

THE YEAR FOR DECISION

"The present effort for world peace is the most important matter before the world today, for through this effort we hope to escape World War III.

"There are two questions which, more than others, will determine whether this country is to make the maximum contribution to world peace. First, do we want peace or revenge; and second, are we willing to make the political and economic concessions essential to the success of world organization for peace?"

To this effort, - without dismay and with undiminished courage, - the Syracuse Peace Council summons its members and friends in 1945, and we would share with you all this message from English Friends:

"Members of a Committee appointed by London Yearly Meeting desire to share with Friends in other countries the call which came to us at our Yearly Meeting to influence peoples and governments towards a righteous peace. We are impressed by the need for prayer and penitence, and for a fresh dedication to God's service, so that we may be His messengers and prepare the way for the Christian reconciliation and reconstruction which is the only hope of lasting peace."

MORE ABOUT CONSCRIPTION

While the Great Powers are allowed to raise conscript armies without hindrance or limit it would be vain to expect the lasting preservation of world peace. If the instrument is ready for use the occasion will arrive and the men will arise to use it. I look upon conscription as the taproot of militarism; unless that is cut out all our labors will eventually be vain.

---Jan Smuts.

American Farm Bureau Federation declares compulsory military training "foreign to American way of life." - Pennsylvania State Grange, "Contrary to American Ideals." - State Council of the Michigan Commonwealth Federation says, "Militarizing our country will not solve our domestic problems not will it keep peace in the world." - Detroit Council of Churches believes military training would hinder the establishment of a lasting peace.- Conscription is the symbol of nineteenth century militarism, according to the Postwar World Committee of the Catholic Association for international Peace. - Catholic Mirror calls compulsory military training "a complete reversal of our American way of life." - Arizona School Administrators, Council on Education of the Arkansas Education Association, and the Association of Governing Boards of State Universities and allied institutions condemn peacetime conscription now. - Would lead to Jingoism and future wars, said representatives of 40 New York youth groups. - Warwick Neck, Rhode Island, League of Women Voters says would "hinder peace plans." - Articles of the month.

War Department leaders are expressing more confidence over the passage of a peacetime conscription bill now than they were several weeks ago. Apparently they feel that the "educational" campaign of the American Legion is bearing fruit. According to War Department statements, they are interested solely in a military act, and do not feel that President Roosevelt's suggestion for a combination of military training with various educational and citizenship courses would serve the purpose they seek...The official War Department position on peacetime military training is given in an article called "General Marshall wants a Citizen Army," --Satevepost, December 23.

Says an Army circular, "There will be no place in a sound universal military training program for activities that are non-essential to the task of preparing our young men for combat." That ought to end some of the double talk with which we have been kidding ourselves.

Says a soldier from Syracuse in a letter to his pastor:

"It looks as if this military training proposition is a national question. If you ever have anything to say about it, don't let them do it. It is a sure way of wrecking the morals of the country. In the months in which I have been in the Army, I have seen a lot of fellows loosened up. It doesn't pay to put us on our own at this crucial stage of the game. Besides, there are too many other ways the situation can be solved. When you get into this, you can see the damage it is doing in other than physical terms."

And that ought to end the rest of it.

If peacetime conscription is a good peace policy then Europe should be the most peaceful spot on earth, for Europe has had more conscription longer than any other similar area in the world.

RACE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The December 18 decisions of the Supreme Court make timely a reminder of the unfinished business of democracy and peace in our own borders. To the layman the two decisions on the same day are confusing. One held that no loyal evacuee (Japanese-American) could be compelled to remain in the relocation centers against his will. The other upheld the evacuation order of the army. From this Justices Jackson and Murphy dissented. Said Justice Murphy: "To give constitutional sanction is to adopt one of the cruelest of the rationales used by our enemies..." and, after reminding us that "not one person of Japanese ancestry was accused or convicted of espionage," he concluded: "I dissent from this legalization of racism... Racial discrimination in any form has no justifiable part whatever in our democratic way of life... All residents of this nation are kin in some way by blood or culture to a foreign land. They... at all times... entitled to all rights and freedoms guaranteed by the constitution."

Splendid words. But sadly at variance with the temper of the American mind as evidenced by:

(1) The barber in Poston, Arizona, who chased out of his shop a Japanese-American war veteran, who was still on crutches because of wounds received while fighting in Italy against doctrines of racial discrimination.

(2) Kiyoshi Muranga, who received the second highest military medal in the U.S.A.—the DSC for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy. This native son of America died in action but the Veterans of Foreign Wars of his home town will not include his name on their list of heroes because it is of Japanese origin. The address? Gardina, California.

(3) The Hood River (Oregon) Legion post which erased from its county war memorial the names of sixteen Nisei now in the military service.

(4) The Philadelphia rapid-transit strike last summer over the hiring of colored operators, which half paralyzed the second war production center of the nation at the very time when General Eisenhower was lauding the Negro troops in his command for their valorous performance in the Army of Liberation.

(5) The refusal of the owners of Rosehill Cemetery to allow the body of Tom Y. Chan, an American gentleman of Chinese extraction, who died in Chicago recently, to be buried beside his wife who died more than twenty five years ago. Said the manager: "We cater to white people only."

(6) Racial blood segregation as the official policy of the American Red Cross. Remember the medical corps Captain who reported that Negro blood was no longer segregated? The Captain appears to have been wrong. Edward H. Cavin, "assistant administrator, general services" ARC, Hdq., Washington, declares "there has been no change in the policy."

William Allan Neilson writes: "Let us not mistakenly assume that we have won a victory in this ordeal... Hitler himself... cannot but gloat that his racial doctrine has found strong support...."

A SUGGESTION

We would second The New Yorker's suggestion that the Dumbarton Oaks plan be tried out first in New Rochelle, with the Ladies' Garden Club, the Rotary Club, and similar community organizations taking the parts of the countries involved, to see how it would work. Should the Ladies' Garden Club be allowed to veto the Rotary Club's plan to send its men to discipline the Settlement Boys' Club? Should the Dairymaids' Union have to depend on the "benevolence" of the powerful Yacht Club for its rights? Should the fact that the Rotary Club, the Yacht Club, and the Ladies' Garden Club have the richest members and therefore the best equipment entitle them to govern the smaller and poorer clubs?

THE BOOK END

For thorough and thoughtful study of the whole problem of peacetime conscription, order either or both of these new pamphlets from us:

CONSCRIPTION and CONSCIENCE, by A. J. Muste, 9 pp., 5 cents;

CONSCRIPTION, The Test of the Peace, by Norman Thomas, 13 pp., 10 cents.

And for a serious, objective analysis of the Dumbarton Oaks Plan get this combination:

The Official Text of the Plan--- 5 cents.

Delaware to Dumbarton Oaks--an analysis of the D O Plan in the light of the Federal Council's Principles--15 cents.

THANK YOU!

We cannot be sure that this message reaches every one who by his participation and his gifts made our 9th Birthday such a happy success. But to each of you everywhere, a sincere and grateful thanks!

Executive Committee

CAN THE WAR BE SAVED?

In a January editorial the Christian Century declares "the war is being lost... the war for the great human goals.... the war to establish a world order of justice, peace, freedom and opportunity to all men everywhere." Again and again both the President and the State Department have urged the importance of a thorough study and discussion by the American people of the various plans for world peace. In his latest book, Mr. Sumner Welles declares that the decisions Americans make now with respect to both war and peace will affect every person of this and coming generations;

"Not only will the lives of the youth of America be saved or sacrificed to the result of these decisions....but also the standard of living, the economic opportunity, and the happiness of every one of us will be shaped accordingly."

This issue of the News-Letter is chiefly designed to provide thought and discussion-provoking background for the Institute of International Relations announced on the enclosed folder. The program itself is calculated to serve as an instrument of direction along "THE ROAD WE ARE TRAVELLING." Your enthusiastic support and promotion of this Institute may well prove to be your most significant opportunity to contribute as an individual citizen to the 'saving' of the war by the winning of the peace.

The Difference Between Local and International Police Force

There is so much confusion in thinking about "police" force in international organization that we are glad to quote for the convenience of our readers, not only the following table, but from the Founding Fathers who gave very earnest study to the problem in the Federal Convention.

In the Local Community

1. A policeman operates within a community of unarmed individuals.
2. A policeman, seeing a brawl between two men, does not go up to them, determine which was in the right, and then help beat up the man he considers in the wrong. His function is:
 - a) to restrain violence on the part of both men.
 - b) to bring them before a judge who tries to determine the rights of the matter.
 - c) to see that the judge's decision is carried out.
3. A policeman operates within the framework of a clearly-stated, up-to-date criminal code that has the legislative sanction of the community. He does not need intuition to recognize unlawful acts because his instructions and mandate are clear and to the point. Should he abuse the authority vested in him, he is subject to discipline and court censure.

In the International Confederation

1. The confederation operates within a community of powerfully armed political units--the nations.
2. When violence breaks out among them, the confederation is unable to restrain the violent. It can only take sides and help destroy the nation it decides is in the wrong.
3. The confederation operates without proper legislative sanction since it has no legislature. The confederation is incapable of arresting an entire nation, bringing it to court for impartial trial and carrying out the sentence. The confederation must act as police, judge and executioner and punish the entire national population on the spot. The confederation cannot be restrained from abusing its authority and cannot be punished for such abuse.

"A voluntary observance of the federal law by all the members could never be hoped for. A compulsive one could evidently never be reduced to practice, and if it could, involved equal calamities to the innocent and the guilty, the necessity of a military force both obnoxious and dangerous, and in general a scene resembling more a civil war than the administration of a regular Government.

