

CHAIN GANG DEMOCRACY

has come to the United States with the passage of the Burke-Wadsworth Conscription Bill.

We are now copying the methods of German, Italy and Russia.

The peace forces in America have been defeated in the most critical struggle of the past twenty years. Nevertheless, the Syracuse Peace Council does not feel its efforts to defeat this dictatorial legislation were useless or in vain. This nation now stands teetering on the edge of war, potentially a military dictatorship, on the Fascist model. But any effort to prevent passage of such a dangerous law must be considered a positive gain, whether immediately successful or not. Peace pressure changed the Conscription Bill in these ways;

1. Cut age limits in half, from 18-64 to 21-35.
2. Won limited exemptions for ministers, divinity students and religious conscientious objectors.

I am greatly alarmed at our drift toward war, and I fear that those of us who would like to keep this country out of war may soon find ourselves smothered in war hysteria."

- - - From a personal letter from O. K. Armstrong,
Foreign Relations Committee, The American Legion, September 9, 1940

FROM WASHINGTON If one thing more than another indicates we are getting closer to joining in the European war, it is that those who want us to do just that are now being very frank about saying so. Sir George Paish, British economist, stopping off recently in Washington as he started a tour of the country, boasted of having had great influence in getting us into the last war and declared to a member of the United States Senate that his purpose in coming over at this time was to get us into this one as soon as possible. He expressed complete confidence that we would get in, but wanted to hurry up the process. A man in a position to know exactly what he is talking about likewise told me within the last few days that certain American groups are bringing constant and heavy pressure to bear on government officials "to rouse the country."

- - - Florence Brewer Boeckel, August 27, 1940

THE AMERICAN DREAM Yesterday afternoon a friend stopped me on the street. He said, "Last night I heard a call from my son's room and was amazed to find a twenty-year-old boy crying. He explained that he had been dreaming that he had just killed his first man, and woke with the tug of the bayonet in soft flesh still in his fingers."

LIFE, LIBERTY - - -

WHITHER THE DREAM?

RETURN - HOW LONG Some of our readers will recall a time when the President appealed to Congress to repeal our Neutrality Legislation and return to International Law. Under International Law (the Hague Convention,) the supply in any manner, by a neutral to a belligerent, of warships -- is forbidden. There is also the precedent of the "Alabama Claims" decision, and our own domestic law (1917) to prevent. Nevertheless, we have just turned over to Britain fifty vessels which, curiously enough, are "so old as to be useless to us, but so good as to mean salvation to Great Britain."

ALICE IN WONDERLAND?

IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES We are sponsoring a one-week Teaching Mission, October 1-8, in which Dr. Cecelia Sheppard will be available to church or other groups for a very nominal fee. Dr. Bernard Clausen writes to us: "She was excellently successful here."

For the immediate future we are planning a series of monthly Monday night supper meetings for the discussion of current issues; a one-day institute for the study of international affairs in December; and a week-end institute for mid-winter. Speakers already scheduled include Paul Harris, Jr. and Kirby Page.

...IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

STATE FAIR REPORT UNLIMITED, This year's booth at the State Fair was far and away the most successful one the Peace Council has ever put on. Demands for literature on the Conscription Bill and on the subject of Hitler's threat to the United States exceeded all estimates and exhausted our supplies again and again. HELL, the two-reel movie of what modern war means, was shown three times a day to enthusiastic audiences.

See over for an Important message from our Executive Committee.

HEARTY THANKS To the "Summer Committee," particularly Adelaide Webster and Albert Fowler, who carried on so ably during July and August in handling a heavy correspondence, publishing the two "extra" NEWS-LETTERS, and in setting up the State Fair booth.

A CORDIAL WELCOME to Alice P. Dobbins of the YWCA, who has accepted the position of Council Secretary made vacant by Elizabeth Mc Nary, who has left Syracuse.

A STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

Constantly these days we are asked, "But what is there left for a Peace Council to do now?" To which we reply:

1. We shall maintain our unshaken purpose to help keep this country out of this war.
2. We must continue in the community our basic program of education on peace-war issues.
3. We must remain constantly alert to legislation affecting these issues in Washington.
4. We can be a center of reliable information for individuals or groups who have problems to be met.
5. We can help to guard the civil and religious liberties on which our nation was founded.
6. We shall seek to promote international good-will and understanding by sharing in the task of relief for refugees in this country and the starving millions abroad. This is a fundamental need.

At this point we shall continue to receive gifts of money and clothing for the American Friends Service Committee which has so thoroughly demonstrated the effectiveness of its method of building confidence in a world of fear.

We shall not be able to do all of any one of these things. But we do intend to stay on the job, building as wisely and as well as we can the bit of "road from war" that lies before our door. Isn't there some point at which this program is your program? Our responsibility, your opportunity. We invite you to share with us.

HELP US AND HELP YOURSELF Next month we shall begin the annual revision of our membership and mailing lists. To renew your membership (\$1.00 includes NEWS-LETTER) or your subscription (25¢) tear off this slip, sign name and address, enclose money, mail to:

SYRACUSE PEACE COUNCIL

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