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1948 Letter from the Friends of Universal Military Training

Waldemar H. Schultz

Friends of Universal Military Training

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FRIENDS OF UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING
Waldemar Herbert Schultz, Executive Secretary
Empire Building - Suite 426
710 North Plankinton Avenue
Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

We, in America, have made many mistakes with regard to preparedness. Worse, we have repeated those mistakes. If the United States had not repeated the mistake of disarming after each war, wars would not have been repeated. Those who have been in position to know have warned the country on each occasion against this error, but little attention was paid to those warnings.

General George Washington told the new nation and its Congress that a strong national defense was necessary. He recommended the institution of a system that would train every young man to defend his country. He said in no uncertain way, "the path to peace is through the preparation for war", but his warning and advice went unheeded.

The invasion of our country and the sacking of the Capitol in 1813 came as a result. Our untrained and ill-equipped militia troops were no match for the British at Blandensburg.

Abraham Lincoln expressed his disappointment that the nation had not maintained its armed strength and asked that such a condition should never happen again.

After each war, America has disarmed, our armies have been reduced, our navies have been abandoned, and our Merchant Marine sold, sunk, or allowed to rot at its docks. We are, today, again leaning toward such a practice.

Each such period has been followed by a hasty and wasteful effort to rearm when war came. Are we going through this again?

Each war has brought new and more destructive weapons, and it has been argued that such developments would make war so horrible and destructive, no nation would ever again attempt war. But war has occurred even in the face of such argument. After each great war, efforts have been made to outlaw war through international agreement. Treaty after treaty has been signed, and each one has failed. Each war has produced the defeated who were never again to be permitted to arm. At the same time, victors tired of conflict wished to forget the lessons of those conflicts.

Graves filled by the battles at Blandensburg, Lundy's Lane, Monterey, El Cahey, Santiago, Belleau Woods, The Argonne, Pearl Harbor, Wake, Bataan, Corregidor and the Aleutians bear mute testimony of the failure of mankind to maintain the peace.

It does not take a student of history to discover why England disregarded our protests concerning the impounding of American seamen in the early 1800's; why Spain told us to mind our own business regarding Cuba in the 1890's; why the German Kaiser scoffed when America warned against the sinking of our ships on the high seas in 1916, or why Hitler decided America could be easily overcome, after he had defeated Europe. It was with no fear that Japan carried out the sneak attack at Pearl Harbor, for America was not prepared. Neither does it take intense study to know why France called upon Maximilian to leave Mexico, for at that time America was prepared. The lives lost and the fortunes squandered as a result of our unpreparedness can be charged to our national tendency to adopt pacifistic measures.

Now we come to the end of the world's most destructive war.

We, in America, hold the key to the future. We have the strongest Navy the world has ever known. Our Air Forces are the best equipped and the largest in the world. We have millions of trained men to defend our nation. Our scientific research has developed untold miracles for our defense. But will

we keep that key and continue these advantages? Will we realize that navies and air forces become obsolete? That trained men become too old to fight in a comparatively short time, and that the Army and Navy are only as good as the men, ships, and weapons permit them to be?

We are told the atomic bomb is so destructive nations never again can risk war. Now we have international agreements that will maintain the peace. The nations that have caused war are disarmed. The world knows another war will destroy civilization. This is all good reasoning, but there is nothing new about any of it. It has all been said time and again over the centuries.

America prepared can maintain peace. America disarmed will do more toward the birth of another war than will all else combined.

A BRIEF OF THE AMERICAN PLAN
of
UNIVERSAL TRAINING FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

As presented by

THE AMERICAN LEGION

and

Outlined in HR 6544-S, 2303 of the 79th U.S. Congress

After long study the American Legion in company and agreement with the National Guard Association, the Reserve Officers Association, and the leading veteran's organizations, have presented to Congress legislation that will provide for the United States a trained and organized military reserve and ready striking force to meet any emergency.

WHAT THE PLAN WILL DO

Train every young American man in military or naval subjects, vocations, skills, or services valuable to the military security of the nation.

Insure the nation against war.

Produce persons trained in sciences, professions, skills and vocations, in addition to trained soldiers and sailors.

Bring to the armed forces the most efficient officers obtainable.

WHAT THE PLAN WILL NOT DO

Cost more than the nation can afford.

Produce militarism in thought or practice.

Interfere with the educational or economic life of those being trained

Adversely affect the moral or religious life of the young men

WHAT THE PLAN PROVIDES

Civilian Administration

(a) A civilian National Security Training Commission of five persons, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate

(b) A civilian Executive Director of National Security Training, appointed by the Commission.

(c) A civilian Welfare Board of from 10 to 24 members, selected by the Commission from leaders in religious, educational and civic life, to plan and supervise the non-military aspects of training, such as morals, religious training, recreation, etc.

(d) The creation of the National Security Training Corps, not a part of the armed forces, in which the trainees will be trained.

