

to maintain a strong alliance of the free nations to combat the hostile nations affiliated with international communism — his efforts in Cuba, in Western Europe, in Africa, in the Near East and the Far East — are being assailed by a party here at home which seems unfortunately to have as its main purpose the regaining of power. As reasonable people, we of course do not expect in this democratic society any party or any person ever to attain a position of immunity to criticism. On the contrary, we understand that criticism that is rational and constructive is an essential ingredient of democratic government.

It can become corrosive to our society, however, when it is irrational and nonconstructive, and it becomes despicable when it is used by political parties or individuals for selfish purposes. Particularly is this true when our national security — our very survival as a nation — is at stake. Some of the criticism of this latter variety I think we can expect during the next year and a half, not, let me add, from unpatriotic motives but as a result of overzealous partisanship. It behooves us — Democrats, Republicans and all others — to fight this kind of irresponsible criticism whenever and wherever it raises its ugly hand. Although the risks are not nearly so great, neither is the reckless criticism of domestic policy to be tolerated. It is all right to disagree with Democrats and their President on tax reduction, on health and welfare policies, on the program of public works. But Republicans will be abusing their privileges and forfeiting the confidence of American citizens if they attempt, out of purely partisan consideration, to wreck the President's plan to strengthen the economy and correct the gnawing problem of unemployment or to sabotage his program to improve the health and educational opportunities of all the people.

I said a moment ago that we could expect our Republican opposition to employ political skill and cunning to defeat Democrats and regain the power they lost in the election of 1960. A few days ago I read, — as I suspect most of you did — an account of a speech which Vice-President Lyndon Johnson made in a southern city — a speech in which the Vice-President warned Democrats of our southern states of a plan by Republicans to capture that region by stirring up strife and discord among Democrats. He was cautioning Democrats to remain on guard against the strategy of divide and rule — a strategy which is as old as tyranny and as ancient as man's greed for power.

Now, Maryland and Delaware are border states, with certain