

Military Label On Government Aides Held Unwarranted

By JAMES THRASHER
Something new has been added to the usual election-year arguments, even at this early date. It is the question of "militarism" and military influence in government. We'll be hearing more of it, too, whether or not a military man is one of the presidential candidates.

A group of 21 distinguished scientists, educators, authors and clergymen is the latest to see

off on "the present trend toward military control of our institutions." The 21, including Prof. Albert Einstein, have filed a blast at universal military training. In the course of it, they have some hard words to say about military men in policy-making posts.

Secretary of State Marshall, they say, "conducts his foreign office as a soldier would do in dealing with the enemy." They point out that other military men are in the State Department, that Admiral Leahy is close to the President, that UN Delegate Warren Austin was the military's enthusiastic supporter while in Congress, and that military funds are being used to finance scientific research in the nation's colleges and universities.

Refuted By History
Further, they are concerned over the government's industrial mobilization plan, and the "favorable publicity" that the army gets in the nation's press, and the use of Boy Scouts in the Army recruiting program. History shows, they say, that militarism leads to war and loss of personal freedom.

Let us take up the last charge first, as it applies to the United States. Since the Revolution, we have fought six more-or-less major wars: the War of 1812, under James Madison's presidency, the Mexican War under Polk; the Civil War under Lincoln; the War with Spain under McKinley; and the two world wars under Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Madison, Polk, Lincoln and McKinley were lawyers and politicians. Wilson and Roosevelt practiced law briefly. Wilson was president of Princeton and governor of New Jersey before he occupied the White House. Roosevelt held a succession of political offices. Not one of the secretaries of state was a professional soldier, either.

Labeling Unfair
The specter of "militarism" disturbs the sleep of some of our most intelligent, well-meaning citizens. The last war put some 14,000,000 men and women into uniform. It naturally focused some public attention on the men who commanded them. It is hardly remarkable that a good many persons in government today have some military background.

We think that the slapping on of the "military men" label is unfair generalization. And we think the labelers are going from the general to the particular, without much justification, when they

Kidnapped by Love-Struck Suitor



(NEA Telephoto)
Joan Pelouquin, 17, is kissed by her mother, Mrs. Louise Pelouquin, following Joan's return to her home in Merrill, Mich., after she had been kidnapped and held captive for 17 hours by a lovesick former suitor, William Mayer, 20.

say that Secretary of State Marshall conducts foreign policy as a soldier deals with the enemy. If the critics of "militarism" in the government wish to quote history, we would refer them to the history of the years leading up to the two world wars. We believe they will find that unpreparedness, which Professor Einstein and his associates now suggest, did more to involve America in war and near-disaster than all the acts of men with military background who have held that office in our government.

N. W. Holdings of Wheat Lowest in Thirteen Years

PORTLAND, Jan. 28 (AP)—Unsold wheat holdings in the Pacific Northwest are at the lowest level in 13 years and trade groups said today they would recommend no resumption of government buying for export. The federal crop recording service reported holdings Jan. 1

U. S. Inconsistent In Dealing With Various Red Types

By JAMES THRASHER

The saying that "we grow to resemble what we hate" seems to fit some of our government's dealings with Communists embarrassingly well. We refer specifically to the Justice Department's dealings with alien, non-resident, non-Russian Communist and former Communists.

The situation is not new, but it doesn't get any better. Attorney General Clark is armed with a 30-year-old law that bars alien anarchists and others advocating overthrow of the government from this country, except at the Attorney General's discretion.

We recall that a correspondent of a French Communist paper was admitted to the United States on a very short leash. He could cover the UN doings, but nothing else. And he could not travel further than from New York to suburban Lake Success and Flushing Meadows Park.

Later a Greek and an Indian correspondent, Communists or suspects, wound up on Ellis Island. Oscar Niemeyer, a Brazilian architect, was allowed to enter as a UN consultant, but he couldn't lecture on architecture at Yale.

Good Sense Needed

Now Miguel Saignes, dean of Venezuela's school of journalism, has been denied a visa on the grounds that he was once a Communist. This, in spite of the fact that the American consulate in Caracas has his statement that he is no longer a member of the Communist party.

