



Half the World

by Claudia Jones

NO DOUBT, MILLIONS OF WOMEN who live in mortal fear of an atomic world war will be pleased to learn that our fears are simply a "fixation" in our own minds.

Strange as it may seem, such a contention was actually advanced recently — and by none other than one who only five years ago was Chief Prosecutor of the Allied War Criminals Trials in Nuremberg, Germany.



Never mind that 140,000 men, women and children were wiped out, still thousands of others maimed for life, rendered incapable of normal procreation, short of producing monsters. What, asked Mr. Telesford Taylor, is a little "flash of Hiroshima" or the "splash at Bikini?" Women, you are simply transfixed! Concern yourself with the outlawry of all war weapons!

Thus, did the former Allied Chief Prosecutor of war criminals, now returned to corporate law, in New York (a "respectable" term for a big business lawyer) advise:

"We seem to have been transfixed by the "flash" at Hiroshima, and the "splash" at Bikini" (New York Times, August 30 — My emphasis, C.J.)

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WHAT IS THE REAL SOURCE of the trouble bothering Mr. Taylor, who reduces the atomic bomb, once hailed as an "invincible weapon" of U. S. imperialism to naught? No doubt, he is flustered by the same annoyance displayed by the State Department.

For even after the unjust Korean war was declared by President Truman, nearly 3 million Americans signed a World Peace Appeal, urging outlawing of atomic weapons, and branding as a war criminal the first nation that uses it. The success of the petition even forced the former prosecutor of war criminals from his lucrative law practice to lend his authority! To the fight to brand as a war criminal those who use this monstrous weapon? Not at all. Indeed, to dispel the continuing concern with the fight to outlaw atomic weapons.

Reviving an old argument (ably answered by heroic men and women lay peace petitioners), Mr. Taylor seeks to convince his readers that to concern oneself with outlawing of atomic weapons is to manifest unconcern for outlawing of all modern war weapons.

Since we are not playing "potsy" but discussing the future of world peace, the future of our children, menfolk, sons and husbands, we must reject Mr. Taylor's arguments as false in fact and in truth.

To extinguish a lighted match as any child knows, one swiftly has to blow it out, but to put out a fire one needs more than hot air. It is to stop ignition of an atomic world war that compels increasing millions here, and all over the globe, to demand unconditional outlawing of the murderous atomic weapons of all nations of the earth. If the itchy Wall Street atomaniacs, whose threats emanate from the U. S. Senate, fume, it's only because the shoe fits.

Now one is naturally suspicious of those who seek to lull genuine fears by presenting lesser ones. Why does Mr. Taylor try so hard to appear as being unique in his statement on the need to outlaw all modern war weapons?

Every man, woman and child who truly desires peace, wants diversion of the billions being spent on war (bringing in its train high prices, denial of school services, health facilities, etc.) for butter, not guns. Were Mr. Taylor genuinely concerned with disarmament, he would have been among the vast peace lovers of every clime who affixed their signatures to the World Peace Appeal. Why his timidity on the most monstrous war weapon of all?

His true aim, as his article reveals, is to try to convince us of the false axiom that "All's fair in love and war." He dispassionately discusses "area bombings" and "precision bombing" which is being ruthlessly practiced at this very moment on innocent Korean women and children! And because he must maintain an impartial mask in the prosecution of his argument he further states:

"We must at all costs avoid giving them (the other nation, C.J.) the impression, or opening ourselves to the charge that we have lost interest in disarmament and are concerned exclusively with preparations for war." (Ibid).

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DYING SYSTEMS OF SOCIETY always in their dying gasp give the impression of great moral strength. This was true of Nazi Germany, but it hid their own fixation — their fear of the people's will for peace, which they ruthlessly stamped out in their drive towards fascism and world conquest. No wonder Mr. Taylor's conscience (he mentions that too) is discomforted.

Did he not preside over the fate of SS Gestapo men (who were never executed) — and also over the filthy Nazi racist crew — among whom was the fat Goering who took a pill?

There is one final distinction which Mr. Taylor sought to make — a distinction which spilled the beans in his polemics. The former Chief Prosecutor smarts even at recollection of this distinction — between attitudes to aggressors and victims of aggression. In the specific case of Goering, Soviet attorneys sought then to especially indict Goering as a war criminal because of the ruthless bombings of millions under his leadership as head of the German air force. Analogous to those who wear the mask of UN respectability for naked aggression in Korea and Formosa, so did Mr. Taylor act in his dual role as Allied Chief Prosecutor and as American representative in Nuremberg. He opposed such a distinction on the grounds that to do so would equate responsibility for the similar acts of the Allied air force. Will Mr. Taylor holding to his contention of opposition to all modern war weapons now oppose the mass bombings of Korean women and children which "saturation bombing" is merely a difference "in degree" to atomic bombing?

This distinction, we can agree, is an important one made by Mr. Taylor. To the extent that it can be sharpened, particularly by the masses of women, in concert with all peace forces, will determine whether the hands of the atomaniacs, who brandish all modern war weapons, will be stayed in Korea "or in Formosa."

Let women, aroused over fear of atomic war, join the rising cry for peaceful mediation of this conflict, especially recognizing it is by our guns, our mortars, our bombs that Korean women and children die in droves today.