

Logic And The Generals

IMPRACTICAL, says President Truman, the practical politician, of a suggestion that consideration of universal military training be postponed until international disarmament can be given a fair trial.

A breeding ground of totalitarianism, says Brigadier General Holdridge, an expatriate West Pointer, of the President's plan for universal military training.

And, of course, they're both right and they're both wrong. Like almost everybody else who arises to discuss universal training these days they insist on ripping it out of context and considering it as a thing apart, with inherent virtues and vices of its own.

In the world we seen bent on creating, universal training, as vast air force, a huge navy, and a choice collection of atomic bombs of all sizes are elementary necessities. A peace based on fear and distrust can be preserved only at gun's point; it would be madness to disarm missos and air weapons, to disarm the spheres of political and economic influence.

Universal training, which involves converting America into an armed camp, would naturally breed totalitarianism. But that, in a world in which universal training is necessary, would be a virtue, not a vice. Totalitarianism, however, recently demonstrated, requires totalitarianism. Personal liberty, freedom of conscience, democracy—these are the products of peace and they are incompatible in a militarized nation. Our new citizens' army, if freedom of expression were allowed, would soon degenerate into a debating society for malcontents, just as our occupation forces have.

Preparation for war involves the preparation of the spirit as well as the manufacture of arms. We had a fair number of airplanes at Pearl Harbor, remember, but nobody thought to put them in the air on a quiet, sunny Sunday morning. An army must have iron discipline; discipline can be obtained only at the cost of civil liberties.

Universal military training is, in general, a liberal opportunity, as a method of improving the health of the nation, as an instrument of diplomacy. All of this is irrelevant, as are the cries that the Regular Army is dominated by Fascists who would quickly corrupt the democratic principles of our youth. The general belief in totalitarianism, not as a political doctrine, but as a necessary adjunct to military operations. They have no desire to corrupt anybody, but it is their duty to win the war for which the United States is preparing.

The only relevant debate on universal military training involves the necessity for it. Do we intend to maintain the peace by force, or through honest international co-operation? It seems to us that the generals, watching the erratic course of Russo-American relations, thus far have had no choice in the matter.



WASHINGTON
LONG residence in Washington is likely to induce a corrosive cynicism, says a business critic. It may be that this is merely an occupational disease of politicians, but it is less easy to stomach when it is in the Capitol, where politics is the chief occupation.

In announcing that she had been received into the Catholic Church, Clara Boothe Luce appeared to have been somewhat surprised, she was relating from political life, she was interested in the same way as a bid for votes.

Like so many others before her, Mrs. Luce has discovered that it is difficult in politics to make one's serious utterances stand seriously. Her final decision to retire may have had some connection with a drama of disillusionment that took place ten days before the announcement of her religious conversion.

The Congresswoman from Connecticut put a great deal of time and stress on a speech to be delivered at the annual Lincoln Day Banquet in Washington, however, that this could not be done without deferring the reference to liberalism in deference to Mrs. Luce, and Mrs. Luce refused to permit her remarks to be edited.

The press carried this was a reference to the speech. Altogether, her most earnest effort since she has been in Washington, she had never, leaving her to the unhappy conclusion that, whereas a wise-crack will make Page 1, virtue must be its own reward.

NOTHING FOR GRANTED
Disillusion was compounded for Mrs. Luce when she learned that those who had been invited to her speech were explaining it away by saying that it was merely a nodding for the Negro. This was the unkindest cut of all.

There has been no such double talk about the "Negro problem." That may be one reason for the prohibition of Mrs. Luce's hard-hitting speech.

Mrs. Luce's well-dressed, well-bred audience was stated. The game of politics, from her wit and sarcasm at the expense of the Democrats.

Queen With A Dirty Face

IT is probably just as well that bad weather caught Lady Astor's plane over Savannah instead of Charlotte. The expatriate Virginian, who hasn't been in a word since she told the Savannahans their city looked like a "beautiful woman with a dirty face."

It seems likely that she would have seen little basic beauty in Charlotte's business district, but she would certainly have seen plenty of dirt. From grimy buildings to motels and sidewalks, as Mayor Baxter remarked the other day, in the worst shape we've ever been in.

