

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON
By Clinton Davidson

UNCERTAIN TRUMPET

At a time when hopes are the highest in ten years for world peace, perhaps the most controversial issue before Congress is the building of a strong national defense.

Just where do we stand on national defense? Is Russian missile superiority making the United

States a second-rate nation militarily? Is there real danger that World War III may come soon, and that we might lose it?

Those are questions this Congress is debating and will continue debating until it adjourns, probably about July 1. The debate unquestionably has political implications, but sincere differences do exist.

President Eisenhower sincerely believes that we and our allies have sufficient military strength to discourage the communist nations from attacking us, and that full military equality is not immediately imperative.

PEACE TALK

The people of this country, as well as in the other Free World nations, have great faith in the President of the United States, both as a man of wide military experience and as a man dedicated to building a peaceful world.

He recognizes both our lag in missiles and our hopes that peace can be secured at a series of Summit conference, the first to be held next May, as "calculated risks." Both as a military man and as a statesman dedicated to peace, he is accustomed to taking those risks.

It is nevertheless disturbing that men of comparable military experience and stature, firmly believe that we cannot afford to, as they express it, "gamble with our existence as a nation."

General Maxwell D. Taylor, who retired less than a year ago as Chief of Staff, is one of those who has expressed great concern over our lag in military preparedness. He has little faith in Russia's expressions of peaceful desires.

A BIBLICAL WARNING

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for the battle?"—First Corinthians, 14th chapter, 8th verse.

From that Gen. Taylor takes the title for a new book that thoughtful Americans will want to read. He calls it "The Uncertain Trumpet." It should be kept in mind, however, that this is a military man writing, and that his experience in diplomacy is limited.

He presents only the military man's side of the argument. Nevertheless it should not be ignored. There is cause for concern and we are sure that President Eisenhower shares at least some of that concern.

Gen. Taylor writes that "the nation will face a serious crisis beginning about 1961. For a period of years thereafter, the balance of military strength will tip dangerously in favor of the Communist bloc unless we take action now."

Sen. Stuart Symington, former Secretary of the Air Force, fully shares the fears of Gen. Taylor. Sen. Symington is a member of the Senate Armed Service Committee and possible Democratic nominee for the presidency.

Whether we will go all-out now to overtake Russia in missiles, or wait and see if the Summit Conference can make a start toward disarmament and peaceful co-existence may well be the most important decision America makes in 1960.

All we can do is hope and pray that the decision, whatever it is, is the one that will preserve our nation and our world as a society of free men.

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Let me remind all people who work for themselves of the importance of filing their 1959 tax returns on or before April 15, 1960. A self-employed person has an obligation to file a yearly tax return and pay the social security tax on his net earnings. He also has an obligation to himself and his family to build the social security protection that correct and regular reporting affords. Many people do not realize that failure to make a yearly report is a violation of the law and can result in penalties and interest charges on unpaid social security taxes. Many more do not understand that delay in filing can cause loss of valuable social security credit and so cut down their old age, survivors, and disability insurance protection. Every social security office in the country can cite examples where failure to report has resulted in the wiping out of social security insurance protection altogether. As an example, let's say a farmer recently became totally disabled. A friend advised him to apply for social security benefits as he is over 50 and, as his friend declared, "has been in work covered by social security 5 out of the last 10 years," the time required for disability benefits. He applied, but he was in for a shock. The reason? He had neglected to file a return and pay the social security tax for 1955. The law says that your earnings must get on the record within three years, 3 months and 15 days after the taxable year in which they were earned. For the year 1955, that time was April 15, 1959. Although this man may still be liable for 1955 income taxes, his earnings for 1955 can never be credited to his social security account. As he is too disabled for further substantial gainful work, another year of earnings can never be credited to his social security account. He remains one year short of the work requirement of the law. He and his dependent wife and minor children have lost the protection his compliance with the law would have given them. If you are a self-employed person, guard against the possibility of this happening to you. Report your net earnings correctly and regularly year after year. For information about reporting, get in touch with the District Director of Internal Revenue; for information about old age, survivors, and disability insurance—what it is, who it protects, and what it pays—we shall be glad to assist.

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