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THESE DAYS:

Ike Qualified By Experience

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By GEORGE E. SOKOLSKY

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 Mrs. May Craig, on "Meet the Press," asked Mrs. Roosevelt this question:

"Mrs. Roosevelt, before the nominations 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 Pres. 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 had 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 man 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.

Shocking Statement

EX-108

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 learn a great deal but I do not 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. One does not have to like President Eisenhower. 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, General Douglas MacArthur, for seven years.

File
Dwight Eisenhower

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