

'Old Myths and New Realities'

Fulbright Fired a Fiery Fusillade at Sacred Cows

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Sen. J. William Fulbright's extraordinary foreign policy speech, "old myths and new realities," is certain to start a debate which will echo long after the votes are counted in next November's elections.

In one speech, Sen. Fulbright has kicked more sacred cows of American foreign policy than most senators would have the temerity to attack in an entire senatorial career.

Extreme Right

It will stir up the political animals—especially those of the extreme right who believe it unthinkable to suggest, let alone say outright as Sen. Fulbright now has, that:

- "There are not really 'two Chinas' but only one, mainland China, and that . . . is ruled by communists and likely to remain so for the indefinite future."

- "The Castro regime is not on the verge of collapse and is not likely to be overthrown by any policies which we are now pursuing or can reasonably undertake."

- "We would do well to disabuse ourselves of the myth that there is something morally sacred about the treaty of 1903 (on the Panama Canal) . . . (it) is in certain respects obsolete . . . the U. S. (should state) that it is prepared to negotiate revisions . . ."

- (We should abandon) "the myth that every communist state is an unmitigated evil and a relentless enemy of the free world; (we should accept) the reality that some communist regimes pose a threat to the free world while others pose little or none."

- (We should) "overcome the myth that trade with communist countries is a compact with the devil . . . our allies are going to trade with the communist bloc whether we like it or not."

- "In (some) Latin American



'He's a Distasteful Nuisance but Not an Intolerable Danger'

of quitting, neutralization, or expanding the war).

¶ 'New Realities'

Such excerpts do violence to the carefully reasoned arguments made by Sen. Fulbright in his appeal for abandonment of "old myths" and acceptance of the "new realities" of a world as it exists today. But they are a taste of the elements upon which the forthcoming debate on foreign policy will revolve.

The speech amounts to an invitation to President Johnson to junk many of the "myths" upon which some foreign policies are based and pursue a "creative foreign policy," even

if unpopular in an election year.

"It is sometimes necessary for leaders to do unpleasant and unpopular things," Sen Fulbright said, "because . . . the duty of a Democratic politician to his constituents is not to comply with their every wish and preference but to give them the benefit of . . . the exercise of his own best judgment . . ."

"We must dare to think about 'unthinkable things,' because when things become 'unthinkable,' thinking stops . . ."

¶ Much Support

Despite the critical aspects of some of Sen. Fulbright's comments about current policies, he will find considerable support for his basic thesis among the top foreign policy makers of the Johnson Administration.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Presidential adviser McEralities along similar lines. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara is making a major speech tonight on Viet Nam which constitutes one of the most definitive state papers on a single subject made public in a long time.

Sen. Fulbright's suggestions

will not be treated lightly, either at the White House or the State Department. Because he is chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Administration must lean heavily on him in foreign policy matters.

¶ Single Aspects

Many of the initial headlines about the Fulbright speech concentrated on single aspects of it—Cuba, Panama, etc.—suggesting he was proposing a "soft" rather than a "hard" line. They belie the intent of the speech as a whole, which was a learned attack on an attitude toward foreign policy matters that in many cases has trapped the nation into obsolete policies.

On the other hand, both the George Bundy within the last month have both spoken in general. Kennedy and Johnson Administrations have gone a long way toward adapting the nation's policies to what Sen. Fulbright calls the "profoundly altered character of the cold war" in recent years. Thus the Fulbright speech, which appears at first glance to be a criticism of the Administration, is an even sharper criticism of Administration critics.

countries, the power of ruling oligarchies is so solidly established and their ignorance so great that there seems little prospect of accomplishing economic growth or social reform by means short of forceful overthrow of established authorities."

• "We have no choice but to support the South Vietnamese Government and Army by the most effective means available." (He rejected the options

French Hail Fulbright Stand

PARIS, March 26 (UPI)—French officials today hailed as "Pure Gaullism" yesterday's statement by Sen. J. William Fulbright, (D., Ark.) Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, that the U. S. must accept the fact that communist-ruled China is the only true China.

There was no official French government comment, but French government sources expressed gratification at his remarks, which they said appeared to back French President Charles de Gaulle's stand on the Peking regime.

The sources added Sen. Fulbright's call for abandonment of the Cuba blockade also coincided with French policy.