

I do not mean by anything I have said that I have abandoned the view which I have held for some time that this Nation should pursue wholehearted international cooperation militarily, economically, culturally, educationally, and scientifically, and, above all, spiritually, with all other nations of good will in the world. But we should have it always in our minds that cooperation is a two-way street; that as we give, so must we receive; also that it is impossible to cooperate with any nation which is not willing to cooperate with us. It strikes me as a realistic appraisal that that is about the condition we face today, and we might as well realize it and get down to business to try to promote peace under a program of our own; one that will be shaped and conducted by Americans in the interest of America as well as for the benefit of the rest of the world.

A policy of bluff and bluster would come to as sad an end as Humpty Dumpty. It is a wrong policy, anyway, to begin with it, and we might as well recognize the fact. The brandishing of atomic and hydrogen weapons by those in high authority would be a serious mistake. It is time for America to put its best foot forward and replace fuddy-duddiness and sophomoric zeal with the courage and vision and common sense of experienced statesmanship.

Dien Bien Phu has fallen. The gateway to southeast Asia has thus been forced ajar. If it is opened wide—and that is a distinct possibility—the broad area behind may fall completely into the hands of the Communists and under the sway of the Soviets. If that happens, it may not only cut off vital critical materials, but it may lead to Communist domination of many other nations.

SPECIAL ORDER GRANTED

Mr. BAILEY asked and was given permission to address the House today for 20 minutes, following any special orders heretofore entered.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House which was read:

MAY 26, 1954.

The honorable the SPEAKER,
House of Representatives.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit herewith a sealed envelope addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the President of the United States, received in the Clerk's Office on May 25, 1954, and said to contain veto message on the following:

H. R. 7512, an act to provide for the conveyance of the federally owned lands which are situated within Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Fla., to the Armory Board, State of Florida, in order to consolidate ownership and perpetuate the availability of Camp Blanding for military training and use.

Respectfully yours,

LYLE O. SNADER,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

CAMP BLANDING MILITARY RESERVATION, FLA.—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 403)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I return herewith, without my approval, H. R. 7512, a bill to provide for the conveyance of the federally owned lands which are situated within Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Fla., to the Armory Board, State of Florida, in order to consolidate ownership and perpetuate the availability of Camp Blanding for military training and use.

Generally, the bill provides for the conveyance of federally owned lands within Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Fla., to the Armory Board, State of Florida, upon conditions designed to permit coordinated management of the natural resources of both the Federal and State lands within the reservation and to insure that all of such lands will continue to be available for military use. I wish to emphasize my agreement with these objectives.

However, I cannot approve section 2 (4) of the bill in its present form. This section would authorize the State of Florida to dispose of "interests or rights in land by lease, license, or easement or by contract of sale of timber or timber products" upon the condition that in the case of Federal lands and within 9 months after the enactment of the bill into law, the State of Florida and the Secretary of the Army shall have reached an agreement governing the disposition of the revenues from such operations. Again, there can be no objection to such cooperative action between Federal and State governments. However, section 2 (4) further provides "that prior to the consummation of the agreement with the State of Florida or board, the Secretary of the Army or his designee shall come into agreement with the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and of the House of Representatives concerning the terms of such agreement." Because of this provision of the bill, I cannot approve it.

The purpose of this clause is to vest in the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives power to approve or disapprove any agreement which the Secretary of the Army proposes to make with the State of Florida pursuant to section 2 (4). The practical effect would be to place the power to make such agreement jointly in the Secretary of the Army and the members of the Committees on Armed Services. In so doing, the bill would violate the fundamental constitutional principle of separation of powers prescribed in articles I and II of the Constitution which place the legislative power in the Congress and the executive power in the executive branch.

The making of such a contract or agreement on behalf of the United States is a purely executive or administrative function, like the negotiation and execution of government contracts generally.

Thus, while Congress may enact legislation governing the making of Government contracts, it may not delegate to its members or committees the power to make such contracts, either directly or by giving to them a power to approve or disapprove a contract which an executive officer proposes to make. Moreover such a procedure destroys the clear lines of responsibility for results which the Constitution provides.

I believe it to be my duty to oppose any such departure from constitutional procedures. However, I am confident that the true purpose of the Congress in the enactment of this provision was to facilitate administrative action, while at the same time not neglecting its own responsibilities. I suggest that this could be properly accomplished by requiring specific reports from the Executive as to action taken. These reports could serve as the basis for further congressional action in case the Congress so desired. Accordingly, I recommend that H. R. 7512 be modified and reenacted.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 25, 1954.

The SPEAKER. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal.

Mr. SHORT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the bill and message be referred to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed.

The motion was agreed to.

MILITARY AND NAVAL CONSTRUCTION ACT

Mr. ALLEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I call up House Resolution 558 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to move that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H. R. 9242) to authorize certain construction at military and naval installations and for the Alaska Communications System, and for other purposes. After general debate, which shall be confined to the bill, and shall continue not to exceed 2 hours, to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services, the bill shall be read for amendment under the 5-minute rule. At the conclusion of the consideration of the bill for amendment, the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

Mr. ALLEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. COLMER].

Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the adoption of House Resolution 558, making in order the consideration of the bill (H. R. 9242) to authorize certain construction at military and naval installations and for the Alaska communications system, and for other purposes.