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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1955

Correcting A U. S. Military 'Scandal'

THE reluctance of Congress to hammer out a practical program for a trained military reserve force in the United States is disgraceful. The Senate, with an opportunity to come to grips with the problem, has been stubbornly sitting on its hands for weeks. The House meanwhile has permitted itself to be diverted by a variety of relatively insignificant side issues.

This is no minor matter before the 84th Congress. Nor is it a proper subject for a game of political tit-tat-toe. President Eisenhower rightly pointed out a few days ago that trained men in the right place at the right time are the nation's security. They cannot be on hand at that time and place unless they have been previously trained.

We feel that most Americans are well aware of the urgency. Recent public opinion polls have shown strong support for a more vigorous reserve training program. The time has come for this sense of urgency to penetrate the halls of Congress.

The reserve program in this country is in trouble. Since the end of World War II it has been hampered by multiple ill-effects: weak training, sagging morale, poor participation and unrealistic assignments.

Washington's top brass is not blind to the situation. Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson said only last summer that the reserve setup in the United States is "a scandal." President Eisenhower himself said, "We have failed miserably to maintain that strong, ready military reserve in which we have believed or professed belief for 150 years."

The administration's bill proposes a ready reserve force of 2,000,000 men (the legal limit is now 1 1/2 million). In addition, it is proposed that there be a special corps of 250,000 youth who would take six months of intensive training and

then go into the reserves for 7 1/2 years. And the reservist who fails to keep up with his assigned drills would face recall to active duty. The nation can afford to accept nothing less. Armed with the necessary laws and financial support, the Defense Dept. could devise at last the continuing, long-range, effective reserve training program America must have today.

Eventually, Congress might even awaken to the fact that a full-blooded universal military training program is needed to give the United States maximum security.

At the moment, however, lawmakers owe it to the nation to make a realistic beginning on reserve legislation. Side issues—such as the untimely and unfortunate anti-segregation rider concerning National Guard units only—should be dispensed with swiftly. These minor matters must not be permitted to overshadow the over-all problem.

Meanwhile, on the role of the reserves in the nuclear age congressmen would do well to heed the words of Sen. Stuart Symington, former secretary of the Air Force:

Except for possible peripheral wars of the future, and in most cases even in that type of war, our reserves will be even more important than they have been in the past. . . . In previous wars, our weakness in reserves has always proved to be one to lead to a national disaster. We have had to overcome after being attacked—costly in time and therefore in money and lives. In any possible future war of this hydrogen age, continuation of this most unfortunate reserve policy will be fatal to our national security.

The duty of Congress is clear. It can afford to dilly-dally no longer. The President's 1955 reserve program should be passed without delay and without crippling modifications.

Charlie And Foster, Meet Oveta!

THE name of Oveta Culp Hobby should head the list of nominations for new members of the National Post-Office Mouth Club chartered by Charles E. Wilson and John Foster Dulles.

Mrs. Hobby established her excellent qualifications for membership when she said no one could have foreseen the public demand for the Salk polio vaccine. Her more recent comments on the vaccine smartly indicate she is really eager to be enrolled.

On a radio program Monday Mrs. Hobby apparently sought to shift responsibility for vaccine control, or lack of the same, to Surgeon General Leonard Scheele. She said the law controlling biologicals runs not through the Surgeon General but through the Health Service he runs in his department.

If Mrs. Hobby has enough control over Dr. Scheele to judge his work, which she did, it would appear she had enough control to demand from him months ago a safe, workable vaccine program. The question also is raised whether a secretary should be content with a surgeon

general with whom she is "not dissatisfied." If she cannot assess him positively perhaps she should get the President to appoint a new surgeon, although we have seen no negative evidence against Dr. Scheele.

Also troubling was Mrs. Hobby's labeling last week as "socialized medicine by the back door" a program for the government to provide free vaccine to all children through the age of 19.