"Hence was embraced the alternative of a Government, which instead of operating on the States, should operate without their intervention on the individuals composing them."

--JAMES MADISON, letter of October 24, 1787, to Thomas Jefferson.

"Even in those confederacies which have been composed of members smaller than many of our counties, the principle of legislation for sovereign States, supported by military coercion, has never been found effectual. It has rarely been attempted to be employed but against the weaker members; and in most instances attempts to coerce the refractory and disobedient have been the signals of bloody wars in which one-half of the confederacy has displayed its banners against the other half."

--ALEXANDER HAMILTON in The Federalist, Page 94 in G.P. Putnam's Sons (N.Y.) edition of 1902.

Minimum Requirements for Peace

Eduard C. Lindeman, one of the really great social students of our day and member of the faculty of the New York School of Social Work, Columbia University, presents the following outline for discussion:

- " I. Maintain the four-power alliance (Russia, China, England and the United States) through the Post-War Transition and until a comprehensive world organization founded upon international law has been brought into being.
- "II. Extend or project (and internationalize so far as possible) various instruments created for purposes of war into the period of peace, such as:
 - 1) Lend-Lease contracts for the exchange of commodities. (34 Nations)
 - 2) The Board of Economic Warfare.
 - 3) A United Nations General Staff, used as a nucleus for world police force.
 - 4) The Food and Agriculture Conference Agreement. (44 Nations).
 - 5) The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.
- "III. Proclaim an open door economic policy on a selected number of manufactured commodities; the selection to be made by a group of scientists.
- "IV. Make available to all nations a selected number of raw materials on a basis of equality. The selection to be made by a group of scientists and the distribution left in the hands of an international allocation commission.
- " V. Establish an international office of education for the purpose of providing for the exchange of students, professors, and research specialists for promoting educational ideas and methods designed to enhance the relations between the various nations of the world.
- "VI. Enact an immigration policy which removes all exclusions and inferences of inferiority against any people, but retain a quota system which (1) states the total number of immigrants a nation will permit during each ten-year period, and (2) designates the number to be permitted from the various regions of the world.
- "VII. Eliminate extra-legal and illegal discriminations against red, brown, yellow, and black citizens and establish a rule of justice which will permit them to enjoy equal opportunities as citizens, as students, as manual or professional workers, and as participants in a high standard of living."

CHARTER, CHARTER, Who's got the charter?

The Atlantic Charter now appears to be "only a bit of informal scribbling that FDR and WC engaged in on a boat ride one August day in 1941." Its status is perplexing.

"Mr. Roosevelt says it was never a formal document and was never signed. The OWI, however, employed artists and engravers to prepare a formal document and included the facsimile signature of the President and Prime Minister Churchill. Thousands of copies were printed and distributed by the OWI. The original, which OWI prepared, was framed and hung in the National Museum here. Wednesday afternoon it was removed from the wall without explanation."--from Our Washington Correspondent.

The Christian Layman's Information Service (NYC) says: "Roosevelt has admitted that there is really no Atlantic Charter, nor has there ever been any such thing as a real signed document of that name which could be expected to hold men or nations to any agreement. It is harsh to say, but you can be sure of one thing,--the American people and the little people all over the world have never been so brazenly deceived in the records of modern statesmanship."

And then in his Message to Congress F.D.R. says, "We shall not hesitate to use our influence - and to use it now - to secure so far as is humanly possible the fulfillment of the principles of the Atlantic Charter."

Still--its status is perplexing.

AN ADVANCE NOTICE

Not to confuse you with too many good things at once, but to give you the chance to save the date on your calendar: a one-day conference with three sessions, including dinner, under the leadership of Norman Thomas--

"WHAT CAN WE BRING OUT OF THIS WAR?"

Monday, March 12-- WATCH FOR FURTHER NOTICE.

THE MEANING OF PEACE Peace is not something to be negotiated. It is not of the market place. It is not to be bought or sold, for a haggled price. Peace is not security to be grabbed by expansions of power, each expansion of one necessitating an expansion of the others until they clash. Peace is not something to be imposed by force. Peace is organic harmony, growing out of the factors that unite men--their common needs, rights, loves, yearnings, ideals, despairs.
--Dorothy Thompson, in her syndicated column.

NOTHING MORE CLEAR There is nothing more clearly in the interest of the American people than for their Government to retain the initiative which it has now taken, and to press with all of the vigor and energy of which it is capable for the establishment without further delay, before the conclusion of the war, of the nucleus of that world organization without which world anarchy cannot in the future be averted. For without it the people of the United States can have no assurance that they will not again be forced into a world war far more disastrous even than the war which they are now finally, after a supreme struggle, about to win.
--Sumner Welles.

NEVER HAS WORKED There is a considerable body of opinion which insists that the only "realistic" method for maintaining peace is through a military alliance with Great Britain and the Soviet Union--with China as a shadowy fourth partner--without regard to the need for any general international organization. There is no policy proposed which could be less "realistic" than this. No military alliance between great powers has ever lasted for more than a very brief period.
--Sumner Welles.

ALICE AT DUMBARTON OAKS "There was a table set out under a tree and the March Hare and the Hatter were having tea at it; a dormouse was sitting between them fast asleep, and the other two were using it as a cushion, resting their elbows on it, and talking over its head.

"Very uncomfortable for the Dormouse," thought Alice, 'only as it's asleep I suppose it doesn't mind.'

"The table was a large one, but the three were all crowded together at one corner of it. 'No room! No room!' they cried out..... 'There's plenty of room!' said Alice indignantly.

* * * * *

"Have some more wine," the March Hare said in an encouraging tone.

"I don't see any wine," said Alice.

"There isn't any," said the March Hare.

"I didn't know it was your table," said Alice. 'It's laid out for a great many more than three.'

"Take some more tea," the March Hare said earnestly.

"I've had nothing yet," said Alice, 'so I can't take any more!'

"You mean you can't take any less," said the Hatter, 'it's very easy to take more than nothing.'

Like the Mad Tea Party

It would seem that the sleeping Dormouse at Dumbarton Oaks is the peoples, who will only awaken when a spot of hot tea - or hot future war - is dropped on their nose. And it is necessary to invoke the skeptical, critical, and forthright spirit of Alice, whom even Wonderland could not deceive.

Dumbarton Oaks, like the Mad Tea Party, was laid out for a great many more than three with China in somewhat the role of Alice.

The wine of peace was offered - but there wasn't any; and the tea of security was offered to those who havenot had any, with the admonition that it is always easier to have more than nothing.

Now, it is that spirit of "more than nothing", of "anything is better than nothing at all," which constitutes the greatest danger for the peoples of the world. The peoples of the world want a world organization of nations and peoples for peace. The danger is that they will again mistake illusion for reality, put their trust in that illusion, and one fine day find out that the beginning of the wrong thing is not the beginning of the right thing and that nothing added to nothing equals nothing.

--Dorothy Thompson's On the Record, in the New York Post.

THE CHURCHES SAY: "We recommend that the Churches support the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals as an important step in the direction of world co-operation, BUT because we do not approve of them in their entirety as they now stand, we urge the following measures for their improvement:--"

This statement was adopted by the Cleveland Conference of the Churches on a Just and Durable Peace and introduces a series of nine carefully considered recommendations. If your church is not distributing the full report of this Conference, send us a dime for a copy. Be fully informed to follow the proceedings at the San Francisco Conference in April.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER The Mexican Government has suggested twenty eight changes in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. They will be presented at a conference to be held in Mexico City shortly. Nine other Latin American nations have joined in some or all of the proposals. Most of the suggestions are an attempt to make a real world organization instead of a power alliance. There is objection to the expression "peace-loving states" and a desire that membership be "universal and obligatory."

--From our Washington Correspondent.

TWO MESSAGES from WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE 1. "Strong opposition to the New York State Fair Employment Practice Bill has developed. The bill can pass, providing you do your share now. Passage will be a historic advance for labor and minorities, setting an example for other states.

"WATCH the newspapers and WRITE to your state Senator and your Assemblyman, asking them to give strong support to the Ives Bill for a state F.E.P.C.

(For Syracuse and vicinity these are: Senator Richard Byrne; Assemblymen: Leo W. Breed, Clelland Forsythe, Frank Costello, Albany, N.Y. Ask some of your friends to do the same.)

2. "The Army's colossal scheme to gain full power over civilian economy by faking a manpower shortage and shackling labor with a draft, is exposed by Aaron Levenstein, economist, member, WDL Free Labor Committee, in the March issue of COMMON SENSE.

"Levenstein used Army figures to show how the military faked a shortage quoting the Army's need for 900,000 draftees and 700,000 civilian workers, and adding figures the Army left out: Normal adult population growth, 500,000; available by lay-offs, 300,000; employable army returns to civilian life, 400,000; other sources, 250,000. The total shortage is but 150,000, easily obtainable by voluntary means. We suggest:

"WIRE OR WRITE to your two senators opposing the May-Bailey work-or-jail bill or any other form of labor draft legislation. Phone a few friends; ask them to do the same."

SHALL WE LET HITLER SET THE FASHION? That's what we'll be doing--if we imitate him by setting up universal conscription. It Means: Militarization of our young men; subversion of American democracy; a permanent military bureaucracy; a long step toward facism; the greatest contribution this country could make toward a new armament race which can only end in further wars.

