

## A Navy to Insure Peace!

*To the Editor of the New York Times:*

The recent efforts of certain prominent men to boom a “peaceful navy” remind me of the story of Johnny Smithers. Said Johnny to his paternal relative one day:

“Papa, what is a peaceful navy?”

“A peaceful navy, my boy, is a navy that is large and powerful enough to keep peace,” answered Smithers, senior.

“How can it keep peace, papa?”

“By intimidating or subduing other navies.”

“Should the United States have a peaceful navy?”

“Most certainly, Johnny.”

“Should Great Britain have a peaceful navy?”

Smithers, Senior, hesitated. “Er – er – say, Johnny, don’t you want to go and play with your new aeroplane?”

“No, papa. Should Great Britain have a peaceful navy?”

“Well – yes, I suppose so.”

“Should every nation have a peaceful navy?”

“Look, Johnny, those boys are having lots of fun over there. Run along and play with them.”

“Guess I don’t want to go out now, papa. Should every nation have a peaceful navy?”

“You’re not old enough to understand these things, my boy,” said the elder philosopher. “Don’t bother me.”

“Well, papa – if another navy should attack our navy and we should subdue it, wouldn’t that be keeping peace?”

“Yes.”

“And if the other navy was larger and powerfuller, and was to subdue ours, wouldn’t that be keeping peace?”

Mr. Smithers quite disapproved of encouraging inquisitiveness in children, so he sternly bade Johnny be silent.

The next day Johnny proudly announced to his father that he had kept peace with Jimmy Jones. “How was that my son?” asked the parent, scrutinizing a dark crescent under the youngster’s eye.

“Well,” said Johnny, “I’m bigger and powerfuller than him, so I tried to intimidate him first, but he hit me and then I just subdid him.”

W. F.

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