We agree with Mrs. Hobby that free vaccine should be limited to those who cannot afford it, but there is no value in pasting a sticky political label on what should be a humanitarian project. The yardstick should be saving lives, not making political hay. And if that yardstick is not applied and emphasized, Mrs. Hobby may find "socialized medicine" coming in the front door while she is shouting alarms at the back.

In their annual contributions to the March of Dimes, the American people paid for development of the vaccine in a method that is in sharp contrast to anything socialistic. We think they were and still are more interested in immunology than ideology when it comes to fighting polio.

When Mrs. Hobby licensed the vaccine she assumed responsibility for its safety. She cannot shift that responsibility, even though she has failed to live up to it.

Battles And Declarations Before Goats

DON'T look now, but every red-blooded American community with a special nook in history seems to be clamoring for postage stamp recognition just the other day. North Carolina's own Rep. Carl Durham introduced a bill in Congress to direct the postmaster general to issue in 1956 a stamp in commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. (That rattle of applause in the background is in the name of Greensboro and vicinity.) A statewide campaign in support of the measure has already been launched.

No doubt about it. In the postage stamp derby, Guilford deserves a commemorative far more than some recent candidates announced. Certainly we'd rather see it on the nation's mail than that proposed stamp; honoring the centennial of the Angola goat in America. A Texas congressman suggested that one.

But there's no reason for mighty Mecklenburg to let a Johnny-come-lately

like Guilford steal any Revolutionary War thunder. Why, Mecklenburg practically invented the war.

Certainly in any heated nationwide competition, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence deserves attention. The 200th anniversary of the Great Event will not come along until 1975—a stamp and fitting year for the proper county long ago muffed its chance for the 175th anniversary.

Considering the long, anxious and notably expensive campaigns some communities and special interests wage for such honors, it is not too early to start loading our political muskets right now.

After all, if the United States would rather spend the money for the 100th anniversary of the ending of slavery in America and another honoring the first flight to Basra, Iraq, it can afford to commemorate the Mecklenburg Declaration. And it had better be issued in a respectable denomination, too.

From The Richmond News Leader

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE SAND MAN

A PSYCHOLOGIST investigating sleeping habits has concluded, not surprisingly, that most persons hate to get up in the morning. There he is in agreement with Irving Berlin and the rest of the world. However, his explanation—that people are secretly and unconsciously a day's uncertainties—will draw some dissent from sleepers-in. The plain, undramatic fact is that a good many people simply like to sleep.

It is not the uncertainties of the coming day; it's recuperation from the day of the day before that tempts a man to nap a little longer. It's not the dread of the H-bomb and all the other modern-day perils that keep him covering in the warm covers; it's simply a reluctance to put his feet on the cold floor.

There is no denying the advances of

psychology in probing the dark frontiers of the mind, but must fear and guilt underline man's every action? Our suspicion is that often when a psychologist picks up a pad to investigate he can no more put it down until he has flushed a hidden fear than Pavlov's dog could stop his mouth watering when he heard a bell ring. Anyway, he's not going to rout the sandman any earlier for us with his accusing pen. We ain't afraid of nobody, just sleepy, doc.

They tell about the salesman who was so good at selling milking machines that he sold two to a farmer with only one cow—and took the cow—as down payment.—MARGUS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

Little Issues: All Big Four Can Hope To Agree On

By WALTER LIPPMANN

BEFORE the parties in San Francisco began, the frame within which the four foreign ministers were to work had become visible. For one thing they are no longer the Big Four; there are eight powers who will take part as principals in at least some of the coming talks. They are: in addition to the Big Four of World War II, West Germany, Red China, Japan and India.

Dr. Adenauer made that very plain indeed for West Germany during his recent visit to this country. It has been evident for Red China since last winter—ever since we began talking through intermediaries with Mao Tse-tung. Japan is now negotiating directly with the Soviet Union for a peace treaty. And India has become a mediating power which no one could afford or would dare to ignore.

