

Extracts from a recent commentary on the international news, broadcast from the Main National Stations of the NZBS

to give her a chance of victory. Without the Ruhr and the Saar, she has no chance, no matter where else in the world she may spread.

Western Europe can't be defended without German help. The West needs at least twelve divisions more than the other five members of EDC can supply, even with British and American help. Therefore, Germany must be allowed to rearm. Naturally, Germany's neighbours don't like the idea, especially France. That's why when America made it clear that Germany would have to be allowed to rearm the French got the idea of EDC. It was their way of making the best of a bad job. In fact, when EDC was first suggested four years ago the French felt themselves to be between the Devil and EDC—that is, between German rearmament without EDC, or German rearmament within EDC. Then, of course, the pressure was on. A good many people, especially in Europe, were afraid of a Russian attack, and were willing to do almost anything to avert it. Since then, the pressure has been slackening. . . . Probably that's why the other partners in EDC have been able to hold off ratifying the Treaty. . . . Not one of the Parliaments of the six nations has yet ratified the Treaty; France especially, is anxious to do everything she can to avoid ratifying it. At the moment, she's being pushed very hard. Sir Winston Churchill, at Bermuda, told the French that they "simply must" ratify EDC. Mr. John Foster Dulles, America's Secretary of State, told them that if they didn't ratify EDC America would be forced into what he called "an agonising reappraisal of her policy towards Western Europe." Of course, the French were offended. Most of us are apt to be offended when somebody pushes some facts in front of us that we'd rather not face.

Yet, something happened in America nine months ago which made ratification of EDC absolutely imperative. The American Congress, which was becoming impatient with all this shilly-shallying in Europe, passed a measure known as the Richards Amendment, which makes half the funds provided by America for military aid to Western Europe payable only to EDC. That means that unless EDC is formed soon, Western Europe will have to do without about 2,000,000,000 dollars, and nobody inside America or outside it will be able to do anything about it if EDC is not formed soon. President Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles both tried to have the Amendment amended so that the last word would be left with the President to use the funds as he saw fit, but Congress wouldn't have a bit of it.

Now, it's easy to understand why France should not want to see Germany rearm, and is afraid that Germany will dominate EDC. She's had very painful experience of what an armed Germany can do. But the point is that if Western Europe is to be defended, Germany must be rearmed. And if she isn't rearmed within EDC she will rearm herself outside it, which, from their point of view, would be a good deal worse.

Time is running out. The results of the Richards Amendment—Short Pay-

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ments will soon begin to be felt. It came into effect about the beginning of this year. And when Germany ratifies EDC, as she is about to do, the whole responsibility will be left with the other five Powers. . . . The new Italian Government, like the previous Italian Governments, is pledged to ratify it, and I think I'm right in saying that recently the Netherlands and Belgium have signified their firm intention to do the same. In the end the responsibilities will come down on France. It's a pretty heavy responsibility because if EDC can't be got going Europe can't be effectively defended, and America will begin to feel that she can't discharge her guarantee to Western Europe under the North Atlantic Treaty. And, after all, America's guarantee to Europe, with which Britain and Canada are joined, is the biggest thing in modern history. If a guarantee like this had been in force in 1914 and in 1939 the world would have been spared two world wars.

—R. M. HUTTON-POTTS,
February 28, 1954

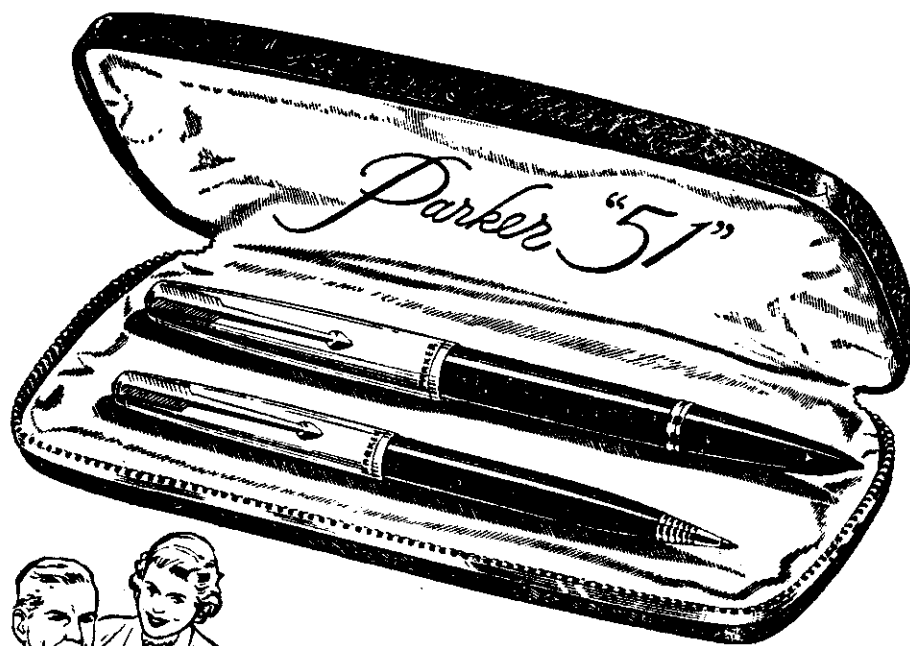
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