

Somebody paid for this. Pass it along.

Whom the Gods Would Destroy

THE AUGUST 1, 1951 issue of *U.S. News & World Report* carried on its first page an advertisement from Warner and Swasey, machinery manufacturers of Cleveland, Ohio. "There's nothing the matter with the world that a little *American self-confidence* won't cure." The words "American self-confidence" were underlined.

The advertisement notes that 175 years have passed since a handful of Americans "wrung freedom and independence from what was then the greatest nation on earth. Today we have that power and responsibility—we produce more steel, more oil, more aluminum, more electricity than any other country in the world. It is our freedom, our self-respect, our American system that does it."

"The USA is the greatest nation on earth," Warner & Swasey and many another successful profiteer boast in the press and over the air. They repeat it and reiterate it loudly and proudly.

Was the ancient philosopher right who said, "Pride goeth before a fall"?

Turn from page 1 of the same magazine to the feature article for the week on page 11, "Breakdown in Morals?" West Point cadets caught cheating. Politicians selling jobs. High officials accepting gifts and favors from people doing business with the government. Influence is peddled in Washington. Tax frauds are overlooked. The Senate Crimes Committee linked the underworld of gamblers and racketeers with local and state government officials. Members of Congress and of the armed services are caught red-handed defrauding the government. Government officials sell secrets. Basketball players fix games for professional gamblers. Dope peddlers corrupt teen-agers. Juvenile delinquency increases. "The idea seems to be growing that anything goes if you can get away with it."

Quite a list for one article in a magazine published for business and professional leaders. Are racketeering and profiteering two sides of the same coin? Are these instances of moral breakdown straws in the mighty wind which will turn "the greatest nation on earth" into a continental Korea? Can it be that pride is the first big step toward destruction?

Turn now to page 55 in the same issue of *U.S. News*. The powerful and irresponsible oligarchy which is making the

policies and administering the public life of the United States is having trouble with its economy. There was a minor depression in 1949 and a "slowdown" in the early summer of 1951. However, the obstacles in the way of full production are now surmounted. "Industry's output rate, a trifle lower in July, will be up in August, then will move strongly ahead as the armament industry begins to hit its stride. New orders, recently lagging, are rising again. . . Retail trade before long will be reversing its recent downward trend. Sales, by late 1951, may be breaking all records. . . Next turn in the business cycle is to be upward, not down."

How is this result to be achieved? Through expansion of arms production. Under its "Trend of American Business" heading, *U.S. News* estimates arms spending alone as follows:

Full year ending June 30, 1951	\$20 billion
June 1951 annual rate	32 "
July 1951 annual rate	36 "
Year-end 1951 annual rate	41 "
Early 1952 annual rate	45 "
Mid-year 1952 annual rate	50 "

(50 billion dollars is ten times the *total* average annual Federal budget during 1931-35.)

"Arms industry, as now scheduled, is going to be a \$50-billion-a-year business. It may be more than that if Congress approves a bigger Air Force. . . As long as that spending goes on, there's little chance of a set-back."

U.S. News & World Report for July 6, 1951 wrote that "defense" in the future will cost from 40 to 50 billion dollars a year. Non-defense items will add 20 to 25 billions, making federal government expenditures of 60 to 65 billions annually. "Armament is the great pump-priming mechanism of the future."

On August 24, 1951 *U.S. News* wrote that there will be no big war in 1951-52. The Soviet Union is getting relatively weaker as the United States grows relatively stronger. Since 1945 Moscow has avoided any move involving a general war. "U.S. soon to be very strong. . . Danger of war, next time, may come when U.S., flexing its bigger muscles, decides to stop fooling around and force a showdown with the Russians."

That is the answer of monopoly capitalism to the boom-bust

cycle. Bigger and bigger government orders—for arms, the building of military strength—and then the use of that strength for national aggrandizement. Capitalists propose to save their social system from disintegration by the large-scale manufacture and use of the implements of destruction.

Whose destruction?

World War I crushed the feudal-capitalist system of Russia and Austria-Hungary and undermined capitalism in Germany, France and Italy.

World War II crushed the capitalist system in Japan, wrecked the Nazi variant of capitalism in Germany, gutted its counterpart in Italy, bankrupted capitalism in France and Britain and let loose the chain reaction of colonial rebellion which has wiped out all but a few tattered remnants of the British, Dutch and French empires in Asia.

Did the multiplication of armament save Augustan Rome? Did Napoleon's Grand Army rescue the French Republic? Hitler assembled under his banners the most powerful military machine of modern times. The Japanese navy was unbeaten. The Japanese army was unbeatable! Did these huge machines, built for wholesale destruction and mass murder, bring peace and prosperity to their creators? Will the story be different in the case of the sea, land and air forces of the USA and its allies and satellites with which Truman, Marshall and Eisenhower, by hand-outs of money and arms, have been trying to build a protective wall around the North American remnant of an erstwhile world-dominant capitalist society?

The USA story will differ in some respects. The concentration of wealth and power in the United States is somewhat greater than it has been in the past. The foreign military bases are more numerous and more widespread. The present-day war machinery can wipe out life and rubbelize property more quickly than in any age of which history makes a report. What then?

For whose destruction have the US oligarchs, including Warner and Swasey, launched their \$50-billion-a-year arms program? For their own destruction, of course. Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make proud and then make mad.

—From Scott Nearing's "World Events." See next page.

*Think - is it wise to pass up
this opportunity?*

FOR LESS THAN TWO CENTS A WEEK you can receive, every three months, a comprehensive analysis of the steadily developing international situation, by a scientist whose keen mind and rigorously scientific method have won him worldwide recognition as a leader in this field.

Scott Nearing's news commentary, *World Events*, issued four times a year, is a 24 or 32-page booklet of handy size, well printed and written by a master of concise and forceful exposition.

World Events is not a commercial enterprise. The author accepts no remuneration and the subscription price of \$1.00 a year does not cover the cost of distribution, the deficit being made up by voluntary contributions.

The public is being systematically deceived and misled by the dupes and tools of the financial interests which seek to preserve the present economic system of greed and violence. If you want to know the truth about what is going on in the world, subscribe to *World Events*. (If, after six months' trial, you are not satisfied, your money will be refunded.)

Send \$1.00 for a year's subscription (four issues) to
WORLD EVENTS, East Palatka, Fla.
Until Mar. 1, 1952 address 125 Fifth St. N. E., Washington, D. C.


WORLD EVENTS Date _____
East Palatka
Florida

Send me *World Events* for one year. I enclose \$1.00.
Please Print

Mr.—Mrs.—Miss _____

Street and number _____

City _____ ZONE _____ State _____

 Make checks, etc. payable to WORLD EVENTS. Canadian and other foreign subscribers are asked to remit in U. S. currency or by international postal order payable in East Palatka, Fla., or by check on U. S. bank. There is a 5-cent service charge on bank checks. (Until March 1, 1952, make postal notes payable in Washington, D. C.)