

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE ROLE OF THE OPPOSITION

The briefing of the Congressional leaders at the White House on Tuesday foreshadows, indeed it seems to make certain, a "great party struggle on the issues of the country's response to the Soviet challenge. The Democrats, however divided they may be on the problem of segregation, will be very much united in their criticism of the Eisenhower administration for falling behind in the race of armaments.

They will insist that the Administration was well informed and clearly warned by its own intelligence services that the Russians were forging ahead, that, nevertheless, the Administration suppressed and ignored these warnings, and that even after the Sputniks and all that they signify, there has been no sense of urgency, no bold and resourceful planning to deal with the situation.

No doubt, there will be substantial majorities in Congress for specific requests for more money. But there is no prospect at this time that there will be the kind of non-partisan unity in the next Congress which there was, let us say, after Pearl Harbor.

Why not? The country finds itself in a very serious situation, one which, if it is not righted, can have fearful consequences. Why, then, is there no good prospect that the Congress will close its ranks, and rally to the President's standard?

The answer, I am afraid, is that the President has raised no standard to which the country can rally. After Pearl Harbor it was clear to everyone that the country must unite in order to win the war which had so nearly been lost, and that this meant raising and equipping great military forces. But as to Sputnik, there is no such clarity about our objectives and our duty.

For, as the scientists have been telling us, we have fallen behind in the race of armaments because we have fallen behind in our technological capacity as it relates to the instruments of power. This is a default that cannot be corrected quickly. Moreover, though it cannot be corrected without the expenditure of much more money and much more effort, no one inside or outside the Administration is as yet able to define adequately a concrete program.

A concrete program equal to the emergency in which we live can be worked out only after the real situation is known and realized by the country, and then only after there has been a searching public debate. We shall know what to do only as and when we have explored the causes of our great default and have discussed the many remedies which are proposed. This is a time when our salvation is most likely to lie not in trying to ignore the two party system, but in looking to it—its leaders being responsible men—as the

only effective means by which the real situation can be brought home to the people, and the critical issues thoroughly discussed. This is a time in our history when a loyal opposition is an indispensable organ of good government.

WHY, one may ask, is it a time when the role of the opposition is so big and so important? The answer is that the Administration cannot be counted upon to furnish the leadership which our situation demands. There are two reasons for this. The one is that the great default took place because they ignored their own intelligence. Human nature being what it is, it is easier to acknowledge the real situation under the pressure of an opposition than it is to confess it voluntarily. The second reason is that the President is in no condition to exert the enormous energies which the situation calls for, and to endure the fearful strains of carrying out great programs.

Let us remember the situation in which we find ourselves. We have lost, or we are almost certain to lose in the near future, that command of the air on which our world position has rested. For many reasons, which seem to me good reasons, I do not think this means that we shall be attacked and devastated. But I believe it does mean that until an unless we are able to right the balance of power which is now against us, our influence will decline, our alliances will become enfeebled, our positions abroad will tend to disintegrate.

THE men among us who will know how to deal with this grim probability are those who know, not merely say but know in their bones, that there is no cheap and easy way out.

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Candidates Will Be Initiated Monday

A class of candidates will be initiated into the rank of Page at 8 p.m. Monday by members of Pythias in the Pythian building. A social hour will follow. James O'Duane, chancellor commander said.

Daniel R. Kadin and Robert D. Dames, both of Medford, became full fledged Knights last week. Eddie Bostwick is the master of work in charge of all lodge initiatory ceremonies.

Election of officers for 1958 will take place Monday, Dec. 16, and all members who have had a birthday since June 30, will be honored at a party after the meeting. Jim O'Duane, Ed Bostwick and Joe Fritsch will be in charge of the entertainment program.

LIQUOR AND GASOLINE
Montpelier, Vt.—William McKee, highway safety coordinator and secretary of the Emergency Highway Council, said drinking was "directly involved" in 36 per cent of the 90 fatal motor accidents in the state so far this year.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

KHRUSHCHEV WILL PLAY HIS ACE

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia—In the desperate game for the Middle East, the Soviets are now preparing to come to the champions of the Arab claims against Israel. This is the ace of trumps that Nikita Khrushchev has long been keeping up his sleeve for the right moment.



Joseph Alsop

The ace will be played in the form of active Soviet support for a United Nations resolution requiring Israel to return to the frontiers originally drawn in the 1947 resolution partitioning Palestine. It sounds innocuous enough. But it will confront the American policy-makers with a dilemma more basically difficult than either the Berlin blockade or the Korean aggression.

Urgent action is perhaps still possible to convince the Kremlin that it will be altogether too dangerous to go on tampering with the explosive Middle Eastern situation. But failing such initiative, the expected Soviet initiative will leave the American and Western policy-makers with only two possible choices.

EITHER they must assent to the destruction of the state of Israel—for that is what a return to the 1947 frontiers will amount to. Or they must expect to see the Kremlin's championship accepted, at least with outward eagerness, by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, and all the other currently anti-Soviet and pro-Western Arab states.

There is more to expect, too. The enforced change of alignment by all the West's Arab friends will inevitably cause severe inner strains and stresses. As a result, some if not all of these strategically vital countries will almost certainly fall into the hands of openly anti-Western and pro-Soviet governments.

These are, so to speak, the minimum tricks the Kremlin can reasonably count on taking by playing the anti-Israeli ace. The only real risk of this simple maneuver, moreover, will lie in Israel launching a war of despair against the United Arabs.

It may seem odd to be predicting perhaps the most important Soviet cold war initiative since the death of Stalin from this remote, still half-medieval desert town, where the most sternly anti-Communist of Arab rulers, King Saud of Saudi Arabia has his dynastic capital.

