thods applied, and it noted that last minute polls were not taken to watch the shift to Truman during the final days of the campaign. Still, this committee carefully refrained from concluding that polling is useless or dead. It did well not to generalize, for in many other instances before and after the 1948 campaign the outcome of various elections here and abroad was predicted accurately. The most successful forecaster of elections has just been mentioned. It is Louis H. Bean who combines historical and statistical data to predict the outcome of elections. It is he who, in 1944, predicted the re-election of Roosevelt with 53 % (he received 54 % of the vote cast!). In 1948 he was the only one to predict the re-election of Truman.

International trends and events are often more difficult to predict than internal political phenomena, especially in a country enjoying a high degree of stability and continuity. After all, the international scene is usually dynamic, pregnant with sudden developments and revolutionary breaks. Almost every century and decade has its "diplomatic revolution". Yet, at times at least, a few acute observers have succeeded in predicting world affairs fairly correctly. Of course, we must always allow for a chance coincidence of prediction and event. Sometimes a forecaster is accidentally right. He was then simply lucky and people tend to remember the fact of a correct prediction more readily than the reverse. Was this the case with H.G.Wells who was able to predict the outbreak of World War II to within a few month and, even more impressively, as the outcome of a conflict between the Nazis and Poland about the Free City of Danzig? In 1887, Friedrich Engels, the alter ego of Karl Marx, anticipated the world war of 1914-1918 because of his profound insight into the motive forces and vital issues of the period. I quote: "8-10 million soldiers will slaughter one another and will browse Europe bare and barren as no swarm of locusts has ever done. The ravages of the Thirty Years War cramped into three to four years and spread all over the continent... A break-down of the old states and their traditional statecraft in a way that the crowns will roll along the pavement by the dozens and that nobody will bother to pick them up..." And the same Engels in another prediction foresaw that the next world war would be characterized by a military stalemate and long-drawn trench warfare in the West and a war of movement in the East in the course of which the Germans would defeat the Russians. He even prophesied that the military defeat of the Tzar would unleash a revolution in St. Petersburg.

Wells and Engels were not the only successful prophets of great international crises. Anyone interested in "Political Prophecies" need only glance through Herbert A.L. Fischer's speech of 1918 on the same topic (reprinted recently in Principles and Problems of International Politics, edited by Morgenthau and Thompson) to realize that some informed and judicious people have always predicted