Wouldn't it be better to attack the causes of war by:

1. Limiting armaments for everybody, instead of increasing them
2. Adjusting boundary questions according to the wishes of the peoples involved, instead of by imperialistic considerations
3. Freeing subject peoples everywhere
4. Making economic agreements to give every nation its share of the world's goods
5. Attacking the nationalism that destroys international goodwill
6. Rooting out facism with jobs, security and the rights of man.

THIS IS THE WAY TO PEACE.

WHAT CAN WE BRING OUT OF THIS WAR?

Be sure to hear NORMAN THOMAS' answer to this most important of all questions on Monday, March 12. You can help the office tremendously by sending in your reservations early. Invite your neighbors, too!

THE EYES OF THE WORLD The approach of the San Francisco conference finds the common people of the world desperately seeking leadership. They are not satisfied with the proposals made at Dumbarton Oaks. They are not satisfied by what they know of the agreements reached at Yalta. They believe that something better is possible, and they want something better. Mexico and fifteen of the other Latin American countries desire changes. Liberal opinion in Great Britain is not satisfied. France is openly dissatisfied. So is Canada. So is Holland. So is Belgium. So is China. Most of all, so are the people of the United States. What they want is not a permanent military alliance of victor powers, but a genuinely cooperative and inclusive league of free nations with power to work continuously, creatively and curatively to discover and do away with the causes of wars before they reach the stage of impending hostilities.

--The Christian Century, April 4, 1945.

PNL has, from the beginning, protested the political immorality of presenting a military alliance for world domination under the "good" name of world organization or the false shibboleth of United Nations; and the utter cynicism of the argument "this or nothing." But we are content to state our case in the terms of Mr. Sumner Wells:

"If the people of the United States pin their faith to a four-power military alliance as the sole cure for the ills from which the world is today suffering, they will find themselves compelled to adopt as their national policy, after a few uneasy years, a course of unremitting armaments building and of territorial aggrandizement as the only method by which they can then achieve physical security. History does not record any example of a military alliance between great nations which has endured for more than a short while. The result of such alliances has invariably been that during their continuance the partners have jockeyed for individual influence and for selfish advantage."

SAN FRANCISCO, HERE WE COME !

Will "Victory" be followed by an uneasy armistice or by lasting peace? Is it possible to bring a people's peace out of Dumbarton Oaks? The fate of our children and our children's children depends on us. Share the discussion of these questions on the very eve of the United Nations Conference at our regular monthly Forum with

Kirby Page

Y. W. C. A. - 6:15 - Thursday, April 26

Supper Tickets, 60¢

Places definitely limited; call 2-5316
for reservations before Tuesday, April 24.

We enclose a leaflet of very practical suggestions for your personal use as a citizen. We are reliably informed that Senator Vandenburg will welcome support in an effort to secure changes. Remember; it is easier to change the floor plans before the house is built!

For the convenience of our readers we list the "measures for improvement" of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals urged by the Cleveland Conference of the Churches:

(1) Preamble

A Preamble should reaffirm those present and long range purposes of justice and human welfare which are set forth in the Atlantic Charter and which reflect the aspirations of peoples everywhere.

(2) Development of International Law

The Charter of the Organization should clearly anticipate its operation under international law and should provide for the development and codification of international law, to the end that there shall be a progressive subordination of force to law.

(3) Voting Power

A nation, while having the right to discuss its own case, should not be permitted to vote when its case is being judged in accordance with predetermined international law.

(4) Colonial and Dependent Areas

A special Commission should be established wherein the progress of colonial and dependent peoples to autonomy, and the interim problems related thereto, will become an international responsibility.

(5) Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

A special Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms should be established.

(6) Eventual Universal Membership

The Charter should specify that all nations willing to accept the obligations of membership shall thereupon be made members of the Organization.

(7) Limitations of Armaments

More specific provision should be made for promptly initiating the limitation and reduction of national armaments.

(8) Smaller Nations

There should be provisions designed more clearly to protect and defend the smaller nations from possible subjection to the arbitrary power of the great.

(9) Amendment

In order to permit such changes in the Charter of the Organization as may from time to time become necessary, the provision for amendments should be liberalized so as not to require concurrence by all the permanent members of the Security Council.

TIMELY QUOTES From Chancellor William P. Tolley, Syracuse University (in the Christian Century 3-28-45): "The postwar compulsory military training bill proposed by the war department is a sneak punch aimed at a public preoccupied with winning the war."

From Winston Churchill (quoted in New York Times 3-17-45): "No restriction upon the well-established liberties that is not proved indispensable to the prosecution of the war and the transition from war to peace can be tolerated. Control for control's sake is senseless. Controls under the pretext of war or its aftermath which are in fact designed to favor the accomplishment of totalitarian systems, however innocently designed or whatever guise they take, whatever liveries they wear, whatever slogans they mouth, are fraud which should be mercilessly exposed to the British public."

HOW FAR? "How far we have traveled since those innocent days when we shuddered with horror and indignation at young Mussolini's description of the beauty of bombings! Now when our bombers burn fifteen square miles of one of the most densely populated spots in the world, an area of flimsy wooden houses swarming with children, where thousands must inevitably be trapped and burned to death, it is exultingly described as 'the most devastating single blow ever laid by any war upon any city in the world' and 'the greatest show on earth,' and who greets the account with anything but satisfaction?" --Alma Metcalfe, Camden, S. C.

**SPRING
HOUSECLEANING
MEMO**

"I have more food than I can eat -
They faint with hunger on the street.
I have more clothes than I can wear -
Their heads and hands and feet are bare.
My walls are thick and warm and dry -
Their walls are rain the wind and sky.
My heart knows love of noble souls -
Their hearts are hungry, thirsty bowls.
These things let me remember when
Cries of need arise again."

We are particularly grateful for the excellent response to our recent appeal for clothing for Europe. One reader sent us 160 pairs of out-of-date but unused shoes of superior quality. The need is terrific and AFSC stock piles in Philadelphia and New York are diminishing. This office is a collection depot.

POST SCRIPT We are grateful to an alert reader who wrote to the VFW of Gardena, Calif., about Kiyoshi Muranga (PNL 1-17-45) and gladly quote the Post Commander's reply: "The above mentioned Japanese boy is now on this plaque along with the other honored dead and we are forwarding the names of all other Japanese boys who we can secure to the painter for placement on the honor roll."

BOOK END For those confused by the dispute between the "planners for abundance" and the "free enterprise" advocates who fear the managerial revolution, here is a hopeful book. DEMOCRACY ON THE MARCH, by David E. Lilienthal, is not only a report of TVA but post war planning with its feet on the ground. The Journal of the National Education Association calls it the most important book of 1944. Director Lilienthal insists that improved standards of living in one section do not, as is often feared, endanger those of another; that the price of freedom from want is not the surrender of individual freedom; that machines can be made to serve man rather than enslave him. Available in our loan library or sent postpaid for 25¢.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
Syracuse Peace Council
302 Wilson Bldg.
Syracuse 2, N. Y.

SOUTH OF OUR BORDER
--and NORTH

With so much of today's news centered on Europe and the Orient, we may be prone to forget our interest in and responsibility to our own neighbors in this hemisphere. So--lest we forget-- come to hear

Paul Harris, Jr.

Friday, May 18

May Memorial Church, 472 James Street-- Supper at 6:15 p.m.

where he will tell of his travels and experiences in these countries and their relation to us in the world of today.

Paul Harris is an old friend of many of us in Syracuse and an ever-popular speaker, so make your reservations early. Call 2-5316 by May 16.

WHY NOT QUOTE
ALL OF IT?

On the front cover of a handsome booklet advocating Universal Military Training in Peacetime, sent out by the American Legion, appears this text: "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are

in peace": If you will turn to Luke 11:22 you may read the rest of the sentence: "But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."

We are content to rest our case on a full reading.

U S has A subscriber in Puerto Rico writes a long and interesting report on this her P R island "possession." He says: "Great Britain has her India but U. S. has her P. R. The picture is not all black nor all white....but it is a messy gray which is the responsibility of Puerto Ricans and Americans alike. Now that the Americans hold the upper hand they must take the big steps to improve the situation. I have no special axe to grind except to see two million people get a little more decent break from the United States than they have....most objective observers question the motivation of the Tydings bill for PR independence because of tie-ups with the big sugar trusts by whose interests political questions are greatly influenced. The more recent Marcantonio Bill seems more favorable. There is colossal ignorance about Puerto Rico both in and out of Congress except where an individual financial interest is concerned. It is expected that hearings on the Tydings Bill will be held this month. Luis Munoz Marin will speak for the Puerto Ricans. Three things should be pushed for: (1) a definite instead of a drifting policy on P.R. (2) a plebiscite in P.R. (3) appointment of a good man to replace Governor Tugwell if and when he is removed."

As an illustration of why Puerto Ricans do not particularly love us he cites our discrimination in regarding them as Americans when students wished to come here on exchange scholarships but as Latin Americans when they wished to go south to study!

He concludes: "I want to see more intelligent people taking an intelligent interest in Puerto Rico as we attempt to organize the world for a lasting peace."

THE MARINES
TELL IT

As the campaign for more hatred mounts this "eyewitness account" from a Marine Corps Air Station newspaper which calls it "one of the greatest, most human stories of the Pacific War" is appropriate:

"According to the officers, they and other Americans were 'jammed into small, stinking holds, unable even to lie down,' and the only breath of fresh air was provided when the Japanese officer kicked ajar the closed hatch cover. He told the imprisoned men that he was a Christian, converted by the Maryknoll Fathers.

