A Real Military Training

James V. Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, delivered a speech in New York the other night which we thought boiled down a lot of things that ought to be said, and said often and emphatically, about postwar universal compulsory military training in the United States.

Secretary of Navy James V. Forrestal

Mr. Forrestal, speaking at a dinner of the Navy Industrial Association, took vigorous exception to the diluted scheme for military training which Mrs. Roosevelt is trying to sell to the American people—though the Navy Secretary didn't mention Madame President by name.

Mrs. Roosevelt's thought is that our boys after this war should be required to give a year to their country's service—but. But they should have only two or three months' basic training in things military; the rest of the hitch should be spent in learning "the duties of democratic citizenship." Mrs. Roosevelt would let the girls play at the same game. What would come out of this ideological hopper, obviously, would be a combination of WPA and NYA with overtones of the Hitler youth or the Young Communist League or both.

An alternative offered by some other soft thinkers about the postwar world is a proposal that the training of each young man should extend over three or four years in jerks of a few months each year.

Forrestal disposed of these notions, we thought, in succinct language. Unless a boy studies warmaking for at least a year, 12 consecutive months, said Forrestal, he will not learn enough to do him or the nation any good about the fundamentals of warmaking.

As for the training in "democratic citizenship," Forrestal had this to say:

> "Also, while we are heartily in favor of laying all possible stress upon citizenship training and educational opportunities, we believe that these should be collateral to the basic purpose, which is training for actual military service."

In other words, Forrestal is thinking about the world as it is likely to be after this war, while Mrs. Roosevelt and her co-thinkers are thinking about it as they [illegible] it will be. They hope this is the [illegible] President, indeed, [illegible]ently, in his [illegible]

File

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