

THE FAITHS WE CHERISH "We will be misled into believing that America can be strong by military force alone, when in truth the foundation of our strength and amazing vitality is not in material things at all, but rather in the spirit of this nation, in the faiths we cherish," says David Lilienthal, Chm. of the Atomic Energy Commission.

SHALL WE HAVE A NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY ALLIANCE?

Share in discussion of the pros and cons at our Mid-Winter Institute.

THE WEALTH WE SPEND "The national budget for the next fiscal year is as terse a commentary as possible on the status of the world four years after the worst war in history, and probably the penultimate one," editorializes the Post Standard. We quote in part: "More than a third of it--fourteen billion, three hundred million--has been allocated for the nation's defense,... which leads one to believe that the world has not had a bellyful of war to date, and that, therefore, all the goods, all the energy and the talents of people everywhere must be funneled into this international pastime, leaving a small portion for the normal existence of the race.

"That is what really saddens and feeds the fires of cynicism.... Anyone who can glance over the budget and not be roused to wrath and tears over the defense allocation has just about succumbed to the 20th century's mad dash to hell by the largest super-highway available....

"Yet no amount of correct reasoning can take away the sting of the immediate post-war rise of the military to almost combat importance in our affairs. The ascendancy of military forces in any country and in any age breeds force, taints national thinking with force and finally, like a crutch, is always there when patience gives out, and the conference table has ended in a fiasco. It is much too handy to have a loaded gun around when someone displeases you.

"As we go into the new fiscal year, a peace year, we might remind ourselves daily that a third of all the wealth we produce in this enlightened era must be tossed to the mechanism of the destruction of what is left of civilization."

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Hear both sides of the questions and voice your own. February 18-20.

THE SCHEMES WE NURTURE Evidence accumulates that the war scare last summer was largely synthetic and at least partially inspired in Washington. Sources for such an interpretation are found in Hansen Baldwin (N.Y. Times, Dec. 2), the Hoover Commission Report in December; and Devere Allen, editor of Worldover Press who wrote, also in December, of "a sweet little plan now taking shape in Washington" not to accept any concessions from the Russians nor be maneuvered into a settlement in Berlin "before next spring." The idea is to wait for the re-arming of Western Europe; wait until our overseas air bases are all fully ready for war; until Marshall Plan aid can be diverted to military expenditures. Then deliver an ultimatum to Russia!

It is not claimed that "this ghoulish" scheme has the support of top military officials, but that it exists and is being extensively promoted and "tactfully pushed on Mr. Truman."

This is why London Peace News asks: "Can Truman Tame the Militarists?" And insists, rightly, we believe, that "Truman's big issue during the next few months is whether the civil branches of the U.S. Government are going to control foreign policy, as the Constitution provides, or whether the military branches will consolidate their dominance. And unfortunately, nobody can be sure the President sees the question independently, since he has been so closely under the tutelage of the military planners."

SHALL WE HAVE A NORTH ATLANTIC MILITARY ALLIANCE?

Think the problems through under the best leadership available.

THE THINGS WE MIGHT DO A recent editorial from the New York Times testifies to the disgraceful workings of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948. In six months, less than 2,615 displaced persons have arrived in this country or are en route, out of an authorized 205,000 over a two-year period. The New York Times editorial says: those inequities in the law which block the admission of displaced persons, "were deliberately put there by men who knew what they were doing. They can be taken out by other men who also will know what they are doing."

Whatever may be the changes in the food situation abroad, and remember that even in the best categories it nowhere approaches our lowest standard while some specialized groups are worse off (see Jan. PN), the January report from Quaker Overseas Teams says: **CLOTHING AND SHOES ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED -- MORE SO THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE THE END OF THE WAR.** Our depot is at 722 N. Salina St. The Friends Meeting will furnish sweater or sock yarn at less than store prices (or free if necessary) to knitters. Ask us.

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HARD FACTS A good deal more than meets the eye of the casual reader was and is involved in the Indonesian affair. It makes of Queen Wilhelmina's specific pledge of freedom for Netherlands Indies, given six years ago, yet another "scrap of paper," and so still further weakens confidence in national honor and international agreements; it makes a mockery of UN and so further weakens the world's already feeble hopes of international organization; it deeply involves the United States which has supplied great part of the equipment of the Dutch Army and has contributed huge sums to Dutch recovery at home thus releasing funds for imperialist adventure abroad, and so putting in question the integrity of our democratic professions; it plays directly into the hands of international Communism by undermining still further the faith of the Asiatic people, determined to be free, in the professions and practices of the West. Millions of men and women, fabulous wealth in natural resources, and the peace and freedom of the world are involved.

Said the Australian delegate to UN: "What Hitler did to the Netherlands in 1940" the Dutch are now doing to Indonesia. Hard words, but the revival of the Nazi practice of repudiation of commitments and defiance of world opinion is a hard fact. The war to destroy Nazism was not victory, and this is the hardest fact of all.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF PHILOSOPHERS Last fall in London, Bertrand Russell, reputed to be the greatest living philosopher in the Western World, recommended immediate war against the Soviet Union. As reported in the Observer his argument is: now, before Russia has the A-bomb, or submission. He admits that it would be a war of extraordinary horrors but believes it would be the war to end wars. It seems to us that we have heard this line at least a couple of times before but what interests us here is the speculation that the Soviets must be very grateful for this clear cut confirmation of their suspicions about Western policy. Out of our own mouths we supply their best propoganda; we certainly can't complain about its accuracy!

"SORRY, FELLOWS No Draft Today" headlines the Daily Orange in reporting the Army announcement that no draft calls for February and March will be made. Reasons reported by the press include: the high rate of enlistment in recent weeks has 'jammed' the Army; the large number of lay-offs in industry is forcing unskilled labor into the Army; the Army claims 'the dilemma' is caused by the budget limitation of 15 billion. Is it just possible that the move is intended to put pressure on the President to lift the military budget ceiling, and so provide the "happy solution" for which officials are said to be seeking? Other plans under consideration include cutting out two-year enlistments and raising recruit standards. So much for that vitaly necessary draft law!

THE HAVE NOTS From a private correspondent: "Yes, it is incredible that men who are responsible for the people dare speak of a new war, but they are certainly the men who have not suffered, who have not known the horrors of the occupation, nor the executions, nor the concentration camps, who have not been cold, who have not been hungry, who have not lived under bombardments! Here in France we have all that in our memories, and the whole, entire people no longer wish to see it again, no longer wish that they speak to them of war, no longer wish to fight. They ask only to live in peace, to rebuild the ruins and work; for in total war the people are always conquered. Also the people of France are anxious about the present statecraft of the government. For us, life at this moment is difficult. Prices mount and scarcity is organized instead of the abundance which exists in a country as fertile as France which profits only the holders of monopolies and the traffickers. Money is the master of the situation, and it is a great misfortune. Nevertheless, we do not lose courage nor confidence in the future nor in man. God wants to lead us and to save us! It is the wish which we make for the year 1949 which approaches. May it be a year of great happiness and True Peace. Dear Friends, we salute you very cordially,"

Dear Friends, Does this challenge you as it does us?

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