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No Time For Relaxing

It will probably be many a year before this country has to fear invasion. That invasion can be accomplished successfully only through the air.

These statements are of course based upon the assumption that we continue to build our defense forces on land, sea and in the air and that we maintain them in good working order and don't destroy them, or allow them to rot away. every time some clean-minded dreamer develops the theory that war is a relic of the past.

The gravest mistake this nation could make however, would be to sit back placidly behind our Atlantic and Pacific defenses and stop spending money on our defense program because "our descendants are going to have to foot the bill" or because "industry can't stand any additional taxation." If we do so, the day will come in the not far distant future, where our descendants will curse the generation which "let them down."

The Germans are no better fighters than the French or the English, but you can "lick your weight in wildcats" if you have enough guns — and the right kind.

When this war is over, we Americans are going to figure that there is no more sense in spending billions on battleships and flying fortresses. The temptation to slide back into taxless prosperity is going to be very great. We are going to force a change in our present far-sighted two-ocean navy program; we are going to insist upon reducing our army to the same old almost useless numerical standard and when strategists tell us that we must keep up with the military aviation programs of foreign nations—we are going to prove with pad and pencil that our commercial aviation is the greatest in the world and that it can be turned into a total defense machine in a week's time.

But the nations of Europe and Asia don't play the game this way. They tried it once after the last great war—and it didn't work. Those ever-warring countries are going to concentrate on military aviation. They are going to perfect the aerodynamic possibility of carrying a thousand tons through the air on a non-stop flight of ten thousand miles. They are—probably within twenty years time — going to be able to transport two or three hundred men in a single airplane and two or three of the hundred ton tanks in another; field kitchens and motor equipment in another and heavy artillery in still another.

What will happen to us if we sit around and jitterbug away the money which we should be spending to meet every improvement which any other nation invents? About twenty years after the end of this war another even greater war will get under way abroad. Supplies from this country will be essential. If we won't supply them to one side, that side will come over and get them. There won't be any ocean barriers; they will simply fly a few hundred thousand fully equipped soldiers to the proper strategic positions around our country and there will be nothing we can do about it.

All this sounds like some crazy fairy tale, but any aviation expert will tell you that all these "dreams" are in a practical experimental stage. They know they will some day be matters of fact.

We can't relax now, because the state of unpreparedness in which this war found us might tempt some coalition of hungry nations; and we must not relax ever again while war continues to be the only "out" for unclever European rulers. Forget the fact that we must have one car now for he entire family instead of Mama and Papa's Buick, Sister's Chevie and Brother George's Ford. We don't deserve to become the greatest nation in the world if we can't cut down just a little bit on our luxurious way of living in order that our country should be kept secure for us and for our descendants.

Opposition Is Essential

Every student of history knows that no human institution ever throve without opposition. That is as true of political organizations as of other groups. The political party which does not have to face a vigorous opposition tends to become corrupt and overbearing.

It is something like that which Mr. Willkie had in mind in his address to the American people a few days after election. He called for the establishment and maintenance of what he termed a "loyal opposition" to the victorious party and its administration. That is the true spirit of democracy.

The fundamental principle upon which our democratic system is based is the right of every citizen to disagree with any other citizen or with any group of citizens or with the government of the time being and its policies and to express such disagreements as loudly and openly as he pleases. The only point upon which agreement is demanded or expected of all the citizens is that none shall do anything contrary to the interest of all.

Every good American must respect the right of every other American to disagree on details, methods and policies. But every good American should be in agreement with all other Americans on the general principles by which the national course must be steered in times of crisis.

This is such a time. There must be unity among Americans on the principle of preparedness against the danger of war. But beyond that there is no obligation upon any citizen to accept blindly and without question whatever the party in power proposes.

That is what Mr. Willkie meant by a "loyal opposition." America needs today, as it always has needed and always will need, an opposition which will be loyal to the highest American traditions and actively opposed to every attempt to infringe them.