No city in the soft coal and tobacco chewing country will ever attain a completely immaculate state, of course, but there is still a great deal that can be done. To start with, the city needs a couple of additional street flushers and a bolstering of the white-winged gentry, but he reminds the citizenry that the sidewalks remain the responsibility of property-owners. It's been a long time since we've had to detour around a sidewalk actually totaled 325,000. Charlotte and there are spots where a pedestrian needs hip boots.

A few stores, we note, are beginning to brighten up their exteriors with paint, steam and sand-blasting. It's understandable that this sort of face-lifting has been postponed until now, with labor and materials still painfully short, but the customary excuses will soon be wearing thin.

It would be most fitting if Charlotte staged a sort of mammoth street-cleaning campaign to mark the advent of Spring. The Mayor has expressed the City's willingness to do all it can, the next move is up to the property owners.

The Queen City may resemble an elderly bookkeeper more than it does a beautiful woman, but it has no more excuse than Savannah for wearing a dirty face.

People's Platform

They Wear Wings In Wake?

ROCK HILL, S. C.
AFTER reading Burke Davis' article in The News of Feb. 18 headed, 'Liquor Control Put Wake County On A Cash Basis' there is one thing that I still do not understand and that is, just how the people of Wake County get their wings on the wings that they must wear on their back. Seriously though, they must be an exceptional people.

The figures quoted by you comparing wet Wake County with Dry Mecklenburg County or rather Raleigh with Charlotte are not very impressive. If you will be kind I would like to give you some figures that I think are impressive. They concern our little town of Rock Hill, S. C. (pop. 16,000 approx.). These figures are a matter of public record (just as those are of Raleigh and Charlotte) and are available to the public. Convictions before legal liquor in the prohibition era for ten years, 1925-1935, totaled 3,548, or an average of 354 a year. Fines possibly ran around \$12,000. There are no accurate figures for fines of this period. The population averaged around 10,000 in this territory.

Convictions during the 1935-1945 period of legal whiskey sales, totaled 13,928 or an average of 1,392 a year and fines actually totaled \$22,867. This population was 15,000 or less for this ten-year period. So you see, we have a 400 per cent gain in arrests for drunkenness alone compared with a probable 50 per cent gain in population. In 1925 the average number of convictions in any one month was eight and the highest 33. By 1943 this had climbed to 111 (lowest) and highest 218.

At the present time, if I remember correctly, there is under consideration in the legislature at Columbia, S. C. a proposal to erect a \$275,000 addition to the State Hospital for the treatment of alcoholics alone.

Mr. Davis, your reasoning is all wrong. Your philosophy and that of everyone else advocating legal liquor is, "Let's all drink more liquor, to pay more taxes to make us rich." It cannot be done. True, people are going to drink as long as they can get it. But the law doesn't say that the law (society) should put it's blessing on it and say it is right. People are going to use narcotics as long as they can get it. But the law says no. Isn't that an infringement on personal liberty?

—Hall Adams.

(NOTE: As Mr. Davis has stated each of his liquor articles—figures do not necessarily tell the whole story. The ABC system in North Carolina, for instance, is state-operated and rigidly controlled, not less than five per cent of the profit from liquor sales goes for a special ABC law enforcement crew which devotes its entire time to enforcing the law. In the prohibition era stores in South Carolina are privately-owned and virtually uncontrolled; no part of their profit goes to bolster law enforcement. It is also significant that the 1935-1945 period included the war years. As to the addition to the South Carolina State Hospital, it should be noted that the State Department has authorized the Legislature for additional buildings for many years and the fact that it is about to get one now doesn't prove anything.—Eds., The News.)

Samuel Grafton

The Spy Story

NEW YORK
IT seems to me the Canadian spy scare is a matter of legitimate public concern. It is not like everything else; but, reading the daily press, one has the feeling that the man who is the fellow who becomes most interested in it. And, usually, he is also a big Pearl Harbor type of fellow.

There are only human rights which Negro and white and brown and yellow all claim equally as members of the human family and children of God. In every way the Christian approach to the problem is the soundest, the truest and the safest.