It might seem that Mr. Clark might make some exceptions in the interest of good sense and good neighborliness. Our government has reason to stay on good terms with both South American countries. Brazil, the southern continent's largest country, has outlawed Communism. Yet Mr. Niemeyer is not only at large, but apparently in such good graces that he is being permitted to help plan the UN headquarters.

Venezuela is an important source of oil for this country. It is also the closest thing to a U. S.-type democracy in all South America. Her Communists form a small minority party. Mr. Clark's treatment of one of her prominent citizens seems short-sighted as well as high-handed—especially since Dr. Romulo Betancourt,

who was Venezuela's president until the December elections, also is reported to be a reformed Communist himself.

Attitude Breeds Ill Will

Mr. Clark's attitude would not seem so awkward except for our government's treatment of American Communists. Their newspapers operate under no restrictions. The foreign Communist press is severely restricted, or barred.

We read the books and applaud the conversions of such ex-Communists as the American Louis Budenz and the Russian Victor Kravchenko. We do not even permit a Venezuelan ex-Communist to set foot in this country.

Vital Statistics

Divorce Decrees

COELYN—Gertrude from John H. Coelyn; married at Oakland, Calif., Aug. 25, 1928; cruelty.

KEMP—Lucy Edna from Henry Clap Kemp; married at Midland, Texas, Sept. 23, 1928; cruelty.

WHEELAND—Verna Belle from Clifford Wheeland; married at Roseburg, Nov. 7, 1946; cruelty.

BROCKSOME—Laura Jeanne from Glenn Oliver Brocksome; married at Roseburg, Feb. 22, 1947; cruelty; name, Laura Jeanne Holcomb, restored.

MAUPIN—Daisy Deloris from Clyde H. Maupin; married at Reno, Nev., Aug. 19, 1946; cruelty.

PATTON—Fannie Mae from Edgar M. Patton; married at Rome, Ga., April 17, 1929; cruelty.

BREWER—Daniel J. from Zella Mae Brewer; married at Crescent City, California, Dec. 27, 1941; cruelty.

O'CONNOR—Olga from Hugh O'Connor; married at Chicago, Ill., Sept. 17, 1946; cruelty.

WILLIAMSON—Lorraine from James Williamson; married at San Diego, Calif., Dec. 4, 1943; cruelty.

Divorce Complaints
MOORE—Ruth E. vs. Edwin B. Moore; married at Sacramento, Calif., May 7, 1938; cruelty.

ELLIFRITZ—Avril vs. William Ellifritz; married at Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 5, 1946; desertion.

CANTERBURY—Arthur C. vs. Audrey Canterbury; married at Vancouver, Wash., Aug. 14, 1947; marriage of plaintiff to defendant within six months of defendant's death.

ant's previous divorce.

Marriage Licenses

LARSON-SMITH—Glenn A. Larson and Barbara Lee Smith, both of Oakland.

FITCH-HANSEN—Wesley Keith Fitch, Oakland, and Alvina Ramona Hansen, Roseburg.

ROWTON-BLANKENSHIP—William Lloyd Rowton and Marie Faye Blankenship, both of Riddle.

GRENSKY-MILLER—Robert Earl Grensky, Myrtle Creek, and Arleta Mae Miller, Roseburg.

ADD divorce complaints
HOGAN—Herbert M. vs. Jane Hogan; married in Sutherlin, Mo., 26, 1947; cruelty.

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Jugged



Actor Allen Jenkins and his cabaret Smiley shared a Los Angeles jail cell after Jenkins was arrested for drunken driving when his car almost ran head-on into a police patrol car. The actor insisted on taking Smiley to jail with him, explaining they were inseparable companions.

In Washington, Oregon and Idaho were 55,802,000 bushels, 33 per cent below a year ago; and just enough to meet normal feed and flour needs in the region until a new crop is harvested.

Of the total on hand, the Federal Commodity Corporation holds between 5,000,000 and 10,000,000 bushels for export purposes.

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