THE reality of the danger is only underlined, however, because confirmation has been obtained here in Riyadh, of all places, of this Soviet intention long ago foreseen in this space. If King Saud's government has not officially joined in the preliminary discussions of the future Soviet maneuver, some of his advisors have at least done so.

Neither King Saud nor any member of his entourage desires to line up with the Soviets, for very obvious reasons. They would join hands with the devil himself against Israel, as Crown Prince Faisal once remarked to this reporter. But they do not wish to do so, and

therefore their warnings might normally be taken with a grain of salt.

The warnings were altogether too specific and factual for comfort, however. Saudi leaders speaking with unimpeachable authority flatly stated that the intended Soviet maneuver had already been discussed "not on a really high level but quite officially with another Arab government." A communication by the Soviet Ambassador in Cairo to the Egyptian government was clearly indicated.

FURTHERMORE (and here was the real shock), there was detailed analysis of the United Nations voting pattern that would be produced by active Soviet support for the Arabs. All the votes of the Soviet bloc, plus Yugoslavia, were added to all the Arab votes. All Asian votes were also claimed. Indian support was insisted upon in a way that suggested preliminary soundings at New Delhi. It was all very much like a pre-convention count of delegates by the managers of an American Presidential candidate.

"What we want is a two-thirds majority in the U. N. Assembly," said the most highly placed of this reporter's Saudi official informants. "Even if you vote against us, as we expect, we can still get a two-thirds majority if you do not bring pressure on other countries to vote with you. All we ask is that you vote for yourselves alone."

Discussed in this manner, the kind of resolution the Arabs want and the Soviets are getting ready to back does not sound especially inflammatory. In reality, all those who know the past background and the present facts also know that nothing could possibly be more inflammatory.

The background is simple and indisputable. In 1947, with a blindness that could only have been induced by the most vulgar expediency, the great powers pushed through a crazy partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab areas. After this insane partition into unworkable bits and pieces, the tortured country was supposed to be cooperatively managed by the bitter enemies, the Arabs and the Jews. The Soviets voted for this fantastic arrangement, presumably with the sound expectation of making future trouble.

THE Arabs, refusing to accept the partition, went to war against the Jews and were badly beaten. When the armistice was arranged, the frontier of the Jewish-occupied part of Palestine extended far beyond the frontiers laid down by the U. N. The armistice frontiers became Israel's de facto frontiers. Thereafter an ingathering of a million and a half Jews of the Diaspora filled Israel's new living space to the bursting point.

A return to the 1947 frontiers will therefore displace a million and a half Jews. Just as the original partition of Palestine displaced a million tragic Arab refugees. Furthermore, Israel must surely cease to exist as a state if forced back to the crazy frontiers of 1947.

For just these reasons, "the 1947 frontiers which the United Nations originally voted for" have now become the great rallying cry of the Arabs, who

Let Own Taste Be Best Guide To Redecorate Home

Washington—Don't let a mother or a well-meaning friend tell you how to decorate your home, says one interior designer. "Your own taste is best," said Gladys Miller in a recent lecture series sponsored by the National Housing Center. "Too many people are afraid of their own taste so timidly follow advice of mothers, older sisters and friends."

This doesn't mean that professional interior decorators should be thrown out the window, however. With their experience and knowledge of fabrics, lighting and color, they can give the homemaker an objective plan with a view toward practical furniture and fixtures to suit the individual family's tastes, pocketbook and living habits.

Lois Reed, coordinator of home furnishings for a Washington department store, emphasized the importance of color in every element of the home from ashtrays to afghans. "Unsuitable colors will tire you out. Choose color schemes you can live with," she advised. Women at the Center's "school" showed a preference for green, beige, pink and blue. Industry surveys showed muted or neutral colors as the favorites. The school ran four nights, with a complete program each night.

The programs stressed two important factors in proper interior design: Advance planning and budgeting.

Accessories Important
"Thorough planning insures the right thing at the right time," the experts said. "Never rush to get everything at once, picking up accessories and single pieces of furniture should be a year-round pleasure. The homemaker who buys all her furniture and leaves no money for accessories will complain that her rooms look bare and unfinished."

"Never buy a painting for the signature of the artist or as the fashion of the day. Pictures are personal and should be purchased only if you intend to hang them, not pack them away and forget them."

"Children's rooms should be given special attention," said Serge Sackhoff, head of interior design at one firm (Mayer and Co.).

"A child feels his room is his palace. It's a big letdown for him when the family moves into a new home and the child discovers the parents and guest rooms have been decorated before his."

Salem—Karl Greve Jr., Portland jeweler, has been appointed by Gov. Robert D. Holmes to fill the Republican vacancy on the three-member Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

Pendleton Airport Gets Extra Business

Pendleton—The Pendleton airport was a "must stop" for planes bound for Pacific Northwest airports fogged in and with low visibility Thursday night.

Officials at the Pendleton airport said landings were not made Thursday night at Walla Walla or Tri-Cities airports in Washington.

West Coast Airlines sent two extra flights into Pendleton Thursday afternoon and two more Thursday night to make up for those going to or from the Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima. Passengers to those three areas were taken to their destinations from the Pendleton airport by taxicab and airline limousine.

Pear Shippers Support Promotion Program

The Medford Pear Shippers association voted recently to support the merchandising and promotion program of the Pacific Coast Canned Pear Service.

The program is supported by voluntary pro-rata assessments on all pear tonnage sold to processors on the Pacific coast. Growers in Oregon, Washington and California are participating.

YOUNGER HOME OWNERS

Chicago—Forty per cent of today's home owners are between the ages of 25 and 34, according to the United States Savings and Loan League, compared with 30 per cent in 1949.

processors on the Pacific coast. Growers in Oregon, Washington and California are participating.

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