

Department, and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., the latter company having refused to build a rubber plant in Rumania because it felt that such a plant would have materially aided the Communist military potential.

Sen. Fulbright's speech was given in pontifical tones, castigating all those with the temerity to disagree with his own ideas on foreign policy. He characterized YAF as "extremist" and a "vigilante group," and referred to our educational campaign about the Firestone deal as "nuisance activities."

That same afternoon in the Senate, Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina answered Sen. Fulbright and documented YAF's history and aims. Sen. Thurmond enumerated YAF activities which have gained the endorsement of such leading Americans as former Presidents Hoover and Eisenhower, former Vice President Richard Nixon, and even the Democratic Leader of the Senate, Mike Mansfield of Montana. He placed in the *Congressional Record* the Sharon Statement and the long list of Members of the House and Senate who serve on YAF's Advisory Board. Sen. Thurmond emphatically denied a Fulbright insinuation that there had been collusion between YAF and Goodyear against the Firestone deal.

Congressmen John Ashbrook, James Utt, and E. Ross Adair also defended YAF and opposed Fulbright and the Firestone deal. The *Chicago Tribune* sided with YAF and skillfully destroyed the faulty Fulbright logic.

Sen. Fulbright's speech brought a tremendous expression of support to national YAF headquarters. The logical question has been posed and we as a political action organization must answer it—where do we go from here?

In response, the Policy Committee of the national Board of Directors has unanimously agreed upon the following guide lines for future YAF action on proposed trade deals with Communist nations which will aid the Red military potential:

First, we intend to mount a national citizens' crusade to prevent, if possible, any future trade deals with the Reds which will help them advance the day when they can, as Khrushchev has said, "bury us." In principle we oppose all trade with Communist nations, but as an organization limited in funds and membership, we will concentrate our efforts against those trade deals which plainly give aid and comfort to the Communist enemy by building up their military power. In doing this we fully realize that we must oppose the stand our government has taken and its official designation of what is "strategic." Already, in response to the Fulbright speech, President Johnson has ordered a State Department investigation to find out why the Firestone deal fell through. The President has also stated his support of the Firestone deal and such trade in general.

Secondly, we will document our charges adequately, and do not intend to make generalized, or indiscriminate accusations against U.S. business concerns which trade with Soviet bloc nations. Neither do we intend to sit idly by while the big businessmen who fawned over LBJ during last year's election campaign reap profits with official government approval by trading with the enemy. YAF will form an official advisory committee of noted experts on the matter of strategic trade and with its advice will inform the nation about proposed trade deals which are against America's best interests.

Thirdly, we will use all responsible means of free speech and assembly permitted by the Constitution. We will not engage in boycotts, but we *will* mount massive informational campaigns so that the American public can have the facts and decide for themselves if they approve of American businesses trading with the enemy. National YAF will provide factual information and research materials to our chapters and members.

Why YAF must act

Only twenty-four hours prior to Sen. Fulbright's attack on YAF, the Rumanian Communist Party Congress meeting in Bucharest, together with representatives of Soviet Russia and Red China, attacked the United States for its defense of freedom in Vietnam and pledged its full support to the Communist Viet Cong. One can only suppose that, were the Firestone-built rubber plant now in operation in Rumania, its products might be used to kill American fighting men in Vietnam.

We applauded the President for his firmness in Vietnam. But, we find it sheer absurdity to undermine this stand by trading with the enemy through the back door of Rumania or any other Red nation. We have information that other American firms now plan to profit by Red trade deals at the expense of our national interest and our fighting men stationed around the world. We may be only one small voice, but our conscience and beliefs would forever be empty and meaningless if we refused to act now.