"Later an American torpedo ripped into the hull of the transport, and the enemy crew battered down the hatch cover, and swarmed into lifeboats.

"Suddenly the hatch cover was ripped away and the face of the young Jap lieutenant peered in,' said the Marine newspaper. 'Men surged up out of the hold, among them the two young officers who told this story.

"As they emerged, the young Jap lieutenant crumpled on the deck, bullets from his commanding officer's pistol buried in his body. There he died, while the enemies he had released plunged over the rail of the sinking ship, some to die, others to reach ultimate safety!"

THE TALK OF THE TOWN confirms our own observations: "As victory over Germany gets nearer, the spirits of every one seem to go down, and anxieties increase." A doctor (born in Vienna) says of the Yalta meeting, "In gaining a military victory we have suffered a diplomatic defeat of the first water."

"The delegates to San Francisco have the most astonishing job that has ever been dumped into the laps of a few individuals. On what sort of rabbit they pull from the hat hang the lives of most of us, and of our sons and daughters. If they put on their spectacles and look down their noses and come up with the same old bunny, we shall very likely all hang separately--nation against nation, power against power, defense against defense, people (reluctantly) against people (reluctantly). If they manage to bring the United Nations out of the bag, full blown, with constitutional authority and a federal structure having popular meaning, popular backing, and an over-all authority greater than the authority of any one member or any combination of members, we might well be started up a new road."

LOOK AT TOMORROW Regular readers of PNL well know our attitude toward the D O proposals. Believing that "vigilance is not opposition" we have tried to help our readers toward a critical appreciation of the problems before the San Francisco conference.

Without being in complete agreement, we are glad to help distribute the enclosed folder in the interest of community cooperation and education toward the world organization we all want.

GANDHI SPEAKS As the nations gather at San Francisco to make political plans for "security" the man who has embodied in his own life the ideal of peace more fully than any other now living speaks gravely: "I reiterate my conviction that there will be no peace for the Allies of the world unless they shed their belief in the efficacy of war and its accompanying terrible deceptions and fraud, and are determined to hammer out a real peace based on the freedom and equality of all races and nations.... The exploitation and domination of one nation over another can have no place in a world straining to put an end to all war.....The freedom of India will demonstrate to all the exploited races of the earth that their freedom is very near and that in no case will they henceforth be exploited."

SOLUTION IN ASIA Developments in Europe make it timely for us to turn our thoughts to the Far East. Here are some suggestions:

"In fighting this war we have come to a watershed dividing two periods of history. It is the importance of Asia which makes this war a watershed....things happening in Asia will largely determine the course of events everywhere in the world.

"An American policy toward Asia is therefore not a luxury but a domestic American necessity.

"At home, as abroad, we have the chance of attempting to facilitate change by an intelligent study of evolution, or attempting to halt change entirely, in which case we shall build up the pressures that eventually break out in revolution.

"The would-be realists who think only of a long armistice and a good position in the next war would only lead us to a worse war than they want, sooner than they want it.

"We must, in planning an American policy, give full weight to what our allies need as well as to what we want.

"The most important problem is to avoid competition in armaments among the United Nations.....

"In Asia, even more than in Europe, the Russians hold a position in which they can outwait anybody. It is up to us.....if we declare for cooperation they (can) make it work. If we declare forgrabbing, they can outgrab us.....

"The best solution (for the independence of colonial peoples, (India, Netherlands Indies, Philippines, for example) is to set a date,....and to make it the responsibility of the ruling power to prepare each people for independence by the agreed date."

--from Owen Lattimore's Solution in Asia (See Book End).

THE BOOK END Owen Lattimore is often called the best informed American on Asiatic affairs. His knowledge is based on twenty-two years of experience in business, journalism and government in Asia. He is a scholar and research scientist. His book points out how the "experts" have covered their ignorance with dogma; says bluntly that U. S. and Britain aided Japan's exploitation of China for a share of the loot; and shows the attractive power of Russian example is far greater than the West's fine theories of democracy coupled with ruthless imperialism. PNL quotes at length this month: SOLUTION IN ASIA, available on request from our free loan library.

One of the readers of our News-Letter has an idea which we are passing along to you. She would like to see the Letter have a wider circulation in these critical times, and suggests that if each subscriber would send the small sum of 25¢ with the name of a friend who might be interested, we could double our mailing list almost over night.

How many of you would like to try this?

V-E DAY "This is a day of thanksgiving and prayer--thanks that we have been delivered from the bloodiest war in history, thanks to those brave men, living and dead, who have been the means of our deliverance; and prayer that we may show humility, humanity, intelligence and charity in using the victory they have won for us.

"It is unnecessary to say that it is our duty to remain firm to the end. And this means something more, and something more difficult, than merely persisting till the defeat of Japan. All those regulations which have been necessary to maintain the economy, to supply the troops and to prevent impoverishment will now be doubly irksome. They will be doubly necessary. We can only imagine the devastation that has been wrought in Europe. For the first time in modern history whole cities, even whole provinces have ceased to exist.

"We come now to the real test of our professed ideals, for the sake of which we claimed to enter the war. We did so, we said, not to save our own skins but to make possible a just, peaceful human society which should embrace all the peoples of the earth. If that is what we want we must now sacrifice, not our lives, but our goods to save millions of our fellow men from starvation and from the moral and political disintegration which starvation will carry with it. There are already some indications that we shall be less willing to sacrifice our goods than we have been our lives, or at least the lives of our soldiers and sailors."

--from V-E Day Address of President R. M. Hutchins, University of Chicago.

THE EYES HAVE IT The following is from a report by Willis Weatherford (AFSC) after a trip to Italy where he was attending a meeting on refugees and displaced persons. It is, as he says, "an attempt to explain how I felt one day in Italy on a trip on an army truck from Rome to Naples: Surely you have eaten while the appealing eyes of a dog looked up into your face asking only for the crumbs while his tail happily beat against your leg. Change this scene to a roadside in Italy beside a bombed-out farm house, replace the dog by 8 hungry children, and you will begin to know how we felt as we opened our rations to lunch beside our truck.

"The children ranged from four to ten, although they looked older than the years indicated by their size. It was chilly, not cold, and drizzling slightly, yet these children stood about barefooted with their skin showing in places beneath the shorts and shirts they wore as inadequate protection against the cold. As we opened our lunch they said nothing, did not even hold out a hand, but simply stood in a little silent group watching our every move with sunken eyes. Have you ever tried to eat with such eyes, full of the innocence of childhood but the suffering of age, fastened upon every movement of your jaw? I found that I could not swallow, the food stuck in my throat. In such circumstances a tithe is not sufficient; I had to split half and half with these piercing eyes before I could swallow again."

FOUNDATIONS "There was," says the Christian Century, "too much smell of roasting flesh in the Communiques to make anyone feel like celebrating" the leveling of Tokyo. But the daily press describes the "Goop Bomb" with which the army and navy are burning up Japan's principal cities as the most terrible fire spreader in the world.

In the end this policy may prove to be the most terrible war spreader in the world. The Kuh report from London of Japanese offers to surrender strengthens the position of those who ask for an explicit statement of war aims and peace terms.

In San Francisco we are trying to lay the foundations of a new world order; what kind of foundations are we laying in Tokyo? Can peace be built on them?

Will Russia leave us to fight on alone?

Will war break out in Europe between Russian and British-American forces?

Will the military alliance of Russia, Great Britain and the U.S. collapse?

Will the possibility of world cooperation be lost?

We have a few copies of A. J. Muste's excellent analysis of the present international scene, dealing with these questions under the title DUMBARTON OAKS OR CHAOS, which we will be glad to mail, postpaid, for 10 cents. It is worth having.

ANNUAL MEETING



Official Notice: The Syracuse Peace Council will hold its Annual Business Meeting for hearing reports, the election of officers and such other business as may come before the meeting on Monday, June 18, at 8 o'clock in the YWCA.

Adelaide Webster is chairman of the Nominating Committee.

In addition, Paul Husted will show the film "How to Conquer War," and there will be a report of the San Francisco Conference.

Know your Peace Council Better; COME AND SHARE!

SPECIAL FROM LONDON In Germany, "Industrial life has stopped. All other life may end, too, if we are not very careful with disease sweeping the ruins....There is something vaguely threatening in the very completeness of the catastrophe which is overwhelming our main enemies. Over vast areas of Europe we see every element both of material civilisation and of political order and cohesion disappear before our eyes. Nothing like it has happened in the many wars of European history. Clearly the consequences of such a cataclysmic event are somewhat beyond calculation. One certain thing is that great care will be needed to prevent them from provoking, merely by their shattering impact and the upsetting of every balance of power, a new world crisis."

And referring to the millions of "displaced persons" Iris Carpenter writes: "These nomadic tribes of liberated peoples straggling their way back to civilisation are reducing the civilisation of Germany in their passing to something like that of the Middle Ages."

E A S Y E S S A Y S
By Peter Maurin
(from the Catholic Worker)

BIG SHOTS AND LITTLE SHOTS

1. When the big shots become bigger shots then the little shots become littler shots
2. And when the little shots become littler shots because the big shots become bigger shots, then the little shots get mad at the big shots.
3. And when the little shots get mad at the big shots because the big shots by becoming bigger shots make the little shots littler shots they shoot the big shots full of little shots.
4. But by shooting the big shots full of little shots the little shots do not become big shots, they make everything all shot.

