

America must be ready at all times in the future because she will be on the spot.

The next aggressor will recognize her as the chief stumbling block to world conquest in two world wars passed. He will predicate all his plans on knocking America out first. He will believe he may be able to crush us before we can get ready to fight. We are just simpletons if we do not take cognizance of these facts and govern ourselves accordingly.

The late Theodore Roosevelt, ex-president of the United States often urged, "Speak softly but carry a big stick!"

George Washington advised us to, "Have a citizen-militia force of a sufficient size and strength to be respectable in the eyes of our friends and fearful in the eyes of those who might otherwise become our enemies."

Both of these great Americans had grasped an essential fact—peace without power is a pipe dream!

We must also bear in mind, too, that war has become a business of specialists. Weapons have become fearfully complex. It takes months of time to train a raw boy to operate a gun turret in a Liberator bomber; to use a bazooka; to fire artillery; to drive tanks, to fly planes; to handle machine guns. When we are suddenly attacked, we will not have time to mobilize to train. We will only have time to mobilize to fight. The Universal Military Training Program will pile up for us a lot of critical time that will be precious to us in the hour of national need.

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NOW THE AMERICAN LEGION SPEAKS

In appraising the merits of the Universal Military Training plan for the United States, advocated by the American Legion, it is well to adjust our thinking to grim new developments and facts.

For great number of years Americans have looked upon the Atlantic and Pacific oceans as our own God-given natural defense barriers against all foreign attacks. We have also looked upon the British navy in conjunction with our own to supplement those natural defenses. But things have changed suddenly.

World War II has been a laboratory for the development of the science of modern warfare. It has been too good a laboratory.

From it, have come war planes flying faster than sound, robot bombs, rocket planes, electronics, amphibious operations, all of which even in their present infancy, already have literally stripped America of her defensive armor—the oceans, the mountains and the deserts. In the next war there will be no natural barriers anywhere in the world to bar military operations.

In the next war it will be possible to bombard cities across the ocean by radar and electronic controlled artillery, robot bombs or rocket planes. Vast armies will be transported in giant aerial troop carriers. Speed such as we have not even dreamed of will mark attacks.

We know these things are coming because that is the way they are shaping up the world today.

We must also accept the facts that the wars will come again. History continues to repeat itself. In the face of this knowledge we, as a nation, cannot and must not stick our heads into the sand in the naive belief that if by effort we blind ourselves to approaching danger, it will not come to us.

Our responsibility is to appraise all these conditions realistically. When we rate the sobering facts at their grim value, only one conclusion is possible.