general agreement on the size of the Nationalist Army. A. J. Leibling, in the current New Yorker, quotes estimates of the Chinese force at from 350,000 to 1,000,000 men. Not even the most ardent Chiang supporters agree from week to week, Leibling found on checking the record.

In the second place, there is ample evidence—compiled by correspondents who have recently been to Formosa—that Chiang's troops are raggedly clothed, poorly fed, badly trained, and practically without modern and adequate arms and equipment.

In the third place, it is not at all sure that Chiang's men have any burning desire to tangle with the Chinese Communists again after being trounced so roundly.

No, the proposal to "unleash" Chiang's army is not so simple as it appears. China would need transports and landing craft. He would need naval and air bases from the American Navy and Air Force. And at least one informed commentator, Walter Lippmann, believes that "if Chiang's army were able to invade China it would be only because there was an American army in front of it."

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Sea Story To Add More To U.S.-British Solidarity

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK
I AM REAL interested in a new book, the memoirs of Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope, who was First Sea Lord and naval chief of staff in 1944. Cunningham was called I. Viscount Cunningham back a solid cut at our boy Ernie who was the boss Admiral Ryan man at that time, charging "lack of co-operation," serious objection to British participation in the naval war on Japan, and invariable opposition to the placing of American war vessels under British command in combined operations.

I've waited a long time to write the other day was discussing the much-beefed but not much-seen-of rolling back in prices.

One fellow summed it up by saying: "Yeah, prices are rolling back all right. Just go buy something and the price rolls up at you like a ton of bricks."

Say It Plain (Pinehurst Outlook)
One criticism of modern singers, they don't enunciate. Reminds us of the little girl who listened to the choir chant "world without end," and thought they said, "world without men."

This Is No Joke (Montgomery Herald)
It seems that a fair and attractive lady went to see a medical doctor and asked for a complete physical examination. The doctor made a careful diagnosis and whatever matters do such circumstances including certain laboratory tests. Finally he emerged.

"Mrs. Jones," he beamed, "I have some very good news for you!"

Said the lady, "That's fine. But, doctor, my name is not Mrs. Jones; it is Miss Jones."

Said the doctor, not heeding the lady's protest, "Well, Miss Jones, I have some very sad news for you."

Civilized Sights (Greensboro News)
Then after lunch the children will visit the School for the Blind and State Prison where they "are allowed to see the gas chamber, but they go to other places in the prison—doublets the gas chamber will be the high spot of the day—but we really don't know what to say about it. Children are subjected to so much horror nowadays—actual horror in many countries and vicarious horror over books, radio and television—that they will probably turn out to be fiends or saints, nobody knows which, let us pray for the best."

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