

February 10, 1963

NEED WE KEEP ON RISKING WAR?

*asier*  
It is ~~esire~~ to keep on building Minuteman and Polaris rockets, as fast as the available production facilities permit, than to devise an adequate agreement on arms control that Russia would be willing to accept; but if we continue to follow this line of least resistance we shall before long reach a point of no return in an all-out arms race.

There are many able people within the Administration and in the Congress who are deeply disturbed about the general drift towards war and it should be possible for them to reach a consensus on what needs to be done. It is one of the functions of the Council to assist them in clarifying their minds on some of the more complex issues involved, by bringing to Washington, from time to time, scientists and scholars who are studying these issues.

*George*  
But even if the Administration <sup>(6)</sup> may see clearly what needs to be done, ~~it~~ <sup>will</sup> still ~~would~~ be likely to keep on following the line of least resistance unless there is a change in the attitudes of the majority of the Congress that will enable the Administration resolutely to pursue a course that will get us off the road that leads to war. Is there anything we could do to increase the number of good men in the Congress to the point where this would have a marked effect on Congressional attitudes?

20,000 people--seriously concerned--who may unite on attainable political objectives and may be willing to spend two percent of their income on campaign contributions to Congressional candidates, ~~MIQ~~ might very well bring about the change that is needed. Assuming an average annual income of \$10,000, their contributions would amount



to \$4 million a year. In the largest states the expenses of a senatorial campaign <sup>may</sup> amount to ~~about~~ <sup>one</sup> million dollars, but in many of the smaller states they amount <sup>only</sup> to ~~between~~ <sup>about</sup> \$100,000 and ~~and~~ \$150,000. If wisely spent \$4 million a year could have a profound effect on the composition of the Congress.

The Council, which was established in June of last year, is prepared to advise its <sup>supporters</sup> ~~members~~ where such contributions would need to go in order to be decisive. In 1962 the Council recommended to its supporters that each make out his check directly to one of three senatorial candidates and send it to the Council for transmittal. On this basis the Council was able to transmit to the individual candidates sums up to \$20,000. All three candidates were elected and in one case the Council's recommendation was manifestly decisive. The Council hopes to be instrumental in the election of six senatorial candidates in 1964.

The selection of the candidates to be supported rests with our Board of Directors which includes scientists, political scientists, and also men well versed in practical politics, William Doering, Director of the Division of Science of Yale University, and Leo Szilard, Professor of Biophysics at the University of Chicago, are co-chairmen of the Board, which includes Morton Grodzins, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, and James G. Patton, President of the Farmers Union.

~~The Council is currently pursuing concrete and urgent tasks~~  
~~connected with the stopping of the arms race.~~ If you think you  
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Bernard T. Feld  
President

Allan Forbes, Jr.  
Vice President

Daniel M. Singer  
Treasurer & Secretary

COUNCIL FOR A LIVABLE WORLD  
Room 301

1346 Connecticut Ave.  
Washington 6, D. C.



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Commentary



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