Letting Others Sell You

Some years ago Barry J. Holloway packed his suitcase in Versailles, Mo., and boarded a train for New York to get a job as press agent. He was an experienced newspaper man, and wanted a job in the publicity department of the National Broadcasting Company.

When he arrived in New York, he found that the company was not taking on any more men; in fact, it had just let one man go. Barry had come all the way to New York to get his name on the payroll, and there he sat in his hotel room, no job, no prospect, no return fare.

He found that the man who could say Yes or No was Frank E. Mason.

He did a little thinking. He knew that he must do something different to land that job. Every day good newspaper men and writers were trudging in and flapping down their cards on Frank E. Mason's reception desk. And when they saw Mr. Mason, they told how capable they were.

Barry decided not to try to sell himself, but to let some one else do it. He sat down and wrote to twelve friends, air mail, asking them to send telegrams to Mr. Mason saying how experienced Barry was, and that he should be given a hearing. He wrote sample letters, each one making a different point. He knew that Mr. Mason would know the name of some of these people.

Then he told his boosters the exact time of day to send the telegrams. Some were to be sent in the morning, others in the afternoon.

This barrage of telegrams lasted for seven days, each message telling what a good publicity man Barry J. Holloway was. But not a word from Mr. Holloway himself. He waited patiently, for if his plan worked, Mr. Mason would have his curiosity tremendously aroused by this build-up of telegrams.

On the fifth day, Barry arrived at the office just as Mr. Mason finished reading his mail and before he had plunged into the day's work. The secretary came out and Barry said, "I'm Barry J. Holloway. I'd like to see Mr. Mason."

The secretary looked at him with interest. "Mr. Mason knows of you. Won't you come in?"

The Spirit Of Democracy

Nowhere is the democracy which is at the root of Christianity so complete in its application as in a great charity hospital. In Bellevue Hospital in New York, the largest of them all, no account is taken of the race, color, creed or nationality of any unfortunate who is taken there for medical or surgical treatment.

"Shoot, Sam'l, And Don't Miss!"

This Week in Washington

Washington (Autocaster), Dec. 5—The position of the Vice-President of the United States has been a peculiar one for the past one hundred and twenty years. The first two Vice-President, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, succeeded naturally to the office of President because each of them had received the second largest number of votes when the President was elected. Then the Constitution was changed and with it the method of electing the Vice-President.

The post of Vice-President continued to be an important one because, as Woodrow Wilson once put it, "he may cease to be Vice-President and become President." That has happened five times in the brief history of the United States. That number of President have died in office and the man who had been elected Vice-President has succeeded him. That is the way Presidents John Tyler, Andrew Johnson, Chester A Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge reached the White House. Not one of them had any real expectation of becoming President certainly not by that route, and not more than one or two of them had any ambition to be President.

Chose the Confederacy

On the whole, the Presidents who have reached that post by succession have turned out pretty well. The first of them, John Tyler, who succeeded General William Henry Harrison after the hero of Tippecanoe had been only a month in office, has the unique distinction of having been both President of the United States and a member of the Congress of the Confederacy.

As a Virginian, he had to make the diffcult choice which so many citizens of that commonwealth faced. He was all for keeping the state in the Union; but when he was overruled, he cast in his lot with his fellow citizens of Virginia and was elected to the Confederate Congress in 1862, but died before that body assembled.

Vice President Tyler had another distinction in that in 1844 he was nominated for a second term as President by the Democratic National Convention and declined the nomination.

How Andrew Johnson, Chester Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt and Calvin Coolidge became Presidents, because of the assassination or death of the President of the time, is familiar history to every schoolboy. And everybody who reads the newspapers today knows that Henry A. Wallace became Vice-President by order of President Roosevelt, over the opposition of practically the entire Democratic Party.