BETTER AND BETTER OFF

1. The world would be better off, if people tried to become better.
2. And people would become better if they stopped trying to be better off.
3. For when everybody tries to become better off nobody is better off.
4. But when everybody tries to become better everybody is better off.
5. Everybody would be rich if nobody tried to become richer.
6. And nobody would be poor if everybody tried to be the poorest.
7. And everybody would be what he ought to be if everybody tried to be what he wants the other fellow to be.

CONSCRIPTION NEWS It's "now or never," and unless the mail to our congressmen from the opponents of Peacetime Conscription is tremendously increased in the next ten days, the chances for postponement or defeat of such legislation are greatly lessened. Hearings are being held right now--until June 16--before the House Select Committee on Postwar Military Policy, and the most important man to direct your mail to is its chairman, Representative Clifton A. Woodrum, House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

The hard fact is that the various organizations working for the passage of Conscription are both well organized and financed, and their campaign to newspapers, magazines, news agencies and congressmen has been much more effective lately than any efforts on the part of those who oppose this measure.-- Now is the time for all.....

THE BOOK END "Why Don't We Learn from History?" Here is a little book of 64 pages in which the noted British military expert, B. H. Liddell Hart, examines the facts of history and after twenty-five years spent in the study of war concludes that "the compulsory principle was fundamentally inefficient and the conscriptive method out of date..... To surrender it (our tradition of individual freedom) within after fighting to defend it against dangers without would be a supremely ironical turn of history." He further discusses "the illusion of victory," "the illusion that the latest enemy is 'different'," "the illusion of treaties" and the problems of force, world order, and religion in relation to it. **WE HAVE IT. YOU MAY BORROW.**

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
Syracuse Peace Council
302 Wilson Bldg.
Syracuse 2, N. Y.

HE'S FOR IT! "We stand for compulsory military service for every man. If a state is not worth that, then away with it! Then you must not complain if you are enslaved. No one gives you freedom save only by your sword." -- adolph hitler

WE'RE AGIN' IT! The tragedy of the moment is that you gentlemen are sitting here listening to men advocate, for the United States, peacetime conscription, which these same military leaders will want to deny to our defeated enemies. A striking exchange of Hitlerism at home for no conscription abroad. Having won a material victory over Germany and Japan, it is now proposed that we adopt here in the United States peacetime military conscription - the very core of the totalitarianism which it is claimed our men are dying to stamp out abroad. This is a pretty exchange of ideas with our defeated enemies. If you adopt peacetime conscription for the United States of America, Adolph Hitler, although dead, has won a striking victory over us.

-- Testimony of Edward C. M. Richards before the House Select Committee, 6-14-45

Reports from Washington indicate: that principal support for peacetime conscription came from the Army, Navy, Legion, Chamber of Commerce, and National Association of Manufacturers; that principal opposition was from labor, church and education; that in spite of "one of the most impressive coalitions ever assembled to oppose a pending legislation", the Woodrum Committee will probably report favorably to the House. This means that our opposition must be kept solidly organized and ready for action.

If you also are "Agin' it", the NEXT STEP is to write President Harry S. Truman asking him to use his great influence at the forthcoming conference with Churchill and Stalin to urge the universal abolition of peacetime conscription. Watch for the report of the Woodrum Committee on the June hearings and immediately express yourself to the Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, Mr. Andrew J. May; to your own Congressman, and to the editor of your local paper. If you need more literature to distribute, we have it.

ANNUAL MEETING Our annual business meeting last month was well attended. The report of the treasurer showed that our receipts for the year were \$6.63 over our estimated budget of \$2,945 and that we have a surplus for the year of \$100. This is good but it is a narrow margin and the payment of pledges or new contributions during the summer months while the Anti-Conscription Campaign must go on will be a big help. The Annual Report of the Chairman indicated a busy, active year of varied effort and achievement and an increased response to our program that is most encouraging. Copies on request. Changes in the Executive Committee for the coming year are: Vice-Chairman, Frederick S. Webster; additions, Rev. Clytus F. Mowry, Mrs. Bernard McGivern. The resignation of the Rev. Harry B. Taylor was accepted with regret.

FREE AD. The film "How to Conquer War" shown at our June meeting makes a compelling argument for democratic, federal world government. It is available to school and church groups or to individuals for a small fee. Write Rev. Paul Husted, R. F. D. 1, Rome, New York.

BOOK END "The Genesis of Pearl Harbor" by William Neumann, the story of the diplomatic maneuvers that led up to December 7, 1941. Told without passion from documents of the U.S. State Department, it explodes the official myth from official sources facts. Of immediate and historic importance to responsible citizens. 25¢, this office.

"The Will of God for These Days" in Personal Relations, Economic Life, Political Action, Race Relations, International Affairs by KIRBY PAGE. \$1.00. On sale here.

CAZENOVIA Through an oversight, no mention was made in the June PNL of the Institute Announcement enclosed in that issue. But the enthusiastic comments on faculty and program and the advance registrations prove that it spoke for itself. It has been endorsed by Bishops Peabody and Ledden, and by Dr. William T. Melchoir for the Council of Churches' Committee on International Affairs for the churches of this area. "Vacation With a Purpose", August 1-10. Additional folders on request, 2-5316.

CALLING ALL

CHILDREN The education of children in terms of the understanding of others is a major responsibility in days like these. Frequently, at this time of year we get enquiries for materials and ideas. If you have occasion to use it, we can supply you with a fifteen page leaflet of "suggestions for Summer service activities for children." It contains helps for mothers and teachers, a list of resource material and a variety of other ideas all centering around the theme of Goodwill. A postal card or a quarter will bring you a copy.

FOR GOD'S SAKE One of our high admirals says "we are drowning and burning the bestial apes all over the Pacific, and it is just as much a pleasure to burn them as to drown them."

A mother wrote Secretary Forrestal: "Please, for God's sake, stop sending our finest youth to be murdered on places like Iwo Jima. It is too much for boys to stand, too much for mothers and homes to take. It is driving some mothers crazy. Why can't objectives be accomplished some other way? It is most inhuman and awful--stop, stop!"

STATEMENT ON THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

"The European war has ended, not only in the overthrow of Hitler's rule but also in the utter ruin of Germany itself. Statistics are completely inadequate to measure the cost of the war and of the reconstruction of Europe. Must the Asiatic war be fought to the same sort of end? Unquestionably the United States and its allies can win such a war. Japanese defeat is already obvious and certain; her ruin can be made more complete than that of Germany.

"But consider the cost. No one can estimate how many more women and children will be burned alive in the bombing of her cities. Her soldiers fight with fanatical courage. Such resistance as they have offered in Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima will drag tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of our own sons to agonizing death. In this sort of war, it is not only men but ideals of mercy and kindness which perish.

"The Press has stated, from Japanese sources, that American raids from March first to the middle of April in the four Japanese cities, Tokio, Osaka, Nagoya and Kobe, had destroyed 770,000 homes and made 3,140,000 disaster victims. More recently the papers tell almost daily of large scale massacre as American raids have continued with intensified fury. This bombing and burning of defenseless women and children in the densely crowded cities of Japan cannot be so 'effective' in military terms as to justify itself in terms of humanity and the future peace of the world.

"However far our military leaders may carry their policy of destruction, they know that the 75,000,000 people of Japan cannot be annihilated. The announcement of such an objective is intended to increase the effectiveness of the war's prosecution. But even carried to its worst extreme it will leave a residue of many millions who must somehow be integrated into the structure and pattern of peace.

"The current campaign of organized hatred, involving the denunciation of the entire Japanese people as bestial and depraved, is the denial of the divine spirit in man, and of the brotherhood of man. Out of our deepest convictions rises the assurance that the Japanese are not all entirely evil; that there are millions of men and women of good will in Japan, misled perhaps, but wanting the good life for all; men and women who are a necessary foundation stone in the structure of world peace. Such a peace cannot be built on mutual distrust, on fear and hatred.

"The only sound alternative to this policy of hatred and destruction so costly in American lives, is the clear and immediate formulation of American objectives, a statement by our government of the conditions of surrender, and an effort to put a stop to the campaign of vilification which, great as may be the provocation in war's atrocities, has gone beyond all bounds of reason and humane understanding."

-- Arthur L. Swift, Union Theological Seminary, New York

NCPW Legislative Report for June states that the Kuh report of May 9 of Japanese offers of surrender terms closely approximating the Cairo demands and the Hull ultimatum of 1941 are substantially correct; that grave doubts as to the wisdom of continuing the wholesale slaughter are rising in the Senate; that "tremendous pressure" is being put on the Administration to abandon the "Unconditional Surrender" slogan; that the British and the Chinese, together with our own General Staff, would welcome such a move.

URGENT Neither the people of the United States nor the people of Japan have been told by President Truman what are the specific political objectives for which continuation of the war against Japan is being pressed. Present and future peace in the Orient and democratic open dealings instead of secret diplomacy call for a frank statement of the terms--aside from military ones--on which the United States and its allies are willing to end hostilities and make peace.

If you agree, we believe that now is the time to wire or write the President.

WE WANT WILLIE! Booth Tarkington, we see, has come out against compulsory military training. He seems to us peculiarly well fitted to speak on this subject, being the sponsor of a lad named Willie Baxter, who has taken us safely through two major wars without any previous military training whatsoever. Conscripting American youth in peacetime is the most revolutionary domestic idea that has ever been proposed in the United States, and contains the heaviest charge of social dynamite. Big shots in the Army are pushing the idea hard, but they know not what they push. Certainly no one can predict the consequences of taking Willie Baxter away from Lola Pratt, from One-eye Beljus, and from Mr. Parcher and sending him into camp for a year against his wishes. No one can say what it would do to Willie and no one can say what it would do to the society the Pratts, the Beljuses, and the Parchers adorn. Our own mind is still open on this terribly vital matter, but our heart is shut tight, and every instinct hollers that compulsory training is a wrong number. An American conscript army, in peacetime, would be a contradiction in terms: it would advertise a national desperation and it would build into the nation the thing the nation has twice taken up arms to lick.