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An Argument Falls Flat

THE National Association of Manufacturers' campaign against the OPA has now burst into full flower. Full-page advertisements, appearing in The News and most other daily papers, make the point that Federal controls are hampering full production, which is the only cure for scarcity and therefore the only cure for inflation.

It's a plausible argument, but it raises a couple of unanswered questions. What does the American Association of Manufacturers imagine will happen in the demand? And how long does the NAM estimate that period will be?

A partial answer is available in the experience of the citizens of Hickory. Hickory doesn't have rent control, but the Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations are frantically petitioning the OPA to come in and take over. Why? The Hickory Record reports:

There have been shocking complaints of rent gouging in the local area by profiteers, appearing in the streets themselves at the expense of unfortunate victims of the housing shortage. In the bud before they are allowed to spread any further. In view of the tax reductions, the impossibility of worth-while improvements being made to rental properties, the general deterioration of most properties from lack of repairs, virtually no increase in rents, and the fact that there have been instances where

war veterans complained of increases of as much as 50 per cent in rent on houses or small apartments.

There is no reason to believe that landlords, as a class, are any greedier than butchers, bakers and candlestick makers. It is established business practice to make as large a profit as the trade will bear, and a clearly, in view of the shortages, any trade will bear a right handsome profit for many months after full production is finally achieved.

Nobody can successfully argue with the NAM's contention that full production will ultimately remove inflationary pressures. It also seems likely that OPA's controls, coupled with the speculative fever that has caused many manufacturers to gamble on their abolition, hold back production. Still, as Hickory has so painfully discovered, an uncontrolled market for any scarce commodity or service works a great and immediate hardship on consumers.

As Americans as the American people are at the moment, they can't stand more than a few months of runaway inflation. But we haven't seen any figures, produced by NAM or anybody else, that even suggest that full production will level out prices in short order. Those are the figures that are so conspicuously missing from NAM's impressive advertisements, and without them the argument falls as flat as a white-collar worker's pocket-book.

A Return To Kipling

HENRIETTA
I'VE kidded you about Russia, but in the light of recent maneuvers by the Russians, who are dominated at present by men of Asiatic ethics, I'll have to fall back for an ally to Kipling's "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet" to square myself.

—C. M. Cain

(NOTE: Or you might turn to G. W. Hunt, who wrote the term "jingo" to our vocabulary when he added:

"We don't want to fight, but by jingo if we do, we've got the ships, we've got the men we've got the money too.

We've fought the Bear before and while we're at it, let's fight the Russians now.

The Russians shall not have Constantinople.—Eds., The News.)

Quote, Unquote

WE'VE got to have the full support of our industry, our Government and our people—that is the only way to insure a real peace-time American merchant marine.

—George Acheson, long-time diplomatic expert on the United States.

Our industry's opportunity to produce cars at a price that customers can pay is in jeopardy. Government and union interference have reduced management's ability to manage.—George Romney, general manager Automobile Manufacturers Association.

Freedom from want would indeed hardly be worth achieving, even if it were possible. In a world which did not have freedom from war and fear of wars.—L. B. Pearson, Canadian Ambassador to the U. S.

From the day they refused to grant Republican equal representation on the committee, Democratic leaders have given the impression they were more concerned with protecting reputations in the Roosevelt Administration than in getting at the truth of the Pearl Harbor attack.—Columbus, Ohio, Citizen.

Another Voice

On Closing The Door

The protest of three Forsyth war veterans against the decision of the traffic committee of the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen to restrict the number of operating taxicabs in the city raises a very interesting question.

That question is: Just how far can local, State and Federal Governments go in the direction of restricting the number, as well as the practices of operators, without creating dangerous monopolies and wiping out equality of opportunity and freedom of enterprise as such?

It is no doubt, but that some degree of restriction and regulation in the matter of taxicab operation is advisable. Cab operation has a definite relation to downtown traffic and parking problems, in cases of abuse to the vice police and lack of adequate municipal regulations adversely affects the service given the public.

But those whom duty it is to decide

The Librarians Like It

CHARLOTTE
I NOTE with both professional and personal pleasure the addition of Clip Boutell's column to your weekly book review. Mr. Boutell has brought to our enjoyment of this feature. Mr. Boutell, an old personal friend of mine, has long held a high place in the confidence and esteem of publishers and authors.