THREE PROPOSITIONS Within recent weeks it has become clear, I think, that all these principal powers are in basic agreement on three general propositions. The first is that war, which now means thermonuclear war, is impossible, and that there can be no return to peace, then at least to the avoidance of war. The second proposition is that the great powers must not wage war; they cannot now make the concessions which they were intending to settle the big issues. The third proposition is that, unable to fight and unable to negotiate, they must nevertheless find ways to relax the more severe and dangerous of the tensions.

At least in the West, this has not been the popular view, and Mr. Dulles, Dr. Adenauer, and Mr. Macmillan have all shown

much concern over the fact that the public expects details so much from what they think can and should be done at the coming talks. The popular view is that in order to relax the tensions, it is necessary to settle the big issues—such as German reunification and Formosa. The official and, as it were, inside view is the reverse: that if it may be possible, and that it is most desirable, to relax the tensions before the settlement of big issues can begin.

ARMS STALEMATE There is, I submit, no doubt that the underlying cause of all the recent diplomatic activity is that the competition in armaments has come to a stalemate. War, and the threat of war, cannot under the existing conditions be used as an instrument of national policy. The unusability of war, be it for conquest, for liberation, for face-making or for face-saving, has made necessary a return to diplomacy. But the unusability of war has also affected the character of diplomacy which, aimed always in the past, has had war as its ultimate reserve and sanction.

Under the present conditions the fact that the principal powers cannot fight means also that they feel no compulsion to make big concessions. They are talking about the big issues, what they want to talk about, what they are impelled by their interests and by their sense of duty to talk about, are not settlement of the big issues but ways of making it more certain that the parties will cease fire before hostilities, this pre-war armistice, will endure.

NONE IS READY None is ready, as has already been said by each of the principal powers to show that none is now ready for, that none now really expects or



Where is the Finish Line in This Race?

desires, to strike the bargain which would make for settlement. This was made indisputably clear on the Western side during Dr. Adenauer's visit. He does not want—and the Western governments have agreed with him—to negotiate now for German reunification and a German peace treaty. He does not wish to negotiate the momentous issues of Germany's eastern frontier until there is a German army, until Germany has become, as the

maneuver, sale and use of such evil forces. —H. L. FERGUSON, Chairman, Mecklenburg County Nat. Citizens Committee For Good Government in N. C.

Some Negroes that we are proud of, and would be willing to share about everything except bed and board with them. For they are like us, trying to be somebody and have something and appreciate the help they have received from the white race. It's his type that we don't want to mix with. And we know if we accept the good Negro we will have to take his class also. That is why we intend to fight to the end against it.

Isn't it true that many of his own color won't associate with him? He is fooling no one but himself in this day of prosperity. If he can only eat when a depression comes he will surely die of hunger. The white race sees him nothing, but he sees himself. As for the number of Negro Communists. There are only a few, because the party can't trust

People's Court Decision Goes Far Beyond Taxes, Schools

CHARLOTTE, R. I. —H. L. FERGUSON, Chairman, Mecklenburg County Nat. Citizens Committee For Good Government in N. C.

CHARLOTTE, R. I. —A RECENT contributor to People's Platform had better wake up! He is 50 years behind the times. There is no one this day and time worked from dawn 'til dusk. Don't be know that our government has a wage and hour law now. My how he does eat!

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Dry's Would Win Sunday Beer Vote

CHARLOTTE, R. I. —I WOULD like to make public some observations concerning the recent beer issue. Mr. Alexander, the "beer boy" got to the council. He had much evidence to support his statement. The first announcement by Mr. Baxter was that he would move to prohibit sale of beer on Sunday. Then he had another proposal and finally presented a third. How many motions would have changed if he had had this evidence? The people know that he favors Sunday sale. Only two members of the council refused to rubber stamp. We at least know the kind of mayor and council, with exceptions, that we have.

Oil-Gas Lobby Turns Heat On Mayors

WASHINGTON —A powerful oil-gas lobby has put the heat on the nation's mayors to support the gas bill now before Congress which overrules the Supreme Court and bars any federal regulation of gas transmitted through interstate pipelines. This lobbying is a battle of mayors that is echoing in city halls across the country.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

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Oil Strategy

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