

Is Universal Training Vital to World Leadership?—

DELACEY ALLEN

THE TRAGIC WORDS, "Remember Pearl Harbor," should conclusively prove to any intelligent American the stupidity of our past record of military unpreparedness. The possibility of future Pearl Harbors, even more disastrous than the last, should convince us all that never again should America be found helpless and unprepared.

Peace is a splendid ideal, but unfortunately we are not living in a world where our desire for peace insures our having it. We wanted peace in 1917 and again in 1939, but each time we were unprepared and so we had war. We will again want peace when this war is over, but we will be a stupid people indeed if, for the third time in this generation, we are again impotent before a war-mongering Germany which is even now planning a third World War of conquest.

Trained Men to Back the Peace

It is generally agreed that if the United States is to be properly prepared, the best method of insuring it is to have universal military training of all our able-bodied boys. We should have this training regardless of what peace treaty is made with Germany and Japan, for the history we who are living have written teaches us that after the war is over the terms of the peace treaty are soon ignored.

America as a nation needs this preparation and, in the event of a future war, the American boy himself is entitled to the training which will permit him to go into

battle as a trained soldier rather than as a lamb led to slaughter.

Even in our War Between the States when our southern grandpappies offered to whip the Yankees with cornstalks and, unfortunately for us, they wouldn't fight that way, both sides learned the necessity of trained military men.

From the viewpoint of making war, we would have trained our Army and Navy beforehand instead of after the war started, and we would not lose from one to two years in frantic preparation, filled with the costly mistakes that too much haste always occasions.

Adventure in Mass Education

From the viewpoint of the boy himself and society at large, this would be the greatest and most promising adventure in mass education ever tried in the United States. It would raise the social, moral, economic, and cultural standards of 90

Universal military training, writes DeLacey Allen, is necessary to American preparedness and would give this country great strength in taking her place in world leadership. Furthermore, he feels such a program "would be the greatest and most promising adventure in mass education ever tried in the United States." Mr. Allen, formerly a member of the Georgia legislature, practices law in Albany, Ga., and is past national vice commander of the American Legion and former state commander of the Legion in Georgia. Mr. Allen's discussion of compulsory training was first presented last April 27 during America's Town Meeting of the Air broadcast.

per cent of all our boys, as, at present, only about 10 per cent of them go to college. Its advantages to their health would be incalculable. Their education would be under the supervision of trained officers who would be well qualified both in intellect and character.

Above all, their instructors would be men who were loyal to the United States, who knew and believed in the American form of government, who understood and appreciated the priceless privilege and the sacred obligation of American citizenship. That is a better break than a lot of our youngsters got before the war, when they attended the so-called liberal colleges and universities, where radical professors, belligerent in theory only, took a great delight in teaching American youth every *ism* in the world except the one which they should have been teaching and that one was Americanism.

Some complain that this program would be expensive. It would. But no matter what it cost, its insurance against the loss of our American freedom or the life of one precious American boy would justify the price over and over again.

Others say that this program would tend to militarize America and make us more likely to go to war. That is not true.

A uniform and a gun do not make one a war-monger; it's the heart and soul that counts. Americans are peace-loving people and they become war-minded only when liberty is at stake.

How Will We Answer the Call to World Leadership?

When the war is over and the task of reconstructing the world is begun, America is going to have its sternest challenge as well as its greatest opportunity. We can be cowardly isolationists and refuse to hear the call for world leadership, or we can courageously face the realization that humanity needs the help which only America can give.

To be able to justify this leadership, we must not only be strong enough to command the respect of all people, but we must also have a citizenry who firmly believe in and are loyal to the eternal principles of our government which have enabled us to become the outstanding nation of the world.

Universal military training of our youth will tend to give us both this strength and loyalty, and if it does, then it is not too much to hope and pray that America some day may lead the world into the green pastures of everlasting peace.

Every School a Meeting Place

EVERY SCHOOL BUILDING and each classroom should become a place where people meet to debate and consider universal military training. The organized teaching profession has a part to play in resolving a nation-wide judgment and conclusion. This responsibility is of a twofold nature: (1) Teachers should express their own opinions; and (2) because schools are convenient meeting places for the adult population, other citizens should be brought together to formulate their thinking about universal military training.—*Legislative News Flash*, NEA

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