

Oregon Students Debate: 'Military Conscription After the War?'

Mr. Pro Contends -----

By BILL SINNOTT

The greatest danger facing the United States is not World War II. It is our national attitude after the war. We can become isolationistic again, placing the dollar over the security of the people. We can join a revived League of Nations. We can place our signature on another Kellogg pact, dreaming of some Utopian state of freedom from war. We can have another Washington conference; sinking the best ships of our fleet.

All this would breed a situation that would bring on World War III before the year 2000. If we don't prepare for war after this one, another master race a generation from now will profit by the mistakes of the Axis and beat us.

The Axis by now knows the error in judgment of Hitler and his high command and won't repeat them the next time. Documents have fallen into our hands charting German plans for the next war.

There are three main reasons for compulsory military training in this country after the armistice:

For National Security

1. Our national security demands it. By national security, I mean peace. No nation is secure if it is threatened by war. Twice within one generation now our country has been caught unprepared in the midst of a world situation that was coming to a climax. Yet, in each instance, the general public was not ready to support the few far-sighted individuals who saw the inevitable eruption.

I don't put the blame for the present rehearsal of World War III on the dictators. When Manchuria and Ethiopia were raped by supposedly civilized nations, every intelligent citizen of the United States and Britain should have seen the meaning. The "Peace in our time" man had a good many followers. There are plenty of isolationists in America today.

The fact is, and the only one that is important to the nation 40 to 60 years hence, we need to be reasonably prepared to hold our own. That means compulsory military training.

Soft Democracies Again

When the next time arrives, and the dictators decide the democracies are soft and ripe for the kill, the totalitarians will have the material for the job.

2. We need compulsory military training to give our young men something they miss in our public

school system. Our schools are practically valueless in building boys into strong young men. The rejection percentage of young men between 18 and 25 is proof enough. A year of training, under army methods, for boys around 18 or 19 will do more than 12 years of public school P. E.

3. We need military training to teach our youth the meaning of discipline.

Face the Facts

We must face the facts. I hope the proposed setup agreed upon by the Dumbarton Oaks conference will keep the world steady.

If you believe the Britain of Mr. Winston Churchill will give up her empire; that Russia will forbear to use her new-found power; you are living in the fool's paradise of 1918-1939.

We don't need to have World War III. We didn't need to have World War II. There is only one way to prevent war—civilized nations must be so strong that barbaric powers won't dare to wage war against them.

If we don't have military training after this war, it is possible that three decades from now American boys will be dying in the far corners of the world, and the United States will be getting the dose that Germany and Britain got by air in this war.

Our commander-in-chief has come out for compulsory military training after the war. The year of training would be a mixture of military drill and the type of work carried out by the defunct CCC. It would toughen our youth and give them an idea of the immensity and resources of our country.

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The Issues Before Us

Students at a university or college often tend to forget world affairs under pressure of immediate school problems. The weight of studies reduces time for reading newspapers or magazines such as Time and Newsweek. It is so easy to climb within the college community shell, forgetting that we are actually a part of the world community.

But we should remember that the problems facing statesmen of today will be our problems tomorrow. Not only will we have to help solve them, but we will have to live in the world fashioned by the solution of present national and international controversies.

With this thought in mind The Emerald has begun a project designed to present both sides of some problem now faced either by our national government or by the coming peace conferences and world organization. The columns will be written by students, and each will express a student's opinion on the issue. At a later date a poll will be taken of the entire campus to find out the community's attitude.

The Emerald will appreciate any suggestions of questions you students wished discussed, for the column is designed primarily as a forum for you. Anyone wishing to write on one side or another of some pertinent question should not hesitate to submit his name. The best articles are always written by a person who feels strongly concerning the subject at hand.—M.A.C.

Mr. Con Contends -----

By BILL BUELL

Almost everyone in the country is now saying that after this war is over we should maintain a strong international organization to prevent future wars. Many of these same individuals are also saying that every young man in the United States should receive a year's compulsory military training.

Universal military training is useless if peace is to be maintained. Either these people are convinced that peace, no matter how desirable, is impossible, or they actually want more wars. The theory that keeping the nation armed to the teeth is necessary to keep potential aggressors under control is nonsense. An effective international police force and economic sanctions should adequately perform that function.

Many of the big industrialists and financiers in the United States would welcome another war. War is profitable. By selling to both sides many business groups have proved that as long as the profits keep rolling in they do not care how much human suffering a war may cause. American corporations continued selling metals to Japan long after it became apparent that the war with that country was inevitable. DuPont and Standard Oil exchanged trade secrets with Germany's I. G. Farbenindustrie even after the beginning of the present conflict.

Capitalists vs. Russia

Many of our capitalists, afraid that something will happen to their precious "free-enterprise" system, would like to see the United States, England, and Germany unite to attack Russia and wipe communism from the face of the earth. They are already attempting to create suspicion and hatred of the U.S.S.R. as evidenced by Bill Bullitt's recent anti-Russian article in Henry Luce's Wall street-controlled "Life" magazine.

Troops supposedly drafted to fight Germany and Japan have been taught strike-breaking techniques including the use of tear gas. Men drafted to train for future foreign wars could easily be used to fight labor on the home front.

Training Detrimental

The apologists for compulsory training say that a year in the army would be good for all young

men. We believe that the psychological effects of military training on the individual are, on the whole, detrimental rather than beneficial. Education should teach men to be builders and creators, leaders and thinkers. The army would train men to be destroyers, mere unthinking cogs in a great killing machine.

If, when the outcome of the present war is fully known and continued peace appears improbable, the United States should not attempt to give all young citizens a year's training but should maintain a small army of highly-trained technicians enlisted for a period of several years.

One Year Illogical

Modern war is so complicated and technical that men cannot be trained for many essential branches of the service in one year's time. Military technology changes so rapidly that a "trained reservist" who has been out of service for a year or two may prove of little more value than a man with no training at all. Mass conscription should not be resorted to until an actual conflict is seen to be inevitably approaching.

Probably most advocates of compulsory training are either those who do not realize the military inefficiency of such a measure; politicians who dangle before the people a promise of preparedness; or those who actually want war and plan to make the United States war-minded by constant emphasis upon military matters.

Gov. Will Speak

(Continued from page one)
living organizations will go together to the station. Students living in town are also expected to participate in the rally.

Duane Autzen, chairman of the transportation committee, urges all students who have cars available to fill them in order to allow as many rides as possible for the people in the parade.

Members of the rally squad, led by Joan Holstad, will distribute torches and posters to the crowd at the depot, but, said Lois McConkey, in charge of living organization turnout, "everyone will have to make his own noise!"

They say "blind as a bat." Actually bats have eyes and can see.

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