"Look at it!" said Mr. Parcher.

"Look at what?" asked his wife.

"That Baxter boy!" said Mr. Parcher, as William passed on toward the dancers.

"What's he think he's imitating--Henry Irving? Look at his walk!"

"He walks that way a good deal, lately, I've noticed," said Mrs. Parcher in a tired voice.

Look well, America, as Willie comes walking down the street! Watch out how you change his strange and lordly gait, for he is an extremely delicate mechanism, mysteriously balanced and with an escape movement that defies every law of physics. Remove him from his father's evening clothes, put him in compulsory drab, teach him to salute, and you will have something new in this land. And you won't have Willie.

--The NEW YORKER.

SPOKEN AT GETTYSBURG: Government by the people can only exist if the people are individuals who think. It can only exist if the individual is free to rule the state and if he is not ruled by the state. We must be constantly vigilant to keep alive the thinking of free men, and there is no such threat to that thinking as the course which would impose on the Nation compulsory military training. We have no greater obligation to the men who fought at Gettysburg, we have no greater obligation to the men who fought in Europe and who are fighting in the Pacific, than to preserve here in America a state in which the individual shall be free to think and be master of his own soul, and where the people shall be free to govern their own Government.

--Senator Robert A. Taft.

THE CHURCHES ONE FOUNDATION! Dr. Daniel Poling, editor of the Christian Herald, favored compulsory military training. Commenting on the great number of Americans who are not church members, he pointed out that every young man would come under the influence of the Chaplains Corps under peacetime conscription. He said, "Certainly no plan now proposed within religious groups offers so large a hope for strengthening of America in her moral and spiritual life as does this measure, for this plan is universally applied to youth."

Dr. Poling added that "we shall have, in universal military training, America's greatest moral and religious opportunity since Independence Day, 1776." He concluded with the comment, "Universal military training will teach the rising generation that while patriotism is not enough, it is something - something glorious, something divine."

G I JOE'S IDEA IS DIFFERENT "We, the undersigned service men, are writing to state our abhorrence of the very idea of peacetime compulsory military training for America. Some of us, for well over three years now, have lived and observed this military system 24 hours a day. We hold it to be irreligious, un-American, undemocratic, and in peacetime unnecessary. It appears to us as if Hitler's 'might makes right' has undermined the confidence of some Americans in George Washington who weighed his words for a lifetime and then gave this final prayerful warning to a young nation: 'The greatest single threat to a republic is an overgrown military establishment.' He well knew, as did Jefferson and Lincoln, that a society wherein everybody is or was or will be a soldier is a society in which liberty curls up and dies and it will take a lot more than an act of Congress for the common man to win it back."

Report from Washington indicates that the House Military Affairs Committee will begin consideration of conscription legislation in September before Congress reconvenes. **ACT ACCORDINGLY!**

COST OF VICTORY Military estimates indicate that the European war has taken a toll of 60,000,000 casualties which, even if too high, gives us a tentative basis for judgment. It is estimated that 14,000,000 are dead and 5,500,000 permanently incapacitated. These figures do not include civilian dead or incapacitated. They do not include the mentally distorted next generation.

This is a huge slice of the human race. It is an enormous price to pay for the ambitions of politicians, the errors of statesmen and the false and mischievous propaganda of governments. It is too great a price to pay for anything.

If civilization means the destruction of mankind, then civilization is vicious and immoral. If civilization means an increasingly higher regard for the value and sanctity of human life, how can we possibly justify this slaughter of the innocent as well as the wicked, of civilians as well as soldiers, of children as well as women? Does anyone ever ask the question, what are we doing to ourselves?

I write objectively, without regard to race or nation, without regard to "aggressors" or "peace-loving." I write of man. I write not of my kin or my enemies. I write of the human race to which we all belong. What reason can justify the killing of 14,000,000, the incapacitating of 5,500,000, the breaking of the spirits of additional tens of millions on the wheels of time? Men speak lightly of another war. Do they wish to turn Europe into a Sahara? Do they believe that we shall be immune to this holocaust--we who have already passed the million mark in casualties? Men spoke lightly of this present war in those fateful years between 1933 and 1939, when it seemed inevitable. How can an evil be inevitable if the will to be just exists?

The answer is that it is the people themselves, the simple people of all countries who must learn to hate war. For war creates nothing; it produces no good.

--George Sokolsky 6/12/45

We might try to see--with the mind's eye, at least--100,000 dead and the manner of their dying. We might think of mud and blood, and stench, and hell's own noise, and the explosion that makes an end to living and loving, learning and dreaming, hoping and praying.

That's the way war is. And sometimes it seems that the only reason why any of us tolerate such organized blood-letting is simply because we do not understand its nature. We think too much of bond drives and parades, war jobs and rationing, taxes and all the incidentals which never get beyond the periphery of war. Our thoughts do not get to the heart of it--to the killing.

If they did, we would not already be beset by reckless talk of the next war--the war which we are stupidly told must "inevitably" be waged against our strongest ally. If we thought a little more we would be outraged and incensed by such callousness. We would not tolerate it.

--Editor, St. Louis Star-Times.

PRICE OF PEACE Writing in answer to the question "Can a Sick World Get Well?" in a recent Christian Century article, Anton T. Boisen points out three possible outcomes of the sickness of our time: "First, there may be no reorganization. In that case there will be further wars.... "Second, there may be social organization based upon military dominance....the real evils will remain uncorrected. ..."There is also a third possibility. We may be able to deal with the situation constructively and begin the herculean task of correcting the real evils, working toward the achievement of a new order of society which will represent the social solidarity of free men held together by faith and love. How we deal with the defeated enemy is likely to prove the acid test of our fitness for this task. It is likely to be the measure of the success we achieve."

It is this third possibility to which The Syracuse Peace Council is devoted and for which we work. The enclosed leaflet sums up the alternatives, points the issue and suggests action.

Far-called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire;
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

The announcement in the Chicago Press on August 19 that essentially the same terms acted on by President Truman and Prime Minister Atlee at Potsdam were offered by the Japanese Government through General MacArthur and received at the White House seven months earlier is a sobering one. The report states that the offer was given casual attention and brushed aside with the remark that "MacArthur is our best fighter and our worst politician." The offer was not even taken to the Yalta Conference. What political purpose was served by the seven months of slaughter and sacrifice that followed before V J Day? Think again of Okinawa and of Hiroshima! Can it have been worth the price? These are questions the American citizen needs to ponder carefully as he looks ahead to the possibility of World War III.

JOHN Q. PUBLIC SPEAKS: PNL quotes without comment four observations on the news-of-the-month:

1. A window washer in a Philadelphia office building (on the atomic bomb): "Maybe they had it coming to 'em; I don't know. I just know this ain't the kind of thing the United States ought to be doing."
2. An executive of one of the most essential war plants in the country, in New York City: "This (the atomic bomb) makes it final. Either complete destruction by war or complete abandonment of war. There is no other alternative."
3. A public school teacher in Syracuse: "My mind is all mixed up. I'm happy that the actual fighting has ceased but heartsick when I think of the suffering the world over, - suffering created in the name of Christianity. I'd like to be hopeful of the years ahead but instead I'm filled with fear of an even more terrible age. What do you do with a mind like that?"
4. A stranger in an Ohio restaurant as the V J whistles began to blow: "It's a cockeyed world. If the American people would work as hard for peace in peacetime as they do for war in war time, they could have it anytime." Will you?

FILL 'ER UP! Out in Ohio they tell about a man who drove up to a gas station, cried exuberantly, "Fill 'er up," and blew his false teeth out on the pavement! Can't blame him, but as Major George Fielding Eliot and Sumner Welles have warned us--Victory must mean more than freedom from restriction or it will mean utter defeat.

PEACE OR ARMISTICE? The war is over, - but the peace is not won. That is the continuing responsibility of every man and woman in the country. We believe that the Syracuse Peace Council offers you an opportunity and a challenge. You have kept our organization and program vigorously alive during the hard war years. We are grateful for your loyal support. But now is a time for growth. We are beginning our tenth year of "a continuing program of peace education and action in the community" with a splendid conference on Latin American Affairs. They have a vital bearing on the peace of the years ahead. Ask for additional copies of the enclosed announcement. Help us fill every seat at the tables!

Read carefully the sober words of military experts, school teachers and window washers quoted in this LETTER. Is there really anything more important for you to do right now than to enlist in the good fight for peace? Accept the offer below; help us to double now our outreach into the community. Peace or just Another Armistice? By your action or your inaction you make a choice.

ENCOURAGEMENT: Some of the very best writing on the ambitious theme known as It Works Both Ways! International Affairs during the late war years appeared in the pages of that sprightly journal, THE NEW YORKER. This may seem mildly surprising to some but this "Talk of the Town" has one advantage in comparison with much otherwise excellent thought on the subject: it is highly readable. This seems to us such a virtue that we wish to mail free (courtesy of THE NEW YORKER) a sixteen page reprint of these articles on "World Government and Peace" to

- (1) each new paid subscription to this NEWS-LETTER (esteemed contemporary of the NEW YORKER!) 25¢ each, 5 for \$1.00, including your own; and
- (2) to each new or renewal membership (one dollar, better more!) to the Peace Council. Offer good until November 11, 1945.

