

## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Founded by JOSEPH PULITZER  
December 12, 1878  
Published by  
The Pulitzer Publishing Co.  
Telephone  
MAin 1111 — 1111 Olive St. (1)

## THE POST-DISPATCH PLATFORM

I know that my retirement will make no difference in its cardinal principles; that it will always fight for progress and reform; never tolerate injustice or corruption, always fight democracy of all parties; never belong to any party, always oppose privileged classes and public plunderers; never lack sympathy with the poor, always remain devoted to the public welfare; never be satisfied with merely printing news; always be drastically independent; never be afraid to attack wrong, whether by predatory plutocracy or predatory poverty.

JOSEPH PULITZER.  
April 18, 1907.

## LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

## Against Divided Armed Forces

To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch:

Because of our peculiar geographical position, Walter Lippmann, in his article of May 8, suggested two separate military establishments for our post-war military policy: the Navy for the Pacific Ocean, the War Department for the Atlantic; each to be treated separately.

A setup of this kind would fortify England's plans of her treaty of 1901, for the United States Navy to guard the Pacific and for the English Navy to protect the Atlantic; but I believe that for our own independence and self-preservation, our Navy must be a two-ocean navy.

Mr. Lippmann also overlooked the dangerous effect such a policy would have on the national unity of the American people. The people living close to the Pacific seaboard would not care to serve in the War Department to help protect the Atlantic. Persons in our Atlantic seaboard states would not relish the idea of serving in the Navy; they would prefer to serve in the War Department to guard the Atlantic.

When an appropriations bill for the Navy was brought before Congress, the Atlantic seaboard states might vote against it. The Pacific Coast states might do the same on a bill for the Army.

Such a policy would split the country in two, the East against the West. An outright division of our armed forces would cause a definite split in our national unity. We need only one armed force and we should leave tactics and the strategic details of planning to our military specialists.

I believe President Theodore Roosevelt advocated the building of the Panama Canal not only for economic reasons, but that he also had in mind a two-ocean Navy.

IRWIN M. ZUCKERMAN.

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