

[Mar? 1964]

TWO-MINUTE TAPE FOR
STATION WINS - NEW YORK
"FUND FOR EDUCATION"

Napoleon once said that war was too important a matter to be left to generals. I would say that war - and peace - are questions too basic to be left only to politicians. No citizen can afford to be indifferent to the immense costs of defense. No member of a democracy can rightfully refrain from taking his part in the debate over policies of life-and-death importance not only to himself but to all men.

Politicians in a free society are generally hardworking and conscientious men. How well they discharge their responsibilities, however, depends very largely on how well they can communicate with those from whom they must draw their support. There is nothing simple about a foreign policy appropriate to the rapidly changing and

increasingly dangerous world in which we live. To explain this policy successfully, one must have a sophisticated and discriminating audience. Where such an audience is lacking, communication fails. And when this happens too often, the temptation - indeed, the necessity - to simplify recklessly becomes irresistible.

In a democracy, the political leaders must listen to the people in matters of life and death. They must listen - but the people must also have something to say. Participation is the responsibility of every citizen; but the participation must be responsible.

An indispensable prerequisite for responsible participation in public affairs is sustained study and discussion. Independent reading is valuable, but I know from my own experience that there is no substitute for the give-and-take of discussion. This, it seems to me, is the unique value of this new radio series devoted to exploring the problems and possibilities of preventing war.

To overcome the intellectual lag in popular attitudes toward war and peace is the major challenge facing every nation today. It seems to me that discussions such as the one you are about to hear are a notable effort to meet this challenge.

(End)



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