MAJOR GEORGE FIELDING ELIOT, warning that Terrible Dangers Face this Victorious Nation quotes Army General Arnold as saying that future wars will involve explosives 'destructive beyond the wildest nightmares of the imagination,' and adds: "This the world in which our children must grow up. This is the world which we have made...This is the world in which we must now find some means of controlling the monsters we have created, or be destroyed by them."

GENERAL MacARTHUR, Tokio, Sept. 2: "Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this alternative. We have had our last chance. If we do not now devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door.

"The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost-matchless advance in science, art, literature and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh."

REMINDER The following message was dated London 8/17. We received it 9/4:

"Can you please send me some second hand clothes such as coat, suit, shirts, socks, shoes, underwear. Sick and unemployed. Urgently needed." The fine response to our "Needles and Pins Shower" prompts us to share this appeal. We are still collecting clothing.

GENERAL EISENHOWER states the main objective of peace-time-military training:

"Psychological indoctrination and moral training requires the longest time, but fortunately it is never completely forgotten. This type of training is of incalculable importance. There is no possibility of overemphasizing the value of intelligent training of this kind. Integration of the means for waging war is a psychological problem as well as one of mere organization. The national mass, civilians and the uniformed services, must have a common understanding of the ideals and reasons for which the United States will fight a war, and the training in this regard must be intelligent and incessant."

This means mass psychological indoctrination. In a democracy? What happens to free institutions? If you don't want it, say so, out loud, now. The danger is not past. The President has announced his intention to recommend a military training program.

At the same time remember: (1) The English Labor Party is known to oppose peace-time conscription. (2) Representative Joseph W. Martin's resolution calling on the administration "to work unceasingly for an immediate international agreement whereby compulsory military service shall be wholly eliminated from the policies and practices of all nations." Have you supported this with your approval to Mr. Martin and Mr. Truman? Have you written your newspaper about it?

LAST WORD A Peace Council staff member was accosted in the elevator the other morning by a fellow-traveller who occupies an office down the hall.

"I suppose," he said, with obviously satiric intent, "that you people will close up shop now that the United Nations Charter has been signed."

The UNC has been signed. The SPC has not closed up shop.

During the progress of the debate from Dumbarton Oaks to San Francisco the State Department urged the widest and fullest possible discussion. We accepted our responsibility, as an organization devoted to peace education, for a small share in this process. We gave the Plan the best and most careful study of which we were capable; we adopted a point of view; and we undertook to provide our readers with honest criticism and information on which to base judgments and arrive at intelligent positions.

Now the Charter has been approved by the Senate. We did not approve but we accept the verdict loyally. We have a last word to say to our constituents. The best comments on San Francisco have been brief and revealing:

"Sound without fury, signifying nothing."--Anonymous.

"The difficulty is that we are trying to make an international omelette without breaking any of the eggs; and the eggs are all hard-boiled."-- T.Z. Koo.

"Some incidental good may, much major harm will come from such bald and precarious balance of military power.--Dan West, a leader of the Church of the Brethren.

"San Francisco will keep the mice in order, but never the lions."

--A Latin-American View.

"To expose the discrepancy between an idealistic phrase and an unsavory reality is the first step toward making the reality a little less unsavory."

--W. E. Chamberlin.

This is our 'last word'; we continue to take these 'first steps.' **GOING OUR WAY?**

BOOK END **PUERTO RICO: UNSOLVED PROBLEM.** Here is a little book of one hundred pages written by two of the Civilian Public Service men engaged in relief and rehabilitation work in that troubled island. The authors are students of economics and government and present the problems against the background of the Island's environment and culture. An excellent introduction for the American citizen to the unsolved problems of our own "possessions." In our free loan library or postpaid for \$1.00.

I Have No Time

I have no time for World Peace groups;
I am a mother.
My days are spent with cod-liver oil
and baths in the sun--
So my son's sturdy limbs will better adorn
A barbed barricade
Somewhere afar, years to come, slain
By a lad like himself.

I have no time to write Congressmen
Urging neutrality,
Indeed no! I am too busy cooking dried
prunes--
So the blood from his young brown chest
Will redder and richer run
Where he drops lifeless in some foreign
land
Protecting investments.

I have no time to study why wars are;
I am raising a son,
Cleaning, polishing, ironing white rompers--
Then, hypnotized by fife and drum,
Stabbing with madness,
Ripping out hearts with a bright bayonet,
He will slaughter his brothers.
I have no time!

Margaret Tuesdale Gibbs.
(Oakland Tribune--6-9-38)

Some years ago Herman Hagadorn put into the mouth of a soldier of the first World War, called "The Boy in Armor," words addressed to careless, indifferent civilians:

"Because you would not think we had to die....
We died. And there you stand no step advanced."

"The Boy" was right. There we stood. We refused to think adequately, and now the boys of another generation have had to die.

What shall we do this time?

Have you time to read the enclosed folder NOW?
And will you take the simple and very short step of sending in your membership NOW and so encouraging us to go on?

The Syracuse Peace Council will not stop wars; but it will help all who associate themselves with it TO THINK. This is our first responsibility to "the Boys" who have been and who are to be.

Will You Take Time Now?

How doth the city sit sorrowful that was full of people?

Mine eyes do fail with tears....because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.

The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets....the tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst; the young children ask bread and no man breaketh it unto them;....their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.

They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger

They hunt our steps that we can not go in our streets...Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of heaven; they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

Remember, O Lord, what has come upon us: Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens. We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers are widows....we labor and have no rest.

Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine....

By the rivers of Babylon....we wept;--how shall we sing in a strange land?

We have thought of dispersals and exiles as experiences of a primitive past that had to do somehow with a vaguely familiar "old testament" history. Beside current reports of the forced migrations going on today those ancient "captivities" pale into insignificance. The motives and the methods; political power exercised through military force, remain the same; and the consequences are the same. The lamentations of Jeremiah voice perfectly the anguish of millions of victims of war in Europe and Asia today. "13,000,000 doomed to starve before winter" in Germany alone, is one headline; another sober report announces the "inevitable" starvation of 7,000,000 in Japan this winter.

Eyewitness reports of people living in the rubble of cellars in bombed Italian villages and in the cities of Germany; of people huddled in abandoned packing cases and old car bodies against the rigors of winter in Finnish Lapland are increasingly frequent. Bertha Bracey, English Friend and authority on what are comfortably called "displaced persons", has described the pitiful thousands who daily tramp through Berlin as they are forcibly expelled from one political unit and driven on to another and yet another with literally no place to lay their heads and no place for the foot to rest on. She told of the refugee children who wake themselves with crying in the night and of the older people who can not sleep because of their own cries of fear.

The LONDON TIMES warns of chaos in Germany unless, saying: "Germany faces this winter the prospect of famine, and probably also of pestilence, on a scale experienced by no European country for several hundred years."

Jane Addams long ago pointed out the basic relationship between Peace and Bread. We can do little to bind up . . . wounds, to care for the widow and orphan in their affliction. But there is an enormous spiritual reward in doing that little and it is a first step in peace-building.

Through the courtesy of our neighbors we have been given the temporary use of an extra room to accommodate our clothing depot. We can still use unlimited quantities of new or good used clothing that is clean and in repair. This will be distributed by the American Friends Service Committee. (See Supplement)

No arrangements have yet been made for the large scale collection and shipment of food but food packages can be sent to individuals. The Syracuse Friends Meeting has been asked to "adopt" and assume the care of a number of families in Europe. The Peace Council office will serve as a collection and shipping center. Canned vegetables, grain foods and other bulky items are not needed, but condensed soups, preserved meats, chocolate, cheese, sugar, candy, soap, and fats will be gratefully received. Whenever possible a contribution to cover shipping costs should accompany gifts, but inability to give cash should not hinder gifts of food or clothing. No useful item is too small to be welcome. Call 2-5316 for additional information.

Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

ATOMIC DILEMMA That power corrupts and is not to be trusted in the best of hands is evidenced by the widespread questioning as to the necessity for the use of the atomic bomb in bringing the war to a close. The NEW YORK TIMES reports Admiral Nimitz as saying "the end would have been the same with or without the atomic bomb and the Russian invasion." Major General Le May, who commanded the B-29 raids against Japan, told the Associated Press "the atomic bomb had nothing to do with the end of the war at all."

The failure of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London (for which Russia is not alone to blame); a recent headline "U.S. Experts Declare Potsdam Unworkable," the admitted strain and tension between the "Great Powers", are no surprise to readers who have understood realistically that peace can neither be made nor kept by military alliance. And the world has not been willing, yet, to organize for peace as it does for war. We face, therefore, as William Henry Chamberlin predicted, the international anarchy of 1913. In such a world situation our gravest problem is that of atomic power. Vernon Nash is right: the use of atomic bombs can not be successfully outlawed as long as nations have the power to make war. This is the dilemma of the Age of the Atom. Partial measures only deceive and threaten us. It is impossible to keep the secret of atomic energy. To place it in the hands of any group of nations, however 'United', is still to fail to keep the secret and to divide the world with fear. Only completely free publication of all scientific knowledge accessible to all peoples can make us free. The truth shall make you free! Are we ready for that? Can we get ready? In time?

Henry L. Stimson, retiring from the Cabinet, after participation in three great wars, translated this belief into political terms: "I am convinced that a full and frank attitude of trust (toward all nations) by our government will strongly tend to lead to a like attitude on the part of all members of the brotherhood of nations."

