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The
Jewish Veteran



Our New National Commander

MILTON H. RICHMAN

HELP CONTINUE I. & E. PROGRAM

The following is taken from an article in the New York Times:

By HANSON W. BALDWIN

"The work—and even the existence—of the Army's Information and Education Division will probably be challenged at the next session of Congress.

"The division, now headed by Brig. Gen. C. T. Lanham, has been—since its inception early in the war—in charge of the indoctrination, orientation and education of our soldiers. It conducts the 'T. I. P.,' or troop information program; helps to run the Armed Forces Institute, a correspondence school for the services; makes motion pictures dealing with specific aspects and problems of the services' jobs, and operates the Army's radio broadcasting stations.

"The 'I. and E.' division is slowly becoming, after many struggles, an accepted part of the Army's training system, and its literature and services are also extensively used by the Navy. Concerned as it is with the soldier's mind and heart, and with his extra-professional education, and fundamentally interested in his morale, it has had to blaze a trail new to American military concepts. Today, after the bitter experience of trial and error, and the strenuous problems of the new, the 'I. and E.' division has passed its infancy and is struggling toward maturity, filled with fine ideas for further service.

"At just such a time, the division's future may be imperiled. The new Congress is expected to inquire into the activities of the division with a searching and, some observers fear, an unfriendly eye. Part of the Congressional interest will be due to economy; all details of the military budget are likely to be examined with care and with an eye to cuts. But part—and the unfriendly part—of the interest will stem from two mistakes of the youthful 'I. and E.' division, which have been exaggerated beyond all due importance by the division's enemies.

"One of these mistakes was the somewhat inept wording of the now famous 'fact sheet' on fascism, issued by the division two years ago as a guide to discussion of the subject. The definition of a native fascist was clumsily contrived, and the fact sheet dealt too gently with Communist Russia, then a wartime ally. Some of the ranker reactionaries of Congress were infuriated by this document and have been 'gunning' for the 'I. and E.' division ever since.

"This original error was compounded more recently when the United States Armed Forces Institute, which offers correspondence courses from some seventy-three colleges and universities to service men, included in a course on economics a college textbook widely used in scores of universities that had been selected for the institute by educators themselves. This book—'Economics: Principle and Problems'—was found to contain various passages that seemed to echo the Communist concept of economics, and again the 'I. and E.' division was in hot water. The course in which this book was used was taken by only twenty six men and was recently discontinued; moreover, the division merely followed the recommendations of its eminent college advisers in including the course and the book in the curriculum.

"However, these two incidents have aroused serious opposition to the progressive and beneficial program of

'I. and E.' and there is some fear that a Republican Congress may take advantage of them to cut seriously or possibly—though not probably—even to eliminate the future budget for 'I. and E.' work. Such action would indeed be unfortunate, and a definite step backward in this era, when the American soldier so badly needs a sense of his responsibilities and an understanding of his role in the post-war world.

"The 'I. and E.' division alone, of course, can never meet these problems; it functions as part of the military team, and discipline is primarily a function of command. But it can help—as its present program shows—to answer the soldier's 'Why?' and to aid him to some self-discipline, to help him to understand the problems of others, and to aid him—through knowledge and perspective—to that intangible something—morale—that is the backbone of all armies."

The Jewish War Veterans are mandated through resolution to promote and support the I. and E. program of the U. S. Army. It will be recalled that a poll of American soldiers in Germany, immediately following VE Day showed that more than 29% of our soldiers thought that many of the things Hitler advocated were right. It is mainly through these courses (of course, we realize that our schools and colleges are largely to blame for such thinking and attitude by Americans) that our youth learn the ideals of democracy, how our form of government is superior to that of others, the propaganda techniques and strategy used by enemy nations to win us to their viewpoint and soften us up, etc.

In publishing this enlightening article by Hanson Baldwin, and expressing the immediate peril, it is expected that J.W.V. units will ACT. The most effective action is to pass resolutions, publicized in your local press, and sent to your Congressmen and Senators, urging them to approve a sufficient budget and support the I. and E. program. Be sure and send a copy to General C. T. Lanham, Pentagon Building, Washington, so he will know that his efforts have our support. Please take your action immediately, so it will reach your Washington representatives in time for the convening of the 80th session of Congress. Please also send a copy of your action to National Headquarters.