The Die Is Cast

(An Editorial)

President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles have made it plain in the past few weeks that they are fully aware of the urgency for finding some means to avoid an all-out catastrophic world war, but they have made it equally clear that they do not know what means should be used.

Both have bluntly informed the American public that (1) the United Nations is our best hope for peace, (2) the UN has done an excellent job in view of its present inadequacies, but its Charter must be improved if it is to meet present-day needs. (3) Russia has Hydrogen bombs and is capable of delivering them to the U. S. (4) In addition, weapons are available which can wipe humanity off the surface of this planet—"the . . . doom of every Nation and society."

The President has not stated what he thinks must be done to protect our Nation and humanity from "sudden and mass destruction," but he has said that whatever is done must come through "courage, knowledge, patience and leadership."

These statements and addresses have been initiated by the White House and not the State Department. *They are intended as "trial balloons" to guage public reaction and public opinion, and public response is being carefully watched.* So far, there has been little response of any kind, though all well-reasoned communications to the President and State Department are receiving unusual consideration at present. A significant amount of the public response has been from people proposing scrapping or crippling the UN, retreating into our own shores, or advocating "preventive war"; but, the *vast majority of people seem confused or indifferent to the whole matter.*

It is significant that in the early '30's, Joseph Stalin predicted that the people of the Capitalist nations would tire of the "limited wars," and alternating tensions and easements following World War II, and become indifferent to overall world problems. In this state of mind, the U. S. would not resist rapid Communist absorption of the rest of the world. Then there would be little doubt as to the fate of our own Nation, with over half of the factory power, most raw materials and 94 per cent of the world's population against us.

Secretary of State Dulles, however, has placed the responsibility of finding a solution squarely in the hands of the American people. In a statement to the press on September 3, he called on all Americans, individually and in civic, professional, educational, etc., groups to study the international situation, the UN and the UN Charter in order to determine just how the UN Charter should be improved in 1955.

In a letter to Peter P. Cooper, Executive Director, American Freedom Association, Secretary Dulles said, "It is my belief that the basic questions involved and their effect on our position in the world should be thoroughly aired in widespread discussion among the American people before final policies are adopted."

There are several reasons for the Secretary of State's passing the ball to the public. One reason is that more of our National leaders are beginning to realize that there is no adequate defense against the weapons of modern war. Even the preparation for war is costing us dearly through taxes, controls, loss of freedoms and creeping centralization of governmental powers—all necessary if we try to defend ourselves through arms and military might alone.

It is time for the American people to study the facts and let our leaders know that we, too, realize that there is no adequate defense against an enemy assault short of preventing war itself.

This is truly a rare moment in history. The people of this Nation are called upon to inform themselves and voice their opinions on an immeasurably significant and difficult matter. Their opinions may well decide whether the UN succeeds through improvement or is crippled and scrapped; whether this Nation and this people will survive, or join others gone before in extinction.

The die is cast.

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NEW ADVISOR

Dr. Harold Hutson, President of Greensboro College and one of the Incorporators of the American Freedom Association, has become the latest member of the Association's Advisory Board. Dr. Hutson is indeed a valuable addition to this important body.

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What We Need

Forty of our members are making a regular pledge over and above the $5 membership contribution.

If forty of the other members, or those who are now pledging, can obtain just *one* more pledge of $25 per month (or several smaller pledges totalling $25 per month), we will have reached our budget goal of $1500 per month.

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Inertia

"We are your sons and we are ghosts. We came to love, to labor,
And to know. We died before we loved, before we learned to labor,
Before we knew the twice-told tales you murmured
To beguile our puzzled ears. You cried across the world
And call us sons! We came as sons, but what you made of us
Were bleeding shapes upon an altar, slain to appease your god Inertia
Where he sits upon his throne muttering dead words and mumbling at old bones.
Because you would not think, we had to die!
We have been loyal. We have fought for you,
And suffered of the cold, and starved for you. And miserably laid
Our bodies down before your idol, while the incense rose.
Weep not for us, but for your poor, trapped selves.
We died. And there
You stand no step advanced! And after all, when you have set
More millions beside our millions, and beside them yet more millions
Of brave fellows who die well,
You will still have to wake some day and think.
You will let many die ere you do that, and yet that day will come."

From *The Boy in Armor* by HERMANN HAGEDORN