

## A BOOK FOR TODAY

**Fulbright States His Theme**

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**THE ARROGANCE OF POWER.** By Senator J. William Fulbright. Random House. \$4.95.

Over a number of years Senator Fulbright of Arkansas has advocated new and imaginative direction of this country's foreign policy. Quite often, it has seemed, he has spoken more as a political philosopher, which he is, than as one holding high office with the demands for party loyalty and conformity usually associated with such position.

In the passage of years, and particularly in the last session of the Congress, Fulbright became more outspoken, more direct and more specific in his proposals. The reason, of course, was the Nation's involvement (increasing all the time) in the Vietnamese war. In the forum of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which he heads, on the Senate floor and elsewhere, the Senator emerged as one of the administration's sharpest critics for the course being followed in Vietnam and elsewhere.

A good portion of Fulbright's appraisal, often scathing, was contained in a series of three lectures delivered last year at the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He entitled them provocatively, "The Arrogance of Power." They raised the question of whether the United States, like great empires of the past, may be weakened if not destroyed because it has not used its power wisely.

The lectures as well as other Fulbright comments and speeches raised a storm of controversy. The Arkansas Senator has an Ozark tenacity in his beliefs and courage too. Instead of being dismayed he has ordered more Senate hearings on Vietnamese and other policies and now has published the expanded lectures, with additional materi-

al, in a book of the same title.

This is well. If one does not agree with Fulbright in his appraisals, and many, of course, do not, what he has written serves a vital purpose. It makes, or should make, people in and out of government think more deeply about the problems confronting the country and the world. Out of such thinking there might emerge some solutions not thought of or only dimly discernible at this time.

Aside from any suggestions that are offered, one of Fulbright's major contributions in this book of 258 pages is in underscoring the right of dissent. Fulbright may have been appalled by the bitterness of some of the attacks made on him for what he has said but he sees that the dissent he has voiced as a Senator is in itself evidence of the country's basic strength and character.

"To criticize one's country is to do it a service and pay it a compliment," he writes. "Criticism is more than a right; it is an act of patriotism, a higher form of patriotism, I believe, than the familiar rituals of national adulation."

Fulbright's advocacy of the right of dissent extends to the Universities where students have been the focal point of much of the agitation against the war in Vietnam. Much of what has been done by the dissenter, such as burning draft cards, Fulbright believes

has retarded rather than helped what the dissenters advocated.

Fulbright's "higher form of patriotism," the right to criticize, brings a review of the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the Cuban missile crisis, the Dominican Republic affair and Vietnam, among others. It makes for somber reading.

As for Vietnam, Fulbright believes that the search for a solution there, must begin with the recognition that nationalism and not communism is the dominant force there, as it is elsewhere: that somehow the United States must come to terms with the Viet Cong and Hanoi, and the Communists must be conceded a part in the South Vietnamese government. Given the temper of the country, at this time and in view of official positions, that is a large dose indeed.

Such views reflect, in a specific way, Fulbright's belief that the world has endured all it can of crusades of one kind or another, even those against communism. "Favored as it is, by history, by wealth and by the vitality and basic decency of its diverse population," Fulbright writes, "it is conceivable, though hardly likely, that America will do something that no other great nation has ever tried to do—to affect a fundamental change in the nature of international relations." That, basically, is the message and the hope in this book.