

Raysor flays Lindbergh's stand

By Donald E. Bower.

"The tragedy of the United States... is that it is faced by a desperate need for quick decisions on military grounds, that its chief advisor on the issues in question is Charles A. Lindbergh, is totally without military knowledge or experience," stated Dr. T. M. Raysor, of the English department, in a recent article.

Continuing to attack Lindbergh and defend our aid-to-Britain program, Raysor refutes the "two fundamental arguments with which he (Lindbergh) deceives both himself and the American people." These problems, the professor continues, are: "first, that England cannot hope to win the war; and second, that the United States is secure if it does not dissipate its military power on aid to England, but builds up its air force for its own defense.

"Both arguments," he maintains, "are completely misleading."

Lindbergh's first statement is misleading, "because, however true it may prove to be, it by no means establishes evidence that Germany can win the war." Raysor suggests the possibility of a stalemate, which, he says, is not only possible logically, but practically as well.

Dealing with the possibility that Germany might extend its power over most of Africa and the whole near east, he says that even if this does occur the nazis might "still be completely unable to subdue the British fleet."

"However desperate the position of England, the position of Germany will be almost equally desperate if it does not succeed in breaking the power of the British fleet in the present year—in 1941," the professor goes on.

Raysor discounts the plausibility of invasion because it "would be very difficult unless the blockade had previously seriously diminished British power of resistance, and in any cast must be postponed as long as Germany continues great campaigns in the Mediterranean regions."

With the actual military aid of the United States, the difficulties of invasion would be still further increased, he maintains.

Turning to a discussion of the popular notion that Americans be-



—Lincoln Journal.
DR. T. M. RAYSOR
... hits at Lindbergh.

lieve Churchill is trying to draw us into war, Raysor says that if this is the reason that he is "constantly emphasizing the danger of England in the 'Battle of the Atlantic,' he is running deliberately the risk of destroying the courage of American sympathizers and furnishing arguments to defeatists like Lindbergh.

"No, this is not propaganda, so far as the fact of terrific danger to England is concerned."

The professor admits that Lindbergh and Goebbels are probably right that England cannot resist the blockade with the help of the American fleet, the situation would be entirely changed."

He writes confidently, saying that "we can still remember... the almost complete and absolute success of the convoy system in the last war and believe that it has a considerable chance to repeat that success sufficiently to save England."

"This brings us to Lindbergh's second argument, that the United States is secure, if it builds up its air force and ceases to dissipate its armaments by help to Britain."

Pointing out Major De Seversky's article in the Mercury, in which De Seversky "controverts Lindbergh's thesis that the United

States is protected by distance from serious attack by bombers," the states that "De Seversky is one of the most famous designers of military planes in the whole world, while Lindbergh is merely a civilian pilot, whose reputation is based solely on a heroic feat of athletic endurance, and whose technical training is that of the self-educated man."

Raysor maintains that Lindbergh's "series of assumptions about military strategy are so fantastic that their errors must often be obvious to persons who are entirely unacquainted with warfare."

Attacking the isolationist policy advocated by Lindbergh, he states that the aviator is wrong when he says: (Quotation from Lindbergh's article in Colliers): "We have neglected the wisdom and experiences of our forefathers—we have not followed Washington's advice." What Washington actually said, in his farewell address, was that "We may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies."

Raysor then turns to a refutation of Lindbergh's belief that the air force, if sufficiently enlarged at once, is the chief means of our defense. The navy cannot be disregarded, for the only reason that we are secure now "because we have a two-ocean navy, the British fleet in the Atlantic and the American in the Pacific."

"But if England goes down, what will become of the British navy?" he asks. "If England dies, we have little claim to benefit from the will."

Remarking that "a supporter of Lindbergh will say that it is



—Lincoln Journal.
CHARLES A. LINDBERGH.
... demands non-intervention.

better to let the British navy go than to risk war ourselves," the professor states that "the Japanese navy alone will surpass ours in 1942 because the Japanese be-

gan their building program before we had begun to listen to the 'hysterical chatter of calamity and invasion' of which Lindbergh spoke so condescendingly."

Reminding Americans that Secretary of the Navy Knox himself has informed us that the axis navies will overwhelmingly surpass ours in strength in case of a British defeat, he says: "Do we trust the statistical tables of the navy department of the United States, or do we trust men like Lindbergh and Wheeler?"

Raysor says that the fact that we are building a two-ocean navy is not very comforting, because it will not be ready before 1946. "Before that time, we shall be overmatched by the fleets already in existence. And after that time, we shall be overmatched too... If the British go down, we are doomed to hopeless naval inferiority as far as the human mind can see into the future."

Lindbergh does not consider the importance of navies, arguing "that no air-invasion of Brazil or other South American countries (See STAND, page 6)

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