

Let's Play it Safe . . .

WE CAN guess that World War II is just out of the question at the present time, and this will be quite economical. Indeed, if a frantic preparedness program caused an immediate peaceful revision of Kremlin objectives, many people would probably consider the money ill-spent. Failure to prepare, on the other hand, will tempt Moscow to open the throttle on the most powerful war machine in the world.

Senator Lyndon Johnson (D-Tex) apparently believes in the old military maxim that we should not guess what the enemy might do, but prepare for what the enemy can do. His most recent demand is for the development of a long range global plan of strategy instead of the "makeshift mobilization" that has gone on for the past six

months. "If present policies prevail," Johnson continued, "we may find ourselves weaker next June than in June, 1950, when the Korean fighting started."

We do not believe that political and military leaders can afford the "calculated risk" approach.

Military intelligence reported the Chinese armies were poised, but the attack was apparently contrary to expectations in higher command levels.

The Red army is poised in Western Europe—who can say that it will not march?

Let's pay this installment on our freedom in preparedness rather than in unwarranted decimation of the next "lost generation."

Come Now, and Let Us Reason Together . . .

Laws Cannot Produce Security We Desire

By THOMAS M. FONTAINE

When the history of the Twentieth Century is written, will we be known as the "Generation of Cowards?" Not physical cowards. Moral cowards. Afraid to face and conquer the problems that confront us.

We fervently hope not. The thought of a generation's moral cowardice is brought to our attention every day by new reports of plans to effect security for all of us.

The spare us from troubles plan which is getting the most attention right now is medical security—socialized medicine, compulsory health insurance, or any of the other names it has.

"The Daily Fair Dealer," student newspaper of the University of Texas, has just wound up a series of four articles expounding the benefits to be derived from such a plan. Written by Dr. Carl Rosenquist, professor of sociology, the fourth article ends with an argument or appeal for adoption of a federally controlled health program:

Here Is Their Argument

"Let us suppose that next week or tomorrow you do not feel so well and you go to a doctor. He examines you and finds that you need an operation and after that, six months of complete rest. Or you turn out to have TB, or diabetes, or a suspicion of cancer, or any of a hundred potentially grave illnesses.

"Will you give me one guess as to the first thought that enters your mind after you have absorbed the shock of the doctor's diagnosis. Here it is: You will wonder, how much is this illness going to cost me and how am I going to pay for it?"

"That is the question that haunts the mind of every middle-class person when he is seriously ill. The doctor tells you not to worry; that worry will interfere with your recovery. How can you help it, when you think of the sacrifice you and your family will now have to make?"

"There is no way now of being prepared in advance for this kind of thing, for there is no earthly way of estimating the expense. It may be small, let us hope it will be, but it may take everything you own and all you can borrow besides.

"National health insurance provides an answer to that question."

Does it? Really. This last year brought us a concrete example of how federal control measures answered another security problem.

How Successful was 'Potato Security'?

Up in the state of Maine there are some wonderful potato farms. In fact, Aroostook County is probably the best known producer of potatoes in the world. But the farmers up there have problems

just as any other farmer. What if too many potatoes are produced? The price of potatoes will fall and the farmer is liable to have to dig down in his savings to tide him over till the next year.

Last year our government decided to fix up "the answer" for his problem. If the farmer faced financial setback because of low potato prices, the government would rescue him by buying his potatoes at a price which would afford him a profit.

So what did the farmer do? Well, you can't blame him for what happened. Here was a guaranteed profit crop. So why gamble with anything else? Every field was planted with potatoes. Maine farmers usually had diversified crops; not now though.

Rotten Potatoes Everywhere

After a nearly perfect growing season, the potatoes began to rot in! And our government bought them. Wasn't long before there was no more storage space. So mountains of potatoes were piled outside. The potatoes couldn't be sold. Oh no, that would lower prices.

So the potatoes were dyed purple and left to rot. And New England housewives were paying abnormally high prices for potatoes.

Then what happened? This will make you laugh—or cry. Canadian potato farmers began to ship their produce to the United States. New England shoppers bought Canadian potatoes with mountains of U. S. potatoes rotting in their own back yard.

Where did the money come from to pay for the mountains of rotting potatoes? When you get your next paycheck, look at the cut taken by our federal government—now you know.

