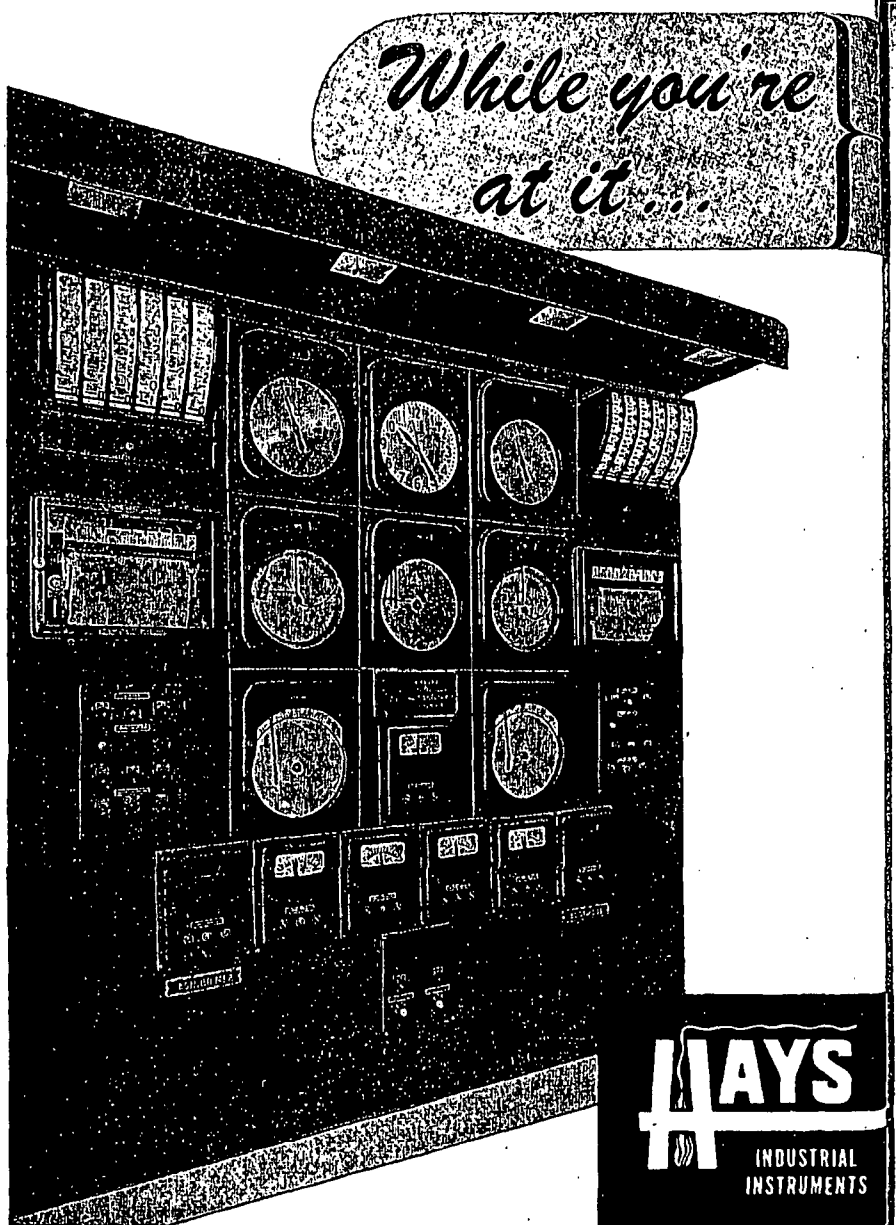

POWER

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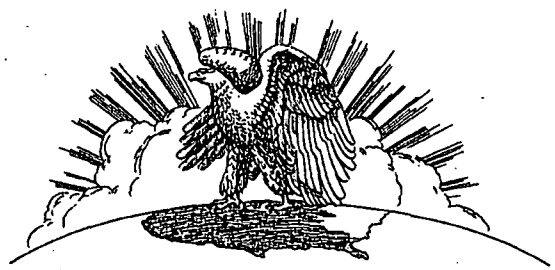

THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA

Once in a while it is necessary for men and nations to stand aside from the daily turmoil and look critically at the standards by which they live. In his address before the third session of the Herald-Tribune Forum, David Lilienthal, chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, has done just this for the United States. We are proud to reprint, for power men, his glowing testament to our American faith.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, it's not a good idea for an individual to think too much about himself. He can become so occupied with how his digestion is getting along that just fussing about it will get it out of fix. Perfectly healthy people can give themselves the jitters by paying too much attention to their nerves and their mental processes. The advice "Let your mind alone" has a lot to be said for it.

I have a feeling that much the same thing applies to nations, and particularly to a nation as healthy and high-spirited as the United States of America. But a certain amount of national self-examination is inescapable, and indeed, at this juncture in world events it is not only inevitable but wholesome. The eyes of the world's people are upon us these days. Everything we do (and a good many things we don't do) and much of what we say, in this wonderfully talkative and uninhibited land of ours, occupy the attention of hundreds of millions of people in England, in France and the Lowlands, in Italy and the Balkans, in Latin America, in the vast reaches of Soviet Russia. So that even though we might prefer not to talk about our own health, about what it is that makes us so fit, or about that occasional headache, the times just won't permit.

U. S. IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Each day all over the world, we, the people of the United States, are given a physical and mental appraisal by the people of other lands. Some of this "going over" is so palpably false, so coarse and downright mean that it shocks most of us; for very few of us are given to such extremely bad manners when we talk about other peoples.

But whether the looking over we are getting around the world is sincere and temperate—as it often is—or deliberately false, and incredibly mean—as much of it is—the justification for this constant appraisal of America is clear enough. For we no longer say, "Our way is good enough for us; please go away *and don't bother us with your problems.*" *Upon a* world-wide stage we stand today as the exemplars and the active protagonists of certain heroic principles of human life, about which we feel so deeply that we are prepared to stake everything upon keeping them alive and flourishing. We assert that the principles by which we live are basically opposed to and demonstrably superior to those modern versions of tyranny over men that first enslaved and then destroyed the German and the Japanese people and that now threaten the peoples of all Europe and of Asia.

If I understood the essence of our evolving foreign policy, it is based largely upon what we believe to be the peculiar merits and the superior qualities of our domestic policy, that is, our way of living together here at home. The anxious peoples of the world are bedeviled and often confused by many voices in their