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GIVE LIGHT AND THE PEOPLE WILL FIND THEIR OWN WAY



## REFLECTIONS

### Farm Belt View

By John W. Hillman



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### MR. ROOSEVELT ON WORLD PEACE

MR. ROOSEVELT'S foreign policy speech Saturday night was disappointing to those who expected from the President a broad, clear, constructive plan for world peace organization.

Instead, he asked for another blank check.

Our representative to a world organization, he said, "must be endowed in advance with authority to act," without waiting for approval from congress, in a future emergency.

Does he mean simple police powers for the executive, involving emergency use of the army and navy without declaring war? The President of the United States has such power, and Mr. Roosevelt has used it himself, as have Coolidge, Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt and a long list of presidents running all the way back to George Washington.

Or does he mean authority to take this nation into war, if he deems it expedient without asking congress, without asking the people, without asking anybody?

From his words, it could be either. Listeners who heard the speech here disagreed sharply over what he meant. It is the kind of statement that could be construed after election as another "mandate" from the people to confer vast new extraordinary powers on the chief executive—a political strategem Mr. Roosevelt frequently has used in the past.

BEYOND THIS one point his address threw little light on his foreign policy. The secret diplomacy which today keeps hidden from us even the general direction in which we are moving is still as secret as ever. Mr. Roosevelt condemned—and with much justification—the foreign policy of Warren G. Harding, as he previously has condemned the foreign policy of Herbert Hoover. Yet in defense of his own eight pre-war years he was able to cite only two foreign policy moves for which he asked credit: An attempt to join the World Court, initiated by President Harding, and the "good neighbor" policy in Latin America, initiated by President Hoover. And it is at least an open question whether the World Court, which lost by seven votes in the senate, was beaten by the nine Republicans who voted against it, or by the 20 Democrats who voted against it.

Of his own flat and definite refusal to enter the League of Nations in 1933, and thereafter, he said nothing at all, though he denounced "isolationists" who refused to enter it in 1920. He condemned the London naval conference which he said "scuttled the strength of our navy" back in the twenties—but he didn't mention his own letter of Dec. 9, 1935, in which he called this action "a milestone in civilization" and urged still further reduction of naval strength. Nor did he refer to the world economic conference which collapsed because he withdrew when his own delegates fell to quarreling loudly among themselves over which of them was more important.

THE TRUTH is Mr. Roosevelt hasn't a very good case on "isolationism." He has, himself, followed too closely in the past the course he now so vigorously condemns in others.

From the day in 1933 when he became President until Hitler's armies went smashing across Europe seven years later, Mr. Roosevelt did not inaugurate a single constructive move toward world co-operation for peace. On the contrary, in statement after statement, he warned against "entangling alliances," "involvements with other nations" and "political commitments that might get us into war."

Charges that someone also once was an "isolationist" may very well be true without in any way bearing on the issue a generation later. And the issue today is not what Warren G. Harding believed in 1920—but what we are going to do to prevent wars after 1945? On that point Mr. Roosevelt has not made himself clear.

### LIFE WITHOUT CAROL

READING of ex-King Carol's brief stop in this country, we were reminded of a story. Carol, it will be recalled, told reporters in New Orleans that he "wanted no part of this country," and that "I am going to treat America as America has treated me."

The story we were reminded of was told, if recollection is accurate, by William Lyon Phelps, and it had to do with a children's party which he attended as a little boy. Young Billy grew a bit bored, and said to another youthful guest, "Let's hide behind this door, and nobody will know where we are."

To which the other youngster put this realistic question by way of reply: "What if nobody cares?"

### NO WONDER

ONE of the chief complaints of businessmen against the New Deal has been the great number of reports they are required to make to the government.

comes now the Johns-Manville Corp. with statistics showing that the businessmen have justifiable cause for complaint.

During 1943, Johns-Manville reports, it filed with government bureaus one report every two minutes of every regular business hour of the year—71,588 reports during the year.