"No Law Can Give Us Security"

No, Dr. Rosenquist, we had rather believe Ben E. Young, vice president of the National Bank of Detroit. In a speech at Michigan State College, Young argued that no law can give us security.

"There appears to be no price we will not pay for so-called 'Security,'" said Young. "We appear to think that by passing a law we can have security—that someone will look after us aside from our own efforts."

"No law can produce two articles where one existed before. We have to work for security, and it is up to each able man to provide his share."

"If a man wants the greatest possible degree of security, he will do everything he can to provide it from his own efforts and he will avoid forcing his government further into this 'business'—since he may end up without security and without his own liberty of action as well."

"Gifts from government never come free. If men for long are to govern themselves, then they must support their government and never fall into the habit of letting their government support them."

From the City Desk . . .

Bryan City Officials Price Power Lines

. . . By Joel Austin



Residents of College Hills who have been looking for that long over-due decrease in electric rates can make plans for becoming a part of the regular College Station electric service, IF:

● Voters of the city pass the \$200,000 bond issue which will be placed in their hands Saturday, January 8.

● The local city council accepts the price set by Bryan city officials on their power installations in College Hills.

Bryan city officials announced yesterday they had placed a tentative value of \$35,845.42 on electric lines, poles, transformers, etc. which are in the College Station city limits. They would not offer for sale any of the power lines outside the limits of the city.

\$70,000 for Electrical Expansions

With \$70,000 of the \$200,000 bond issue (if it passes) to be allotted for electrical expansion and extensions, the lines being jointly to the City of Bryan and REA would be purchased with that money.

The hold-up on purchase of the system has been in securing official approval from REA offices in Washington. Although no approval has been granted yet, application to sell the lines has been made by Bryan and an OK from the Washington group is expected at anytime.

Many adjustments remain to be made, however, before the lines can be sold to the City of College Station—the voters willing. If the bond money is provided for the purchase of these electrical facilities, definite decisions must be made by officials of the two cities concerning the ownership of various electric poles and whether rent will be due either party from these poles, transformers, etc.

One city official said yesterday that any adjustments that must be made should not vary from the \$35,845.42 figure more than \$1,000 either way.

That's Lots of Money

As for the other \$130,000 to be included in the bond election, all we have to say is—that's a lot of money. According to plans agreed on by the city council, \$110,000 is to go for sewerage expansions and a sewage disposal plant.

There are no immediate plans for building such a plant, but provision is being made in this bond issue for it since all bonds will be paid off with revenue from city water and sewer systems.

The remaining \$20,000 will be used for repairs and additions to present water facilities as the need arises.

Some \$40,000 is still on hand from a bond issue voted four or five years ago which is to be applied to the disposal plant fund. Estimated cost for such a unit to be established here is approximately \$150,000.

All You Have to Do Is Vote

Only \$60,000 of the bonds, are scheduled to be sold immediately after the election, if the issue passes. This money, as we said, will be for electrical expansions.

As to when the remaining \$140,000 will be spent, the council must decide according to the needs of the city and the growth and new additions which require more utility expansions.

The only thing that remains to be done now by citizens of College Station is to make sure they go to the polls January 8 and cast their ballot for or against the bond issue.

We think there are enough people in College Hills who would rather pay the lower electric rates offered by College Station than see the bond issue defeated and continue paying high rates to Bryan.

Skirt Tales . . .

Tess Bides Time Waiting For Christmas Holidays

By JEAN "STORMY" CLOUD
Daily Lass-O Friday Editor

TSCW, Denton, Tex., Dec. 13.—We're just biding our time. Trying to swim through this one last week without straining our brains. This is the week to sleep through class, cut class, work the whole book of crossword puzzles, catch up on letter writing so the buddies will be speaking to you when you get home (and the family). Maybe the profs will credit our inertia to battle fatigue and be lenient. Who knows? After all, they're just as anxious as we are. They probably don't enjoy viewing the same sea of faces every other day after every other day.

But they never had it so good. At least they don't have to prove they know what they're talking about.

