CONFIDENCE - INSPIRING?

Christian Herter Is 'Respectably Dull'

By DAVID HACKETT

Christian Herter is now the Secretary of State, replacing the gravely ill Dulles. Herter faces a difficult list of problems in international affairs that makes his position an unenviable one.

Critical Factor
International affairs have never been so critical a factor in the welfare of our nation as they are now, and never before has the United States been forced into a defensive position in the field of diplomacy. A brilliant man is needed to guide America through her current troubles, and this man needs to be Secretary of State rather than President.

The Strong Hand
The head of the State department has become perhaps even more important than the President during Eisenhower's administration. There is little doubt that the strong hand behind the government was Dulles, not Eisenhower. He was the principal advisor to the President, whose conduct in the Adams case shows him to be almost as naive as Grant and Harding in accepting advice.

“He Did Something”
Whether or not you liked Dulles there were good points about Dulles that should be remembered. He did something. He was never afraid to take action. He was experienced in diplomacy. He inspired confidence, although perhaps too much confidence.

Not A Genius
Mr. Herter is not a genius; he is not an experienced diplomat; and he does not have President Eisenhower's ear. He is a conservative Republican politician who was bought out to avoid trouble for Nixon. Up until this time at least, his chief characteristic seems to be a respectable dullness. He certainly does not inspire a great deal of confidence.

Grave Problems
The problems that he faces are graver than ever before, except possibly for those in 1939 and 1940. The threat of Berlin must be dealt with, the conference at Geneva must be conducted, he must face the impending Communist takeover of Iraq, and the threatened Red Chinese invasion of Formosa. In the more distant future he must make decisions concerning Africa, which will soon break into the headlines again with more revolts.

Troubled Seed
Mr. Herter is reaping the troubled seed of earlier errors in diplomacy; Franco is about to be ousted. We have supported this old ally of Hitler's with vast amounts of money, and when he is overthrown the new Spanish government will not look to us as their benefactor. It will be Iraq all over again. India's government may fall soon, and if it does the Communists will be there to pick up the pieces.

We, the American people, will have to wish Mr. Herter luck.