Is there any doubt about why there's a paper shortage?

### MR. ROOSEVELT SAID—

"BUT there is a tendency, and to my mind a dangerous tendency, on the part of our national government, to encroach, on one excuse or another, more and more upon state supremacy. The elastic theory of interstate commerce, for instance, has been stretched almost to the breaking point to cover certain regulatory powers desired by Washington."

However, that was said in 1929, when he was a governor talking to governors.

### 'Courage to Stand for His Convictions'

I AM VOTING for Governor Thomas E. Dewey for President. I feel that he has had fine training in public life and that he should be an able executive. After graduating from Michigan University and Columbia law school in New York, he began practicing law. This led to his becoming chief assistant U. S. district attorney in 1931. In 1933 he was advanced to U. S. district attorney. In 1935 he was appointed special prosecutor for the investigation of organized crime in New York, filling this position with distinction for nearly two years. In 1937 he became elected attorney for New York county, and in 1941 was elected governor of New York state. He made a fine record in every one of these positions. He showed early that he was a clear thinker and had the courage to stand for his convictions.

"I am voting for Governor Dewey because I think he is best of the nominees. My firm conviction is that he will make one of the best Presidents we could select.

"Agriculture, with which I have been closely connected all my life, will, in my judgment, not suffer under Dewey's administration. I believe he will work with farm folks in a program that will give prices of agricultural products comparable to the price of the things the farmer has to buy, and that is what the farmer wants, plus the opportunity of running his own business. In other words, he wants 'equality for agriculture,' and is entitled to it.

### 'Labor Policy Is Sound and Constructive'

"HIS LABOR POLICY is sound and constructive. I believe he will select a cabinet that will be one of the best we have ever had and hold the heads of various departments of the government responsible for carrying out their important offices. I believe he is capable of handling the world peace situation and will represent this country in a fine way when the program for world peace is taken up. I believe he has sound views and a program that will work in getting jobs for the many millions of folks who will be out of employment when the war ends."

"Governor Dewey has real qualities of leadership and makes his own decisions after carefully considering the problems that come before him. The more I have analyzed Governor Dewey's program the more I believe he is right in what he proposes to do if he is elected President. As I see it, he is an ideal candidate for the office. He is fearless but does not take a stand until he has thought things through. He is young but not too young to be President. He is a clear thinker and has the vision of a man in high office should have. The nation needs this kind of man in the President's chair in the next four years ahead."

### What of Russia?

By David M. Nichol



MORE FREQUENTLY than any other question about the Soviet Union, the people of the United States are asking whether we will be able to live in the same post-war world as the Russians.

After almost two years among these people, I would say without hesitation that we can. Whether we will or not is a different matter which will depend as much upon the policy of the United States and the understanding of the American people as it will upon the actions of the Kremlin.

It would be absurd and dangerous to underestimate the difficulties. The period will be filled with exasperations and angry exchanges, with doubts and suspicions on both sides. But it would be equally absurd to minimize the possible results of genuine co-operation. Most observers are convinced, I believe, that that way lies the only hope of peace in Europe, and, more broadly, in the world.

Before we can make much headway toward any improved relations, we must accept the simple and homely fact that Russians are human beings. They laugh and sing and suffer, get cold and hungry, and bleed and die very much like the people of any other State.

### Judge It By the Same Standards

BEFORE, TOO, we can achieve any adequate or fair appraisal of the Soviet government, we must begin to judge it by the same standards we would apply to our own, to recognize that the Kremlin basically is concerned with the future and interests and national security of its own people. Any other course would be treason, in Moscow, in Washington, or in the tiniest country in the world.

In judging the future course of the Soviet Union and of our relationships with it, also, we must realize in addition that no other country is as coldly calculating in assessing its own interests. The Kremlin is not concerned with world peace as an entity in itself, but because it believes a secure, workable peace is essential to the further development of Russia.

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