Our favorite profs are the ones who stomp into class, check roll before the final bell, and pull out the imaginary sign which reads, in part:

"For the next hour we will have absolute silence, except as it is broken by my own unexcelled eloquent expose of . . . (next installment in the monotone). For this dissertation from my dias I am forced to demand your entire attention. I realize it will not be necessary to ask this as the looks on your simple little faces tell me that you need it, God knows. Let there be no coughing, sneezing nor scuffling of feet because all of this will not fade me. I am getting paid to give this speech and if one of you looks the least bit uninterested, I will forthwith keep you after the emancipation bell to get even, because I can get away with it."

Hope you Aggies are taking advantage of the Salute to Aggie and Salute to Tessie-land radio program exchanges. Get your best girl serenaded through the facilities of WTAW and WCST. It involves a very simple process. First, you equip

and there's absolutely nothing you can do about it, ha, ha, so there."

Now, isn't that right? Just notice the look on your prof's face at your 8 o'clock in the morning. Can't you just see such thoughts racing through his little mind? They don't think we know.

I guess we always feel this way just before vacation time. One is just a little prone at this stage (prone is right) to satirize those little things which make life interesting, including profs. But, they're really OK. After all, what would college be without professors? See, they've got us there.

Since the holidays are so omnipresent right now, the activity on our fair campus is nil. Not that we'd have the strength to attend if there was anything. Saturday night we had our last pre-holiday fling what with the Christmas all college dance in that gathering place for Terpsichore's sons and daughters, the UB Ballroom. Just like we predicted, many, many Aggies made the trip up. And many stayed over for the Nativity Pageant. It had three performances, two Sunday, punctuated by the annual dinner for the cast, and one show Monday.

Let's end this for a while, say till after the Christmas Holidays? Hope all of you have a party time at home and that Santa brings each of you a new tie.

yourself with pen and paper. Then, grasping the pen firmly in one hand, address an envelope to Salute to Tessie-land, Station WTAW, College Station, Texas. On the portion of paper which you will forthwith place within the stamped addressed envelope, print plainly:

"Please play . . . for my favorite girl, Miss . . . Sincerely yours, or something to that effect, signed . . . See, it's so simple a child can operate it. And, it glows in the dark."

We don't usually expand at length about a past event, but in the case of the entertainment provided by Mr. Charles Laughton last Friday, the rule can be bypassed. The noted Thespian made the words of Bill Shakespeare come to life as we have never heard them do so before. And, he willingly posed for photographers while munching five bacon and cheese sandwiches which he had purchased on our own drag.

As you readers of the Daily Lass-O may have noted, there are rumors of a firebug loose on our campus. The second fire last week was discovered on fourth floor of Brack Friday morning. Damage list included a desk loaded with books and notes. Some people have all the luck.

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Capt. Hill Realled To Active Service

Capt. McRae W. Hill, a 1942 graduate of A&M and a reserve officer called to active duty, was assigned this week to the 140th Tank Battalion, a unit of the 40th Infantry Division now training at Camp Cooke.

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Our Fashion Academy Award Winner



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Men: Buy her gift with ease at our Bryan store.

Letters to the Editor: Prof Writes Timely Letter on Student Preparedness For War; Batt Editors Rapped Again; Mistake Found

Editor, The Battalion:

This letter was prompted by the editorial "It's Time to Stop" which I have just finished reading. I do not intend it as a criticism of this very timely editorial, I mean it as an appeal to sane and clear thinking on the part of the many Aggies who are naturally upset about their draft status.

Many of us who served in the nation's armed forces during World War II got the idea that we were fighting—at least in part—for a world in which individual rights would not be subordinated to the will of a few strong rulers. If we do not believe in the sanctity of individual rights, if we do not believe in the freedom of the individual to express himself as an important member of the society in which he lives, why did we commit our troops to armed conflict on the Korean peninsula a few short months ago?

It is not a part of American

tradition to commit American citizens to mortal combat without the sympathies, productive power, and the potential armed might of the nation standing squarely behind them. We should not hesitate to keep our record clean, even though you and I must take our place beside and not behind our fighters.

Did American troops have any business in Korea last summer? Then, where do they belong now? Our Korean policy has not been too satisfactory in light of recent events—we haven't moved fast enough and we haven't put enough on the road. There is only one course to follow, and that a very rough and rocky one, unless we do complete about face and apologize for our untimely interference in a quarrel that didn't concern us. If we follow this latter course, we must forget our hypercritical pretense of being interested in the things for which the United States of America has always stood.

