

# LIPPMANN AND FALLING AMERICAN PRESTIGE

By Wm. Z. FOSTER

IT IS NOW a commonplace—the realization that the United States has become deeply hated by the masses in all parts of the world. Politicians and correspondents of every political coloration constantly remark this shocking and unwelcome fact, which sticks into their

noses where they may travel. Obviously, the scores of billions of dollars that the Truman and Eisenhower governments have handed out so lavishly abroad, far

from winning the United States badly-needed political friends, has only contributed to creating new hosts of enemies. This situation is a far cry indeed from the "reservoirs" of pro-American feeling that the late Wendell Willkie found all over the world.

The usual bourgeois explanation of the rising anti-American government feeling throughout the world is to blame it all on



the other fellow. United States policy is, of course, as pure as the driven snow, but the trouble is that other peoples including our closest allies, are singularly blind to this fact. Instead, they see this country as a dangerous and warlike imperialist power. Due to their selfishness and national narrowness, it is said, they fail to grasp the benign and selfless purposes of the Washington government, whose mainspring is Wall Street.

THE OTHER DAY Walter Lippmann (Herald - Tribune, June 8), stepped an inch beyond this current asinine explanation of the sharp growth of anti-American sentiment throughout the world. He argued there is a growing conviction that there is a "faction in the Administration and in Congress" (of whom Admiral Radford appears to be the most vociferous spokesman) "which is trying to entangle us in a general war." This idea, he agrees, "creates a disastrous impression for the prestige of a great power, and our prestige is, to put it mildly—not what it ought to be."

Mr. Lippmann, however, is basically incorrect in attempting to ascribe these discredited militant American war policies simply to "a faction in the Administration and in Congress." Actually they are the official policies of the Eisenhower government itself, with its program of world conquest and war. And the chief war spokesmen are Eisenhower, Knowland, Dulles, and company, with such Democratic leaders as Stevenson and Douglas, applauding the war program from the sidelines. Even more dangerous, Meany and Reuther, the heads of the two great labor federations, are also warmongers of the most militant category. It is not merely "a faction," Mr. Lippmann, that is ruining American prestige abroad by warmongering, but the government itself, with the help of its loyal Democratic opposition and of its labor bureaucratic hangers-on.

WHAT IS HAPPENING internationally is that the peoples of the world are increasingly seeing through the peace demagogues of the Wall Street rulers

in this country and they are coming to understand it for the militant war policy that it actually is. This process of mass disillusionment has been especially rapid since the Eisenhower Administration took the helm, with its repeated arrogant atomic-hydrogen ultimatums to the USSR and People's China, its desperate efforts to prevent a truce in Korea, and its present cynical attempts to torpedo the Geneva conference and to unleash a general atomic war in Asia.

The growing conflict between the peace-will of the peoples of the world and the war policies of the Wall Street government in the United States, bodes ill for the future of militant American imperialism. If, in the face of the rising world peace sentiment, the Eisenhower, Dulles, Radford, etc., dare to launch a great war in Asia, which is precisely what they are striving to do, the eventual consequences to them and their capitalist system will be disastrous, both militarily and politically.

Lippmann is greatly worried

over the world-wide decline of American peace prestige; but what does he propose as a remedy? He wants to step up this country's war preparations. He says, "An increase of 10 percent in the military appropriations will have a more salutary effect on the balance of power and on the prestige of this country than a whole collection of speeches and press conferences by admirals, senators, and administration spokesmen."

This is sheer madness. At a time when the peoples of the world—who want disarmament and peace—are more and more protesting against the super-militancy of United States, Lippmann wants, to win back their good will by increasing the very American militarism which they are hating more deeply every day. This absurdity is the best that the leading bourgeois ideologist in this country has to offer. It just goes to show how crazy and desperate capitalism—specifically American imperialism—can become in the period of the general decline and crisis of the world capitalist system.