Capital Chaff

Administration lobbying to confirm Ed Pauley has reached white-hot pitch. Governor M. B. Hunt of Washington brought Ed to put the heat on Senators Magnuson and Hugh Mitchell, the latter having been Walgren's secretary. Both will now vote for Pauley. . . . In some states, such as Utah, Pauley's name is being put forward as a possible Democratic Senator. . . . The Pauley-Alten-Vardaman merry-go-round is being run by the White House. . . . "Truman is suffering from Pendergaster's ulcer!" . . . Senator Kilgore of West Virginia will summon Assistant Secretary of War George Acheson to the Senate to answer charges that he is a Argentine election-fraudster. . . . Somebody did a skillful job of writing Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley's statement before the Senate Atomic Committee. Inside fact is that Truman sent a clear-cut memorandum to Paterson warning him not to do anything of the kind. . . . The Patterson delivered a statement so carefully written, it didn't offend the President's position. . . . The headline in the Washington Post before the Secretary Kenneth Royall got credit for this two-timing statement. . . . The Army is coming around to the idea of returning the surplus of surplus goods from overseas to aid the war program. Under an amendment tacked into the Burpur bill, surplus goods can be returned to the USA except under certain conditions. . . . One condition is that they be requested by an agency of the Government. . . . Reconstruction Director John Snyder is now going to do some requesting.

Dr. W. Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
IT ISN'T going to be announced, but President Truman has suggested that Secretary of State Byrnes take action regarding a handful of men in the Department who are in league with or very sympathetic to Soviet Russia.

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The two reasons for making, no arrests in this country:

1. American law does not permit the same action as in Canada. There suspected officials are being held incommunicado. Under the McNabb Act, an arrested person in the United States has to be arraigned immediately and any statement he makes prior to arraignment cannot be used as evidence.

2. The information seized in Canada is circumstantial as far as American officials are concerned though some of it is extremely incriminating.

For instance, the Russian who surrendered in Ottawa gave a code name for the man he identified as being with whom the Soviet communicated once every two weeks by courier. The code name, does not give strong enough evidence regarding the official's identity to permit prosecution. But his usefulness to the Government is ended and he will be dropped.

Desire For Peace?

In other cases, it is difficult to ascertain whether certain U. S. officials gave information to Soviet officials because of an excessive desire to work for international peace or whether they actually believed in communistic doctrines. In most cases, it is believed the latter is true.

Secretary Byrnes, a former member of the Supreme Court, and the Justice Department agree that civil liberties must be carefully guarded. However, Baruch came to Washington and friends

The U. S. Won't Have Any Spy Trials

considerable pressure, from the Army and Navy to take a contrary course.

As can be ascertained, no American official was guilty of revealing any secret of the atom bomb, though this cannot be said of the British.

Meanwhile, those under suspicion are under careful scrutiny.

NOTE—One State Department official who Pat Hurley strongly criticized for siding with the Chinese Communists was George Acheson, long-time diplomatic expert on the United States. Acheson has been chief civil adviser to Gen. MacArthur ever since V-J Day and has recently returned to the USA. Since his return, MacArthur has been burning up the wires demanding that Acheson come back to Tokyo.

Byrnes and Baruch

Best example of the spirit of Brotherhood Week was the recent trip taken by two distinguished statesmen on the part of Winston Churchill. Most people didn't know it, but when Secretary of State Byrnes and Elder Statesman Bernie Baruch went to Miami together, they terminated a personal friendship which had lasted their long friendship for exactly one year.

Byrnes and Baruch have known each other intimately for about 30 years. Both men were born in the same town in Pennsylvania in all his election races, sometimes handsomely. A year ago, however, the two cooled. Baruch began aiming his barbs at Byrnes during the closing days of Byrnes' career as War Mobilizer. He intimated that Byrnes lacked the nerve to demand a tough manpower bill during the last months of the war, that he didn't want to get mixed up in the Henry Wallace confirmation fight, and that he was running out on FDR. Naturally, these remarks got back to Jimmy Byrnes, who didn't help their friendship. For several months, the two didn't see each other.

A few days after Byrnes flew back from the London conference, however, Baruch came to Washington and friends