I!S. to the NEWS

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LIPPMANN'S WARNING

"Twenty years ago, thanks to the decisive military victory we helped to win, we were the leading power in the world, our security unchallenged and inviolable. All the most powerful nations on earth were our friends. Today we are encircled by ... a coalition of the armed forces of the masters of Europe and Asia. ••• Our policy has been a disastrous failure••.. It has reduced us from a state of perfect security to a state of deadly danger. ...

"When••• a rich and vigorous nation and the leading power in the world, falls so quickly into such dangers as we now face, there can be no disputing the fact that the nation has been badly led along the wrong road•..• No amount of words •.• about how much we love peace •.• can alter the fact that the net result of the policy •.. is that we find ourselves ...surrounded by enemies. •••"

That sounds like Ronald Reagan criticizing the policies of Henry Kissinger, but it isn't. Those are the words of the former dean of American **newspaper** columnists, Walter Lippmann, writing in LIFE Magazine exactly35 years ago. With his mastery of words, he spelled out a hardhitting indictment of the policies of disarmament in the face of the growing armed might of Hitler, calling U.S. failure to prepare for the obvious danger "stupid," "foolish," "wooden-headed," and "disastrously wrong."

The policy against which Walter Lippmaminvoked his righteous indignation was what he called "the theory of passive defense" or the policy of just "waiting to be attacked." Six months before Pearl Harbor, he correctly called that policy "a certain invitation to military disaster" because it allows the enemy to prepare carefully and methodically for the attack at a place and time of his choosing.

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1,7,alter Lippmann's critique of Anrnrican policy is so perfectly applicable to the Kissinger policies as to sound as though it were written this year. T·o make the Lippmann article timely, just substitute the words "Brezhnev's missiles" for "Hitler's bombers," and the words wKissinger's SAI/f agreements" for the nMaginot Line.ri

The prevailing fallacy today is that we must stop engaging in an 11arms race.n This bit of sloganeering contains two deadly errors. First, there isn't any arms race going on. The l:nited States officially opted out of the race by the S.AVr agreements of 1972 which allowed the Soviets to continue racing ahead to their goal of 1,618 intercon tinental ballistic missiles and. 62 nuclear missile-firing submarines, but prohibited the United States from racing at all. Today, the Unj_ted States is passively holdi.ng defense spending to five percent of our national income. while, according to former Defense Secretary Schlesinger, the Soviets are outspending u on military weapons by 45 billion per year.

The second error in the arms race fallacy is the notion that an arms race leads to war. As Walter Lippmann's article so eloquently proves, it was clearly a disarmament race that caused ·world War II because Western weakness and passivity encouraged Hitler to attack.

Honald Reagan could get all the ideas for bis next speech about the folly of detente out of Lippmann's ·11aming. And when President Ford and Kissinger reply ·wi.th vague generalities about '1peace11 and alleged "U.S. strength," Reagan can counter with Lippmann's words that military superiority at the time and place of attack "is the only place where superiority matters."

This is the kind of superiority that the Kissinger policies prohibit.

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