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These Days . . . . . By George Sokolsky

Mrs. Roosevelt's Opinion

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ought to know the qualifications of a President, she having been an inhabitant of the White House for 12 years, more or less. So May Craig, on "Meet the Press," asked Mrs. Roosevelt this question:

Sokolsky

"Mrs. Roosevelt, before the nomination former President Truman said that we could not risk a period of trial and error by Mr. Stevenson in the White House in the international situation. Don't you really regard President Eisenhower as better qualified to handle the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean?"

It is a good question because, after all, President Eisenhower has been President of the United States for nearly four years and Adlai Stevenson has not been President at all. Also, before he came to the White House, General Eisenhower was at the head of NATO, and he has been commander of the allied troops in World War II and later Chief of Staff. He may not, in Mrs. Roosevelt's estimation, be the brightest that ever held the Presidency; she would be forgiven if she thought her late husband was. But Eisenhower has had considerable experience and responsibility with such questions as May Craig raised and Stevenson has had no responsibility and only a peripheral experience with them.

TO MAY CRAIG'S question Mrs. Roosevelt replied:

". . . I feel that President Eisenhower gained his knowledge of foreign affairs as a general in the European theater. He was a general carrying out the policies that were made by other people and when you are doing that you learn to be skillful in carrying out those policies. You do think it is the same thing as having to think out policies for yourself, and my experience is that Mr. Stevenson has taken a great deal of trouble to inform himself on the background of Asia and Africa, with which this question is closely tied . . ."

This is a shocking statement because it makes no sense. Stevenson took what amounted to a tourist's trip through Asia which is meaningless, particularly if one does not know any Asiatic language; Eisenhower, on the contrary, was stationed in the Philippines alongside our greatest authority on Asia, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, for seven years.

If Eisenhower is so unintelligent as to be able only to carry out policies made for him by other people, why did President Roosevelt appoint him commander of the troops in Europe in World War II? Are we to believe that President Roosevelt entrusted the lives of our sons and the destiny of our Nation to a man who, having by then spent 27 years in the service of his country, is incapable of thinking? If so, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was guilty of perpetrating a shameful hoax on the world and stands convicted on the testimony of his widow.

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