Herman Hagedorn's "The Boy in Armor" speaks:-

"Because you would not think we had to die:....
We died. And there you stand no step advanced."

The President of the U. S. Speaks

1 9 1 8

"We know that the objective of the war is attained; the objective upon which all free men had set their hearts; and attained with a sweeping completeness that even now we do not realize. The armed imperialism such as the men conceived who were but yesterday the masters of Germany is at an end; its illicit ambitions engulfed in black disaster. Who will seek to revive it? The arbitrary power of the military caste of Germany which once could secretly and of its own single choice disturb the peace of the world is discredited and destroyed and much more than that has been accomplished."

--Wilson.

1 9 4 5

"The mighty threat to civilization which began there (Pearl Harbor) is now laid at rest." "Their (Japanese war lord's) power to destroy and kill has been taken from them. Their armies and what is left of their navy are now impotent.

"This is a victory of more than arms alone. This is a victory of liberty over tyranny.

"From this day we move forward. We move toward a new era of security at home. With the other United Nations we move toward a new and better world of peace and international goodwill and cooperation.

"God's help has brought us to this day of victory. With His help we will attain that peace and prosperity for ourselves and all the world in the years ahead."

-- Truman.

Shortly after V-J Day, in New York City, Mme. Chiang Kai-shek spoke:

"Out of this soul-searching experience we must learn that omission to prevent war is just as culpable and disastrous in the end as commission to foster war in the beginning. Only in this way can we ever repay in a measure the debts of life that we owe to those who died."

"Omission to prevent war is just as culpable"-- Omissions are easy to fall into. This is your treasurer speaking now, and thinking of Peace Council memberships. Have you omitted yours this fall? We'll be glad to receive them at the office, through the mail, or at the November 19 meeting.

THIS WAY PLEASE



To the first of the series of Book-of-the-Month Forums which the Peace Council is sponsoring this winter. This initial forum will be held Monday evening, November 19, in the Y.W.C.A., with supper (60¢) at 6 o'clock. Reservations can be made by calling our office (2-5316) before November 15.

Mrs. Jean Benson Maxwell and the Rev. Laurence T. Hosie will be our guest speakers, using as a theme for the meeting AMERICA'S ROLE IN WORLD RULE. Mrs. Maxwell will review William Henry Chamberlin's new book, America: Partner in World Rule, and Mr. Hosie will analyze America's Place in the World by Nathaniel Peffer. Questions and discussion by the group will follow.

Every one is cordially invited to attend; in fact, we urge you to bring a friend or two with you!

GIVE MORE

THAN THANKS!

As we repeat General Eisenhower's fateful words: "Without food there will be no peace" we begin to realize the horrible truth of them, for the world's food picture is even more grim than drawn in the last issue of this Newsletter. According to a survey released by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture more than 35 million tons of food should be moved into deficit areas to supply the peoples there with even a minimum 2000 caloric diet. These areas include (1) liberated countries, (2) former enemy countries such as Germany, Italy, Austria and Japan, and (3) normally food-importing countries, such as England, but our hopes of supplying them seem dim indeed. Even the \$550,000,000 remainder of the first authorization to UNRRA which the House of Representatives voted November 1 to appropriate is laden with the very real restriction of demanding free access to all news about UNRRA for the U. S. in every country which receives any of this money or aid!

The Peace Council will continue to serve as a collection and shipping center for food packages to individuals in Europe and we wish to express our thanks to those who have already responded to our appeal. Cash contributions are welcome, too.

CONSCRIPTION The lid has finally blown off the whole issue of universal peacetime military conscription with President Truman's message to Congress October 23, in which he asked for the enactment of a law compelling every male American to take military training when he reaches 18 or graduates from high school. There had been a good deal of groundwork laid by General Marshall in his previous pleas for such a program, but in Congress reaction to the President's speech was mixed. A minority favored and a minority opposed the measure, but the great bulk of Congress, many of whom can be counted on by the President in a showdown, waited to see how public opinion would react.

Most of the nation's large newspapers, Washington Daily News, New York Times, New York Sun, New York Herald Tribune, Washington Post and Washington Evening Star, gave vigorous approval to Truman's proposal, but New York PM and three leading columnists opposed it equally as strongly. Hanson Baldwin of the New York Times, Marquis Childs of the Washington Post and David Lawrence of the Washington Evening Star were forthright in their criticism, and the latter two particularly accused President Truman of "falling under the influence of those military men who constantly air their conviction that another war in the near future is inevitable and we had best remain prepared to the hilt."

Other prominent individuals and organizations followed along these same lines of opposition with statements and resolutions of their policies. The National Board of the United Council of Church Women voted with unmistakable vigor to oppose compulsory military training as "contrary to Christian democracy." These women pointed out that the atom bomb has antiquated it as a means of defense. Charles G. Bolte, Chairman of the American Veterans Committee, in an article written for the October 20 issue of The Nation strongly opposed General Marshall's proposal for compulsory military training in peacetime. He said, "It is....a partisan plea for a national defense policy which seems on careful study peculiarly unsuited to provide any real measure of security in the atomic age."

Because Congressman Andrew J. May, Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, has announced that public hearings on the President's proposal will begin on November 8, all groups desiring to be heard should apply at once. But the most important strategy of all is the direct expression of each individual's opinion to his legislators--not just once but repeatedly and emphatically.

Key people in Congress who will be concerned with this issue are:

Andrew J. May, Kentucky (D), Chairman, House Military Affairs Committee, House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Edwin C. Johnson, Colorado (D), Acting Chairman, Senate Military Affairs Committee, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Your own Senators and Representative (If you do not know their names, ask at the nearest library.)

WE MIGHT AT THAT! Commenting on the dreary prospects for peace, on the doleful results of the London Conference of Foreign Ministers, on the terrible threat of new weapons of warfare, the popular columnist, Drew Pearson, urges the establishment of a Department of Peace to spend a fraction of what we spent for war on good neighborliness. "It couldn't hurt and it might help."

"Maybe we will wake up to the futility of old fashioned diplomacy, and the hopelessness of big armies, and put our faith in friendship. In other words, everything else having failed, we might finally come around to practicing the Sermon on the Mount...."

P. S. DOUBLE OR NOTHING-- We're still beset by the idea of doubling the News Letter subscription list! If you send in just one name (plus 25¢, of course), there you have it. Or for those of you who send a dollar for four new subscriptions and your own, there are still some of the New Yorker reprints available.

A red check mark on your News Letter label indicates that your subscription has expired.

GOODWILL TO MEN "From May 1940 till March 1945 we had a hard time and of the many sufferings of our people you undoubtedly read in your papers. I cannot write to you about our special sufferings in these 5 years. I will only tell you, that the Lord was our shepherd and that he made a little bit of bread enough for us with his blessing. We lived in our home the whole winter with 9 persons, we five, my mother, a Jewish girl, my brother (a student of medicine who did underground work) and a girl who works in an office. The whole winter we had no gas, no light (we sat in the darkness the evening till 8 or 9 o'clock and then went to bed!) and for some terrible weeks no water, except two pails a day. Our town was not much damaged, our house is all right.

"...We learned to pray, to share our daily bread - 800,000 of our 8 millions population lost everything they had... We never could buy any thing in 5 years, all things are bad and barethreaded and worn out. We have food now, but only sober things like potatoes and bread.

"We need mostly: tea, jams and juices, and sweets or chocolates (we never have any sweets for the children!)

"Other things we need badly are:

razorblades
shaving soap
toilet soap
combs (we have one for 7 persons!)
brushes(" " " " " " " ")
underwear for Feits, me and 3 children....

"Don't you think me very impertinent?

"I feel quite exhausted and I am a little bit afraid that I asked too much..."

These excerpts are from a personal letter shared with us by friends. If you would like to include some of their needs - or those of a family like them - on your Christmas shopping list, this office will, with your help, be responsible for shipping. We shall have scant cheer around our loaded Christmas trees this month unless we have done what we can to share our abundance.

"Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungering neighbor and Me."

THANKS, SENATOR! Elbert D. Thomas, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, - in the December American: "Must we depend on conscription to maintain our occupying forces in Germany, Japan, and other foreign lands? I don't think so. Compulsory military service in peacetime is undemocratic and un-American, and it will not provide the type of police force best suited to handling the sober responsibilities of sustaining peace in the world. Conscription should be abolished as soon as possible."

It would be appreciated if you would express yourself to Senator Thomas.

We suggest that you follow the day-to-day news on the conscription issue very closely as it is constantly changing. Adjournment of the hearings in the House Military Affairs Committee is scheduled for December 17 and there is no assurance that they will be resumed after the Christmas recess. Some sixty organizations have requested time to be heard which have not yet been scheduled - mostly those in opposition.

Talk has been increasing of reporting out a four months' training bill along the line of the American Legion's proposal. The Christian Century of December 12 says:

"This has two elements in common with the scheme sponsored by the President. It is compulsory and applies to all 18-year-olds. However, instead of a year of army service, it would require young men to spend four months in basic military training under army officers. After that the trainee could be given his choice of several military organizations in which he would continue his training for a year. Meanwhile he would remain at home and continue his work or studies..."

It is obvious that there has been tremendous public opposition to the forces which seek to enforce peacetime military training in this country or there would never be talk of such a compromise as the plan outlined above represents. It behooves all thinking people to keep themselves well informed on a question of such vital importance to every family, for its effect will not be on us alone in the United States but will be felt throughout the world.