Military

The military and naval training courses shall be prescribed and operated by the War and Navy Departments.

Registration

Each local community shall have its local civilian boards to register and keep records of its local trainees.

Age for Training

All young men at the age of 18, or upon graduation from high school, whichever occurs later, but in any case before the 20th birthday, are required to take training. A young man being a graduate from high school may, with parental consent, take training in his 17th year.

Kinds of Training

There are two kinds of training:

MILITARY--All young men physically fit and qualified, will receive military or naval training

RELATED--Those young men found to be not qualified to take military training will take training for vocations, skills, or services of value to the military security of the nation.

Exemptions and Deferments

(a) Regular and ordained ministers and students in Theological Schools are exempted.

(b) Men who have served or are serving in the armed forces are exempted. A young man may enlist in the armed forces for two years in lieu of other training.

(c) Those found to be physically or mentally unfit for either class of training will be deferred. No exemption or deferment will continue after the cause ceases to exist.

The Length of Military Training

The training will be divided into two periods:

The first or basic period will be for 16 weeks--at a time in the year when it interferes least with the economic and educational life of the majority of the trainees--the training to be given as close to the trainee's home as is possible.

The second or advanced period of military training will be for 36 weeks or equivalent. Based upon the qualifications and desires of the trainees, and within applicable quotas, the training shall be under one of the following plans:

PLAN "A" - Enrolling and successfully pursuing basic scientific, professional, technical, specialist, advanced military or educational courses related to the military security of the nation in special schools, schools in industry, schools of technology, colleges, or universities, for not less than 36 weeks.

PLAN "B" - Entering and successfully pursuing the regular courses in the U. S. Military Academy, the U. S. Naval Academy, the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, or U. S. Maritime Academy.

PLAN "C" - Enter and successfully pursue the required course of advanced ROTC in a school, college or university, and on completion thereof, serving for four months as an instructor in basic training.

PLAN "D" - Enlist and serve in the Regular Armed Forces for a period of 24 months, less 16 weeks.

PLAN "E" - Enlist and serve in the National Guard or a fully organized unit of the Organized Reserve for a period of 36 months less 16 weeks.

PLAN "F" - Advanced training in the National Security Training Corps for a period of 36 weeks

Periods of training for those training for vocations, skills and services of value to national security will be set by the Commission. Such training will be for 52 weeks.

Pay and Allowances

In first or basic period, \$30.00 per month for all, plus dependency allowance and death and disability allowances.

In second or advanced period:

Under Plan "A" Commission to set pay and allowances.

Under Plan "B" To be set by law for Cadets.

Under Plan "C" to be as set by law and regulation for all ROTC.

Under Plan "D" To be the same as the members of the Regular Armed Forces.

Under Plan "E" To be as set by law for all members of National Guard or Organized Reserve.

Under Plan "F" Same pay and allowances as provided for basic period.

Pay and allowances for those training for vocations, skills and services of value to national security will be prescribed by the Commission.

Dependency Allowances

Trainee pays \$10.00 per month, Government pays \$20.00 per month for one dependent and \$10.00 per month for each dependent over one. Local boards to decide dependency.

Death or Disability Allowances

The same as afforded to civil employees of the Government on a \$150.00 per month salary.

Uniforms

Uniforms prescribed by Commission must have visible, distinctive insignia. To be same pattern as regular services.

Discipline and Penalties

A special code of law procedures and penalties. Applicable to the trainees in the Security Training Corps.

High Moral Level

Training must be maintained on the highest moral, religious and spiritual level as prescribed by Civilian Welfare Board.

We sent out 10,000 Universal Military Training Survey or Poll letters recently. We received 7,529 replies. The results are as follows:

In favor of Universal Military Training	---	6,179	or	82%			
Opposed to	"	"	"	---	1,123	or	15%
Undecided on	"	"	"	---	217	or	3%

The rating for the last month on the Gallop Poll, sometimes known as the Princeton Poll, was 74% in favor of Universal Military Training.

Fill out post card signing your name and address. Mail to your Congressman and one to each of your two Senators from your state. This Bill comes before the 80th Congress on or about May 8th. This Bill in the 80th Congress is known in the Senate as S-651 and in the House as H.R.1988. The opponents of Universal Military Training are very vocal. They seek publicity and urge delay by Congress. The opponents of any measure or practice are generally more articulate than are the proponents, even when they are a minority, as they are in this instant.

Remember, If there should be a third world war, the highly consecrated industrial areas of the United States would be the first Target of the enemy, we would have no time for preparation whatsoever. It probably would be a sneak attack with an attempt to knock the U. S. off the globe with one subtle blow. "A strong man armed keepeth his place, his goods are at peace." St. Luke 11:21.

By having your Congressman and Senators voting in favor of this bill H. R. 6544-S2303 of the 79th U. S. Congress they are voting for peace, protection, and security for you.

Sincerely yours,

Waldemar Herbert Schultz
Executive Secretary