Aggies have gained a reputation for A&M College as a producer of leaders that all Aggies, past and present, can justly take great pride in. A&M is still doing business on the same old corner and A&M is still producing leaders, leaders who are ready to fight, if necessary, to preserve the great "American Way" and to let its glories shine throughout the world.

As Aggies await their draft notice or reserve call—as they probably should and almost certainly will—let them be preparing themselves. Not preparing only for an impending war, but also preparing themselves for an active role in making American principles something to be pointed at with awe and reverence by all the peoples of the earth.

At A&M, as at other institutions of higher learning, the individual is prepared primarily for life, not for death and killing. Any Aggie can carry a

gun—and shoot it, too—educated

Aggies can join in the greater battle, the battle for a world in which each individual is a SOMEBODY.

Can Aggies at any level afford to neglect their education during times like these? Even the classes held on December 18 and 19 could be important, final exams are coming up fast.

Marvin H. Butler
Economics Dept.
Captain, ORC

(Editor's Note: Thank you Mr. Butler for a very timely discussion. We hope that your letter will pave the way for more discussion from faculty members in our "Letters to the Editor" column on matters of such importance.)

Editor, The Battalion:

In reference to your editorial telling us to stop pressing the "you're going to Korea" issue, I'd like to say that the sooner you and a few more million like you realize that the sooner we get started the sooner we'll get finished . . . it's a job that has to be done.

Another thing. We've fought for our right to say what we please before, and we'll do it again . . . 98 per cent of the boys down here don't wear lace pants . . . they can stand the cold facts. If anything needs to be stopped around here, it's the "infernal preachin'" you editors do.

Beat the hell out Russia and UCLA. (In that order.)

J. Harmon '47

(Editor's Note: Excuse our not being heroes. We'd rather remain practical.)

As to your remark that it's time to wake up, we thoroughly agree. If you've followed anything but the "Letters" column on our editorial page, you should have seen that The Battalion has been awake for some time as to the state of international affairs.

Regarding our wearing of "lace

pants"—we apologize for our wardrobe. But it's not quite as frilly as you infer. Nowhere do we try to cover up the fact that, in all probability, we will go to Korea—or wherever else our nation sends us to fight.

We accept that fact. But it doesn't make us happy. It doesn't raise our morale. And we're of the opinion that it doesn't look too inviting to most of the students around here.

We might say that we're anxious to go over and do our part, too. You've heard the phrase frequently. We're no more anxious—or any more reluctant—than the next man to risk our lives in defense of our country.

But we've been told by rather competent authority that the best way we can help at present is to educate ourselves to make good officers and leaders of men when our time comes. If ever our country needed intelligent and well-trained leaders, it is now.

Anything that lowers men's desire to get that essential training and education that will equip them to be these qualified leaders, any—(See LETTERS, Page 4)

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Page 2 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1950

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four times a week, and during examination and vacation periods, twice a week. Days of publication are Monday through Friday for the regular school year, Tuesday through Friday during the summer terms, and Tuesday and Thursday during vacation and examination periods. Subscription rates \$6.00 per year or \$5.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

DAVE COSLETT, CLAYTON L. SELPH Co-Editors

Today's Issue

L. O. Tiedt
Jerry Zuber
Ralph Gorman
Allen Pengelley

Managing Editor
Campus News Editor
Sports News Editor
City News Editor

L'L ABNER The Eyes Have It

By Al Capp

(THIS IS TH' SPOT WHAR THAT NICE GANGSTER GENUJILLMAN IS A GONNA FREEZE L'L ABNER'S BRAIN. SOMEHOW—??—AH WONDERS HOW???)

(NOW COMMENCES TH' FABULOUS TRIPLE WHAMMY!!)

—IT MAY TORN MY HAIR WHITE—AN' I'M POSITIVE MY LIVER WILL NEVER WOIK AGAIN!!—BUT A JOB IS A JOB!!

(I'LL SLIP IT TO HIM EASY, AT FOIST—)

???

IT'S GITTIN' COLD!!—POWERFUL COLD!!