Attention Focused

That focuses attention upon Vice-President generally and Vice-President Wallace particularly. Mr. Wallace, so far, has done nothing to make him as famous as one of his Democratic predecessors, Thomas R. Marshall. Mr. Marshall was Vice-President under Woodrow Wilson, and when he was asked what the country needed most he gave the perfectly truthful answer: "A good five-cent cigar." That made Tom Marshall famous and popular.

Mr. Wallace is already famous as the Secretary of Agriculture in Mr. Roosevelt's two terms. It can hardly be said that he is popular. He originated the Agricultural Adjustment Administration project, and has operated all of the machinery for the supposed benefit of the farmers since 1933, with the result that the latest election returns show that the Republicans carried practically every one of the farm states.

It was whispered shortly after election, that Mr. Roosevelt intended to lean very heavily on Mr. Wallace, even to the extent of making him a sort of "Executive President" to relieve the President himself of domestic details while the Vice-President looked after such things. Some indcations have already been given of a project of this sort.

During the campaign Mr. Wallace was sent around the country to speak for the President. Since election he has been appointed as a special emissary and personal representative of the President to attend the inaguration of Mexico's new President.

There are rumors around Washington of other jobs which the President has in view for the Vice-President after their joint inauguration on January 20th. Indeed if half of these reports are true, the new Vice-President will seldom be seen on the rostrum of the Senate, because he will be out around the country somewhere attending to business for the President.

There is nothing the matter with that kind of a scheme. It is surprising that no President before has ever thought of his assistant. One or two Vice-President have been invited by the President to sit in Cabinet meetings and give the Cabinet the benefit of their advice as to what they might or might not be able to get through Congress. But these have been few and far between, and have seldom lasted in that capacity.

Situation a Puzzle

The whole Wallace situation is a good deal of a puzzle, to which the best answer that the Washington wiseacres have been able to figure out is that, while Mr. Roosevelt doesn't expect a fourth term for himself, he wants to pick the fourth-term candidate and he is grooming Mr. Wallace for the job.

That impression grows the more the experienced observers here examine the situation. There have been a great many worse Presidents than Henry Wallace would be, if he could get elected. Whether he will shape up as a 1944 Presidential candidate is something which will depend upon the kind of work he is given to do by Mr. Roosevelt, and how he does it.

OCEAN CITY BRIDGE WORK HANDICAPPED

The States Roads Commission, facing the prospect of mid-winter freezeups, made it plain today that Ocean City's new $1,000,000 bridge won't be completed until around the time the resort's 1941 season closes.

Despite overtime work, and with parpenters laboring Sundays and holidays, commission officials said the bridge contractor had been unable to overcome setbacks suffered when key employes and skilled laborers left the job to work on national defense projects at Norfolk.

DEFENSE COURSES ARE ARE BEING OFFERED

Technical courses to supply trained men to meet the needs of defense industries in Maryland and the District of Columbia and to be given entirely at Government expense will be offered at the University of Maryland.

Dean S. S. Steinberg, head of the Engineering College, announced the courses this week and said they would include training for army, navy and other Government departments, as well as private industry.

They will be of college grade and will require two to six months for completion, with training geared to meet needs of specific defense jobs. Instructors will be members of the college teaching staff, supplemented by other specially qualified men from industries to be served.

Dean Steinberg said the courses would be designed for "upgrading those now employed in defense industries and for training a reservoir of new technicians to supply expanding industrial needs." Minimum qualifications will be graduation from high schools.

A survey now is under way of industrial and governmental requirements for engineering and supervisory personnel in this area, the Dean said, adding that "it already is evident that there is a shortage of draftsmen, tool designers and inspectors in the aircraft and radio industries, inspectors of armament and designers of instruments and machinery."

SHORE MIGRANT CAMPS CONSIDERED

Plans for the establishment of one or more mobile camps for migratory agricultural workers for operation in the Eastern seaboard area are being considered by the Farm Security Administration, according to an announcement yesterday in Washington by Gregory Silvermaster, director of the labor division of the FSA.

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